

Friday, 17 June 2022

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to further  
4 evidence in our foster care and boarding-out case study.  
5 Now, Ms Innes.

6 MS INNES: My Lady, the first witness this morning will be  
7 'Janet'. 'Janet' was in the care of the Corporation of  
8 the City of Aberdeen, now Aberdeen City Council. She  
9 was placed in foster care in Gardenstown in [REDACTED] 1960  
10 and we know from the applicant's statement that she  
11 remained there for the rest of her childhood.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 'Janet' (sworn)

14 LADY SMITH: 'Janet', you'll see there's a red light on that  
15 microphone, which tells me it's on, but you also need to  
16 speak into the microphone and get into the right  
17 position for it. That might be better, yes. We need to  
18 hear you through the sound system.

19 A. Okay.

20 LADY SMITH: It's not enough just to have you speak loudly  
21 without the mic.

22 You'll see there's a red folder in front of you on  
23 the table. That has a hard copy of your statement in  
24 it, the one you signed, and you'll be taken to that in  
25 a minute or two. You'll also see your statement will



1 A. Yes, aye.

2 Q. I'm just going to ask you to look at your statement  
3 briefly, please. We give it the reference  
4 WIT.001.001.6931. If we can look, please, at the final  
5 page of it, so page 16, the last page.

6 A. 16?

7 Q. Yes, the last page. I think you have it there.  
8 Paragraph 89. It says there:  
9 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
10 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
11 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
12 true."  
13 And I think we can see that you signed it on  
14 22 February 2018; is that right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay, thank you.  
17 I'm going to go back to the beginning of your  
18 statement. You tell us there that you are one of eight  
19 children and you, I think, are the second-youngest  
20 daughter. So you tell us that you had an older brother  
21 and you say you never knew him, in fact.

22 A. Mm.

23 Q. And then you had a little brother who died when he was  
24 a baby; is that right?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. And then I think it was you and your sisters that were  
2 left?

3 A. (Witness nods). Mm.

4 Q. Okay. You tell us at paragraph 4 that your first real  
5 memories are when you were in foster care in  
6 Gardenstown.

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. You don't really have many memories from before that  
9 time?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. If we can move on, please, to page 2, you start  
12 telling us there about the place that you lived in in  
13 Gardenstown. I think your first memory is being there  
14 on the first day. What can you tell us about your  
15 memories of that?

16 A. The first day that we got there it was the table, there  
17 was a table in the living room and it was full of food.  
18 It was just full of food. That's what I remember from  
19 when we went there.

20 Q. Can you remember your sisters being there with you?

21 A. Well ... I wouldn't have -- I didn't think I even kent  
22 they were my sisters at the time. I wouldn't have kent  
23 that.

24 Q. Essentially you just remember being there and that table  
25 full of food in the living room?

1 A. I just remember my sister [REDACTED] because I have memories  
2 of us being in a home and if I was sick, I would have  
3 been put into her bed, or if she'd peed her bed, she  
4 would have maybe been put into my bed with me. So the  
5 only thing I remember, that's the only thing I remember  
6 would be [REDACTED]. That's it. But I didn't remember having  
7 sisters. I didn't even know I had my younger sister.

8 Q. So the sister you've mentioned, [REDACTED] she's just a bit  
9 older than you; is that right?

10 A. Yeah, (overspeaking).

11 Q. Okay.

12 We've talked about what you remember of your first  
13 day in Gardenstown. What was the house like that you  
14 lived in in Gardenstown? Can you tell us a little bit  
15 about that?

16 A. Well, there was a living room and there was a bedroom  
17 off the living room where mum and dad slept. And then  
18 through -- there was two bedrooms. Downstairs, through.  
19 There was two bedrooms up a stair. When we got there,  
20 there wasn't a bathroom or anything.

21 Q. Sorry?

22 A. The bathroom was added on later on.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And there was a train which attached to the house and it  
25 was made into a bedroom later on. It was not a bedroom

1           when I got there. And then there was -- the bit that  
2           had her washing machine and her big dishwasher and her  
3           fridge freezer. That was just before you came into the  
4           living room. And then there was the kitchenette with  
5           a wee bed and that was like part of the tractor shed,  
6           which was -- it was like corrugated iron, corrugated  
7           roof and that, and it was attached to the house for  
8           where we had our bed most of the time.

9    Q.   Okay. Can you remember where you slept in the house?

10   A.   I slept downstairs.

11   Q.   Okay. In one of the bedrooms that you mentioned  
12       downstairs?

13   A.   Aye.

14   Q.   You mentioned a railway carriage being used as a bedroom  
15       that was attached to the house. Did you ever sleep in  
16       there?

17   A.   I slept in there when I was older with my sister [REDACTED]

18   Q.   Okay.

19   A.   But not at the start because it wasn't -- tools, dad had  
20       his work tools in it and they made it into a bedroom.

21   Q.   Okay. You mentioned a bit about mum and dad, and  
22       I think those are Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] --

23   A.   Mm-hmm.

24   Q.   -- who were your foster carers?

25   A.   Yeah.

1 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about your early memories  
2 of them? What was your dad like?

3 A. He was quiet. Basically he was -- he just -- mum was  
4 the boss, so he was quiet, so he just did basically what  
5 she said.

6 Q. Okay. And then you said your mum was the boss?

7 A. She was the boss, mm-hmm. What she said went.

8 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 9 of your statement:  
9 "My first impression of mum was that we had to do  
10 what we were told. She told us that if we didn't do  
11 what we were told, we would get put back to where we  
12 came from."

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. Can you remember her saying that?

15 A. Oh, she used to say that quite a lot. Sometimes I would  
16 think (unclear) it wasn't actually so bad. I didn't  
17 really ken because it was said when I was young and  
18 I thought, okay, we'd get put back where we came from  
19 but we didn't want to go back but I couldn't really know  
20 where I came from, so the only place I really kent was  
21 there.

22 Q. You say at paragraph 10 it was probably not long after  
23 you started school that you realised you were all in  
24 foster care?

25 A. Aye, well, I realised we were different.

1 Q. Okay. We'll come back to school in a moment when we go  
2 through your statement. At the bottom of page 2,  
3 paragraph 11, you talk about the chores that your sister  
4 [REDACTED] and you would have to do in the morning before you  
5 went to school. What sort of things did you have to do  
6 in the house?

7 A. Well, she had a fire before she had the central heating  
8 so we'd have to clean out the fire. We'd have to take  
9 the rugs -- she had rugs, she had vinyl but she had rugs  
10 on top of the vinyl so we would have to take them out,  
11 sweep the floor, shake the rugs, put them back, do all  
12 the dusting, and then go into the kitchenette and get  
13 the stuff ready for her breakfast.

14 Q. Okay. Can you remember when you started doing that?  
15 Was that something that you did right from the beginning  
16 of your time there or was it something that you started  
17 doing when you were a bit older?

18 A. Well, we just started it as soon as we went there.

19 Q. I think you say in your statement that you did the same  
20 sorts of things at the weekend, that you would take the  
21 rugs out and polish the vinyl floors.

22 A. And polish the floor there.

23 Q. So the additional thing that you did at the weekend was  
24 polishing the vinyl floors?

25 A. Aye.



1 Q. But every day you'd have to go out and shake the rugs?  
2 A. Aye. Our work changed as we got older.  
3 Q. How did it change as you got older?  
4 A. Well, there was beasts, you see, we had to look after  
5 the beasts. Well, we did the hens and that in the  
6 morning and looked after the ducks and as my sisters got  
7 older and left, we had to go and do their work, feed the  
8 beasts, milk the cows. In the wintertime we had to muck  
9 out the beasts, feed them, milk the cows and let out the  
10 hens, make sure they were fed, the ducks and the geese  
11 before we went to school, and then we'd be in to get our  
12 porridge.  
13 LADY SMITH: Sorry, what was it you had to do for the hens?  
14 A. We had to let them out and feed them.  
15 LADY SMITH: Did you have to clean them out?  
16 A. We cleaned them out -- we didn't clean them out every  
17 day, you see. We cleaned them out like maybe once  
18 a week or once a fortnight. We had to do that as well.  
19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
20 A. They had to be cleaned out as well.  
21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
22 MS INNES: I think you said she also had ducks and geese; is  
23 that right?  
24 A. Aye.  
25 Q. And you had to do similar things with them?

1 A. Aye. Well, the ducks and geese, they bade in a kind of  
2 little triangle, things like that, in the ground, and  
3 that's where they bade. And every so often we used to  
4 get in there and clean it out with our hands, ken?  
5 There was no room for anything, so you just had to use  
6 your hands to clean it out.

7 Q. Okay. And then you've mentioned that there were cows  
8 that you had to milk and muck out essentially if the  
9 cows were in the --

10 A. In the wintertime.

11 Q. In the wintertime, they would be in the shed?

12 A. They would be in the short stable, the stable and the  
13 byre.

14 Q. Were there sheep as well or just cows?

15 A. She had sheep when we first went there, but she didn't  
16 have them that long. She stopped having sheep.

17 Q. Were there fields as well in which crops were grown?

18 A. Aye. She grew corn, barley, neeps for the beasts.

19 Q. Did you have any work to do in terms of the fields? Did  
20 you have to --

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. -- go and gather the corn or anything?

23 A. She had -- well, it was kind of a binder and it was  
24 stooks, so when dad cut it, we used to stook the parks,  
25 wait until they're dry and then when it was the hay

1           time, we used to put a load of hay onto the bogie and  
2           then muck it up into stooks as well and then we would  
3           load the stooks into the bogie and take it down. We  
4           used to make haystacks with them and they all had to go  
5           down and covered up.

6   Q.   Okay.

7   A.   And then neeps, we used to have the neeps.

8   Q.   So does that mean dig them up and cut the tops off?

9   A.   Well, it meant when they were planted -- they were  
10          planted with this machine, you see, and then there was  
11          too much, so you'd have to get like a hoe thing and you  
12          would have to separate, ken, one, one, one. There were  
13          packs of them. You had to go round the whole pack and  
14          make sure there weren't too much together or they  
15          wouldn't grow.

16   Q.   You had to separate them --

17   A.   Thin them out, aye.

18   Q.   So when you planted them, you had to do this thinning  
19          them out by hand?

20   A.   Aye.

21   Q.   And then when they had to be lifted, were you involved  
22          in lifting them?

23   A.   Aye.

24   Q.   How would that work? Was it similar to the hay, that  
25          you would lift them and put them on the bogie?

1 A. We would -- I think I had a -- I don't know what it was  
2 called. A tailer, that's what she had. It was like  
3 a metal blade with a little hook on the bottom and  
4 a wooden handle.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. And then you would tuck your neep out -- pull your neep  
7 out and you used to take off the -- take the bottom out  
8 with the tailer and then you would top and tail.

9 Q. So you'd top and tail it?

10 A. Aye. And then had you to put them in rows so the  
11 tractor and the bogie could get down in between and then  
12 we would fill the bogie and take them into the neep shed  
13 and then we would have -- in the corner outside there  
14 would be a pit and neeps there and it would be covered  
15 up with straw to last. We did it -- we used to do it  
16 all the time as well.

17 Q. So they would be taken in and they would be put in this  
18 pit in the ground and covered with straw?

19 A. Aye.

20 Q. Did you have any involvement in then taking them out  
21 when they were actually going to be fed to the animals?

22 A. Well, once they were in the neep post, there was  
23 a machine, a neep thrasher. And me and my youngest  
24 sister [REDACTED] we would -- we was thrashing the neeps and  
25 filling skulls, metal skulls for my sisters to feed the

1           beasts.

2    Q.   Was that a skull, did you say?

3    A.   It's like a metal -- it's like a plastic basket but they

4           were metal.

5    Q.   Okay.

6    A.   And our job was to thrash the neeps, fill them and have

7           them ready for our sister to feed the beasts.  Because

8           we had to do that in the morning and do it at night when

9           we come back from school.

10   Q.   So this is a machine and do you put the turnip in the

11          top and then it slices it, maybe, and then it comes out

12          at the bottom?

13   A.   We used to -- we threw it in and the neeps would come

14          out the bottom sliced.

15   Q.   Yes.

16   A.   For the beasts so they wouldn't choke.

17   Q.   Okay.  Did you ever have an injury as a result of

18          working with that machine?

19   A.   Aye.

20   Q.   Can you tell us what happened?

21   A.   Well, me and my sister █████ we had finished it, we had

22          finished our job and I was about eight and a half, I was

23          only eight and a half at the time, and I looked back --

24          because █████ switched it off and I looked back and there

25          was a tiny weany neep in the top, by the bit that went

1 round, there's a flat bit and there's a bit that went  
2 round the side where the belt moved about the thingy.  
3 So there were two little wee handles, so I stepped up  
4 onto the handle to take the neep off and my sister  
5 switched it on and my hand went into that piece but  
6 I didn't feel it.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I didn't ken what I was actually doing and I was going  
9 out the door -- because the machine sometimes just went  
10 off itself, so the thing went off. And I looked back at  
11 my sister [REDACTED] and then I noticed the blood, something  
12 was bleeding all over and I was looking for what was  
13 bleeding and it was myself. But I didn't feel it so  
14 I didn't ken. And that's where I got my fingers off,  
15 when I was actually working.

16 LADY SMITH: You said a moment ago that sometimes the  
17 machine just went off itself?

18 A. Sometimes it just went off itself.

19 LADY SMITH: So that was without anyone switching it on?

20 A. If it was on, it just went off.

21 LADY SMITH: Oh, it switched itself off.

22 A. There was like a button, a red button and a green  
23 button. So my sister [REDACTED] had pressed the green button.  
24 She must have just pressed it as I put my hand in and it  
25 went round and it went off. So neither of the two of us

1           was aware that one thing had happened until after it was  
2           happening and then the machine was off.

3   LADY SMITH:  So the controls of the machine weren't very  
4           reliable?

5   A.  No.  They were dodgy.  We just had to use them.

6   LADY SMITH:  Okay, thank you.

7   MS INNES:  Did you have to go to the doctor as a result of  
8           this injury?

9   A.  I was in Aberdeen Hospital.

10  Q.  So you taken to the hospital in Aberdeen?

11  A.  Mm-hmm.

12  Q.  Do you know if your mum reported what had happened to  
13           the social work?

14  A.  Well, she said -- what she said was that we was playing  
15           on it, which wasn't true, and dad wouldn't say nothing.

16  Q.  Okay.

17  A.  And then after that, there was like a -- a bar, a thing  
18           like that put around it which was held up with bits at  
19           the side.  After that happened.

20  Q.  Okay.  Was that to stop you getting close to it or --

21  A.  Well, I don't know what it was for.  It must have been  
22           after I got my fingers off that was put on.

23  Q.  Okay.  You say that your mum said that you and your  
24           sister were playing on the machine.  Is that something  
25           that you were aware that she said at the time?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Is that something that you saw in your records?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. And you say that wasn't true, the accident --

5 A. Nobody asked, did they? Nobody asked me, you see, so

6 ... or my sister.

7 Q. Okay. Can we just go back to your statement, please,

8 and go back to page 3 and paragraph 16. So you told us

9 about the various jobs that you had to do on the farm

10 and you've explained that as you got older you had to do

11 more in terms of looking after the animals and you say

12 at paragraph 16:

13 "If there was a lot to do, mum would tell us that

14 she would make us a big meal at night. If we didn't get

15 everything done though, she wouldn't."

16 Can you explain that, please?

17 A. Well, she would -- it was like bribery, wasn't it? She

18 would tell us that she was going to make us whatever she

19 was going to make and there was a pudding, a blancmange

20 or something, a pudding that I didn't like but my

21 sisters liked it. Blancmange I think it was. And she

22 would say, "All this is to be done and if you hurry up

23 and get finished, it will be like a chicken dinner or

24 something, and that blancmange pudding."

25 Q. Okay.



1 A. And if you didn't get it done, then you just didn't get  
2 it, did you?

3 Q. Okay. At paragraph 18 at the bottom of this page you  
4 talk about where the outside toilet was. A moment ago  
5 you told us in your evidence that at the beginning there  
6 was no bathroom in the house at all?

7 A. No, there wasn't.

8 Q. So at the beginning of your time there where did you go  
9 to use the toilet or to get washed?

10 A. The -- across from the house that was a door there.  
11 Just across a wee bit, there was a door. That's where  
12 our mum and dad's toilet was, in that little wee hutty.  
13 We wasn't allowed to use it. We would have to go across  
14 the farm and in and among other -- there was trees, ken,  
15 bushes and that kind of thing, there was like a little  
16 wee wooden hutty there and that's where we went.

17 Q. Okay, so there was a wooden hut in amongst the trees?

18 A. Aye, where we would use.

19 Q. And your mum and dad used a separate toilet?

20 A. Yeah, used a separate thing, aye.

21 Q. And you say that you remember having to empty this  
22 toilet into the midden in the middle of the steading?

23 A. That's right, that's what we had to do.

24 Q. Then if you go over the page, please, to paragraph 19,  
25 as you said, there came a point when there was

1 a bathroom put into the house?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. And were you able to use the bathroom in the house when

4 it was put in?

5 A. We only got to use it when we went to bed at night.

6 That was it. We was not allowed to use it at any other

7 time.

8 Q. So not during the day?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Was any explanation given as to why you weren't allowed

11 to use it during the day?

12 A. It's probably too good for us to use.

13 Q. Okay. You say in this paragraph that you were never

14 allowed to use the toilet paper, you had to use

15 a newspaper?

16 A. No. We didn't use -- at night, we didn't use the toilet

17 paper, but there was no newspaper in the bathroom in the

18 house. It was only outside when we were using the

19 outside one that there was newspaper. We didn't get to

20 use no paper when we went to the toilet at 9 o'clock.

21 It wasn't allowed. She had marked the toilet roll. She

22 used to fold it in a certain way so she kent it hadn't

23 been used. So we wasn't allowed to.

24 Q. Okay, so she marked it --

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. -- so that she would know if it had been used or not?

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. What was the consequence if it was used? What would she

4 do?

5 A. Oh, we'd get a punishment, I suppose.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. We just couldn't use it. We couldn't later.

8 Q. Moving on to where you got washed, again, before the

9 bathroom was put in the house, where did you use for

10 washing?

11 A. Out in the milk house, there was a bath there and we

12 used to carry water out.

13 Q. You used to carry water out from the house?

14 A. Aye.

15 Q. Was it warm water or cold water?

16 A. Warm water. It was hot water.

17 Q. And how often would you be able to have a bath?

18 A. Well, just whenever mum and dad had -- they had the bath

19 first. We all got bathed in the same water.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So we only got when they used it.

22 Q. Okay. And you say that:

23 "Mum bathed us all the time, no matter how old we

24 were."

25 That she was always there?

1 A. Yeah, we weren't allowed to bath ourselves. When the  
2 bathroom was put in, you weren't allowed to shut the  
3 door. There was always like two of us in the bath  
4 together. We wasn't allowed a bath ourselves. We had  
5 to have our sister. Like me and my sister [REDACTED] would  
6 have a bath together.

7 Q. Even when you were teenagers, for example?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And the door would be open?

10 A. The door was -- aye.

11 Q. Would anybody be watching you when you were having  
12 a bath?

13 A. I don't ken. We just -- that's -- I don't know why it  
14 was, that's what she did.

15 Q. Then at paragraph 22 you say that you had tins of pink  
16 toothpaste to brush your teeth with, but it wasn't  
17 replaced straight away and you would use salt?

18 A. Well, we had these little tins of toothpaste and it was  
19 pink and we used that and --

20 LADY SMITH: A little tin, literally made of metal tins?

21 A. Aye, it was a metal tin with pink toothpaste in it  
22 and --

23 LADY SMITH: Made by a company called Gibbs?

24 A. Sorry, I can't remember. We were just -- we only had --  
25 I can't even remember -- maybe one tin. We didn't get

1           toothpaste. We just used to dip this toothbrush into  
2           a bit of salt and clean your teeth. And even then we  
3           never cleaned our teeth that often because we weren't  
4           really allowed to.

5 MS INNES: When you say you weren't really allowed to --

6 A. Well, you ken, we only got to do what she told us to do,  
7           you ken?

8 Q. Okay. Again you say at the end of this paragraph:

9           "I think the tins of toothpaste were often put out  
10          if someone was coming to visit."

11 A. It was basically put out maybe when the homey people  
12          came.

13 Q. So the homey people are the social workers or people  
14          from Aberdeen?

15 A. Well, I just kent them as the "homey people". That's  
16          all. I didn't ken who they were. They just got the  
17          comfy(?), something like that.

18 Q. So you called them the "homey people". Can you remember  
19          these people coming to visit?

20 A. I remember them coming. We didn't see them all the  
21          time, but if we were there and was coming home from  
22          school, we still had to keep our school clothes on, not  
23          change them. And we wasn't allowed to speak to them.  
24          We weren't allowed to speak to them. We may not have  
25          spoken to them anyway, but we wasn't allowed to speak to

1           them.

2   Q.   Would you be told this in advance of them coming or was  
3       it when you got home from school you were told, "There's  
4       visitors, don't get changed"?

5   A.   When we come home from school, she would say, "Don't  
6       change your school clothes, there's folk here to see  
7       you." That's how it was. You ken?

8   Q.   Okay.

9   LADY SMITH: What clothes did you usually change into when  
10      you got home from school.

11  A.   Well, we would have boys' underpants with the spaiver  
12      sewn up, boys' vests, we would have jumpers and boys'  
13      trousers and tackety boots, and in the wintertime we  
14      wore that but we had Wellingtons. And we went down --  
15      well, your Wellingtons had to last and if there was  
16      holes in them and you was down in the beasts and  
17      cleaning them out, it didn't matter. You just had to  
18      wear them and your socks would be full of cows' -- you  
19      ken, pee and urine and faeces and you just had to rinse  
20      them out and hang them on a pipe in the tractor shed for  
21      the next morning and the next morning they would be  
22      frozen hard if it was winter. You would have to go to  
23      try to get them to soften off. That's what we had,  
24      that's what we did in the winter.

25  Q.   And apart from the clothes that you had from school and

1 the clothes that you've described that you wore at home,  
2 did you have any other clothes, any sort of smart  
3 clothes?

4 A. No, we just used to get clothes from the Gamery folk. The  
5 village. So we just had to wear whatever she gave us.

6 Q. You tell us in the next section of your statement,  
7 beginning at paragraph 23, about food. Where did you  
8 eat?

9 A. In the kitchenette.

10 Q. And you describe here that you ate off tables that were  
11 fixed to the wall and could be folded away?

12 A. Aye.

13 Q. And did you have chairs to sit at the table or did you  
14 stand?

15 A. There was a big long stool. I sat up at the top and  
16 there was a big long stool for the rest of my sisters.  
17 There was a small table for mum and dad. Mum sat here  
18 and dad sat there and they had chairs.

19 Q. So you said there was a smaller table that mum and dad  
20 sat at?

21 A. Aye.

22 Q. So they were at a separate table?

23 A. Aye, but it folded down as well.

24 Q. Okay, but in the kitchenette as well?

25 A. Aye.

1 Q. Would you all eat at the table together?

2 A. Aye.

3 Q. And would your mum and dad be eating at the same time as

4 you?

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 24 you say:

7 "Everything was locked up, even the freezer had

8 a lock on it."

9 A. Everything was locked up.

10 Q. So were cupboards in the kitchen locked or was there

11 a pantry maybe?

12 A. Everything was through the house, ken, through the

13 kitchenette, you had to go to a little porch and that

14 door to get into the house was locked, she kept it

15 locked. So you wasn't allowed in the house. You were

16 just in the kitchenette or a wee bed. So everything was

17 through there, the freezer, the tins of stuff,

18 everything was through there. For the dishwasher and

19 the washing machine, I think. There was nothing in the

20 kitchenette. No food where we was.

21 Q. So all the food and everything else was kept in the main

22 house, as it were?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. And I think what you're saying is that you stayed in the

25 kitchenette and you weren't allowed into the rest of the



1 house --

2 A. No.

3 Q. -- into the other part of the house?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Were your bedrooms in the other part of the house?

6 A. The bedrooms, you had to go into the living room and

7 open the door and then the bedrooms were through the

8 little passage, aye.

9 Q. And when would you be allowed through into your

10 bedrooms?

11 A. Well, we had to be in for 6 o'clock at night to watch

12 the TV, which was 6 o'clock till 9, and that's the time

13 we got. And then at 9 o'clock it was straight to bed.

14 Q. I think you say in your statement here at paragraph 23

15 that there was a television in the kitchenette?

16 A. There was a television in the kitchenette up on a shelf,

17 but you couldn't just switch it on, you had to get

18 permission.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. We didn't get to watch it all the time.

21 Q. Then at the bottom of this page you talk about the type

22 of food that you had. So porridge every morning and you

23 say because you lived on a farm, you got lots of

24 potatoes and vegetables. Sometimes you would get mince

25 but it would be watered down?

1 A. Aye, she watered down what we got.

2 Q. And you talk about getting chips as well, at the top of  
3 the next page. And then you say that she would make  
4 broth with all the vegetables and even if it was turning  
5 sour you would still have to eat it?

6 A. Even if it was sour, you smelled it and it was all  
7 frothy on the top, you still had to eat it.

8 Q. Were your mum and dad eating the same things as you?

9 A. They wouldn't have eaten that, no. We had to. We had  
10 to use it up instead of wasting it.

11 Q. And then you talk about "eggy stuff" for tea, which is  
12 a combination of eggs and flour and salt and pepper, you  
13 say?

14 A. Aye, it was like self-raising flour, eggs, mixed with  
15 milk. And she called it "eggy stuff". And we all liked  
16 to eat it. We thought that was good. You ken, it  
17 was -- we got that and we liked that.

18 Q. Then at paragraph 25 you talk about being sent down to  
19 the bakers. Was that in the village?

20 A. It was -- we were sent down to the back road. There was  
21 a front road and a back road.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And the baker on a Saturday would empty his van and he'd  
24 put whatever stuff they had left into bags and we would  
25 have to carry it up the road.

1 Q. Okay. So you talk about bringing that back. And then  
2 everything would be put in the freezer that you got?  
3 A. Aye. She would bag it up and put it in the freezer.  
4 Q. Okay. Then you talk at paragraph 26 about getting fish  
5 and on one occasion you choked on a fishbone, I think.  
6 A. Yeah. I wasn't that long there. I can -- mind,  
7 I wasn't that long there when I choked on this bone.  
8 Q. Can you remember how your mum reacted?  
9 A. She gave me a dry loaf. I ate the dry loaf to get  
10 the -- to shift the bone.  
11 Q. Then at paragraph 26 you talk about her making cheese?  
12 A. Aye, she used to make cheese.  
13 Q. Again this was one of your jobs?  
14 A. Yeah.  
15 Q. You say that one of your jobs was to go and break it up,  
16 empty the liquid and sieve out the curd?  
17 A. Yeah, and put it into an enamel basin.  
18 Q. You've talked already about clothing. If we can move  
19 over the page to page 6 and to schooling, how did you  
20 get on at school? I think you said that you felt  
21 different at school.  
22 A. Didn't -- didn't get on very well. We were different.  
23 The other kids kent we was different.  
24 Q. You talk at paragraph 31 about the local children  
25 calling you names.

1 A. Aye, we got called maggots and beasties.

2 Q. And you say that they wouldn't touch you or want to sit  
3 next you?

4 A. They wouldn't touch us, they wouldn't touch you. And if  
5 they had to sit on a seat that you had been sitting on,  
6 they would blow or they would put a book on the seat so  
7 they didn't have to sit on it after us. And if we had  
8 the dancing at the Christmas time and you had to have  
9 a boy, they would just do that. They would take you  
10 like that. That's how you had to -- they'd take you  
11 like that. Because we wouldn't get picked, the teachers  
12 told them to take us and that's how they would deal with  
13 us.

14 Q. So the teachers would pair you up if you were practising  
15 dancing at Christmas?

16 A. Aye. Nobody wanted to dance with us.

17 Q. You say at paragraph 32 that you did have one pal from  
18 the village who was nothing like that?

19 A. Aye, [REDACTED]

20 Q. Was she a friend throughout school?

21 A. She was, aye.

22 Q. And I think you tell us that you were at primary school  
23 in the local village and then you went to Macduff?

24 A. For a year.

25 Q. And you say at paragraph 34 that it was just the same

1           there. You would get the bus, but even if there was  
2           a seat you had to stand?

3    A. Well, we used to get the bus from the bottom of the  
4           front road and up to Macduff, which was about 8 mile,  
5           and you didn't get to sit. You just had to stand.  
6           Because nobody would let you sit down beside them. You  
7           ken? They just wouldn't let you. So you just had to  
8           stand.

9    Q. Then you say at paragraph 35 that:

10           "Mum never gave us a hand with our homework ..."

11           You each helped --

12   A. Aye, she never helped us, no.

13   Q. And I think your older sister helped, perhaps?

14   A. My elder sister [REDACTED] she was made to learn us the  
15           time. I remember that. Mum and her learning me the  
16           time. She would sit and I remember mum saying to her,  
17           "You have to learn them the time", that's what  
18           I remember. The clock, we had one of these clocks that  
19           you winded up at the back, and that's how we learned the  
20           time. [REDACTED] was teaching us the time.

21   Q. Okay. And then over the next page, at paragraph 36 you  
22           talk about:

23           "Mum and dad would take us up to their daughter's  
24           house to visit them."

25           But you weren't allowed in their house?

1 A. We wasn't allowed in.

2 Q. Where would you go?

3 A. Well, she had a Dormobile or -- what would you call it?

4 No. A transit van, it was a kind of Dormobile in those

5 days and we either had to sit in the van or go out to

6 the park, because she lived just across from the park.

7 That was it.

8 Q. You say there it didn't matter how long it was for, it

9 could be for hours.

10 A. Aye, it could be for hours. So we would be there

11 visiting and having our supper and then emptying out the

12 beast at night and that, muck out the cows and stuff.

13 Q. Do you remember ever going to anybody else's house?

14 A. Well, we'd used to go to this with [REDACTED]

15 It was just at a little house and there were just enough

16 room for their van to be parked up at the side of the

17 house, but we were just sat in the van. We wasn't

18 allowed out. We didn't want to go there because it was

19 actually -- the house was just off the side of the road

20 and we just sat in the van. We wasn't allowed. We sat

21 there for hours.

22 Q. So this woman, was she a friend --

23 A. She was a friend of mum's, aye.

24 Q. Did you have any contact at all from your parents? You

25 say that you don't remember them at all.

1 A. I don't remember them at all, no.

2 Q. So you had no contact with them?

3 A. No contact at all, no.

4 Q. And you've told us about the social work coming, so

5 you've covered that at paragraph 37. And then at

6 birthdays, you say that you remember getting a present

7 on your birthdays?

8 A. We did, aye.

9 Q. But it wasn't a big deal?

10 A. It wasn't a big deal, no. But she never asked if you

11 wanted anything, you just got something.

12 Q. And you say at Christmas you'd get a cardboard box that

13 had an apple and an orange and clothes in it?

14 A. It would have an apple and an orange, and even if you

15 was 14, 15-year-old, you would get a vest. A vest.

16 Because you wanted to be more like the people at

17 school -- because we had these see-through blouses, she

18 made us wear these see-through blouses so everybody

19 could see the vest. So you'd have the vest and pants.

20 Q. Then you say at paragraph 39 that you didn't get toys,

21 although you had a doll and a game of monopoly, and

22 you'd bought these for yourself?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. And you say that was with money that you got from

25 picking potatoes?

1 A. We used to go to pick tatties for other farmers and get  
2 paid at the end of the week. Depending on how much  
3 tatties we had to pick, we would get our wages at the  
4 end of the week.

5 Q. Were you able to keep that money yourself or did you  
6 have to --

7 A. No, we had to give it to her.

8 Q. You had to give it to your mum?

9 A. Mm-hmm, had to give it to her.

10 Q. And then would she then give it to you if you saw  
11 something that you wanted to buy?

12 A. Well, I got the monopoly, I got that with my money, and  
13 I bought the barbie doll, and I remember my tatty money  
14 being saved up and I bought myself a pair of knee boots  
15 and this is what I recall now. I bought mum a pair of  
16 boots the same because she wanted a pair of boots like  
17 I had and I bought -- so I saved up my tatty money and  
18 bought them for her.

19 LADY SMITH: Did you get to keep half the tatty money  
20 yourself or --

21 A. No.

22 LADY SMITH: -- did you have to give it all to her in the  
23 first place?

24 A. We had to give it all to her. We wasn't allowed any  
25 money.



1 LADY SMITH: And then she might give some of it back to you?  
2 A. Well, aye.  
3 LADY SMITH: Like for buying your monopoly --  
4 A. Well, I bought monopoly and I bought the doll and  
5 I wanted this jacket everybody was wearing at school and  
6 it was like -- it was like that wax jackets they were  
7 all wearing with the hood, fur around the hood.  
8 I bought that with my tatty money. You ken? We just  
9 saved up and that's -- I bought that. I bought three  
10 things and the boots and the pair of boots for her.  
11 LADY SMITH: If you couldn't keep any of the money yourself,  
12 how did you know how much you'd saved up?  
13 A. I didn't. We just had to keep on paying her back. If  
14 you got like your pocket money, you didn't get pocket  
15 money until everything was paid up. So it could be  
16 a long time.  
17 LADY SMITH: Oh, I see.  
18 A. Ken, all your tatty money would go to that. So that's  
19 how it went. We didn't have any money. She just  
20 said -- she'd have a bookie and it would be written down  
21 you see, and she'd say, "You still owe that and you have  
22 to pay that and you've to pay that off your money".  
23 MS INNES: You've said it wasn't just the money that you got  
24 for picking potatoes, it would be pocket money, and you  
25 say at paragraph 40 that it was maybe about threepence

1           that you got.

2   A. Well, it was like -- in mine there was a thruppenny bit  
3           and I think it went up to sixpence and then it might  
4           have been like the big -- was it two shillings? I think  
5           it might have reached up to that. As you got older.

6   Q. And your mum would also keep a note of this in the wee  
7           book?

8   A. Well, she had a tin. It would be in a tin and a book.

9   Q. Okay.

10  A. And like if she was up at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s, ken, if they  
11           were -- my sisters were wanting chips or something, they  
12           could maybe get chips if they got for mum and dad, and  
13           that would come off of their money.

14  Q. You say at paragraph 41 that you would sometimes ask if  
15           you could buy fish and chips but you would only be  
16           allowed if one of you paid for mum and dad's?

17  A. Aye. They'd say, "We'll pay for yours", so she would  
18           take your pocket money until that was paid off.

19  Q. Now if we go on, please, to page 8, you talk there about  
20           your relationship with your foster parents and you say:  
21                    "I would say I was closer to mum and dad than my  
22                    other sisters were."

23                    So, first of all, can you tell us a little bit about  
24                    your relationship with your dad?

25  A. Well, I was the one that used to have to take off his

1 boots at night and put on his slippers. You ken? It  
2 was none of the rest of them had that. It was me.

3 Q. And then what about your relationship with your mum?

4 A. I used to -- well, sometimes I used to think, well, you  
5 ken, she's looking after us, which none of our own  
6 parents did, and I used to think that she kent  
7 everything. And I used to think that she was God. Ken?  
8 I just -- that's how I thought. I thought oh, she must  
9 be right.

10 Q. And you talk at paragraph 44 about a second time that  
11 you choked? This time I think on a potato?

12 A. I choked on a tatty. A potato.

13 Q. And you say there that your mum pushed it down your  
14 throat to clear it and then she passed out?

15 A. Well, I got up and I went down because we were all  
16 having our dinnertime and she had put her finger down my  
17 throat to put it down and then she went through into the  
18 living room and we were still in the kitchenette and  
19 then the next thing I kent is that she had fainted and  
20 everybody was like feared, you ken, we were all feared,  
21 and then they were blaming me, saying that was your  
22 fault this is happening to mum, and ken, there was just  
23 a sheer panic after that.

24 Q. What impact did that have on your relationship with her?

25 A. Well, she -- after that, she started to say to me,

1 "You've choked once, you've choked twice. Everything  
2 comes in threes, so there'll be a third time", and then  
3 I started to avoid eating, you ken, certain things.  
4 I ate my porridge, pudding, soup, but everything else,  
5 I got feared into eating, to eat. So I would -- I felt  
6 safer when I was around her because I thought, well,  
7 twice this happened, twice she saved me, so I was  
8 like ... she was kind of making me unable to live but  
9 I was like being -- you ken, I was relying on her  
10 because I was so feared to actually eat, but I had to  
11 eat -- I was too young, you see. I couldn't really  
12 understand. I was so terrified I just tried to eat  
13 stuff that I could manage and pretend I'd eaten  
14 something else when I hadn't eaten it.

15 Q. You tell us a bit more about this later in your  
16 statement, but I think you've had difficulties with  
17 eating throughout your life since then?

18 A. I was in the Ross Clinic and then I was in Cornhill with  
19 my eating, and I've got an eating disorder. You ken.  
20 In 2012 when I went to the doctor because I was shaking  
21 all the time inside and I was shaking outside and  
22 I wasn't sleeping and I didn't ken what was wrong. So  
23 I went to the doctor and told her, you ken, there was  
24 a trigger, something I've been eating, and she said  
25 I had post-traumatic stress disorder due to what

1           happened to me when I was there. But I've had it all my  
2           life now, you see. I can't just go out and have  
3           anything. I have to -- I have to manage what I can eat.  
4           I have to go and see what I can buy to eat. I can't  
5           just get a coffee and have fish and chips or a ham  
6           patty. Macaroni cheese, mince and tatties, something  
7           like that. I can't eat nothing that's -- steak, I can't  
8           eat anything like that. Bacon, nothing like that.  
9           I don't even eat sausages. It's got to be -- well, it's  
10          basically kind of a bairn can eat diet. I can't help  
11          it.

12        Q. And you mentioned there I think the Ross Clinic and then  
13          Cornhill, that's a hospital in Aberdeen?

14        A. Aye.

15        Q. You tell us at the bottom of page 8 and paragraph 46  
16          about your younger sister, I think, being treated  
17          differently by your mum?

18        A. Aye, [REDACTED].

19        Q. How did she treat her differently?

20        A. She -- well, it was -- she was more like mum's daughter,  
21          you ken, because she was the youngest, she hadn't come  
22          at the same time as the rest of us. She was two and  
23          a half years younger than me and she were just, I think,  
24          three when she came.

25        Q. Right, if we can move on, please, to page 9 and

1 paragraph 50, and you say there that you were told by  
2 mum that your natural mother never wanted you?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. Is that something that she used to say to you?

5 A. She would say, "Well, your mother never wanted you", you  
6 ken? She used to say it a lot of times, "Well, your  
7 mother never wanted you, did she?" And we wasn't  
8 allowed to speak about her and we thought there was this  
9 big dreaded secret or something. We thought there was  
10 something that we wasn't to ken about, whatever it was.  
11 I thought -- I don't ken what we thought. We just knew  
12 we weren't allowed to speak about her, even if we'd  
13 wanted, and we didn't dare say nothing in front of her.  
14 Sometimes we would speak among ourselves as sisters,  
15 because my older sisters would have kent. You ken?  
16 They must have seen her at some point but I didn't ken  
17 her and I'm (unclear) not.

18 Q. And you say here that you got hold of your records and  
19 they tell you that your natural mother had contacted the  
20 social work department a couple of times?

21 A. There was a couple of times that it was in my paper that  
22 she had asked how I was and that. (Witness shakes  
23 head).

24 Q. And you never knew that at the time?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Did you ever have any contact with your natural mother?  
2 Did you meet her later in life?

3 A. No. No, she had died when she was 48. I got her death  
4 certificate and then I tried to do a check up on my  
5 family tree kind of thing and her death certificate came  
6 up.

7 Q. Okay. Now if we can move on, please, to page 10, and at  
8 paragraph 58 you say there that you were treated like  
9 slaves by mum and dad and the local folk looked on you  
10 like that as well.

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. And you say:  
13 "We were all just there to do the farm labour."  
14 A. Well, that's all we did. We just did the work.

15 Q. You talk about:  
16 "Some of the other foster kids were only there for  
17 a short time and we were the only ones that were there  
18 all the time."  
19 So were there some other foster children coming into  
20 the house?

21 A. Aye. She used to have some come in the summertime for  
22 a few months. She had two boys, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
23 They came. They were there maybe a couple of years  
24 I think. As my older sisters moved and got jobs, she  
25 took on other kids.

1 Q. And did they have to do the work that you were doing?

2 A. Everybody had to, aye. We all had to do it.

3 Q. So when your older sister moved out, she started taking

4 other foster children?

5 A. Aye. Sometimes she would have -- even when we were

6 older, she would only have some for a month or two.

7 LADY SMITH: Can you remember what the highest number of

8 foster children there were at the farm at any one time?

9 Roughly?

10 A. There's six of us. She might have had another few,

11 maybe? I can't really remember.

12 LADY SMITH: You give me the impression that it could be

13 busier in the summertime.

14 A. She had them in the summertime, aye. They came for the

15 summertime. She says their mum and dad or their mum or

16 their parents needed a like respite or something, or

17 a rest, and they were there for a few months, two or

18 three months, or something like that. Some of them

19 didn't bide that long, but I mind the two boys biding

20 longer. But they didn't bide forever. They left and

21 all.

22 MS INNES: Then at paragraph 54 you say you knew you were

23 different to everybody else and you were "homey bairns",

24 and by that you mean that nobody wanted you and that was

25 why you were put there.



1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. And you say you were told that by Mrs FLX as well  
3 as the children at school?

4 A. Aye. She used to say, "You're a name and a number in  
5 a police file".

6 Q. You're a name and a number and a police file?

7 A. In a police file. And the parish was bringing you up.  
8 That means -- because it was a parish. Up there it's  
9 called like a parish.

10 Q. So the parish was bringing you up?

11 A. Aye, she would say, "The parish is bringing you up".

12 Q. Okay. At paragraph 55 you talk, I think, about your  
13 oldest sister would beat one of your sisters when she  
14 wet the bed?

15 A. My older sister she would -- well, she would  
16 hit us, me and -- but my sister got it the worst  
17 because she peed the bed and she would hit her more than  
18 the rest of us.

19 Q. Did she just do that or did your mum know about that  
20 or --

21 A. My mum kent her, right.

22 Q. Did she do anything about that? Did she try to stop  
23 your sister?

24 A. No, she would come and say, "Oh, I didn't manage to  
25 catch her in time" or, "I didn't manage to stop you in

1           time".

2   Q.   Okay.  And then you talk about your sister being called

3           "Stinky" by all of you.

4   A.   [REDACTED] because she peed the bed, she was to be called

5           "Stinky".

6   Q.   Mum, you say, called her that as well?

7   A.   Well, she told us to call her that.  She told us to call

8           her "Stinky".

9   Q.   You say at paragraph 57 that mum never hit you but as

10          a punishment she would make you stand in the corner?

11  A.   Well, at night, one of the punishments was to stand

12          behind the door, because the TV was there.  You came in

13          the door there.  Mum and dad's chairs were there, and

14          our sisters would be sitting on stools, ken, just six

15          little stools, we'd all be sitting on stools, and you

16          would have to stand there with your hands behind your

17          back until she said.

18  Q.   And would you be facing the wall?

19  A.   Facing the door.  You weren't allowed to turn around and

20          look at the TV.  You wasn't allowed.  You had to -- ken?

21  Q.   And then you talk about another punishment which

22          involved being made to stand in the midden?

23  A.   We used to have to stand in the midden with a bag over

24          your head to cry lost.  That was another thing.

25  Q.   And how long would that last?

1 A. Until she decided to come take it off and come off the  
2 midden. We had to stand there until she said so.

3 Q. And you say that you don't remember being put there in  
4 the snow or the rain?

5 A. I don't remember being there in the snow or the rain,  
6 but I remember being there in the summer, standing in  
7 the midden.

8 Q. And was that something that was a punishment that all of  
9 you had?

10 A. Oh, we'd all get that punishment, mm-hmm.

11 Q. Then you say that one time you were put to bed one  
12 summertime, paragraph 58, you and your sister were put  
13 to bed straight after tea time for a whole month?

14 A. Aye. Aye.

15 Q. And you say that you'd accidentally seen dad having  
16 a pee in the stable and you think your sister told  
17 people at school?

18 A. My sister went and told some of the quines and loons in  
19 our class at school and she found out and of course  
20 I must have agreed with [REDACTED] at school saying it must  
21 have happened, aye, because me and her got put to bed  
22 for a month in the height of the summertime every night  
23 after supertime.

24 Q. Then at paragraph 59 you say that there was an electric  
25 fence and sometimes mum would give you her keys and ask

1           you to touch the fence with the keys?

2    A.   It was an electric fence, you ken, round the park.

3           Sometimes she would put electric fence to keep the cows

4           in one side of the park and she had this packet of keys

5           like a domino and she would take it up and then the keys

6           would flick out. She had a heap of things on her thingy

7           because everything was locked up, you see. So depending

8           on who first she picked on, she would give you the key

9           and she would tell you to put it on the electric fence.

10          So you would have to do that and get the electric shock

11          went up the key and into you. I look with horror like

12          when I think about it now, but that's what we had to do

13          as well.

14    Q.   Okay. Then you say at paragraph 60 that as you got

15          older, you were only ever given one sanitary towel to

16          use, however long your periods lasted. You used to have

17          to use old bits of towel or toilet roll.

18    A.   Aye.

19    Q.   And you say you weren't allowed to ask for more?

20    A.   Oh no. Well, the first time -- when I first had my

21          period, I was 11, just turning 12, and she took me in in

22          front of dad and took the whole thing out and showed me

23          how to -- how it had to be used and everything. And

24          then I remember that. And then it was like, you ken,

25          all that -- in fact, she didn't even want to tell you

1 everything, you ken, because it seemed to be if you had  
2 your period that week, ken, she couldn't -- it was like  
3 that. It was like you wasn't spoken to. You was like  
4 different for a week.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And that's how it felt. And then had you to maybe get  
7 toilet paper from the school because she didn't get it  
8 for you there, and get a pad.

9 Q. So you wouldn't even want to tell her --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- because --

12 A. Because you was dirty.

13 Q. Okay. Then you talk at paragraph 61 about the bathing  
14 that you've told us about and not being able to close  
15 the door in the bathroom and then at paragraph 62 you  
16 tell us again about the issues that you've told us about  
17 the choking and difficulties with food.

18 So going on at paragraph 63, you say that you left  
19 the farm in 1970 when you were 16.

20 A. Mm.

21 Q. How did it come about that you left?

22 A. Well, she got me a job at [REDACTED] in a [REDACTED].

23 Q. She got you a job I think you say at [REDACTED]?

24 A. Aye.

25 Q. Near Turriff?

1 A. Aye.

2 Q. Was that the last time that you went back to Gardenstown  
3 or did you carry on going back once you started working  
4 at Turriff?

5 A. I carried ongoing back when it was my days off or my  
6 weekend off.

7 Q. Did you have to give your mum any money when you were  
8 going back for the weekends or not?

9 A. I used to give her my money. When I went back, she had  
10 a tin and I used to put the money into the tin for her.  
11 To buy whatever she wanted.

12 Q. How much of the money that you earned did you have to  
13 give to her?

14 A. Well, I only kept about -- only had my bus fare and kept  
15 about a pound or something to myself. I didn't get  
16 a lot of money then, you see. It was only like --  
17 I think it was £6 a fortnight I think I got paid, for my  
18 first job, £3 a week and I used to go and put it in the  
19 tin. And there was a shop down at the end of the park  
20 and I used to go to the shop and I bought her a Royal  
21 Worcester tea set and then I would put the money in  
22 a tin because she wanted the teapot and the sugar bowl  
23 and the milk jug and she wanted all the rest of the  
24 stuff to go with it. So that's what I used to do.  
25 I used to pay for a book that she liked, she liked The

1           Secrets, that was a book and I used to pay for that for  
2           her. When I was working, I used to give her that.

3   Q. At paragraph 68 you talk about buying these presents for  
4           her and you say that you felt it was your duty and you  
5           owed her that for bringing you up?

6   A. Well, aye.

7   Q. And you don't know if she was still getting money from  
8           the Local Authority for you at that point?

9   A. No, we didn't really ken about all that.

10   Q. Did there come a point when you stopped seeing them or  
11           did you always continue to have a relationship with the  
12           FLW-FLX ?

13   A. I did stop going to see her because I had my two boys  
14           (unclear), and I used to go up and see her, and then she  
15           was kind of being coarse to them, to [REDACTED] the middle  
16           one in particular, and I just -- ken.

17           I felt -- because I had the eating thing, you see,  
18           I felt secure and safe around her or near her, you ken?  
19           And if I had my bairns, my two boys anyway, not my  
20           daughter, she wasn't nice and I thought no, I'm going to  
21           (unclear). Because (unclear) it was mum and dad, that's  
22           the only people we ken. We didn't really have anybody  
23           else.

24   Q. Okay. If we go on, please, to paragraph 80 in your  
25           statement on page 14, you say that you never reported

1 any of the abuse that you suffered and you say about  
2 speaking to your doctor about it and being sent for  
3 counselling and you've explained that your doctor said,  
4 I think maybe in 2012, that you suffered from PTSD --

5 A. Aye.

6 Q. -- as a result of what had happened to you in your  
7 childhood?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. Okay. If we can go on, please, at paragraph 87, I think  
10 you say there that you got your records and you were  
11 able to find out bits and pieces about your life but you  
12 say:

13 "The way I see it is that what's written down isn't  
14 what actually happened."

15 Can you explain that?

16 A. Well, like she said that we all had our own bed. It  
17 said -- there was -- sheets just on that, but like they  
18 were healthy children, they were this, they were that,  
19 they slept in their own bed. Well, none of us ever did  
20 sleep in our own bed. We always had to sleep with  
21 somebody else. Again, that wasn't true for a start. We  
22 only got that, the two bedrooms and the train one, and  
23 that's the only rooms we was allowed because the  
24 upstairs wasn't allowed and then she put a door onto the  
25 bottom of the stair and put a lock on that as well, so



1           that wasn't true. You ken? And me getting my fingers  
2           off, that wasn't true. Ken? Stuff like that she'd said  
3           wasn't true.

4   Q. I think you've remained in the northeast; is that right?

5   A. Mm-hmm.

6   Q. Since you left care, have people spoken to you about  
7           knowing you at the time? Have you had contact with  
8           people from Gardenstown?

9   A. I've been doing work in looking after some of the  
10           parents or grandparents I've been doing, because I'm  
11           a carer. Some of them did recognise me, saying, "Oh,  
12           are you one of the ██████ quines?" And I'll say, "Aye".  
13           Some of them will say, "Are you FDP ██████ or are you ██████?"  
14           And I'll say, "Oh, you're right enough, I'm FDP ██████".  
15           And then they'll say, "Oh, what a life you pair of  
16           quines had up there. You were bad used and all that."

17                   That's what they say there. And some of their  
18           children, their kids, grandkids, were doing it to us.  
19           But I never say anything. I just get on and do my work.  
20           Ken?

21   Q. Okay. Do you have any thoughts about the fact that  
22           these people seemed to know that there were difficulties  
23           or issues and didn't do anything about it?

24   A. Well, I don't even ken if they could. Ken or don't ken  
25           if they could or they couldn't because the truth is

1           nobody kent if they didn't believe you. I didn't think  
2           folks would believe us, that's why we never said stuff.  
3           Who's going to believe us homey bairns? That's what  
4           they'd say.

5    Q.   Just finally, are there any things that you think that  
6           we should learn from your experience?

7    A.   Well, I think being like that and getting treated like  
8           that at school is something that sticks with you all  
9           your life. It never leaves you. Folk will care for you  
10           and, "Oh, you're one of the [REDACTED] quines, you're from  
11           a home, you're different". Even my daughter, when she  
12           was young, she didn't get into certain houses because  
13           she was different, because her mum was different.

14   LADY SMITH: 'Janet', did you ever tell your foster mother  
15           about the way you were being treated by other children?

16   A.   Oh, she kent.

17   LADY SMITH: Did she give you any help to cope with it?

18   A.   No. No. It was like, "Shut up", kind of like, "You  
19           deserve -- well, that's fair, you deserve it, you're  
20           from a home, you're nothing", ken? "You're a name and  
21           a number in a police file", that's what she'd say.  
22           "You're a name and a number in a police file". Ken?  
23           You should be -- I mean, she said, "The Laird  
24           o'Gamery" -- and I didn't ken who the Laird o'Gamery  
25           was, but she said, "The Laird o'Gamery said the likes of

1           you should be chained up alongside the beasts in the  
2           byre. How are you going to think if anything?"

3           So I used to kind of think we must be really ugly  
4           people, I thought we had two heads or something. And  
5           then I seen a photo, I seen a photo last year, somebody  
6           had photos of me and my sister [REDACTED] in the primary and  
7           I looked at them and we was only about seven, eight, and  
8           I was quite amazed because we was actually bonny quines  
9           but we didn't even ken. We thought we was a -- we  
10          thought we was monsters and that's how we grew up and it  
11          went right through to the Academy, right through until  
12          we left school and right to this day.

13          It's strange, but I just -- I don't take it on  
14          board. I just go out and look after the people I'm  
15          doing and it definitely has learned me being bad used  
16          and treated like that, I spend a lot of time with my  
17          clients or my service users. I've got a lot of time for  
18          them. Because it's made me have empathy to them, you  
19          ken? Respect them because I wouldn't -- ken, because  
20          I have -- that's how I feel. It's made me feel like  
21          that. That I want to look after other people and be  
22          nice to them.

23        LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24        MS INNES: Thank you very much, 'Janet'. I have no more  
25          questions for you and there are no applications,

1 my Lady.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Are there any outstanding  
3 applications for questions?

4 'Janet', that does complete everything we have to  
5 ask you this morning. Can I just thank you again for  
6 all the help you've given us through both your written  
7 statement and coming here today to give evidence in  
8 person. It's so helpful to hear from you yourself about  
9 what your life as a child was like through your entire  
10 living memory of childhood, I think, because you were so  
11 young when you went into foster care.

12 I hope you do realise now that far from being  
13 monsters who should be chained up in a stable, you  
14 matter just as much as other children, moreover you are  
15 doing something very special by coming here to help us  
16 understand as we try to work out how things can be  
17 better for children in the future.

18 A. Thank you.

19 LADY SMITH: So I hope you're able to take that away with  
20 you --

21 A. Thank you, aye.

22 LADY SMITH: -- as you have what I also hope will be a more  
23 restful afternoon than your morning will have been.

24 A. That's fine. Thank you.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you. I'm able to let you go.

1 (The witness withdrew)

2 LADY SMITH: Now, in the course of her evidence, 'Janet'  
3 used and we used the FLW-FLX names, the foster  
4 carers, 'Janet''s sisters names were referred to and  
5 indeed at one point she referred to her own name. All  
6 these are covered by my general restriction order and  
7 they can't be repeated outside this room.

8 Now, Ms Innes, where next?

9 MS INNES: My Lady, Ms Rattray has a short read-in that can  
10 be done before the morning break if I might be excused  
11 in the meantime.

12 LADY SMITH: Certainly. Let's do that then.

13 MS INNES: Thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

15 'Tracy' (read)

16 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. This is a statement of  
17 an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and has  
18 chosen the pseudonym 'Tracy'.

19 'Tracy' was boarded out by Edinburgh Corporation to  
20 a placement in Edinburgh from 1966 to  
21 1967.

22 "My name is 'Tracy'. I was born in 1961. My  
23 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

24 I was born in Edinburgh. My parents have both now  
25 passed away. I have two sisters and a brother. I'm the

1 youngest.

2 I don't have any memories of life with my father and  
3 mother. I just know some things from speaking to my  
4 siblings in later life.

5 I don't know where we lived, only that it was in  
6 Edinburgh somewhere. I later learned from speaking to  
7 my sister that I was one year old and my brother was two  
8 when we all went into a children's home for the first  
9 time.

10 Our mother just didn't have motherly instincts. Dad  
11 was a fisherman and my sister told me that when he was  
12 away at sea, mum used to dope us up with something so  
13 that we'd be asleep when she went out. My sister told  
14 me that she nearly died from whatever the stuff was that  
15 mum had given her.

16 Eventually mum pushed off to America and left all of  
17 us. I never knew her and the only reason I know what  
18 she must have looked like is because I'm told that my  
19 sister looks like her.

20 As big as our extended family is, none of them  
21 wanted to take us in or help, and because dad was out at  
22 sea a lot, we were all put into care. I've no idea who  
23 would have organised it, but I would imagine it was  
24 Edinburgh Corporation or the social work.

25 My sister told me that I was mainly in care with my

1 brother, although for a short time I was in a home at  
2 Clerwood in Edinburgh on my own. She and my other  
3 sister had been put to Templedean Children's Home in  
4 Haddington and they stayed there while my brother and  
5 I were moved about different places.

6 At some stages my brother and I were put with  
7 different foster parents in Edinburgh somewhere, but  
8 I don't remember any of that. The only ones I can  
9 remember slightly were called Mr and Mrs FGY-SPO They  
10 lived in a tall block of flats somewhere in Edinburgh,  
11 I don't know where.

12 I liked Mr [REDACTED] He was always gentle and kind.  
13 But Mrs FGY [REDACTED] didn't like us. I don't know why. Her  
14 son was also in the house and they had a black dog  
15 called Mandy, which I think was a poodle. The house was  
16 always immaculate and I remember my brother and I slept  
17 in a bunk bed and that the room was always cold.

18 I don't know how old I would have been or how long  
19 we were there, possibly a couple of weeks, maybe longer,  
20 but it was not a happy experience. I don't think  
21 Mrs FGY [REDACTED] liked children, although her husband did. He  
22 was always cuddling my brother and I, and if we were  
23 watching the telly there was always one of us at each  
24 side of him on the sofa.

25 If it was just Mrs FGY [REDACTED] at home, we were either in

1           our rooms or sitting down and not talking. If we did  
2           talk, Mrs FGY would get a bar of green Fairy soap,  
3           prise our mouths open and rub our teeth with the soap.  
4           She would also lock us up in a broom cupboard in the  
5           kitchen. She was a strange person.

6           We weren't allowed to stay indoors, we were always  
7           sent outside. I remember one time I was out playing and  
8           when I went back, my brother was standing at the door  
9           wearing my dress and crying. Mrs FGY had dressed my  
10          brother in my clothing and put him outside to play.  
11          That was mean and I felt sorry for him so we swapped our  
12          clothes.

13          A woman, who was possibly called Mrs Wilson and was  
14          from Social Services, was often about. I remember she  
15          put us to different places and I remember her coming to  
16          the FGY-SPO to see us. I don't know if there was ever  
17          any sort of child protection order for us.

18          When I was about five years old, my brother and  
19          I were put into Templedean Children's Home in Haddington  
20          where my sisters were. Templedean was a girls' school  
21          so after just a couple of weeks my brother was sent to  
22          Ochil Towers School in Auchterarder and for some reason  
23          I was sent there with him. My sisters stayed at  
24          Templedean and I never saw them again until I was 11 or  
25          12 years old."





1 Council. He spent two periods of time with the same  
2 foster parents. The first time they lived in Peterhead  
3 and the second time they lived in Northamptonshire. It  
4 does appear that when he was in England visits were  
5 carried out by the local childcare officer but these  
6 reports were sent back to Glasgow as the responsible  
7 authority.

8 His first stay in foster care was from [REDACTED] 1963  
9 to [REDACTED] 1966, and his second stay was [REDACTED] 1967  
10 to [REDACTED] 1969.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

12 'Archie' (affirmed)

13 LADY SMITH: 'Archie', you'll see the red light is now on on  
14 your microphone. It's really important that you keep in  
15 a good position for the microphone if you can manage to  
16 do that, please, because we need to hear you through the  
17 sound system.

18 A. Okay.

19 LADY SMITH: You have a red folder there on the table in  
20 front of you. That has a hard copy of your signed  
21 statement in it and we'll take you to that in a couple  
22 of minutes, but you'll also see your statement coming up  
23 on the screen in front of you and we'll go to different  
24 parts of the statement that we may want to discuss with  
25 you as we go through your evidence. You can use the

1 folder, the screen, or not use them at all. Whatever  
2 works for you.

3 But, 'Archie', before we begin your evidence, I just  
4 want to say I do know that asking you to come here into  
5 a public place where there are people you've never met  
6 before listening to what you have to say about very  
7 personal things about your life as a child is not easy,  
8 and indeed it may trigger emotions that can take you by  
9 surprise, even if you thought you'd already worked out  
10 what is and isn't likely to do so.

11 I understand that. It's not a problem if, for  
12 example, you want a break, you just want to pause when  
13 you're sitting there, or if you have any questions or  
14 worries at all, please let us know and let us do what we  
15 can to try and help.

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

18 A. That's fine. Thank you.

19 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

20 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

21 Questions from Ms Innes

22 MS INNES: 'Archie', we understand you were born in 1957; is  
23 that right?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. And you have your witness statement there in front of

1           you. We give it the reference WIT-1-000000653. If  
2           I could ask you to look at the final page of that  
3           statement, it will come up on the screen as well, and it  
4           says at paragraph 243:

5           "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
6           published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
7           I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
8           true."

9           And I think you signed that electronically on  
10          30 March 2021; is that right?

11         A. That's correct.

12         Q. Thank you. If we go back to the beginning of your  
13          statement, please, at paragraph 2 you tell us that you  
14          were brought up in Glasgow?

15         A. That's right.

16         Q. And at paragraph 3 you tell us about the brothers and  
17          sisters that you were brought up with. So I think you  
18          had an older sister, there was you, then a younger  
19          sister and two brothers?

20         A. That's correct.

21         Q. You say at paragraph 4 that there came a time when other  
22          siblings started appearing, and those are siblings that  
23          you weren't aware of during the time that you were in  
24          care; is that right?

25         A. That's right.

1 Q. If we go on, please, to paragraph 5 on page 2, you tell  
2 us there that your father died when you were very young,  
3 and I think after that you say that your understanding  
4 is that you were taken into care because your mother  
5 wasn't able to cope after your father's death. Is that  
6 right?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Does that understanding come from what you remember at  
9 the time or was it one of your siblings that told you  
10 that?

11 A. I think it's what I remember at the time.

12 Q. Okay. Then you say that you think you went into  
13 a couple of homes in Glasgow before you were fostered.

14 A. (Witness nods).

15 Q. You tell us about that on page 3 and 4, so I think you  
16 were at Waverley Children's Home and then at Castlemilk  
17 House?

18 A. That's right.

19 Q. At page 5, paragraph 16, you tell us there that there  
20 were two social workers who were with you constantly  
21 from the time that you were fostered right through to  
22 the time that you left Quarriers on the first occasion.  
23 So we'll come to it in due course, but I think you were  
24 fostered with the **FXU-FXW** and then you went into  
25 Quarriers? Is that right?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. And then you went back to the **FXU-FXW** again and then  
3 you went back to Quarriers again?

4 A. That's correct.

5 Q. Okay, we'll come to that in your statement. You say  
6 that one was called Marion MacArthur and the other one  
7 was Ms Richmond?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You say that over the years you got to know them quite  
10 well?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. How were you able to get to know them?

13 A. I think they had lots of contact with us.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And whenever we travelled anywhere, they were always our  
16 chaperone.

17 Q. And you tell us about this occasion where you travelled  
18 from Glasgow and you say at paragraph 17 that it was  
19 them that took you to the foster care placement and the  
20 first time that you remember meeting them was when they  
21 took you to Peterhead; is that right?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. At paragraph 18 you say that you remember travelling up  
24 to Peterhead by train?

25 A. (Witness nods).

1 Q. Was that the first time that you'd been on a train?

2 A. Yes, and it was a steam train, horrible and smoky.

3 That's what I remember.

4 Q. I think you say that you were with the social workers

5 and the siblings that you've mentioned, your older

6 sister, your younger sister and your two younger

7 brothers; is that right?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. Can you remember having spent much time with all of your

10 brothers and sisters before this?

11 A. Vaguely. We were very young.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. But there are certain things there that -- that come to

14 mind.

15 Q. Can you remember if you had any concept of where you

16 were going or where you were when you got to Peterhead?

17 A. No.

18 Q. If we go down to paragraph 19, you say that you were

19 about seven when you were first fostered by the

20 **FXU-FXW** At paragraph 20 you say that you think that

21 they were foster carers with the Salvation Army?

22 A. Yes, that's correct.

23 Q. You say that you always called them Mr and Mrs **FXU-FXW**?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So we know that you spent two periods of time with them.

1           So throughout the whole time that you lived with them,  
2           you called them Mr and Mrs **FXU-FXW** ?

3   A.   That's correct.

4   Q.   Is that what they told you to call them?

5   A.   I believe so.

6   Q.   Okay. You say that when you were first in Peterhead,  
7           you think Mr **FXU** worked as a postman but then he  
8           seemed to lose his job?

9   A.   Yes.

10   Q.   Can you remember meeting the **FXU-FXW** before you went  
11           to Peterhead?

12   A.   No.

13   Q.   Can you remember anything of your first impressions of  
14           them, what were they like?

15   A.   No, I don't remember.

16   Q.   Okay. If we go over the page to page 6 and  
17           paragraph 21, you tell us a little bit about the house  
18           in Peterhead. What was it like?

19   A.   It was in a place called  and it was quite  
20           a modern house with a big concrete yard. Not very far  
21           from the sea.

22   Q.   Okay. And was that something that was new to you, being  
23           close to the sea?

24   A.   Very much so.

25   Q.   You say it had lots of rooms but only three bedrooms?



1 A. My recollection, yes.

2 Q. Okay. I think you go on to tell us in the next few  
3 paragraphs, particularly at paragraph 23 and 24, about  
4 other people that were in the house. So there was  
5 Mr and Mrs FXU-FXW and you say that there was an older  
6 foster child?

7 A. There was.

8 Q. You say he was in the Merchant Navy so he wasn't there  
9 all of the time?

10 A. That's correct. His name was [REDACTED] and he  
11 came back from leave from the Navy. But we had an older  
12 boy lived there who was called [REDACTED] and we just  
13 assumed that he was the son of Mr and Mrs [REDACTED].

14 Q. So there was an older boy still in Peterhead?

15 A. There was an older boy permanently and one who used to  
16 come back and visit.

17 Q. You also say at paragraph 24 that from time to time the  
18 FXU-FXW had other children staying with them?

19 A. Yes, they did. I think as I grew up I recognised that  
20 they were short-term foster children, so they'd be there  
21 for exactly that, short term.

22 LADY SMITH: 'Archie', can I just ask you to get a little  
23 bit closer to the microphone?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: We're losing some of what you're saying at the

1           end of your sentences.

2    A.   Is that better?

3    LADY SMITH:  That's better, thank you, if you can keep

4           there.

5    MS INNES:  Yes.  So you recognised that they were short-term

6           foster carers and there were some children that came and

7           went.  I think you talk about some children that you saw

8           there and you saw them again when you were in Quarriers?

9    A.   That's correct, yes.

10   Q.   If we go on over the page, please, you say at

11          paragraph 25 that your first impression after arriving

12          was that they were a nice couple and you were happy

13          because there was a big yard where you could kick a ball

14          around.

15   A.   Yes, I remember that.

16   Q.   You go on to tell us at paragraph 26 about the sleeping

17          arrangements.  So you talk about your sisters had a room

18          to themselves; is that right?

19   A.   That's right.

20   Q.   And where did you sleep?

21   A.   I slept with my brothers.

22   Q.   And were you all in the same bed or --

23   A.   All in the same bed, yes.

24   Q.   So three of you?

25   A.   Yes.

1 Q. And you also refer to the older boy who was away in the  
2 Merchant Navy, that sometimes he would come back?  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. And would he be in the same room as you and your  
5 brothers?  
6 A. He would be in the same room, but on the occasions he  
7 came back, there was a single mattress on the floor for  
8 my two younger brothers and I slept in the same bed as  
9 [REDACTED] when he came home.  
10 Q. So you told us that there were three bedrooms. So there  
11 was the bedroom that you were using, there was the  
12 bedroom that your sisters were in. Where did [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED] sleep in Peterhead, can you remember?  
14 A. I don't remember at all.  
15 Q. Did Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] have their own room?  
16 A. Yes, they did.  
17 Q. And these other children that came and went, where did  
18 they sleep?  
19 A. I have no recollection, sorry.  
20 Q. That's okay. Then at paragraph 27, you say that you  
21 don't remember ever having a bath at the [REDACTED]  
22 either time that you stayed with them.  
23 A. (Witness nods).  
24 Q. And you refer to something that they called a strip  
25 wash?

1 A. Strip wash, yes.

2 Q. What was that?

3 A. It was a wash at the sink with underwear on or off  
4 sometimes.

5 Q. Was the sink in the bathroom or a kitchen?

6 A. I have no recollection.

7 Q. Can you remember if other people were around when you  
8 were getting washed or did you have privacy?

9 A. We all got strip washed together.

10 Q. Okay. You then talk about food and you say that your  
11 older sisters told you that it was often the case that  
12 you weren't given breakfast in the morning, and you say  
13 that you don't remember that happening but you remember  
14 a friend's mother having a roll ready for you?

15 A. Yes, on the way to school, yes.

16 Q. Was that in Peterhead?

17 A. That was in Peterhead, yes.

18 Q. And you say that you think that was because she thought  
19 that you weren't getting fed?

20 A. That's exactly why, yes.

21 Q. Did she say that to you or how did you know that was  
22 why?

23 A. She always said that I needed feeding up.

24 Q. Right, I see. You say at paragraph 29 that you used to  
25 be left alone a lot in the house.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Do you know where the **FXU-FXW** were going?

3 A. Usually they would go shopping to Aberdeen, which

4 I think is a 60-mile round trip. And they would do

5 maybe a really big shop, as I remember. But it took

6 them an awful long time to do it and sometimes they

7 would take us in the car and leave us in the car park

8 for hours on end in the car.

9 Q. And sometimes I think you say that when you were left in

10 the house that you were so hungry that your older sister

11 would try to make something for you?

12 A. Rustle something up from the cupboards, yes.

13 Q. And you say in this paragraph that that would always

14 lead to something happening to her, she would be

15 punished for that?

16 A. Yes, she was.

17 Q. If we go on to the next page to paragraph 31, you say

18 that you remember wearing the same clothes for a long

19 time.

20 A. Yes. Particularly underwear.

21 Q. You say that you remembered wearing clothes until the

22 smell became unbearable to other people around you?

23 A. I think so, yes.

24 Q. Do you remember that happening at school, for example,

25 or --

1 A. I remember it happening at school.

2 Q. Would the teacher say anything about that or was it  
3 other pupils?

4 A. The teachers would say, sometimes, "You need to have  
5 a wash", or ... I can't remember other than that.

6 Q. Do you know if the teachers ever raised that issue with  
7 Social Services or with the **FXU-FXW** ?

8 A. No, we'd never find out anything like that.

9 Q. Then you talk in the next section about any possessions  
10 or pocket money. You say there was no pocket money,  
11 sweets or treats, and that if you found something on the  
12 ground, you would pick it up, eat it, and that if the  
13 **FXU-FXW** found out about that, what would they do?

14 A. That would ... smacking, usually with an implement,  
15 maybe a spoon or a -- a wooden spoon or a belt.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And you'd be stuck in the bedroom for hours, maybe  
18 sometimes days, just sitting on the bed looking out of  
19 the window.

20 Q. Then if we go over the page, please, you say that at  
21 school you can remember doing well at school?

22 A. (Witness nods).

23 Q. And you said you always did well at school. Was that  
24 both at Peterhead and then later in Kettering?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. At paragraph 35 you remember getting a good  
2 report and getting a reward from Mr FXU ?  
3 A. That's correct, I did.  
4 Q. And you say that was totally out of the blue and out of  
5 character?  
6 A. Yes, it was, definitely.  
7 Q. Then you go on from there to talk about some trips or  
8 holidays, and at paragraph 39 on page 10, you talk about  
9 being sent away to a big farm?  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. Can you tell us about that?  
12 A. Yes, like my statement says, I can't remember the name  
13 of the people or their connection with the FXU-FXW  
14 but they obviously knew them quite well. It may have  
15 been Mr FXU 's brother.  
16 Q. Right.  
17 A. And they had a farm and when the FXU-FXW wanted to go  
18 on holiday without us, we were sent there.  
19 Q. Okay. At paragraph 41 you talk about Christmas and  
20 birthdays and you say that these were non-events.  
21 A. Exactly.  
22 Q. You say that you can't remember whether it was the first  
23 or second time that you lived with them, they changed  
24 the date of your birthday?  
25 A. Yes, they did.

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

2 A. I think the male who stayed with them, [REDACTED]  
3 his birthday was in [REDACTED] My birthday's in [REDACTED] So  
4 they -- it must have been an expensive time for them or  
5 inconvenient for them, and they changed my birthday  
6 to [REDACTED]

7 Q. Right.

8 A. That's the only reason I can give. But when I went back  
9 to Quarriers, I was called into the headmaster's office  
10 with a teacher to try and sort it out. I was adamant  
11 that my birthday was [REDACTED] and it was them that told  
12 me that it wasn't, it was [REDACTED].

13 Q. If we go down to the next paragraph, you say that you  
14 had no contact with your mother during this time.

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. So no cards, nothing at Christmas or birthdays or  
17 anything like that?

18 A. No, none at all.

19 Q. Did that continue for the whole time that you were in  
20 care and both times that you were in the [REDACTED] FXU-FXW '?

21 A. Yes, exactly the same.

22 Q. Over the page at paragraph 43 you say that you had  
23 social workers coming to visit, and were these the two  
24 ladies that you mentioned already?

25 A. I have no recollection of social workers visiting in



1 Peterhead.

2 Q. Okay. So you say there that:

3 "There were long gaps between the visits and when  
4 they did visit, they would have a chat with us as  
5 a collective for 15 or 20 minutes."

6 Is that your memory of seeing social workers when  
7 you were in Kettering rather than Peterhead?

8 A. No, I think that is from Peterhead.

9 Q. And --

10 A. When I was -- excuse me. What I meant when I said I had  
11 no recollection of them being there, it's ... the times  
12 they came were very few and far between. There were  
13 long gaps, or it seemed to us. Seemed to me.

14 Q. Do you know if it was the two ladies that had taken you  
15 up to Peterhead or were they different people perhaps or  
16 maybe you can't remember?

17 A. I don't really remember, but I -- I'm leaning towards  
18 the fact that they were different people. Probably  
19 social workers from that area.

20 Q. You say that they would have a chat with you as  
21 a collective for 15 or 20 minutes, so do you mean you  
22 and your brothers and sisters?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And were the **FXU-FXW** there when this conversation was  
25 going on or not?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did you ever have the opportunity to speak to the  
3 social workers on your own?

4 A. No, we didn't.

5 Q. And what sort of things did they ask you, can you  
6 remember, when they were having this chat with you?

7 A. Generally general questions about life in general,  
8 school in general. Were we happy? What things made us  
9 happy?

10 Q. Okay. Then you talk at paragraph 45 about a particular  
11 thing that you remember from your time in Peterhead was  
12 when your underwear was soiled and if that ever  
13 happened, you said you either had to throw your  
14 underwear away or explain or you were given a beating by  
15 Mr **FXU**

16 A. Yes, that's true. That's correct.

17 Q. You say there was no room for any explanation.

18 A. None whatsoever.

19 Q. At paragraph 46 you talk a bit about the **FXU-FXW**  
20 themselves and you describe them as "cruel people".

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Why do you say that?

23 A. They were -- they were quick to anger for what  
24 I remember as just being childish moments that didn't  
25 deserve reprimand. Maybe a bit of steering in the right

1 direction, perhaps, but not punishment.

2 Q. You then go on in your statement to talk about both of  
3 the [REDACTED] individually or each of the [REDACTED]  
4 individually. So, first of all, Mr [REDACTED] and you  
5 say that you have nothing nice to say about him:

6 "He was a horrible nasty beast of a man."

7 And there were lots of things that he did that  
8 frightened you. Going on in the same paragraph over the  
9 page to page 12, you talk about the things that he would  
10 do like jumping out and frightening you.

11 A. Yes. He took great pleasure in sending us to the shops  
12 in the dark and then waiting somewhere on the return  
13 trip and jumping out and giving us all a fright. We'd  
14 run away crying and he'd take a shortcut back to the  
15 house. When we got back to the house, he'd say, "What's  
16 the matter with you lot?" and we'd tell him the story  
17 and then -- on one particular occasion he says, "Well,  
18 why did you stop at the top of the hill and put your  
19 fingers up in the air?" and it was then, or maybe a few  
20 days after that, that the realisation came that he -- it  
21 was actually him the and there's only one person who  
22 could have known that that happened was the person we  
23 put our fingers up to, and we realised it was him then.  
24 He did lots of cruel things.

25 Q. So at paragraph 48 you talk about physical beatings and

1 I think you've already mentioned that sometimes he would  
2 use an implement, there would be an implement used like  
3 a wooden spoon, and here you talk about him using  
4 a slipper.

5 A. (Witness nods).

6 Q. Did he use other implements to hit you with?

7 A. Whatever came to hand. Books were quite a favourite.

8 Q. Books?

9 A. Hard-backed books.

10 Q. Right. You talk at paragraph 48 about him telling you  
11 to go to your room and take your trousers and pants off  
12 and then he would hit you. Is that right?

13 A. (Witness nods). (Pause). Sorry.

14 LADY SMITH: 'Archie', there's no need to apologise. Just  
15 pause if it helps.

16 A. Sorry, could you repeat that again?

17 MS INNES: So you talked at paragraph 48 about him making  
18 you go into your room and take off your trousers and  
19 pants and then he would come in and hit you?

20 A. Yes. But the cruellest thing was the waiting time.

21 Q. The waiting time?

22 A. You could -- could be there for an hour waiting for him  
23 to come up.

24 Q. Okay.

25 LADY SMITH: 'Archie', you're not the first person to sit

1           where you're sitting now and explain to me that one of  
2           the hardest things they experienced was a threat of  
3           punishment hanging over them and not knowing exactly  
4           when it was going to happen. I do understand that.  
5    A. Well, I'm sorry for you as well.  
6    LADY SMITH: Can I ask you one practical question for  
7           something that comes out in this paragraph,  
8           paragraph 48? You talk about him sometimes using a belt  
9           and you refer to it as a 4-inch belt, so I am I right in  
10          thinking you're talking about 4-inches wide?  
11   A. Yes.  
12   LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
13   MS INNES: At paragraph 49, 'Archie', you talk about him  
14          slapping you in the face.  
15   A. (Witness nods).  
16   Q. And you say that sometimes he would hit you so hard that  
17          it would put you on the floor?  
18   A. Yes. And see stars. It's not just a cartoon thing,  
19          seeing stars, it does actually happen.  
20   Q. You say there was an occasion that he beat you so  
21          violently that you had so much bruising on your face  
22          that you weren't allowed to go to school?  
23   A. Yeah, they kept me off school.  
24   Q. You've already told us, as you say in paragraph 50, that  
25          it could be for any reason, so any childish behaviour,

1 as you've explained.

2 A. (Witness nods). Exactly.

3 Q. Then you talk at paragraph 51 about a time that you were  
4 rolling up a carpet and playing with your younger  
5 brothers and sisters -- I think your younger brothers,  
6 perhaps. And the next thing that you remember is your  
7 head hitting the wall.

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And what had happened?

10 A. I had -- I was trying to entertain my younger brothers  
11 and I rolled the carpet up with a kick from one end, it  
12 kind of rolled itself, and they were laughing. And he  
13 burst into the bedroom and just hit me.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. It terrified my brothers. They were in tears.

16 Q. Then over the page at paragraph 52, again you say the  
17 beatings could be for anything, and you say that when he  
18 finished with his initial angry tirade, he would reveal  
19 what he was really beating you for. And you give some  
20 examples of the things that he would say to you:

21 "You have done this so you have to pay the price.  
22 Make sure you know how to do it the right way. Or don't  
23 do that again."

24 A. That must have been for rolling the carpet with a kick  
25 rather than bending down and rolling it up with my hands

1 on that occasion.

2 Q. Then you talk at paragraph 53 about being made to sit in  
3 your room for hours on end?

4 A. (Witness nods).

5 Q. And that was often without food you say?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Until breakfast time the following day?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You say they called it "bed without tea"?

10 A. Exactly, yes.

11 Q. So would they say to you, you know, you're going to your  
12 bedroom and there'll be no tea for you?

13 A. That's exactly right, yes.

14 Q. At paragraph 54 you say that you can't remember  
15 Mr FXU being physically abusive with your other  
16 siblings.

17 A. I don't remember that at all.

18 Q. But you do remember them being sent to bed in the same  
19 way as you were, to bed without tea?

20 A. Yes, exactly.

21 Q. And then what about Mrs FXW? What was she like?

22 A. She was the same as Mr FXU, but she preferred -- if  
23 she was really angry, she would carry out whatever  
24 punishment she saw fit at the time, but her favourite  
25 was to put us in the corner or send us into an empty

1 room to wait for Mr FXU to come home. And that  
2 could take -- that would have taken hours. And that  
3 waiting period ... (Pause).

4 Q. Okay. So she would do that as well, where you had to  
5 wait for him to come home?

6 A. Exactly.

7 Q. You say at paragraph 57 that she was absolutely aware  
8 that Mr FXU was beating you?

9 A. Absolutely.

10 Q. Was she sometimes there when he was doing it?

11 A. I don't recall her ever being there watching, so to  
12 speak.

13 Q. Okay. In the next section of your statement, you talk  
14 about being taken by Mr FXU to visit a house in  
15 Huntley.

16 A. (Witness nods). Yes.

17 Q. Are you able to tell us what happened to you there?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. You tell us there was a man who owned the house,  
20 but I think that there were a number of men that went to  
21 this house?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And you talk about there being reel-to-reel recording  
24 equipment in one of the rooms?

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. Then if we go to page 15, paragraph 62, you say that  
2 when he took you to Huntley, he took you to the house so  
3 people could abuse you.  
4 A. (Witness nods).  
5 Q. And you say that you don't remember whether Mr. [REDACTED]  
6 would drop you there or whether he stayed.  
7 A. I don't remember.  
8 Q. So you go on to describe abuse that you suffered, and  
9 just to be clear, that was these other men and not  
10 Mr. [REDACTED] himself?  
11 A. That's correct.  
12 Q. You say at paragraph 63 that you only remember one  
13 occasion when abuse took place, however looking back on  
14 the number of times that you were taken, you find it  
15 inconceivable that it happened only once?  
16 A. That's correct.  
17 Q. And you were sexually abused by these men?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. And you talk about being forced to do various things.  
20 And you say that you remember waking up in the mornings  
21 in bed and there would be somebody there?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. So you'd be there overnight?  
24 A. Be there overnight.  
25 Q. Okay. And did you have any sense of who these men were?

1           Were they friends of Mr FXU or --

2   A.   No.   Just the owner of the house.  I had a sense that he

3           was definitely a friend of Mr FXU's.

4   Q.   You say at paragraph 64 that you remember three times or

5           three occasions that Mr FXU took you there, but it

6           could have been more.

7   A.   Yes.

8   Q.   And you say that you remember these particular occasions

9           because perhaps you didn't want to go on those

10          occasions?

11  A.   That's correct.

12  Q.   And what did you do?

13  A.   I don't know, I must have made a nuisance of myself.

14  Q.   You say that you think that you might say that you

15          didn't want to go and then Mr FXU would drop you

16          off in the middle of the forest?

17  A.   That's correct.

18  Q.   And leave you?

19  A.   That's correct.

20  Q.   And you say that he would come back and then he would

21          take you to this house again?

22  A.   That's correct.  I think he'd left me to stew on why

23          I was feeling the way I was feeling or as a punishment

24          to frighten me into submissive behaviour.

25  Q.   If we can go on, please, to page 16, so this first time

1           when you were living with the **FXU-FXW** in Peterhead,  
2           can you remember ever telling the social workers what  
3           was happening to you?

4    A.   Never.

5    Q.   You say that you don't think that you ever tried to tell  
6           them about what was happening in Huntley?

7    A.   Never.

8    Q.   And are you able to tell us why you didn't feel able to  
9           tell them what was happening in Huntley?

10   A.   No, I can just assume now, at this age, that it was to  
11          protect myself from being called a liar and facing  
12          whatever punishment would come for saying that.

13   Q.   You talk at paragraph 66 about once mentioning  
14          something, and you don't remember what it was, it could  
15          just have been that you weren't getting sweets or  
16          something, and you say that the social worker must have  
17          told Mr **FXU** because after they'd gone you received  
18          a beating from him.

19   A.   (Witness nods).

20   Q.   Can you remember that happening?

21   A.   Vividly, yes.

22   Q.   And what was he saying? How did you know that it was as  
23          a result of what you'd said to the social worker?

24   A.   Because he was asking me what I'd said. And when  
25          I didn't reply or said -- I said -- told him nothing, he

1 would say, "You're some sort of liar, and wasn't that  
2 when the social worker was asking you?" or that sort of  
3 thing.

4 Q. You say at paragraph 67:

5 "We thought that speaking to the social worker would  
6 be private. It could have been the case that that was  
7 what we had previously been led to believe. Our  
8 experience then and afterwards seemed to disprove that.  
9 Everything we told our social worker seemed to be passed  
10 on."

11 A. (Witness nods).

12 Q. Was that your experience when you lived with the  
13 **FXU-FXW**?

14 A. Exactly, yeah.

15 Q. Then you say at paragraph 68 that you weren't sure how  
16 that made you feel at the time but you think it meant  
17 that you said everything was fine, essentially, when the  
18 social workers visited?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. There then came a time that you left the **FXU-FXW** and  
21 do you know why that was? I think if we go on to  
22 paragraph 69.

23 A. Yes, it was in -- we were still in Peterhead at that  
24 time and we got put back into Quarriers, which I was  
25 very happy about, and I think my brothers and sisters

1           were too, but the reason was that Mr **FXU** had lost  
2           his job and had gone through a period of illness of some  
3           sort and so we were put back into Quarriers for about  
4           two years, as I remember.

5   Q.   Okay.  You talk about the social workers coming to  
6           collect you, that you went away on the train again,  
7           I think?

8   A.   Yes.

9   Q.   And then you spent a period in Quarriers, and I'm going  
10          to move on, please, to page 21 of your statement and  
11          paragraph 86.  You tell us there that there then came  
12          a time when you were just under 11 when you left  
13          Quarriers to go back to stay with the **FXU-FXW** again.

14  A.   (Witness nods).

15  Q.   You can remember being told in advance that you were  
16          going to go back to stay with the **FXU-FXW**?

17  A.   Yes, I can.

18  Q.   Who told you?

19  A.   I think it was the housemother of the cottage that we  
20          were in.

21  Q.   Can you remember how you felt about that?

22  A.   Oh, vividly.  I said, "I'm just not going.  Send the  
23          rest of the family if they want to go, my brothers and  
24          sisters if they want to go", but I just refused to go.

25  Q.   You say at paragraph 87 that you remember digging your

1 heels in and making a fuss to Ms zQAJ -- was she the  
2 housemother?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And one of the social workers from Quarriers who was  
5 seeing you at the time -- so I think in the part of your  
6 statement that deals with Quarriers, you say that during  
7 the time you were in Quarriers you can't remember seeing  
8 social workers from Glasgow City Council but Quarriers  
9 had their own social workers that you saw?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. You say just what you've just said, that you didn't want  
12 to go, and you then say you were told that you were  
13 going anyway.

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. How did you feel about that?

16 A. I just had to surrender and accept my fate.

17 Q. You say then that you remember -- by this time the  
18 FXU-FXW had moved to Kettering, I think?

19 A. Yes, just outside Kettering, yes.

20 Q. And you were flown down to England?

21 A. We were.

22 Q. If we go on to the next page, you talk about where they  
23 lived and at paragraph 91 you say that it was a large  
24 two-bedroomed bungalow that they were living in.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So again at paragraph 92 it was you and your older  
2 sister, younger sister, and two younger brothers that  
3 went?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. Is that right?  
6 A. That's right.  
7 Q. You mention that the person that you understood to be  
8 the **FXU-FXW** son was there?  
9 A. He was, yes.  
10 Q. And you say that you didn't remember him from the time  
11 that you were in Peterhead, but he was in Kettering when  
12 you arrived?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. When you were doing your statement, you thought that  
15 maybe he'd appeared and he'd maybe been adopted or  
16 fostered between Peterhead and Kettering, but I think  
17 maybe you do now remember that he was in Peterhead as  
18 well?  
19 A. I remember him from Peterhead now, vaguely, yes.  
20 Q. So what were the sleeping arrangements in this house?  
21 A. **FXU-FXW** in a double bedroom, sisters in the same bed  
22 and two younger brothers in the same bed and myself and  
23 **██████████** on a bed settee in the front room.  
24 Q. **██████████**, I think you say, he would have been  
25 a couple of years older than your older sister, you

1 think he would have been about 14 at the time?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If we go on from there, please, you say that you never  
4 got your own bed during the time that you were staying  
5 at the [REDACTED]?

6 A. No, never.

7 Q. And it was the same arrangements in relation to washing  
8 that you can remember, washing and bathing?

9 A. Yes, exactly.

10 Q. At paragraph 95 you say that you think that there was  
11 still a lack of food and that you ate your meals  
12 separately from the [REDACTED]?

13 A. Yes, we did.

14 Q. So where did you have your food?

15 A. We would have it at the -- in the kitchen at a long  
16 Formica table.

17 Q. Would you be sitting down at that table?

18 A. Sometimes. If you got a stool. Sometimes you were  
19 standing.

20 Q. Where did Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] eat?

21 A. They would eat in the -- where I slept. That was the  
22 front room.

23 Q. And what about [REDACTED]? Who did he eat with?

24 A. He ate with the [REDACTED].

25 Q. Then you also talk about remembering that you used to



1 eat from plastic bowls.

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Is that what you were given all the time that you lived

4 in Kettering with the [REDACTED]?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You talk about them using the same bowl for everything

7 and not washing them between times.

8 A. (Witness nods).

9 Q. Did the [REDACTED] also use plastic bowls like you had?

10 A. No, not to my recollection. I don't remember what they

11 used, but I'm pretty certain it wouldn't have been

12 plastic bowls.

13 Q. You say if you didn't like anything, you were beaten by

14 Mrs [REDACTED].

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And if you didn't eat it, you would be sent to bed

17 without any more food.

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. At paragraph 97, you talk about not having the right

20 footwear for PE and also not being allowed to wear long

21 trousers to school.

22 A. Yes, correct.

23 Q. What did you do to resolve that?

24 A. [REDACTED], the older child of the [REDACTED], had

25 long trousers and me and my older sister, we used to

1 steal a pair and we'd put them on the window of the  
2 bungalow on the way to school and as we went out the  
3 door we'd pick them off the window and put them on on  
4 the bus on the way to school. But it didn't last long.  
5 We got caught.

6 Q. And what was the consequence of being caught?

7 A. Oh, just the standard, beating, bed without food.

8 Q. At paragraph 98, you say that the same issues in terms  
9 of your clothing and clothing not being washed  
10 continuing. You say that you think one of the teachers  
11 at Kettering spoke to the **FXU-FXW** about that?

12 A. Yes, they did.

13 Q. Do you remember that happening?

14 A. Vaguely.

15 Q. What did the **FXU-FXW** do about that?

16 A. I'm not sure.

17 Q. Okay. At paragraph 99, you talk about not having  
18 anything but you say that it did strike you that the  
19 **FXU-FXW** had money themselves.

20 A. Yes. Yes.

21 Q. How did that become apparent?

22 A. The bungalow, firstly, was in a pretty expensive area  
23 called  and they had a new car every --  
24 every year, I think. We could see them spending money,  
25 but there was never any for us, for school trips or

1 anything like that.

2 Q. I think you say here even you didn't have sandals for  
3 school, but he would be showing you his new car.

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. Then you talk about going to school. If we go on to  
6 paragraph 103 on page 25, you say that the FXU-FXW  
7 would tell you that teachers from your school spoke to  
8 them about various things:

9 "They would tell me in no uncertain terms when  
10 teachers spoke to them. I think they would try and make  
11 me feel, after teachers spoke to them, that it was my  
12 fault."

13 What sort of things would they be saying that the  
14 teachers had spoken to them about?

15 A. I'm not sure now.

16 Q. Okay. Is your memory that it was something negative,  
17 that there was maybe an issue at school, or was it  
18 something positive that you'd done well at school?

19 A. I'm pretty sure it would have been something negative.

20 Q. Okay. You then go on at paragraph 106 to mention the  
21 school trips that you mentioned a moment ago in your  
22 evidence. You say that you weren't taken away on any  
23 trips or holidays. They weren't involved in out of  
24 school things and you were prevented from going on  
25 school trips. You say:

1           "Not letting me go on those trips was mental

2           cruelty. It was torturous."

3   A. Yes.

4   Q. Can you explain that, please?

5   A. Just my friends always -- classmates always had such  
6       a good time and they'd tell me about trips. And we  
7       had -- there was an occasion where a teacher physically  
8       came to the house and said, "Look, we've got a fund that  
9       we can use, but we don't like to use it, but we have to  
10      have your permission to let your child come with us",  
11      and to my recollection, that's what happened. It was  
12      subsidised and I got to go on a trip with the school.

13   Q. Then over the page on page 26 you talk about the  
14      difference in treatment between you and your siblings  
15      and [REDACTED] and you remember that particularly at  
16      Christmas time, for example.

17   A. Yes.

18   Q. How would that become apparent at Christmas time?

19   A. FXU [REDACTED] still had a sadistic streak,  
20      a sadistic sense of humour, and on one particular  
21      Christmas, our Christmas present was stockings or pillow  
22      cases filled with coal from the fire, which he called  
23      shunners. And that was for being -- not being good kids  
24      through the year. And we'd have to suffer that for  
25      a while, and then after what seemed like an age later in

1 time we'd get some presents. But we were left to stew  
2 on the fact that we hadn't been good boys and girls and  
3 we weren't going to get a Christmas present like every  
4 other kid did.

5 Q. Going on in the next part of this page, you talk about  
6 visits from social workers and your recollection is that  
7 the social workers came from Kettering or an office  
8 locally to visit you?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. But you think that there must still have been some  
11 connection with Glasgow City Council because ultimately  
12 you went back to Quarriers, you say?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. The visits that you had with the social workers when you  
15 were in Kettering, were they the same as you've already  
16 described or were they different?

17 A. No, exactly the same.

18 Q. So the **FXU-FXW** would be there when you spoke to the  
19 social workers?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And would your other siblings be there as well?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can you remember them coming more frequently or not?  
24 You said earlier that there were big gaps between  
25 visits.

1 A. It seemed like that to me when we were in Scotland. In  
2 England it was a little bit more regular.

3 Q. Okay. Then if we go over the page, you talk about  
4 running away towards the end of your time in Kettering  
5 and we'll come back to that in a moment.

6 You say at paragraph 112 that it's hard for you to  
7 describe the terror of going back to stay with the  
8 **FXU-FXW**. It's hard to explain just how cruel they  
9 were. Your second time with them was a tragedy, it  
10 really was an absolute nightmare, and you say it was  
11 just the same nightmare again in a different place.

12 A. (Witness nods).

13 Q. Is that how you feel about the second time that you  
14 stayed with them?

15 A. Exactly that, yes.

16 Q. And you say that you remember that added on to that was  
17 embarrassment and neglect.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And can you explain that, please?

20 A. As I was getting older, I was beginning to have more  
21 realisation. One of the realisations that came to us  
22 was that we weren't like the other kids at school. We  
23 weren't treated the same way as they were. They would  
24 tell us things that happened in their daily life and it  
25 was too difficult to compute. We just ... how can that

1           happen? You know, how can people be so nice? And we  
2           lived with monsters.

3    Q.   Okay. Then you go on to talk about the things that  
4           happened and you say that they still used the bed  
5           without tea, although it was perhaps less, but there was  
6           a lot of physical abuse from Mr. FXU when you were  
7           in Kettering?

8    A.   Yes, that's correct.

9    Q.   At paragraph 115 you say the beatings were awful, they  
10          were practically every day and left you with permanent  
11          scars?

12   A.   Yes.

13   Q.   You go on to say:

14                 "Things seemed to just snowball and pick up speed."

15                 Can you explain that? And what happened?

16   A.   I could do -- I could do nothing right. I couldn't walk  
17          properly. I couldn't walk in a style that I was  
18          supposed to. I couldn't stand with my hands in front of  
19          my lap, I had my hands behind my back. There were lots  
20          of little rules just about -- there was a rule for  
21          everything, and if I wasn't complying, then it was no  
22          sweets, early beds. It was just horrible. A horrible  
23          nightmare.

24   Q.   Over the page at paragraph 116 you talk about the use of  
25          the 4-inch belt again, that he would threaten you with

1           it and then he would hit you with it and you talk about  
2           a particularly bad beating that he gave you, which you  
3           describe as the worst beating, which fell on the school  
4           holidays.

5    A.   (Witness nods).

6    Q.   You go on to talk about climbing out the bedroom window  
7           to go to the next-door neighbour's orchard, is that the  
8           incident that gave rise to the worst beating or was it  
9           something else?

10   A.   It was that one.

11   Q.   It was that one, okay.

12   A.   Oh, there was another -- sorry. There was one that was  
13           a little bit worse than that, but I don't know if we get  
14           to it here or later.

15   Q.   Okay. If you feel able to tell us about that, then  
16           please do that.

17   A.   Yeah. There was a time when **FXU-FXW**'s bike had a flat  
18           tyre and he asked me to take it into Kettering to have  
19           it repaired and I was told in no uncertain terms that  
20           I wasn't to ride the bike. I was to walk and walk back.  
21           But of course I did what I did, I got on the bike and  
22           rode it to the school to see my friends and I rode it  
23           down into Kettering with the flat tyre. I got it  
24           repaired and I thought this is taking far too long so  
25           I'm going to have to ride it back as well, so I rode the



1 bike back, and when I got back to the house and opened  
2 the door, I found my sisters in a state of undress and  
3 **FXU** on the settee, instructing them to do sexual  
4 things. And that was -- he got -- he just absolutely  
5 exploded with that one and he locked me in the garden  
6 shed for two days after a huge beating.

7 Q. You tell us that at paragraph 112 of your statement on  
8 page 29, you cover what you've just already told us.

9 A. Right.

10 Q. After this, what happened? Did you carry on living with  
11 them or was this the point that you ran away? Or was it  
12 later?

13 A. It was during one of the beatings that I fought back and  
14 I think -- I can't -- I'd hit **FXU** with some sort of  
15 implement and there was no choice. I had to run away.  
16 I couldn't go back to the house. And my older sister  
17 came with us, so there was the two of us on the run.  
18 And I can't remember how we got back with Social  
19 Services, but we were taken away from the **FXU-FXW**.

20 Q. Okay. So you tell us then at paragraph 124 -- and  
21 I think this is maybe what you're telling us about --  
22 that you caught Mr **FXU** sexually abusing your older  
23 sister again and you threw a saucepan at his head.

24 A. That's it, yes.

25 Q. And then all hell broke loose, he attacked you, and you

1           and your older sister ran away.

2    A.   Correct.

3    Q.   You tell us at paragraph 125 that you were picked up by

4           the police.

5    A.   (Witness nods).   Okay, yeah.

6    Q.   After you were picked up by the police, I think you tell

7           us that you went back to Quarriers then.   Is that right?

8    A.   There was a short stay at -- in Corby in

9           Northamptonshire.   We didn't -- we weren't in school so

10           it was quite a short stay and probably temporary

11           social ... and yes, we eventually went back up to --

12           back to Quarriers.

13   Q.   Can you remember if the police asked you what had

14           happened and if you told them then what was going on at

15           the **FXU-FXW** ?

16   A.   Yes.

17   Q.   Is that what happened, you told them at that point?

18   A.   Yes.

19   Q.   Can you remember if you ever had to speak to the police

20           again or if anything went to court or anything like

21           that?

22   A.   (Witness shakes head).   Nothing at all.

23   Q.   Nothing.   Okay.   You can't remember it or it didn't

24           happen?

25   A.   I'm sorry -- no, it didn't happen.   It definitely didn't

1           happen.

2   Q.   Okay.  Then in your statement you tell us that you went  
3           back to Quarriers again, and I'm going to move over that  
4           part of your statement, if that's okay.

5   A.   Okay.

6   Q.   Just bear with me a moment.  (Pause).

7           At page 48, please, if we can move to that and  
8           paragraph 201, you say that one of the things about  
9           being brought up the way that you were is that you lost  
10          contact with your brothers, sisters and other relatives.  
11          So in terms of the brothers and sisters that you were at  
12          the **FXU-FXW** with, did your experiences have an impact  
13          with your relationship with those siblings?

14  A.   Yes, it did.

15  Q.   Have you been able to maintain a relationship or were  
16          you able to maintain a relationship with any of them or  
17          not?

18  A.   Not meaningful relationships.  We can just be in each  
19          other's company for short periods of time.

20  Q.   If we can look, please, at -- just bear with me  
21          a moment -- page 56 and paragraph 229, you tell us  
22          something that one of your sisters had found out, and  
23          you say that she found out that Mr **FXU** had had  
24          a foster child who had made allegations of abuse against  
25          him during a time that they were staying in Peterhead.

1 A. (Witness nods).

2 Q. Do you know anything about how she found that out, where  
3 she got that information from?

4 A. I think she got that information from the girl herself.

5 Q. And how did she find the girl herself?

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. Okay. You say that she told you that from what she  
8 discovered, the allegations had been totally dismissed?

9 A. Yes. Excuse me, I do remember. My older sister had put  
10 feelers out to find any family that might have been  
11 around. At the time I was serving with the Forces and  
12 was abroad in Germany. And so I only got little titbits  
13 here and there. But it's my older sister that had  
14 instigated it, yes.

15 Q. So somehow she had tried to find other people that had  
16 stayed with the [REDACTED] ?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. And had found this person who had reported this to her?

19 A. Yes. Her name is [REDACTED].

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. And she lived in Livingston and she was a half-sister of  
22 ours.

23 Q. She was a half-sister of yours?

24 A. This is correct.

25 Q. And she had lived with the [REDACTED] as well?

1 A. I think so, yes.

2 Q. Okay. And you say that your understanding is that he  
3 ended up with something like an official reprimand and  
4 was allowed to carry on fostering?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And then again that's your understanding from what  
7 you've been told by your sisters?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. If we can now look, please, at the section of  
10 your statement where you have lessons to be learned, and  
11 you say at the beginning at paragraph 230:

12 "I don't know whether things have already been done  
13 to overcome ..." the sort of things that you experienced  
14 in care and you think that things have moved on.

15 But you say:

16 "However, if children have been taken into care and  
17 still experience the things that I did, then really we  
18 have learned nothing. Children should be nurtured and  
19 encouraged rather than slapped down, hidden away and  
20 punished."

21 A. (Witness nods).

22 Q. And:

23 "Children should be allowed to have their own  
24 minds."

25 Is that something that you felt from your own

1           experience that you weren't able to have your own mind,  
2           as a child?

3    A.   That's correct.

4    Q.   You deal with thoughts about your time at Quarriers, but  
5           if we can move on, please, to page 57 and paragraph 234,  
6           you give us some comments on Social Services. Do you  
7           have any comment on your view of Social Services arising  
8           from your time with the **FXU-FXW** ?

9    A.   No, other than it was a pleasant experience to see them  
10           and say hello, but the things that went on around that  
11           meeting were pretty horrible. But that wasn't -- that  
12           was no reflection on the social workers themselves.

13   Q.   Okay. So you say, I think, on page 58 at paragraph 235  
14           that they should have gone around things in a different  
15           way and spoken to children in a more sympathetic way.  
16           You say back then you were treated like a "cheeky wee  
17           upstart". Children weren't there to be believed.

18   A.   That's correct.

19   Q.   And you say that looking back the social workers you  
20           encountered were essentially Victorian people with  
21           Victorian attitudes.

22   A.   Absolutely, yes.

23   Q.   What sort of Victorian attitudes did you think that they  
24           had?

25   A.   In the way that they wouldn't take what children had

1       said at face value. They had to have it backed up, and  
2       I guess that's why they approached the foster parents to  
3       say, "They've said this", or, "They've said that",  
4       rather than just taking it as: well, that's what the  
5       child has said, let's take it back to the office and  
6       we'll do something with it then.

7   Q. Do you think it would have made a difference to have  
8       been able to speak to them on your own?

9   A. I think so, definitely.

10  Q. Okay. At the bottom of this page at page 58,  
11       paragraph 239, you make some comments in relation to  
12       financial rewards for fostering, and again from your  
13       experience of living with the **FXU-FXW**, what are your  
14       comments in relation to that aspect?

15  A. I think that the financial rewards are still -- still  
16       high, but it's a difficult job, I guess.

17       I think that the financial remuneration is a draw  
18       for people who wouldn't normally have the heart to be  
19       looking after children. The financial aspect attracts  
20       them more than the nurturing of -- of children.

21  Q. So from what you're saying, people that are foster  
22       carers should be people that have the heart to do it and  
23       to nurture children?

24  A. I would hope so.

25  Q. Over the page on the final page of your statement on

1 page 59, you say at paragraph 240 that you've always  
2 wanted to know more about what happened to Mr FXU  
3 and the earlier allegation that you've heard about, and  
4 you say even if there was a question mark, you shouldn't  
5 have been allowed to go and live with him.

6 A. I think that's -- nowadays, just looking at the sort of  
7 evidence, it wouldn't have happened. He would just have  
8 had a mark put down against him and not allowed to  
9 foster children any more.

10 Q. You also talk at paragraph 241 about what you told us in  
11 your evidence earlier, that you said on the second  
12 occasion that you didn't want to go, but you had to go.

13 A. (Witness nods).

14 Q. And I think you say there that you don't know why you  
15 weren't listened to then and you think that there were  
16 failings in Glasgow Social Services at that point.

17 A. Definitely. Can we just go back to a little bit about  
18 the social workers who were in Quarriers were part of  
19 the Glasgow social work network, although they were  
20 based at Quarriers, so they weren't really Quarriers'  
21 staff. They were Social Services.

22 Q. So when you're saying that you weren't listened to,  
23 you're talking about those social workers who didn't  
24 listen to you at that time?

25 A. Well, exactly, yes. As well.



1 Q. Okay. And you say that you hope that the information  
2 that you've provided in your statement will allow  
3 someone to say this is what happened, this is what is  
4 happening, and this is what should happen in the future,  
5 and you would like to think that your statement will go  
6 some way to help that other children in the future don't  
7 go through what you went through; is that right?

8 A. Mm. That's my sincere wish.

9 MS INNES: Thank you, 'Archie'. I have no more questions  
10 for you and there are no applications, my Lady.

11 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
12 questions of 'Archie'?

13 'Archie', that does complete all our questions for  
14 you this morning. Thank you very much for everything  
15 you've done to engage with us, both in terms of your  
16 written statement covering not just foster care but  
17 obviously your time in Quarriers as well, and thank you  
18 for coming here to talk today about your time in foster  
19 care. I did say to you at the outset I understood that  
20 it could be difficult and yes, it's been difficult,  
21 I can see that.

22 A. (Witness nods).

23 LADY SMITH: But by managing to do it, you've really helped  
24 my understanding of your life as a child and that will  
25 feed into the learning we have here.

1 I also hope that you've valued the time you've had  
2 here to be able to speak in public about these very  
3 difficult things that happened to you, and indeed has  
4 implications for other children, now other adults, as  
5 well.

6 A. (Witness nods).

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much for that. I'm able now to  
8 let you go and hopefully have a restful afternoon.

9 A. Thank you.

10 (The witness withdrew)

11 LADY SMITH: Just to flag up before the lunch break a number  
12 of names covered by my general restriction order: the  
13 **FXU-FXW**, of course, and **██████** and **██████████████████** and  
14 **██████████████████**. These can't be mentioned outside this  
15 room.

16 So, time for the lunch break, I think, Ms Innes,  
17 yes?

18 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. We have one read-in this  
19 afternoon, which will not be more than half an hour.

20 LADY SMITH: Very well. I'll sit again at 2 o'clock.

21 (1.07 pm)

22 (The luncheon adjournment)

23 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

24

25

1 'Sandra' (read)

2 MS RATTRAY: My Lady. This is a statement of an applicant  
3 who wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen the  
4 pseudonym 'Sandra'. 'Sandra''s statement is at  
5 WIT.001.002.9475.

6 'Sandra' was initially placed with the FFY-FFZ on  
7 1966 and removed on 1970. She returned  
8 to their care on 1977 and left some time  
9 in 1978. Glasgow Corporation, now Glasgow City  
10 Council, were responsible for 'Sandra''s care.

11 "I was born in Paisley. I don't have contact with  
12 my parents. I have had contact with them in the past  
13 but I no longer do so. What I remember from my  
14 childhood is that I had an older brother, an older  
15 sister and a younger sister. I don't know the age  
16 difference between my siblings and myself. My younger  
17 sister is about two years younger than me.

18 My earliest memory is that we lived in a tenement  
19 with my birth mother and father. There was only one  
20 bedroom. My older brother, older sister and I slept in  
21 the double bed in that room. My birth parents slept in  
22 an alcove in the living room. My younger sister was in  
23 a cot beside them. I do remember a lot of fights  
24 between my birth parents because we all had to choose  
25 whether we wanted her to stay or leave. He ended up

1           throwing her out.

2           I remember my younger sister and I were removed.  
3           The older ones were at school. I was about four years  
4           old and my younger sister was about 18 months. The  
5           toilet was on the landing and I remember the social work  
6           coming and removing us from that toilet because my birth  
7           father had went to work. He had locked us in while he  
8           went to work in a pub. So we got chucked in the  
9           bathroom with some toys. I remember the social work  
10          putting the door in and removing us from there.

11          We were taken somewhere in a van and then we were  
12          placed in foster care with **FFY-FFZ** They  
13          had a son. They ended up adopting another boy, but we  
14          were fostered. We were in Glasgow when they fostered us  
15          but we all moved out to Livingston because my foster  
16          father got a job.

17          We went straight from Paisley to their address in  
18          Glasgow. After a year or two, we moved to Livingston.  
19          There we all had our own room, so there must have been  
20          four bedrooms. The adopted boy slept in their room. He  
21          was just a toddler. He was born in 1967, I think.  
22          Their son was a couple of years older than me. He was  
23          born in 1958 or 1959. We got up to a lot of mischief  
24          together. We cut pillows and shook the feathers out of  
25          the window, but I always got the blame because I wasn't

1 their child. Living with them was all right, but  
2 I always seemed to get targeted for what their son and  
3 I did. I must have liked it though because I didn't  
4 want to leave.

5 I went to school in Livingston. I can't remember  
6 the name of it. Christmas was good. We visited their  
7 family in Glasgow, who we called gran and grandad.  
8 I think FFY just couldn't cope and I just seemed to be  
9 getting into trouble with their son.

10 We used to get slapped or smacked by FFZ  
11 FFY would say, "Wait till your father gets home". We  
12 got smacked on the backside. Sometimes we would get the  
13 belt. He would take it off his trousers. I wouldn't  
14 say it was regular. It happened a few times, but in my  
15 eyes at that time I was naughty so I got smacked.

16 One time I was in a cupboard which had a bed in it.  
17 It was just a single bed with shelves at the top and  
18 they hid Easter eggs there. I had been eating them.  
19 I remember FFZ counting them. They caught me  
20 and I got belted for that. It was stupid stuff. This  
21 was in the first place we lived in with them.

22 I got into trouble. There was a box window, a bay,  
23 and they had a grate up the front. Their son and  
24 I threw eggs out of the window but I was covered in egg  
25 so I got the blame. I didn't see it as abuse. I was

1       naughty and got punished. I didn't have injuries, just  
2       a sore backside.

3               On another occasion we were sent to the shop.  
4       I think I was seven at this point. I had the carrier  
5       bag. Their son asked me to put two packets of biscuits  
6       in it. As we were walking out of the shop, the lady  
7       asked me to give her the bag and called the police  
8       because of the two packets of biscuits. I was driven  
9       back to the foster home by the police. FFY said she'd  
10      had enough of me. I was a troublesome child and  
11      bringing trouble to her house.

12             I was taken to Glasgow and put in front of a panel  
13      of 10 or 12 people. I remember putting peas in my ear  
14      because I didn't want to hear what they were saying.  
15      I stood in front of this group of people who decided  
16      I was to go to Dunclutha Children's Home. I was about  
17      seven and a half.

18             I can't say I ever felt loved at the FFY-FFZ .  
19      I was definitely treated differently from their son but  
20      it was better than Dunclutha. So I went to a panel in  
21      Glasgow, 12 people round a table, and I went there from  
22      to Dunclutha. I think my clothes were in the car as the  
23      FFY-FFZ went one way and I went in other direction.  
24      Both of them were there. A social worker, I can't  
25      remember who, took me to Dunclutha in a car and over on

1 the ferry. I felt horrendous. I was breaking my heart.

2 I was a kid.

3 I can't remember the name of my social worker at  
4 first but it became Mr Richardson. I think he went on  
5 to become head of social work in Glasgow because he left  
6 me and I got told by another social worker that he had  
7 been promoted. I had him for a couple of years then  
8 I got someone else. I can't remember his name. I saw  
9 Mr Richardson a couple of times. A handful at the  
10 most."

11 From paragraphs 15 to 77, 'Sandra' speaks of her  
12 experiences at Dunclutha. Although redacted, I will,  
13 however, read out certain paragraphs in that part of her  
14 statement as they do relate to foster care.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16 MS RATTRAY: Moving now to paragraph 53 on page 12:

17 "I didn't go to any more children's panels and  
18 I don't remember any reviews. I remember a man came in  
19 once, I don't know who he was. He came in with a book  
20 with photos and asked me if I knew **FFY-FFZ**  
21 weren't my real parents and if I remembered I had a mum  
22 and dad. It was just him and I in the room. I don't  
23 know what that was about. I was about 11 at the time.

24 A payphone was installed outside the girls' toilets.  
25 It was for us, instead of going to the office and asking

1 to use the phone, we could use our pocket money to use  
2 the payphone to learn us the value of money. It rang  
3 one day and I answered it and it was my foster mother,  
4 FFY She had been given the wrong number. She was  
5 calling to ask how we were doing. She asked if she  
6 could come for a visit and I told her she would have to  
7 ask the people who ran Dunclutha so I gave her their  
8 number. I was 13 and a half.

9 FFY-FFZ then came to visit me about  
10 two or three times after that. The only contact I'd had  
11 before that was a letter from her a couple of months  
12 after being in Dunclutha telling me that she couldn't  
13 cope and I was causing her too much heartache. I didn't  
14 hear from her again until I was 13 and a half. They  
15 asked if we wanted to come back and we did, but I found  
16 out that it was for the allowance."

17 Moving to paragraph 78 on page 18:

18 "I called into the office when I got back from  
19 school after giving FFY the phone number of the  
20 people who ran Dunclutha. I was told that children  
21 weren't getting to answer the payphone any more because  
22 I shouldn't have taken that call. He asked if I was  
23 okay with FFY-FFZ visiting. I said yes. They  
24 came and we showed them around the home and went down to  
25 the town for our tea. My sister was there too. I think



1 the adopted son came. I think their son was in the  
2 Royal Navy by this time.

3 [FFY-FFZ] came back again, then after three or  
4 four visits they asked if we wanted to stay with them at  
5 the weekend. We were up for that. [FFZ] came  
6 for us himself. We got the ferry from Dunoon to Gourrock  
7 then the train to Glasgow Central. We then walked to  
8 Glasgow Queen Street and got the train to Haymarket in  
9 Edinburgh. We then got a train to Kirkcaldy and then  
10 a bus from there to Methil. He did the journey twice  
11 showing me how to do it, then I did it myself with my  
12 sister. I was 14 when we were doing this. The staff  
13 would pick us up off the ferry on our way back on Sunday  
14 night. This was every third weekend.

15 I don't remember how it came about that we went  
16 back. I just remember them asking if we wanted to and  
17 I said yes. I don't remember a meeting with social work  
18 coming to tell us we were leaving. I just remember  
19 [FFZ] coming and getting us and we never went  
20 back. I think we packed up what we had. We had about  
21 three outfits each.

22 By this time, the [FFY-FFZ] were staying in Methil.  
23 There was [FFY-FFZ] the adopted son, my sister and  
24 me. I shared a room with my sister. The house had  
25 three bedrooms. I picked up very quickly that it was

1 about money with FFY None of them were alcoholics  
2 when I was with them as a kid, but FFY was a bad  
3 alcoholic now to the point that she would hide her  
4 bottle of vodka in the dirty washing or in the  
5 cupboards.

6 FFZ worked in the nearby.  
7 FFY didn't work. FFZ was an evangelist. He was  
8 writing to the church and we rarely seen him and FFY  
9 sank into the bottle.

10 I went to high school and my younger sister went to  
11 primary school. I covered up FFY's drinking because  
12 I didn't want to go back to Dunclutha. I would be kept  
13 off school to help her with the housework, wash the  
14 walls or paint the ceiling. I think FFZ knew because  
15 she was drunk. She was always stinking of alcohol.  
16 I hated the school anyway because I hadn't built  
17 a friendship up. All the kids had come from primary to  
18 secondary together. I arrived in third year.

19 I knew a cheque came every month for them keeping  
20 us. I had no contact with the social work during this  
21 time. How I knew about the cheque was that I used to go  
22 to the shop along the street and get two carrier bags of  
23 groceries. FFY gave me a note to hand over and it was  
24 pleading that she had two girls from foster care and she  
25 only got paid monthly for them. I read the note.

1 I hated her from that day onwards. The girl that served  
2 me was in my class and she told everybody in school.

3 There was a lot of arguments between FFZ and FFY  
4 and I'd get stuck in the middle of them. They both  
5 drank whisky. He would drink a couple of glasses and  
6 she would drink the bottle. They argued all the time.  
7 I blew up one day and said 'The minute I'm 16 I'm out of  
8 here'. Anything I had for the FFY-FFZ had gone. The  
9 people I knew from when I was younger were gone.

10 FFZ never abused me, but he made me feel  
11 uncomfortable because he would have his hand down his  
12 trousers 'massaging his ego' for want of a better word.  
13 He didn't abuse me, or my sister that I'm aware of, but  
14 he went on to abuse my oldest daughter years later.

15 I had got a job when I was 16. I fell out with FFY  
16 before I left and stayed at FFZ's sisters in Glasgow  
17 for a fortnight. When I came back, FFY her son, the  
18 adopted son and my sister were in Anstruther. FFZ  
19 FFZ was still working and staying in .

20 FFY sent her son on his motorcycle to get my dig  
21 money and I refused to give it to her. She was taking  
22 all my money and giving me bus fares because the money  
23 she was getting for me had stopped when I reached 16.  
24 He said she would kick me out. I told the father when  
25 he came home from work and said my dig money was on the

1 mantelpiece, but he told me to keep it.

2 I had no contact with my birth parents or my older  
3 siblings when I was with my foster parents. I think my  
4 dad took them to Aberdeen, as he had a family there.  
5 I think my birth mother stayed in Glasgow for a while  
6 then moved to England somewhere. I found out about my  
7 birth parents and my older siblings when I was 18 or 19  
8 and I found them.

9 I stayed with the FFY-FFZ until I was 16 and then  
10 left. I was there about a year and a half, then moved  
11 in with my friend and her mum. She spoke with FFY and  
12 it was okay. They lived nearby. My younger sister  
13 remained with FFY-FFZ.

14 I kept in touch with my sister and we would meet in  
15 the park. One time she told me that she had been beaten  
16 up by FFY so I told the social work that FFY was  
17 an alcoholic and to get my sister out. I told my sister  
18 I'd done that and she wasn't happy. My friend's mum got  
19 me a little job and I came home one day and FFY was  
20 standing at her door shouting abuse at me, saying, 'You  
21 don't know what you've done'. My sister went back to  
22 Dunclutha.

23 When I was 18, I got my own flat in Methil. I don't  
24 know if anyone told me I wasn't in the care system any  
25 more. I went back and forward to Dunclutha visiting my

1 younger sister. I kept in touch with her social worker.  
2 I can't remember her name. She was from the Glasgow  
3 social work office or Strathclyde. I asked her to check  
4 my flat so that I could get my sister to stay with me,  
5 which she did. My sister came to stay with me when she  
6 was 15. The social worker got me bedding for her.  
7 I was working in Kirkcaldy at the time. They left her  
8 with me on a trial basis, making sure she went to school  
9 every day. If it worked, she could stay, so she did.  
10 I came out of care then. I took my sister out to  
11 live with me later on. I wrote to the social work to  
12 take my sister out of care and I asked about my older  
13 brother and sister as I was curious. The social work  
14 replied saying my older sister lived in Glasgow and  
15 wanted to meet me. I went to meet her and her family  
16 and they asked where my younger sister was. I told them  
17 she was still in the home and they asked to meet her, so  
18 I took them over to meet her and that's when I met my  
19 natural family."

20 From paragraphs 94 to 105 'Sandra' speaks of her  
21 life after care. She worked in children's homes as  
22 a support worker and care assistant. She says there was  
23 a lot of in-house training. She wanted to work in care  
24 because of her background in care. She had always said  
25 that she would try to make a difference. She has three

1 children.

2 Moving to paragraph 106 on page 24:

3 "My oldest daughter was hanging about in Buckhaven.  
4 One day she was needing the toilet and went to FFZ  
5 FFZ 's. In her eyes, FFZ was her grandad. FFY  
6 died with alcohol poisoning or her liver or something  
7 when I left and FFZ had moved to Buckhaven. He started  
8 touching my daughter up. She didn't tell me for months.  
9 We got the police involved and he admitted it and he was  
10 put on the sex offenders' register. She was about 11.

11 One day I was giving FFZ and his friend  
12 a lift to a night out. My daughter was sitting on  
13 FFZ 's knee. I looked in the mirror and FFZ had his  
14 hands between my daughter's legs. I told him to get out  
15 and that's when it all came out. I had been in contact  
16 with him up until then, maybe once a month."

17 And now to paragraph 111 on page 25:

18 "Over the years I have done lots of training.  
19 I have my SVQ3 in Health and Social Care. I have done  
20 Childcare Phase 1 and 2 and Child Protection. All to  
21 work in residential care. I went on to be a senior in  
22 the last place I was in. I was there for about six and  
23 a bit years.

24 The difference now to when I was in care is that the  
25 kids can call the social work. The staff would call the

1 social work and you'd sit down with the kids. We do  
2 group therapy with them. We're very hands-on with the  
3 kids. When my kids came home from school I would always  
4 ask, "How was your day". I still do it with my  
5 grandson. That was never there for us."

6 And to paragraph 114:

7 "I have lack of trust and insecurities. Physical  
8 touch, hugs are very hard to accept. I freeze.  
9 I rarely use the word love. I am protective with my  
10 grandchildren, especially joining clubs where changing  
11 or showering takes place. I sometimes withdraw socially  
12 because of anxieties. I've had failed relationships,  
13 which were most probably my fault, through insecurities  
14 and lack of trust. I choose friends wisely, again  
15 through trust and loyalty.

16 I'm very good at saying I'm fine. We're all good at  
17 putting on a front with a smile. No one knows what's  
18 going on behind that smile or when you're left with your  
19 own thoughts.

20 I struggle to tell my kids I love them. I feel  
21 their pain. I was too busy throwing myself into other  
22 things to stop me thinking about what happened to me to  
23 not see what happened to them. My daughters and I are  
24 a very close-knit family but I struggle with the love  
25 kind of stuff and I think that's from being in care.

1 I thought my kids were with someone I trusted. I was  
2 too busy looking after me and others. I think I was  
3 doing right for the kids in care and I wasn't looking  
4 out for my own kids.

5 My time in care cost me everything, my marriages,  
6 everything. I don't have trust for anyone, in  
7 particular men. I give up as quick as I can. I'm no  
8 good with intimate relationships. I give up. I've not  
9 been in a relationship for years. The minute I see that  
10 things are not right, I throw the towel in. I have made  
11 a lot of male friends but I'm no good at relationships.

12 I buried my time in care for a long time. Even when  
13 I was working in care, I was there for the kids. The  
14 abuse side never came into my head. I then heard about  
15 the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. I had guided kids  
16 through speaking, I guided my daughters through the  
17 court system. It was time for me to have a voice.

18 I became a no-nonsense person. I wasn't going to  
19 take any crap in life. I was looking for something  
20 better. I think as a family we have been through so  
21 much, way before my kids came along and when they did  
22 come along. Some things could have been so different.  
23 Was it because I was in Dunclutha? I don't know. Was  
24 it because I was in foster care? I don't know.  
25 I believe now that is the case because of my experience



1 and training of working in the care system.

2 I think it has affected my life and the life of my  
3 kids. It has affected every one of us."

4 And now to paragraph 127 on page 29:

5 "I asked about my records once. I think it was my  
6 niece's social worker and she told me that all the  
7 records were in Glasgow somewhere. She didn't know  
8 where. She asked if I was interested and I wasn't sure  
9 if I wanted to read them. I didn't see her again and  
10 I didn't take it any further.

11 I think they could work with families of the kids in  
12 care more. I don't think the parents are helped to get  
13 the kids integrated back into the family home. The fact  
14 that they do police checks now is a positive thing.  
15 I don't think that was done when I was in care. I think  
16 there should be someone outwith the care environment the  
17 kids trust that they can talk to. Can anything be made  
18 better, police checks, et cetera, because people do and  
19 have slipped through the net. Relationships and trust  
20 need to be built up with a child for them to be able to  
21 open up.

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 are  
25 true."

1           And 'Sandra' signed her statement on 14 October  
2           2019.

3           Now, my Lady, in her statement 'Sandra' spoke about  
4           the foster father being convicted of abusing her  
5           daughter.

6   LADY SMITH: Yes.

7   MS RATTRAY: We have evidence of that conviction, which is  
8           at PSS-000000853.

9   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10   MS RATTRAY: What that tells us is that in 1996 FFZ  
11           was convicted at Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court in respect of  
12           charges of shameless indecency and lewd and libidinous  
13           practices in respect of a female age 11 to 15 and he was  
14           sentenced to two years' probation.

15   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16   MS RATTRAY: And, my Lady, that concludes the evidence for  
17           today and indeed this week and this part. I think we  
18           are due back on Tuesday, 28 June at 10.00 am.

19   LADY SMITH: We are indeed. Thank you very much. Thank you  
20           all for your efforts this week. I will rise now and be  
21           back here a week on Tuesday at 10 o'clock. Thank you.

22   (2.25 pm)

23                   (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
24                   on Tuesday, 28 June 2022)

25

I N D E X

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