

Wednesday, 29 June 2022

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back.

4 As I indicated last night, today will be possibly  
5 all oral witnesses with no read-ins, we'll see how we  
6 go, but we certainly have three oral witnesses,  
7 including one that's joining us by videolink a little  
8 later this morning.

9 I understand the first oral witness is ready to give  
10 evidence. Is that right, Ms Innes?

11 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. The first witness is 'Alex'.

12 'Alex' was in the care of the burgh of Kilmarnock. He  
13 was boarded out by them with his aunt and uncle as  
14 foster carers on [REDACTED] 1964 and he remained there for  
15 the rest of his childhood. The burgh of Kilmarnock is  
16 a predecessor of East Ayrshire Council.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Alex' (sworn)

19 LADY SMITH: 'Alex', a couple of practicalities first.

20 You'll see there's a red folder on the desk in front of  
21 you. That has the written version of your statement in  
22 it, you'll be taken to that in a couple of minutes.

23 We'll also put your statement up on that screen, you  
24 might find that helpful, when we take you to different  
25 parts of it that we are going to discuss in evidence.

1           You'll no doubt appreciate we're not going to go  
2           through every single paragraph, it has been read, I've  
3           read it, others have read it, so we do know what's in  
4           it, but we're going to focus on some important aspects.

5           But separately from all that, can I just tell you  
6           I do understand that what we're asking you to do isn't  
7           easy. As an adult, you're being asked to come and speak  
8           in public about things that happened during your  
9           childhood. It's bound to be stressful and it may  
10          trigger emotions that take you by surprise. I do  
11          understand that, I get that.

12         A. Yes.

13         LADY SMITH: If at any time you want a break or just to  
14          pause or if you have any questions, you're allowed to  
15          ask questions here. You may have been silenced at times  
16          as a child, but that doesn't happen with us.

17         A. (Witness nods)

18         LADY SMITH: Do let me know what works for you and if it  
19          works for you, it works for me and that's the key, all  
20          right?

21                 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and  
22          she'll take it from there. Thank you.

23                         Questions from Ms Innes

24         MS INNES: 'Alex', we understand that you were born in 1960.

25                 Is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Looking at your statement, we give it the reference  
3 WIT-1-000000652. If we go to the final page of that,  
4 please, and at paragraph 117, it says there:  
5 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
6 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
7 I believe that the facts stated in this witness  
8 statement are true."  
9 I think you signed that statement on 30 March 2021;  
10 is that right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Going back to the beginning of your statement, you tell  
13 us that you don't have any memories of living with your  
14 parents and from what you understand, you've been in  
15 care or you were in care since you were three years old.  
16 Is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You think that you had a brief period in Nazareth House?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And then you went to live with the FLB/FMX and I think  
21 your -- Mrs FMX was in fact your aunt; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was she your mother's sister?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. You tell us, I think, that you were then fostered

1 by the FLB/FMX along with your younger sister and your  
2 younger brother?

3 A. No, my sister was older.

4 Q. Your sister was older, sorry.

5 A. And my younger brother.

6 Q. How much older was your sister than you?

7 A. There was two years between us.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. So she would have been 64 now and my brother would have  
10 been coming up on 60.

11 Q. Okay. I think both your brother and your sister have  
12 died?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So you were fostered with your brother and sister with  
15 the FLB/FMX At paragraph 5 on page 2, you tell us  
16 a little bit about the FLB/FMX other children.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. I think we understand that you mention a daughter,  
19 [REDACTED]?

20 A. [REDACTED] she was the oldest one.

21 Q. Was she older than you?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Roughly do you know how much older she was than you  
24 were?

25 A. I think she would be about four year older than me.

1 Q. Okay, so she was older than your sister as well?

2 A. Yeah. Out of the two families that lived together, she  
3 was the oldest out of them all.

4 Q. Okay. Then you mention another daughter of the FLB/FMX  
5 [REDACTED].

6 A. Yeah, she was the same age as me.

7 Q. Same age as you, okay.

8 Then there was a boy [REDACTED]?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. How old was he in comparison to you?

11 A. He would have been the same age as [REDACTED], which is my  
12 brother.

13 Q. Your brother.

14 A. But he's now also dead.

15 Q. So he was a couple of years younger than you as well?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Then you say that the FLB/FMX had another daughter,  
18 [REDACTED].

19 A. Yeah, she was younger than [REDACTED].

20 Q. Was she born after you went to live with the FLB/FMX ;  
21 can you remember?

22 A. I'm not -- to be quite honest with you, I'm not sure.  
23 I can't remember if she was -- I think she was a child.  
24 She was round about [REDACTED] age, I think. Maybe  
25 slightly younger.

1 Q. Yeah.

2 A. But I'm not sure. The only one I can remember being  
3 born there is [REDACTED].

4 Q. Okay, and she was the youngest?

5 A. Yeah, she was the youngest.

6 Q. Okay. You tell us about her in this paragraph and you  
7 say that you understood that she was epileptic and had  
8 special needs; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You think that you were maybe about 10 or 11 when she  
11 was born?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You say at paragraph 5 of your statement that things  
14 really changed after [REDACTED] was born?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. How did they change?

17 A. Because the amount of needs that [REDACTED] needed at  
18 the time, because she was taking fits from a young age  
19 she was taking grand mal epileptic fits, which  
20 apparently is the worst kind of fits you can take. And  
21 then the alcohol started and the abuse started and we  
22 were just getting -- we couldn't do anything right.

23 Q. Okay. We'll come back to that in a bit more detail in  
24 a moment, but you do mention there in your statement,  
25 I think, that Mrs [REDACTED] was starting to get angrier and

1 more drunk?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And Mr FLB was becoming more aggressive and abusive?

4 A. (Witness nods)

5 MS INNES: Okay.

6 LADY SMITH: 'Alex', I'm sorry to interrupt, I just need to

7 check something with the transcript.

8 (Pause).

9 Sorry about that, 'Alex'. You probably appreciate

10 your evidence is being transcribed as we go along and

11 I can see whether the transcription is coming through or

12 not.

13 Thank you.

14 MS INNES: Okay, you talk about -- that's the FLB/FMX family

15 and their own children. Then in the house there was

16 also you and your brother and your sister, and then

17 I think there was another person that came to live in

18 the house, Richard?

19 A. Richard, yeah.

20 Q. Can you remember him coming to live in the house?

21 A. Yes. Because his mother and father were on the verge of

22 splitting up and his mother committed suicide. Richard

23 was [REDACTED]

24 Q. Sorry, Richard was?

25 A. Richard was [REDACTED]

1 Q.

2 A.

3

4 Q.

5 A.

6 Q.

7

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay, thank you.

10 If we can move down to paragraph 7 of your  
11 statement, you tell us a little bit about the house and  
12 you talk about it being a three-bedroomed downstairs  
13 flat. Did you always live in the same house when you  
14 lived with the FLB/FMX or did they move?

15 A. No, they moved.

16 Q. Okay, so this three bedroom downstairs flat, is that the  
17 first house that you lived in?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. So we've talked about the FLB/FMX own children  
20 and you and your brother and sister. Can you remember  
21 where you were sleeping?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I think if we go on to page 3, paragraph 8, you talk  
24 there about the bedrooms. I think you, your brother and  
25 shared a room, is that right?



1 A. Yeah. And then Richard.

2 Q. Did Richard join you in that room when he came?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. How many beds were in that room, can you remember?

5 A. There was two double beds and a single bed.

6 Q. Right, were some of you sharing a bed?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Who shared a bed, can you remember?

9 A. It just depended who got into bed first.

10 Q. Then you say then there were the girls. They were in

11 another bedroom; is that right?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Your sister was in with the FLB/FMX daughters?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And then Mr and Mrs FLB/FMX were in the third room?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay.

18 Then at paragraph 9 you tell us a little bit about

19 the FLB/FMX. You say you don't think that they were

20 very old at the time that you went to live with them?

21 A. No, they weren't.

22 Q. You think that they were probably still under 30 then?

23 A. Yeah, possibly, yeah.

24 Q. Okay. And Mrs FMX didn't work?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Did she ever work at any time that you lived with them?

2 A. No.

3 Q. And Mr FLB was working for the gas board?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. At paragraph 10 you tell us that you moved to another

6 house. Was that bigger than the flat that you'd been

7 living in?

8 A. It was still a three-bedroomed house. It was just the

9 same situation, really.

10 Q. So the same sort of arrangements with sharing rooms and

11 suchlike?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. At paragraph 11 you say that there was never any

14 explanation of your circumstances until you were about

15 eight or nine?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Can you remember being given some explanation then when

18 you were eight or nine?

19 A. We virtually got told that we were fostered and that was

20 it. Not what had happened, anything like that. We were

21 just basically told, "You are fostered, deal with it,

22 live with it".

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. So at eight or nine years old, what can you say to that?

25 There's not a lot you can say, is there? You just --

1           you asked where your mother and father was and there was  
2           no -- never a mention of them.

3   Q. Did you find that out from the social workers or from  
4           the **FLB/FMX**, that you were fostered, can you remember?

5   A. We had to go to meetings every so often with the **FLB/FMX**  
6           and we were informed then at one of these meetings that  
7           we were fostered. Because I mean at eight or nine year  
8           old I was still using my original name. It wasn't until  
9           a bit later on that they decided that we would use their  
10          name. And we always -- from being younger, we always  
11          wondered why it was two different names, but ...

12   Q. No explanation was given?

13   A. Not then. Not until we were explained that from Social  
14          Services.

15   Q. Okay. You say in this paragraph that even before you  
16          were told that, you knew that you were never part of  
17          their family --

18   A. Because we were treated differently.

19   Q. Okay.

20   A. We were always treated differently.

21   Q. We'll come back to that in a bit more detail again in  
22          a moment. You mention at paragraph 12 the issue about  
23          being known by a different name at school --

24   A. Yeah.

25   Q. -- and that being noticed. I think that you tell us

1           there that there was a time when you were at school that  
2           you used their surname, but then after you were 16 you  
3           reverted back to using your own name?

4   A. 17.

5   Q. 17, okay.

6           At paragraph 13, you talk about Richard coming to  
7           join you. At the end of that paragraph you say:

8           "To be quite honest, I think he got treated worse  
9           than us ..."?

10  A. Well, yeah.

11  Q. Why did you think that?

12  A. Well, we -- we -- we were getting older and he was a lot  
13           younger than us and we -- at that time we could -- we  
14           were getting teenagers and we were getting, "Touch me  
15           and I'm going to hit you back" type of thing. You know  
16           what I mean? And he just couldn't defend himself at  
17           that time.

18  Q. At paragraph 14, you say there that you were fostered  
19           and you know that Richard was adopted by the **FLB/FMX** and  
20           you weren't. Do you have any idea why there was that  
21           difference?

22  A. No.

23  Q. You say there that all that you can put it down to is  
24           because there was perhaps one of him and three of you,  
25           and also you wonder if they adopted him to make

1 themselves look good but continued to foster you and get  
2 the money?

3 A. Well, as I got older, that's the reckoning that I came  
4 to, because they were getting -- they were getting paid  
5 for us being there, but they wouldn't have been getting  
6 paid for Richard being there because Richard was  
7 adopted, where we were still officially known as  
8 [REDACTED]. Unofficially we were being known as  
9 [REDACTED], but because of the situation, the allowances  
10 that they would have been getting then, that's what  
11 I put it down to.

12 Q. If we can move on in your statement to some of the  
13 things that you tell us about living there, if we can go  
14 on, please, to page 5 and to paragraph 18 where you talk  
15 about food, what would happen if you didn't eat what was  
16 put in front of you?

17 A. It was put away till the next day.

18 Q. And brought out again the next day?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. If you didn't eat it, would you be given something else?

21 A. No.

22 Q. You say that both of the [REDACTED] FLB/FMX would force you to eat?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Then at the end of this paragraph you also say if you  
25 didn't eat it, you would get a good hiding?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Was that from Mr or Mrs FLB/FMX or both?

3 A. Both, for wasting food.

4 Q. Okay.

5 At paragraph 20 you tell us that the pantry was  
6 padlocked.

7 A. Yes. It was a stone pantry with a wooden door and there  
8 was a lock on it, like a clasp, it had a clasp and  
9 an eye and a padlock. We weren't allowed to help  
10 ourselves. Like, I mean, I've got kids now. My kids  
11 can go in my -- 90 per cent of them don't even live at  
12 home now and they still come up and just go in the  
13 cupboard and help themselves.

14 Q. You say here that the FLB/FMX themselves could go and  
15 help themselves to things --

16 A. Oh yeah.

17 Q. -- so the FLB/FMX children could access --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- food as they wanted? Okay.

20 You say at the end of this paragraph that sometimes  
21 you would be called greedy or you would get a clout as  
22 well if you were --

23 A. If you asked for anything.

24 Q. If you asked for anything, okay.

25 You go on in the next section to talk about washing

1           and bathing and I think there was a bath once a week?

2   A.   Yeah.

3   Q.   At the top of page 6 at paragraph 22, you say you

4           weren't encouraged to brush your teeth?

5   A.   No.

6   Q.   Were you given toothpaste or a toothbrush or anything

7           like that?

8   A.   No, we just weren't encouraged to do it.

9   Q.   At paragraph 23 you say that you would be wearing the

10          same clothes for days or weeks?

11   A.   Yeah.

12   Q.   Was there no regular laundry or changes of clothes

13          given?

14   A.   Well, we never had a lot of clothes. We never had a lot

15          of anything if the truth was known, but we never had

16          a lot of clothes so you would just -- you would have

17          your uniform for school and then you'd have a change of

18          clothes for when you come in so that you weren't running

19          about in your uniform, and then that would be -- maybe

20          have two, three changes of clothes.

21   Q.   You say that when it came to personal hygiene, you were

22          more or less left to fend for yourselves?

23   A.   Yeah.

24   Q.   You tell us a bit more about clothing and uniform at

25          paragraph 24 and you say there that your school uniform

1 was hand-me-downs, but you were given girls' blouses to  
2 wear?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Why was that, do you know?

5 A. We just wore what we were given at the time.

6 Q. You tell us that you remember Mrs [REDACTED] getting  
7 vouchers to go to the shop --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- and get uniform. So did she get uniform for you  
10 there with these vouchers?

11 A. No. We went, because obviously the vouchers were made  
12 out for us, but we never -- we never got what we were  
13 supposed to get. It was always shared out between the  
14 others. We were supposed to get new uniforms or  
15 whatever -- whenever we got any vouchers for clothing,  
16 but it never came, it never happened.

17 Q. When you say it was shared out amongst the others, who  
18 do you mean?

19 A. The other family members. Not the one -- because there  
20 was three sets of vouchers issued, as far as I know.  
21 For myself, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. And we were wearing  
22 second-hand shoes. I cannot wear a pair of shoes now  
23 because my -- we were wearing shoes that was too tight  
24 for us. So if them vouchers were being used for us, my  
25 feet wouldn't be in the position that they're in now.



1 Q. You say that at school you were always known as the  
2 tramps of the school.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you were the scruffy ones of the family, as it were?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Would children at school use that to refer to you rather  
7 than the **FLB/FMX** children themselves?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I see.

10 If we go on to the next page, please, page 7 and  
11 paragraph 28, you say that you were very rarely allowed  
12 out after school.

13 A. No.

14 Q. What did you do when you came home from school?

15 A. Homework. We weren't allowed to do anything, we weren't  
16 allowed to go out, if we had homework we weren't allowed  
17 to -- we were basically just sat in the house.

18 Q. Were the **FLB/FMX** children allowed to go out?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Were you told why you weren't allowed to go out after  
21 school?

22 A. When I was growing up, we ... we got the blame for  
23 everything that was going on. Like if something had  
24 gone wrong at school, we'd get the blame. It didn't  
25 matter who did it, we got the blame. So we were

1 grounded. So I was the oldest boy, so it was my  
2 responsibility to look after the other boys and the  
3 other kids at school, so if they did something wrong, we  
4 got -- myself and my younger brother got the blame. So  
5 we were grounded but they were still allowed to go out.  
6 If you can understand that.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes, I get what you're saying. Thank you.

8 MS INNES: You say that the weekends were basically the same  
9 as the rest of the week.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did similar things apply?

12 A. Yes, we had -- we had chores to do, like we had to go  
13 and dig the back garden or cut the grass or do certain  
14 chores round the house, like doing the dishes or  
15 Hoovering or whatever. We had to do them on a weekend.

16 Q. Again, can you remember if the **FLB/FMX** children did these  
17 chores as well?

18 A. No.

19 Q. If we move on to page 8, you tell us a bit about school  
20 and you mention some of the things that had happened at  
21 school and you talk at paragraph 35 of the way in which  
22 you were treated at school and you talk about you  
23 wandering around the classroom when the teacher told you  
24 not to and you were sellotaped to a seat by a teacher,  
25 you say.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. I think the school had told the FLB/FMX about this?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. What was the FLB/FMX reaction?

5 A. I got a good hiding.

6 Q. You also say that you and your brother and sister were  
7 bullied at school.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Not just by other people in the school, but also by the  
10 FLB/FMX children?

11 A. Yes. The FLB/FMX family bullied us from day 1, because  
12 they didn't want us there. They always used to say to  
13 us, "If you weren't here, we'd have a better life",  
14 so ... there was never -- there was never any great  
15 feeling between our family and their family.

16 Q. If we go on to the next page, page 9 at paragraph 38,  
17 you say that you didn't get any pocket money and again  
18 did the same apply to the FLB/FMX or not?

19 A. We never -- there was -- we don't -- I can't remember  
20 if -- we never got any pocket money right through, from  
21 going there till I was getting -- I got a job and was  
22 doing milk rounds and paper rounds. But they -- I don't  
23 know if they got pocket money as in as pocket money, but  
24 they could go and say, "Can I have some money for the  
25 shop?" If we went and asked for money for the shop we

1           were told no. But they would get money for the shop, we  
2           wouldn't.

3    Q. You say that you and your brother got caught shoplifting  
4           because you weren't treated like normal kids.

5    A. All the time.

6    Q. When you say you weren't treated like normal kids, are  
7           you referring to not getting money --

8    A. Yeah.

9    Q. -- to be able to buy anything at the shop?

10   A. Yeah.

11   Q. If we look at the next section, you have a section there  
12           headed, "Healthcare", and you tell us that you had  
13           a stammer from I think you say the age of 5 or 6 up to  
14           14 or 15.

15   A. Yeah.

16   Q. And you had speech therapy, I think, in respect of that?

17   A. Yes.

18   Q. Do you have any reflections on why you think that you  
19           had that over that time?

20   A. Because I was -- you -- I mean, I still stutter now  
21           a bit, but back then, I mean you were just -- you  
22           daren't say anything. You daren't speak to them. If --  
23           because you knew if you said anything out of place, you  
24           were going to get battered, basically. So ...

25   Q. Okay. You talk at paragraph 40 about screenings that

1           you had at the doctor's.

2    A.  Yeah.

3    Q.  A basic health check.

4    A.  Yeah.

5    Q.  Was that because you were in foster care?

6    A.  Yes.

7    Q.  You say that there would be times that you and your

8           brother would have marks such as welts on you, but you

9           were never examined in a way in which these --

10   A.  No, when we went for -- I think it was six monthly

11           check-ups at the time, it was always like eyes, ears and

12           nose and throat, fingers and -- but never like -- like

13           top-half or bottom-half inspections.  It was always just

14           to check your ears and your nose and your throat and

15           your eyes.  Like eye tests and ear tests and things like

16           that.

17   Q.  Okay.

18   A.  Just let me say something.  Even if we did, because they

19           knew that we were going for these health checks, we

20           never got good hidings for a week or a fortnight before

21           we were due to go for them.  And **FMX** always used

22           to tell **FLB**, "Don't hit them in the head", because

23           the head's visible, that's what I put that down to.  Not

24           because it would knock me stupid, do you know what

25           I mean?  Because they knew -- they knew where to hit you

1 where it wasn't visible.

2 Q. At paragraph 41 you say back then you don't think it was  
3 the done thing for somebody to question if a child had  
4 a bruise or a mark on them.

5 A. No. Because it was -- back then -- I mean, it's not  
6 like nowadays. You take your child to the doctor now  
7 and they see a bruise and the first thing the doctor  
8 asks, "How has this happened?" Or if they go to school  
9 and the school sees a bruise, Social Services is  
10 involved straight away. They'll phone Social Services.

11 Back then it wasn't the done thing. It was  
12 acceptable for a child to have a bruise. Not the same  
13 way as now.

14 LADY SMITH: I suppose, 'Alex', back then children at  
15 school, for example, played outside on hard surfaces all  
16 the time, scraped knees, bashes and bangs --

17 A. Back then we were rough and ready, not like nowadays  
18 where everybody wraps their kids in cotton wool. You  
19 were rough and ready. You climbed trees, you played  
20 football on concrete.

21 LADY SMITH: You had to deal with the scabs on your knees.

22 A. Yes, and I had a few of them.

23 MS INNES: If we can go on over the page, please, you have  
24 paragraphs 43 and 44. You talk about being made to do  
25 confirmation, Holy Communion, confession, and you were

1           made to go to church every Sunday. Did the **FLB/FMX** and  
2           their own children go to church as well?

3    A.   Yes.

4    Q.   Did they go all the time or did that change as they got  
5           older?

6    A.   It changed as they got older.

7    Q.   Did you have that choice as you got older?

8    A.   No.

9    Q.   Can you remember ever trying to challenge that or say  
10           that you didn't want to go?

11   A.   Well, as I got older, closer to 16, I said I didn't want  
12           to go.

13   Q.   Was that accepted then or --

14   A.   No, it wasn't accepted. It was -- it was -- really,  
15           they had no choice because I said I wasn't going, but  
16           there was World War 3, if you like, because I wouldn't  
17           go to church.

18   Q.   Then you tell us in the next section about the chores  
19           that we've already talked about. At paragraph 47, at  
20           the top of page 11, you say there that when Richard came  
21           along, he was the youngest and he used to get the same  
22           as you, so he had to do the same sorts of chores --

23   A.   Yes.

24   Q.   -- as you had to do? Okay.

25           If we look at paragraph 51, you talk there about

1 bed-wetting. What was the FLB/FMX reaction to if  
2 somebody had wet the bed?

3 A. It was disgusting, shocking, and then we were made to  
4 lie in it the next night in the same bedding.

5 Q. You say there that you would also get a good hiding for  
6 that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I think you say that applied to both yourself and your  
9 brother and also to Richard?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. At paragraph 52 you talk about the payments that the  
12 FLB/FMX were receiving for fostering you. You have  
13 mentioned the vouchers. You say:

14 "Whenever I have had a conversation with my sister  
15 or brother or Richard, I used to tell them that we were  
16 only there for the money."

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Why did you think that?

19 A. Because of the way we were treated. As far as I was  
20 concerned, we were there as a meal voucher and that was  
21 it. There was no -- there was no feelings for us, there  
22 was no love for us, so that's the conclusion I came to.  
23 And that's still the conclusion that I still say to this  
24 day. We were there as a meal voucher, as nothing else.  
25 And to try and paint this picture of the FLB/FMX as such



1 a loving family. No.

2 Q. You say that the money that they received for you --  
3 you've already mentioned about the vouchers, but the  
4 other money they got to feed you, house you and look  
5 after you, you say that it was never spent on you?

6 A. (Witness shakes head)

7 It was never spent on us.

8 Q. If we move over the page, please, to page 12 and  
9 paragraph 53 and following, you talk there about lack of  
10 contact with your parents. You say that you've never  
11 seen your mother?

12 A. Never.

13 Q. Can't remember ever having contact with her?

14 A. I've never had contact with her.

15 Q. What about your father?

16 A. He was a waggon driver and, as far as I can remember,  
17 coming in from school one night and there was this man  
18 in the living room and I was informed that he was my  
19 father and then he was there for about half an hour and  
20 then there was an argument and he left. And that -- and  
21 then I seen him once in the street and that's the only  
22 times I've ever seen him.

23 There was no -- there was no personal contact with  
24 my mother or my father, and they're now both dead.

25 Q. You didn't see them and you didn't hear anything from

1           them --

2   A.  No.

3   Q.  -- at Christmas or birthdays even?

4   A.  No, nothing.  From -- from what I can -- my mother

5           wasn't interested, but from early on I got -- from when

6           my father was sitting in the living room of the house,

7           the first time I seen him, I got the impression that he

8           wanted to be in touch, but the **FLB/FMX** wouldn't let him.

9           Do you know what I mean?  Because he -- basically, the

10          understanding I got was he wasn't allowed to see us

11          because he walked out on us.

12  Q.  You say that you had the impression that your mother

13          didn't want to see --

14  A.  No, she didn't, she wasn't interested.

15  Q.  Who did you get that impression from?

16  A.  From my sister.

17  Q.  Right, okay.  And we know, as you said at the beginning,

18          that your parents were related to the **FLB/FMX**  Did the

19          **FLB/FMX** themselves ever speak about your mother or your

20          father?

21  A.  Well, when they did it was just negative.

22  Q.  Okay.  If we go down to the bottom of this page, we have

23          a heading there, "Social work", and at paragraph 56 you

24          say that you did have social workers and the social

25          workers that were assigned to you and your brother and

1 sister were Peter Murphy and Jim Gallagher?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you remember meeting these social workers?

4 A. Yes. We used to have meetings with the social workers  
5 but ... that was it.

6 Q. Were these meetings at the FLB/FMX house or were they  
7 somewhere else?

8 A. They were normally -- I think it was Portland Road in  
9 Kilmarnock the social work office was. I'm not  
10 100 per cent sure now, but we would go to the office,  
11 FMX or FLB would be with us, or both of them,  
12 and if they were having problems, they would -- I say  
13 put down, if they were having problems they would come  
14 to the house.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. But we were never left to speak to them on our own.

17 Q. When they came to the house, did the FLB/FMX know that  
18 they were coming?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How did you know that the FLB/FMX knew?

21 A. Because they would tell us if we opened our mouths we'd  
22 be in trouble. So we -- we basically had to sit there  
23 while Social Services were there with our fingers in our  
24 mouth and keep our mouth shut. We weren't allowed to  
25 say anything. And if it was -- if we did get asked

1 a question, it was, "Yes, good, okay, fine", that was  
2 it. That was the answers we had to give.

3 Q. What was your perception of the relationship between the  
4 social workers and the **FLB/FMX** ?

5 A. Well, ... I don't know, really, to be honest with you.

6 Q. Okay.

7 At the end of paragraph 57, we've got there on the  
8 screen, you say that at one point you turned around to  
9 Peter Murphy and told him if you were quite honest, you  
10 would rather be back in care. You'd rather be in  
11 a children's home than live the way that we were living.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. What was the social worker's reaction to that?

14 A. Just ... they would try and work -- we would try and  
15 work something out or whatever, whatever the  
16 conversation was then, but I mean obviously it was  
17 a long time ago. But nothing ever happened. Nothing  
18 changed.

19 Q. You say in your statement here that Peter Murphy would  
20 tell you that you should be thankful for what you'd got?

21 A. Yes.

22 The impression that I got from Social Services was  
23 that we were out of their hair. As I was getting older,  
24 that was the impression I was getting. We weren't  
25 a problem to them. We were our own problem. We were

1           creating our own problems as children. As young  
2           adolescents, we were creating our own problems.

3   Q.   Okay.

4   A.   Not ...

5   Q.   You also say at paragraph 58 that when you were about 14  
6           or 15, you used to go to, I think, Jim Gallagher's  
7           actual house --

8   A.   Yes.

9   Q.   -- to see him?

10  A.   Well, I think it was an arrangement that Jim Gallagher  
11           had with **FMX**, that -- what they said at the time  
12           was because he had a family and his children would show  
13           us how to behave.

14  Q.   Right.

15  A.   You know what I mean? It was a -- to me it was weird.  
16           But being -- at times you were just pleased to get out  
17           the house.

18  Q.   You say he just lived around the corner from you.

19  A.   Yeah.

20  Q.   Were these children that you were at school with?

21  A.   Yes.

22  Q.   Were they of similar ages to you?

23  A.   I actually think one of the lads were older and the  
24           other one was slightly younger. But there was -- we  
25           weren't pals or anything like that, you know what

1 I mean, we were just there.

2 Q. Okay. At paragraph 59 you say that the social workers  
3 never asked proper questions, they just asked things  
4 that got one-word answers.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. You've sort of mentioned that already, you know, "How  
7 are you?" "Fine", "Okay", that sort of thing. You then  
8 go on to say:

9 "Deep in myself I know that the social workers knew  
10 what was going on and they did nothing about it."

11 A. Yes, they knew what was going on.

12 Q. Why do you say that?

13 A. Because you know -- you can tell when something's not  
14 right, and they -- they cannot say that they would come  
15 to our house or we would go to meetings and we would sit  
16 there like dummies and they'd be asking us questions and  
17 we could only give them certain answers. I'm not  
18 a social worker, but I can tell when one of my kids  
19 gives me a one-word answer that there's something wrong,  
20 that they're hiding something. They never asked what we  
21 were hiding. And it wasn't just me. It was my sister  
22 and my brother. You know what I mean? We were all the  
23 same. And then of course there was -- Richard came into  
24 the thing afterwards, but obviously with Richard being  
25 adopted, he wouldn't have had the same type of

1 interviews as us. I don't really know what Richard's  
2 situation was at that time. I know he had a social  
3 worker, but he had a different social worker from us.  
4 To be quite honest with you, I'm not even quite sure if  
5 Jim Gallagher or Peter Murphy was involved with Richard.  
6 They may well could have been, but -- when you're  
7 talking to somebody and they're not ... like you're  
8 interviewing me now and I'm giving you answers. We  
9 weren't allowed to give them answers, so if I was  
10 sitting here like a dummy and not answering you, you  
11 would think: what's wrong with that man?

12 So if Peter Murphy didn't, Jim Gallagher couldn't  
13 read that, they should never have been a social worker.

14 Q. Okay. If we can go on, please, to page 14 and you talk  
15 more there about the abuse that you suffered at the  
16 **FLB/FMX**, and you say at paragraph 63 that there would  
17 be hidings and that would be from both of the **FLB/FMX**.  
18 Is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Would they hit you with their hands or with implements?

21 A. Anything they could get a hold of.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Their favourite -- their favourites were pea canes.

24 Q. Is that like a bamboo cane that you would hold up peas  
25 with?

1 A. Yes, that you would use to keep pea stalks up. That was  
2 a favourite. But anything that came to hand would be  
3 used.

4 Q. How often did this happen, can you remember?

5 A. On a regular basis.

6 Q. At paragraph 64 you talk about going through your times  
7 table and Mr FLB having a pea cane and as soon as you  
8 got one wrong, he would hit you with the cane.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You also say that you remember having a letter, being  
11 sent to school with a letter?

12 A. To do -- not to -- because I got my times tables wrong  
13 so many times that night, I would -- my legs and my arms  
14 were covered in welts, so I had to take this letter to  
15 school to stop me from doing PE so the PE teacher  
16 couldn't see it.

17 Q. From what you're saying, your arms and legs -- so he was  
18 hitting you --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- all over your body?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Apart from the head.

24 Q. At paragraph 65 you talk about Mrs FMX and you say  
25 that she would go on at you and then you had to wait



1           until Mr **FLB** came in, but did she also --

2    A.   Yes.

3    Q.   -- hit you?

4    A.   Yes.

5    Q.   Again, did she use an implement or did she --

6    A.   Yes.

7    Q.   -- hit you with her hands?

8    A.   No, they would use anything they could get a hold of.

9           Anything that was laid next to them would be used.

10   Q.   When he came in from work, did she make complaints to

11           him about --

12   A.   Yes, and then we'd get another hiding.

13   Q.   You say that you never got a chance to explain

14           yourselves?

15   A.   No.  We -- we -- it didn't matter what we did or what we

16           said, it was always wrong.  Even if we hadn't done

17           anything, we were wrong.  And that's the way it was all

18           the time.

19   Q.   You say in this paragraph that Mrs **FMX** would hit you

20           in the face?

21   A.   Yes, she'd slap our face.

22   Q.   You say you had many a hand mark across your face?

23   A.   Yeah.  A slap mark.

24   Q.   Did anyone at school or any neighbours or anything

25           notice that?

1 A. No, because once it -- once we were marked, we weren't  
2 allowed out. But a slap mark disappears within a couple  
3 hours, doesn't it?

4 Q. Yes. Okay.

5 Over the top of the next page, you talk about  
6 Mrs FMX drinking and you mentioned that earlier in  
7 your evidence, that after [REDACTED] was born, you  
8 remember it and you say it again here, I think, that it  
9 wasn't -- her drinking -- you can't remember it at the  
10 beginning of the time that you lived with them, but you  
11 remember it after [REDACTED] was born?

12 A. After [REDACTED] was born, because she put it down to  
13 the stress and the strain of having a disabled child  
14 that she hit the drink, and it was constant. It was  
15 from getting out of bed in the morning to going to bed  
16 at night.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And we were having to come in from school then and fend  
19 for ourselves. The whole family, not just me and my  
20 brother, the whole family had to fend for ourselves  
21 because she was too busy getting drunk.

22 Q. You talk about that at paragraph 67, where you say that  
23 in particular you had to look after [REDACTED], the  
24 youngest child.

25 A. (Witness nods)

1 Q. You tell us about an occasion when you remember  
2 [REDACTED] taking her first fit?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Were you looking after her at the time or were you  
5 there?

6 A. Well, I was there. I was off school. I can't remember  
7 if I was just getting over yellow jaundice or something.  
8 I'd been off school and [REDACTED] took a fit. I -- the  
9 lady across the road from us was like a district nurse,  
10 so the first thing I did was -- because FMX [REDACTED] was  
11 panicking -- I run across the road to see if this lady  
12 was in and then she came across and we phoned  
13 an ambulance. Because I'd went across and got this lady  
14 from across the road and because I hadn't phoned the  
15 ambulance quick enough, I got a kicking because I hadn't  
16 phoned the ambulance.

17 Q. Okay. (Pause)

18 I think you go on to tell us at paragraph 68 about  
19 Mr FLB [REDACTED] losing his temper and I think verbally abusing  
20 yourself and your brother?

21 A. It was all the time.

22 Q. Sorry?

23 A. It was all the time.

24 Q. Then you talk about his own children, so the FLB/FMX [REDACTED]  
25 children, being worse than Mr FLB [REDACTED] in terms of verbal

1 abuse?

2 A. They could be at times, yeah. Because if they ... on  
3 occasion, if they did something wrong, they would tell  
4 [FMX] that it was us or [FLB] that it was us, and  
5 we would end up getting the -- we would say that it  
6 wasn't us and obviously we weren't believed. So we  
7 would end up getting the hiding for what they had done  
8 and then they would just -- they would blackmail us, if  
9 that's the right word I can use --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. -- into taking the blame for stuff, "If you don't say  
12 that you've done this, I'll tell them what you done the  
13 other day", or something, and it was blackmail all the  
14 time for us to get ... it's hard to explain. That's the  
15 only way I can phrase it. They would blackmail us into  
16 taking the rap for something that they had done.

17 Q. Okay. At paragraph 69, you say that I think you and  
18 your brother were regularly taken to the coalhouse.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Were you shut in the coalhouse?

21 A. No, the door was left open and [FLB] would make me  
22 smack [redacted] with a slipper or a stick and then he'd  
23 make [redacted] smack me with a slipper or a stick.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. And that was -- I don't know what ... I think he got

1 a pleasure out of it, to be quite honest with you.

2 Q. You say that he told you if you didn't do it, then he  
3 would --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- give you a kicking?

6 A. We weren't given a choice, we had to do it.

7 Q. If we move on, please, to paragraph 71 -- at  
8 paragraph 70 you talk about the **FLB/FMX** children and  
9 things that they would say to you, which you've already  
10 mentioned, I think.

11 At paragraph 71, you say that you used to take as  
12 long as you could getting home, I think, because you  
13 were frightened of going home?

14 A. Well, yeah, we were frightened to go home, but we used  
15 to get off the bus at what we called the shops ... which  
16 is, as far as I know, still there, and we used to -- it  
17 was a five-minute walk from the bus to the house. We'd  
18 be stood on that corner for 20 minutes discussing which  
19 one of us would go through the door first, me or my  
20 brother. Because we knew whichever one walked through  
21 the door first was getting it.

22 Now, that's -- to us, that was normal. You know  
23 what I mean? We just -- I don't even think we ever  
24 thought about it. It was just something that we did.

25 Q. At paragraph 72 you tell us about going to the Scouts

1 and that you had been allowed to go to the Scouts and  
2 that was something that you did, but then there came  
3 a time that you weren't allowed to go any more?

4 A. No, because when I lived in Kilmarnock, the Scout hall  
5 was about 3, 4 miles away from the house, so obviously  
6 I had to get a bus. So I was stood -- the Scouts  
7 finished at 9 o'clock and I had to go to the bus station  
8 to get a bus. The bus didn't come till quarter to 10,  
9 because after a certain time of night, then it was every  
10 hour or something, I'm not -- I'm not 100 per cent sure,  
11 I cannot remember the exact time, but the bus didn't  
12 come until quarter to 10 and I walked through the door  
13 and I got a punch in the teeth from FLB, "Where have  
14 you been? Why are you this late?" I said, "I've been  
15 stood in a bus station waiting for the bus". He said,  
16 "You've been stood at a bus station, what have you been  
17 watching? Aeroplanes?" And I got a kicking and I was  
18 cancelled from going to Scouts anymore, because I wasn't  
19 in by 9.30 or whichever time it was supposed to be that  
20 he wanted me in.

21 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 73 you tell us there about  
22 an incident with Mr FLB which was of a sexual nature.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you think -- was that the only time that you can  
25 remember something like that?

1 A. Yes. That was the only time.

2 Q. If we go on over the page at paragraph 75, you talk  
3 about a time that you can remember Mrs **FMX** having  
4 bought a car and there was a car crash, I think?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think something happened that again resulted in you  
7 getting a beating?

8 A. Yeah, because she crashed the car into a lamp post and  
9 it was my fault, because she crashed the car, because  
10 she was drunk.

11 Q. Why was it said to be your fault?

12 A. Because I should have been watching her. I was sitting  
13 in the back of the car. It was a Ford Escort.

14 Q. Then you say in the later part of that paragraph that  
15 a week after that you remember Mrs **FMX** being drunk  
16 and Mr **FLB** was going to set about her in the middle  
17 of the living room --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- and you stepped in. You tell us about that incident,  
20 were there other incidents of violence --

21 A. There's quite a few incidents of violence towards each  
22 other. I'd have been about 15 at the time and that's --  
23 basically that's all I've seen all my life, is violence,  
24 at that time. So there comes a time when you think  
25 you've had enough and they were arguing and **FLB** was

1       just about to hit her and I stood in front of her and  
2       I said, "If you're going to hit her, you're going to hit  
3       me first", and that was basically it. Because there's  
4       only so much violence you can take until you feel that  
5       you've got to intervene, and that's what I did.

6   Q.   What was Mr **FLB** reaction?

7   A.   Well, he went for me.

8   Q.   At paragraph 76, you say there I think that you remember  
9       Richard getting kickings from Mr **FLB** as well --

10  A.   (Witness nods)

11  Q.   -- and you saw that happening?

12  A.   Yeah.

13  Q.   Did you also see Mrs **FMX** hitting Richard?

14  A.   Yes.

15  Q.   You say that on a number of occasions you had to step in  
16       to stop him either hitting your brother or hitting  
17       Richard?

18  A.   On a number of occasions, yes. Because I was older  
19       then. I was about to leave school then and I used to --  
20       I just used to think why? Why? Why? And I just -- I'd  
21       had enough at that time. And then when I left to join  
22       the army, I mean, to be quite honest with you, I didn't  
23       know what was going to happen to them and I went away  
24       and joined the army. Yes, I only lasted nine months in  
25       the army, I'm not going to deny that. I came out, but



1 while I was in the army I was still being known as  
2 [REDACTED]. So when I came out of the army I decided to  
3 change my name back to my original name and be called  
4 [REDACTED] instead of [REDACTED] because I'd had enough and  
5 they put me out the house because I'd changed my name.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Richard -- I'm not sure where Richard was then,  
8 because -- and [REDACTED] was already there anyway. He  
9 would be coming up on 15/16 when I came out the army.  
10 So I mean basically they were left to fend for  
11 themselves then. I couldn't do any more. I couldn't be  
12 there any more. I didn't want to be there any more.

13 Q. You also say at paragraph 77 that you remember the  
14 FLB/FMX would cast up things to Richard about his  
15 parents.

16 A. (Witness nods)

17 Q. And you remember --

18 A. Because they were both drug addicts and they would  
19 call -- they would say to him, "This is why your mother  
20 didn't want you, because they were useless drug  
21 addicts". You know what I mean? Why would you say that  
22 to a child? I could never understand that. Back then,  
23 I didn't know much about drugs anyway back then, but you  
24 don't -- I wouldn't have cast that up to anybody.  
25 I wouldn't have cast anything up to anybody.

1 Q. Then, as you've told us, if we go on over the page to  
2 page 18, you tell us about leaving the **FLB/FMX** at  
3 paragraph 81, that you joined the army and then you came  
4 back a few months later at paragraph 82 and you say  
5 there what you've told us about changing your name and  
6 you say that you walked out and that was basically the  
7 last time that you spoke to the **FLB/FMX** .

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You tell us in detail about some of the impacts of what  
10 happened to you had on your life. Are you able to tell  
11 us, is that something that has continued to impact your  
12 whole life or have you been able to get any counselling  
13 or any support in respect of what happened?

14 A. No, I've never had any counselling or support. I've  
15 dealt with it myself, I've dealt with it in my own way.  
16 I'm still dealing with it. It's just -- it's something  
17 that I've learned to live with. I mean, I still have  
18 problems, which is ... it's had a -- it's had quite  
19 an impact on my life. I've been in and out of jail.  
20 A really heavy drinker at one point. And if it wasn't  
21 for my wife, I'd probably not be here today through the  
22 alcohol.

23 I find -- when I -- my first wife, we got divorced  
24 and then I had numerous and numerous relationships.  
25 It's just -- I found it very hard to ... to be in

1 a relationship, if you know what I mean. It ...

2 Q. Okay. And I think you've been -- is it 27 years you've  
3 been with your wife, is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think you have a number of children and grandchildren?

6 A. Six children and 16 grandchildren.

7 Q. Okay. And a great grandchild on the way?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. If we can move, please, to page 23, paragraph 103, you  
10 talk there about having been to the police once,  
11 I think, in respect of what happened at the **FLB/FMX** .

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is it just the one statement that you gave to the  
14 police?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And after you gave that statement, did you ever hear  
17 from the police again?

18 A. Well, they got back in touch with me after I'd made the  
19 statement and they had said that they had looked at --  
20 whoever it is looked at it and said that they didn't  
21 think it was worth pursuing the sexual assault part,  
22 which I agreed with because **FLB** was dead. And  
23 I said no, well that's fine, I said, it's been -- I said  
24 I reported it, it was -- it was -- it was actually on  
25 behalf of Richard that I made the statement, otherwise

1       it would have never have been made. But I did it for  
2       Richard, and that came out in the statement. And there  
3       was a lot of other things came out in the statement as  
4       well, but they had just got back to me and said that  
5       they weren't going to pursue anything. So I said what's  
6       the point anyway? So it was left at that.

7   Q. Okay. I think that you mention in this  
8       paragraph a person called a FLA [REDACTED]?

9   A. Oh, yeah.

10  Q. Do you know who that person is?

11  A. Yes, he was the son of one of FMX [REDACTED] and FLB [REDACTED]  
12       friends.

13  Q. Okay.

14  A. He was an old man, the friend, and they used to go to  
15       his house and help him type of thing.

16  Q. Okay.

17  A. And then we would go and help and then the son came out  
18       of the RAF and got involved and Richard would go to his  
19       house on a weekend. I mean, we would go to his house on  
20       a weekend, but there was never anything untowards to  
21       us -- to me and [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. From what I can  
22       make out, it was untoward to Richard.

23       But we -- we knew he was gay, if you like, because  
24       we found his magazines, which doesn't sound very nice,  
25       but we found them and we knew he was gay so we didn't

1 know -- after that we said that's it, we're not going  
2 anymore. But as far as I know, Richard was still going.

3 Q. You say that, as you've just said in your evidence, that  
4 FLA [REDACTED] never tried to sexually assault you?

5 A. No.

6 Q. In terms of your brother [REDACTED], I assume you don't  
7 know whether or not anything happened?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. If we can move on to page 24 and the heading,  
10 "Lessons to be learned". You say at paragraph 107 that  
11 you think that they should have a better vetting system  
12 now. You say:

13 "I don't know what vetting was like when I was in  
14 care as I was just a child."

15 So obviously you don't know how it came about that  
16 the FLB/FMX --

17 A. No.

18 Q. -- were approved as foster parents, okay.

19 You say at paragraph 108 that people who -- sorry,  
20 just going back a moment. In terms of vetting,  
21 I suppose you would say from your experience that even  
22 if somebody is related to a child, they need to be  
23 properly vetted --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- before that child is placed with them?

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 Q. Okay.

3 At paragraph 108 you say that you know that people

4 who foster now have to do courses in looking after

5 children.

6 A. (Witness nods)

7 Q. Are you aware of the **FLB/FMX** --

8 A. No.

9 Q. -- ever going on any courses?

10 A. No.

11 Q. At paragraph 109 you say:

12 "I think in some cases there needs to be better

13 communication between the fosterer and Social Services."

14 A. (Witness nods)

15 Q. What do you mean there?

16 A. Just that they need to talk to each other more and find

17 out exactly what's going on, because there's too many

18 cases of children now, even -- it's not just with foster

19 parents. It's any abused child should -- there should

20 be more communication between both parties. Or any

21 parties that's dealing with anything. It's not -- I'm

22 not just on about foster children, I'm on about any

23 child. There should be ... just more communication

24 between everybody.

25 Q. So anybody that's involved in looking after a child or

1 responsible for the care of a child --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- there needs to be better communication. I think you  
4 go on to say as well at paragraph 110 that social  
5 workers need to understand children's views and  
6 feelings?

7 A. Yes. When I -- like I say, we couldn't talk to them  
8 anyway, but that's not the point now. They should have  
9 been able to read into the situation where we weren't  
10 able to talk to them and they never.

11 Whether they did or not, I don't know. Whether they  
12 knew there was something wrong I don't know, but I think  
13 they knew there was something wrong, because when you're  
14 sitting talking to somebody and you're not getting  
15 a response out of them, you feel you should get  
16 a reasonable response and you're not getting anything,  
17 there's got to be something wrong somewhere down the  
18 line.

19 Q. You say at paragraph 111 that you think a lot more  
20 things should be put in writing?

21 A. I think there should be a diary on what's happening with  
22 the child's life or the foster parents or whatever  
23 they're doing with the child to -- just so that they can  
24 fall back on records. Just keep records, better  
25 records.

1 Q. You also say at paragraph 112:  
2 "Maybe there needs to be legislation to allow things  
3 that are picked up to be dealt with properly."  
4 What are you thinking about there?  
5 A. (Pause)  
6 Maybe possibly that the Social Services for foster  
7 children need more powers.  
8 Q. Okay. And you say at -- I think you maybe go on over  
9 the page to expand on some of the things that you're  
10 maybe thinking about, that there needs to be more  
11 scrutiny. So you've talked about that. So, for  
12 example, you talked earlier about the medical reports  
13 that you had, that they were sort of superficial and  
14 things weren't picked up on. Are you maybe suggesting  
15 that social work need more powers in order to  
16 investigate things properly?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. Okay, and more thoroughly, I suppose?  
19 A. (Witness nods)  
20 Q. You then go on to speak about some experience of Social  
21 Services as an adult and you say that it was different  
22 and it was different to how things looked for you, more  
23 professionals being involved than there were when you  
24 were a child?  
25 A. Yeah.



1 Q. Then you say that your hope, at paragraph 115, is that  
2 children like yourself have a better upbringing, are  
3 listened to and are understood.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. I think that's perhaps one of the main reasons that  
6 you've shared your experience with us?

7 A. Yes, because I -- I don't want to see -- the reason I've  
8 done this is because I don't want to see another child  
9 go through what me and my sister and my brother and  
10 Richard went through. Because we never had a life.

11 MS INNES: Okay. Thank you very much for sharing your  
12 experience with us, 'Alex', and I have no more questions  
13 for you, and there are no applications, my Lady.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 Are there any outstanding applications for  
16 questions?

17 'Alex', that does complete all the questions we have  
18 for you this morning.

19 A. (Witness nods)

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you so much for engaging with us as you  
21 have done, both by giving the written statement that's  
22 in front of us today and also by coming here to make it  
23 come alive. I can fully understand why you feel as sad  
24 and sometimes angry as you do as you describe your  
25 childhood.

1           It's been a tremendous help to me, though, to hear  
2           it and hear your reflections. All these reflections at  
3           the end, I can see exactly why you're saying what you're  
4           saying. But I can also, as I say, understand why what  
5           you're telling me is that you look back and see a sad  
6           and unhappy time as a child in foster care.

7   A. Yeah.

8   LADY SMITH: Thank you for being prepared to go through that  
9           tough nearly hour and a half, I'm really grateful to  
10          you. I hope you can go away and relax for the rest of  
11          the day, you've earned it.

12                 Thank you, I can let you go.

13   A. Thank you.

14                                 (The witness withdrew)

15   LADY SMITH: Just before I stop for the break, which is what  
16          we'll do now, let me mention that the names of the  
17          [REDACTED], their children and 'Alex's' siblings and his  
18          own name, which he mentioned, are covered by my general  
19          restriction order, apart from the name Richard, which is  
20          not covered by my general restriction order. The name  
21          Richard can be mentioned outside this room, but none of  
22          the other ones. Oh, and also there was a [REDACTED]  
23          referred to and his name can't be used outside this  
24          room.

25                 Ms Innes, I think we'll just take the morning break

1 now and that gives us time to check that the videolink  
2 is all set up and ready to roll, I hope, at quarter to  
3 11.

4 MS INNES: Yes, thank you, my Lady.

5 LADY SMITH: Quarter to 12, I'm sorry.

6 Thank you.

7 (11.20 am)

8 (A short break)

9 (11.45 am)

10 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

11 MS INNES: My Lady, the next witness is 'Carol'. 'Carol'  
12 was in the care of Edinburgh Corporation and then after  
13 that Lothian Regional Council. She was boarded out with  
14 foster carers from [REDACTED] 1969 until she was  
15 discharged from care on turning 18 on [REDACTED] 1978.

16 Her carers lived in what was then the burgh of  
17 Dunbartonshire, in a part which is now in North  
18 Lanarkshire. However, the carers applied directly to  
19 Edinburgh Corporation for approval, so it would be our  
20 understanding that Edinburgh is the responsible  
21 authority.

22 Dunbarton, for example, was asked to carry out  
23 a home report for Edinburgh. However, the relevant  
24 material in respect of the approval of the foster carers  
25 is to be found at pages 6 to 10 of EDI-000000785, which

1 as I say in our view confirms that Edinburgh is the  
2 responsible authority.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

4 'Carol', good morning. Can you hear me?

5 A. Good morning, yes, I can hear you. Lovely to meet you.

6 LADY SMITH: You've probably worked out I'm Lady Smith and  
7 I chair the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. Thank you for  
8 agreeing to give your evidence to us today and doing it  
9 by the videolink. It seems to be working well at this  
10 end.

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: I'm told that it's working all right for you as  
13 well. If at any time there's a problem, do speak up and  
14 let us know immediately and we'll take it up from there.

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 LADY SMITH: Before we turn to giving your evidence, could  
17 I start, please, by inviting you to -- I don't know  
18 whether you wish to take the oath or --

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: -- affirm. Take the oath?

21 'Carol' (sworn)

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that, 'Carol'.

23 Before I hand over to Ms Innes, can I just assure  
24 you that I know it's not easy as an adult to start  
25 talking in public, which this is, about what happened

1           when you were a child and what happened that was  
2           upsetting and distressing as a child in particular and  
3           I do understand that sometimes we can be taken by  
4           surprise at our own emotional reaction to having to do  
5           something like this, particularly what we're talking  
6           about here.

7           That's absolutely okay, I get that. If you at any  
8           time want a pause or a break, or if you have any  
9           questions, you're allowed to ask questions now even if  
10          you couldn't when you were a child, please do speak up.  
11          Just let me know. Let me know what will work best for  
12          you and I'll do all I can to accommodate that. That's  
13          the key. All right?

14         A. Thank you, ma'am.

15         LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Ms Innes, if that's all right  
16          with you, and we'll take your evidence from there.  
17          Okay?

18         A. Thank you.

19         LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

20         MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

21                                 Questions from Ms Innes

22         MS INNES: 'Carol', we understand that you were born in  
23          Edinburgh in 1960. Is that right?

24         A. I'm very old, yes.

25         Q. We have a statement from you. We give it the reference

1 WIT-1-000000810, and if we can look, please, at the  
2 final page of that statement, page 30, and at  
3 paragraph 133, it says there:

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

8 I think you signed that statement on  
9 10 September 2021.

10 A. Absolutely, yes.

11 Q. If I can take you back to the start of your statement,  
12 at paragraph 2 you tell us a little bit about your  
13 family. You mention your parents --

14 A. (Witness nods)

15 Q. -- and you then tell us about your sisters and brother.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You're the oldest out of the people that you mention  
18 there at paragraph 2, two younger sisters born in 1961  
19 and 1964 and then a younger brother born in 1966. Is  
20 that right?

21 A. Yes. That's correct.

22 Q. Then you tell us at paragraph 4 that you later  
23 discovered that you had an older brother, who was born  
24 before your parents married.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And he was raised by your grandparents?

2 A. Maternal grandparents.

3 Q. Maternal grandparents, okay.

4 You say that you had always been led to believe

5 until you were 16 that he was your cousin?

6 A. That's what I was told, yes.

7 Q. You tell us in your statement that you had various

8 periods of care in your early life. I think you were in

9 Ravelrig House and then Canaan Lodge.

10 A. (Witness nods)

11 Q. Then there came a time when I think you and your sister

12 went to Nazareth House in Cardonald?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Up until that time, I think you'd been in Edinburgh and

15 then you were taken through to Nazareth House?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You tell us about your time in Nazareth House. Were you

18 there with both of your sisters?

19 A. Yes. And my brother, and my brother.

20 Q. Was your brother there for the whole time that you were

21 there?

22 A. No. No, he disappeared. And someone has used the word

23 "effeminate" and so we lost our baby.

24 Q. You tell us about that at paragraph 45 of your statement

25 on page 11, and you say there that you and your two

1 sisters were together in Nazareth House and then you say  
2 that your brother disappeared from Nazareth House  
3 overnight with no explanation?  
4 A. No explanation.  
5 Q. After he disappeared from Nazareth House, can you  
6 remember, did you see him again?  
7 A. I wrote to Social Services and he was in a place called  
8 Boscal House(?), but I had no way of finding it or  
9 getting there.  
10 Q. Okay.  
11 A. And I didn't see him again until he was 21.  
12 Q. If we can move on from that part of your statement,  
13 please, to page 14 and paragraph 62, you tell us there  
14 that you left Nazareth House in [REDACTED] 1969 and you  
15 were taken into foster care, and you go on to tell us  
16 about your first meeting with the people who were the  
17 foster carers.  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Can you tell us about that, about the first meeting with  
20 them?  
21 A. Yeah. In the -- when you go in the doors of the  
22 convent, to the left there was a little reception room.  
23 I was told to get dressed and what that meant when you  
24 were already dressed as a child was to get into your  
25 Sunday best, that I had visitors.



1           There was a little fat woman and a little tiny  
2           skinny man in there and she had a big head of shocking  
3           red hair and I remember distinctly what my thoughts were  
4           when they asked me if I wanted to go and visit them.  
5           I didn't want to leave my sisters, but I didn't want to  
6           upset the adults either. And so I always, even today,  
7           I always put other people before my own needs and I said  
8           yes and I started going out for visits before I went  
9           there permanently.

10    Q. At this meeting then there was no suggestion that your  
11       sisters would go with you?

12    A. No, not at all. Not at all.

13    Q. Then over the page on page 15 at paragraph 64 you tell  
14       us that you went for some visits with them and they sort  
15       of extended in time, so they progressed to overnight and  
16       then weekends. Is that right?

17    A. Yes. That's right.

18    Q. You say that there was no discussion about your feelings  
19       about fostering with the social worker?

20    A. I wouldn't have said anything anyway, because when  
21       you're a child you have no voice anyway, so it didn't  
22       matter what I was thinking. But I can't ever remember  
23       anyone asking me if I was fine with it, if I was okay  
24       with it. Nothing like that at all.

25    Q. Okay.

1 A. But sure I was having a great time because I was getting  
2 spoiled rotten.

3 Q. Okay, and then there came a point when you went to live  
4 with them?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. At paragraph 65 you tell us a little bit about what  
7 their house was like.

8 A. (Witness nods)

9 Q. You say that it was a big house that had been converted  
10 into four smaller properties.

11 A. Yeah. It was just -- yeah, a big house and apartments,  
12 so there was up there, up there, down there, down there.  
13 It still had a garden and everything. But I actually  
14 forgot, this is the part I've mentioned earlier,  
15 I forgot when I first went there it was in the same  
16 street but a different house number and it was only  
17 a one-bedroomed place, so I was on a bed settee in the  
18 living room when I was first fostered.

19 Q. You were living with Mr and Mrs FVP-SPO in this  
20 one-bedroomed property --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and did they use the bedroom themselves?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Then you were sleeping on a bed settee in the living  
25 room?

1 A. Yes, it was a pulldown couch, yes.

2 Q. It was just the three of you in that house; is that  
3 right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. You go on to talk at paragraphs 66 and 67 about  
6 the person that you call your grandad.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. That's Mrs FVP father; is that right?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. Did he live nearby or was it in the same building?

11 A. Oh no, it was a hop, skip and a jump away in  
12 a different -- [REDACTED], it was a five-minute  
13 walk.

14 Q. Who lived there, can you remember?

15 A. My granda, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED],  
16 [REDACTED], her husband band [REDACTED], their two kids and she was  
17 expecting again and who have I missed -- did I say [REDACTED]?

18 Q. No.

19 A. [REDACTED] There were four bedrooms in the place and with  
20 loads of beds in the rooms. It was great, it was great.

21 Q. So there were lots of people living in this house and  
22 were they, all the people that you've mentioned, apart  
23 from the people that you said were married and they had  
24 children, were these Mrs FVP brothers and sisters?

25 A. Yes. Yes.

1 Q. Was she the oldest of that family?

2 A. She was. My granda [REDACTED] got -- he was widowed very  
3 early on, you know, and he stayed single for the rest of  
4 his life, God love him, and FVP took over the care of  
5 both houses. She didn't have any kids of her own, so  
6 she was running both houses for my grandad.

7 Q. The other people that were living in your grandad's  
8 house, Mrs FVP brothers and sisters, were they  
9 older than you, younger than you, about the same age as  
10 you?

11 A. There was one -- the youngest one was -- blimey, hold  
12 on ... about five years -- maybe five years older than  
13 me, and the rest were a good age older than me. But  
14 they were fabulous people.

15 Q. Okay. You talk about going back and forward to your  
16 grandad's house a lot.

17 A. Oh yeah, many times throughout the day.

18 Q. Did you stay over there as well?

19 A. No, not until I was thrown out at age 17. No, if they  
20 needed money for the electricity, I was the little  
21 gofer, go for this, go for that, "Your granda needs the  
22 Hoover", I don't know why there was only one Hoover  
23 between two houses, "Your granda needs a line on at the  
24 bookies", I hated doing that, it was embarrassing, "Your  
25 granda needs 50 pence for the electric meter". It was

1 nonstop.

2 Q. If we go on over the next page of your statement at  
3 page 16, you tell us a bit more about this later in your  
4 statement, but if we look at paragraph 69 --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- you say there that both Mr and Mrs FVP-SPO were  
7 alcoholics?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Were you conscious of that for the whole time that you  
10 lived there?

11 A. No, no. They were weekend drinkers. [REDACTED] was lovely.  
12 He always wanted his bed after a few pints, because he  
13 used to go to the miners' social welfare club. She was  
14 a demon. She was just an antichrist on drink.

15 But no, I wasn't aware of it until he lost his job,  
16 but I can't remember what year that was. He was made  
17 redundant and I cannot for the life of me remember what  
18 year that was. But we weren't in the first house, we  
19 were in the second house. But the addresses were still  
20 [REDACTED], but they were different numbers.

21 Q. Okay, so the second house that you went to, can you  
22 remember roughly when you moved there? Were you still  
23 at primary school or was that when you were a bit older?

24 A. I couldn't even hazard a guess. I'd be lying if I was  
25 to even guess. I don't know.

1 Q. In the second house that you lived in, were the sleeping  
2 arrangements different? Was there a bedroom for you?  
3 A. Yeah, I had my own bedroom. There was two bedrooms,  
4 a living room, and a kitchen and a coal cupboard and  
5 a small toilet bathroom, yes.  
6 Q. When we look at paragraph 70, we see what you were  
7 mentioning earlier --  
8 A. Yeah.  
9 Q. -- that you were running back and forward between the  
10 two houses.  
11 A. Mm.  
12 Q. And then at paragraph 71, you say:  
13 "I loved the family but the mood in the house could  
14 change quickly."  
15 A. Yeah. Terrible mood swings. So many women, you know,  
16 I mean they might have all been having a period at the  
17 same time or something because the mood swings were  
18 just -- you'd walk in the door and it would be grand,  
19 you'd come back two seconds later and they'd have the  
20 hump about something. I just think it was a female  
21 thing and I'm not castigating females, I'm one myself,  
22 but I don't know, that's the only way I can describe it,  
23 just terrible mood swings.  
24 Q. You're talking there about your grandad's house?  
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You say there your grandad had worked in the mines?

4 A. Yes. He took early redundancy I think in his 50s, so

5 I think he was in his 50s when I got there. I remember

6 the first time I met him and I asked what I could call

7 him and he said [REDACTED] and I said, "No, I'm going to

8 call you granda", and that was it from then on.

9 Standing in front of the fire place. I remember it just

10 like yesterday.

11 Q. If we can move on a little bit, you talk about the

12 routine in the house. So, for example, at paragraph 74

13 you talk about having your lunch at your grandad's and

14 then tea with Mr and Mrs FVP-SPO

15 A. Tea? Not -- the local school was only like

16 a five-minute walk and at lunchtime most of the kids

17 always went home, so I obviously went to my grandad's

18 because that's where FVP would be. And there would be,

19 as I say, a stew, sometimes a soup by the end of the

20 week, and then on a Friday you got fish and chips,

21 because the vans used to come around.

22 But food was just -- I mean you ate what was there

23 and most of the time I didn't like what was on offer,

24 but I never once had a dinner, as you're calling tea, at

25 the FVP-SPO, but [REDACTED], God love him, he always had

1 two rolls and a sausage waiting for me, every day when  
2 I came off the bus after I went to secondary school,  
3 that's all I remember eating, two rolls and sausage. No  
4 dinner.

5 Q. Okay. You go on to tell us a bit about school further  
6 down this page at paragraph 76. You had to change  
7 school from where you'd been going to when you were at  
8 Cardonald.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Was that a local school that you went to?

11 A. Yeah, it only had one school. It was just a little  
12 village, yeah. Oh yeah, I remember that day. I was so  
13 shy and I was terrified all the time. I'm not shy now.

14 Q. Okay. Then over the page on page 18 you talk about  
15 Mr FUW, SNR the school?

16 A. Oh yes. FUW I call him. I don't know what he looks  
17 like, but in my head I see FUW

18 Q. You talk about him having this best girl of the day  
19 bringing him a cup of tea every day to his office.

20 A. Mm. Not me. I was only chosen once and I was never  
21 chosen again.

22 Q. You tell us about the time that you were chosen and what  
23 happened.

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. You say that at paragraph 78 that you stood by his desk



1           and he put his hand up your skirt?

2    A.   Yes.

3    Q.   And into your --

4    A.   Sorry, the desk would have been -- can you see my hand?

5    Q.   Mm-hmm.

6    A.   His desk would have been here and he was facing this way

7           and his door was behind me and you had to walk up with

8           his cup and saucer, try not to spill it, a wee dainty

9           cup and saucer, and so I would walk around to the side

10          of the desk and it was, "How did you get on -- what did

11          you do in class today?" I can't remember, but I do

12          remember his hand up the skirt, down the bare bottom,

13          kind of a caressing, rubbing it, patting it, and nobody

14          ever showed me -- there was nothing tactile in my life.

15          No one hugged me, no one kissed me, but I knew it was

16          wrong. I knew it was wrong and I just froze, absolutely

17          froze.

18   LADY SMITH: 'Carol', how old do you think you were at that

19          stage?

20   A.   I must have been 11. I must have been 11 years old.

21   LADY SMITH: Because you were about nine when you went to

22          the foster family, I think, weren't you?

23   A.   I was. It was 1969, so it must have been 1970/1971,

24          because I remember when it eventually came out, I told

25          the foster father, [REDACTED], I loved that man, and he told

1 his wife and she went ballistic and -- oh, there was all  
2 sorts of shenanigans. But he completely denies it, but  
3 I would never have lied. Because if God wasn't going to  
4 strike you down dead, the nuns were going to try to, and  
5 my biggest fear was getting sent back to the convent.

6 Why would I lie?

7 LADY SMITH: Yes.

8 Ms Innes.

9 MS INNES: Yes, you tell us about the reaction of the  
10 FVP-SPO, or their initial reaction at paragraph 79, so  
11 as you said, you told Mr [REDACTED], he told his wife.

12 A. Mm.

13 Q. Initially, you thought that she had believed you.

14 A. I did, straight away, yes.

15 Q. But then at paragraph 80 you say that there was  
16 a meeting at the school and then you say afterwards you  
17 heard certain phrases. So did Mrs FVP speak to you  
18 after she came back from the meeting or did you overhear  
19 her speaking to her husband?

20 A. No, I -- no, it wasn't -- I didn't go home, I was in my  
21 grandad's, all the discussions always took place at my  
22 grandads when I was living there. So it wouldn't have  
23 been just talking to [REDACTED], because she didn't have much  
24 respect for [REDACTED] anyway. So I know the conversation  
25 must have been spoken about -- I mean I'm just nosey

1           anyway. And if you were put out the house, I still sat  
2           on the window ledge and listened. You could still hear.  
3           And I know that the headmaster used the words, "You  
4           don't know what blood's running through that girl and  
5           you need to be careful, she's going to cause you trouble  
6           if she can say something like that about me". That's  
7           the kind of the words that are in my head from then.

8           But I would have overheard it, nothing would have  
9           been said to me.

10          Q. Okay. After that you were never asked to go into his  
11          office again?

12          A. I was never the best girl of the day again, no.

13          Q. Then at paragraph 81, you talk about being absent from  
14          school a lot when you went to secondary school.

15          A. Yeah, I forgot to give that to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
16          I actually found it in one of my sideboard drawers. And  
17          it's a school report, I think I missed about 100 days or  
18          something, and I loved school, absolutely loved going to  
19          school.

20          Q. I think we have a copy of the school report that you're  
21          referring to. I'm not going to put it on the screen,  
22          it's at EDI-000000785, page 13.

23          A. Is that the part that says I was an exuberant child or  
24          something?

25          Q. I don't have it in front of me at the moment, but --

1 A. Sorry, sorry.

2 Q. -- we certainly have reference to the high number of  
3 absences that you've mentioned.

4 A. Okay. I've never heard the word "exuberant" before or  
5 since then.

6 Q. Why was it that you were absent from school so much?

7 A. I wasn't getting any sleep.

8 Q. Why weren't you getting sleep?

9 A. Sorry for interrupting for you.

10 There was many parties in FVP house, between 7  
11 and 8, the doors were always unlocked and somebody with  
12 somehow knock, knock, and she'd shout, "Come in if you  
13 have got money", and then the first person would come in  
14 with a carry out, and then more and more would come up,  
15 especially if they'd been in the social club, they'd  
16 come up when that closed, because it used to close  
17 early, I think it closed early back in them days, and  
18 I'd be in my bedroom and I'd be asleep, and, "Get up,  
19 and make us a plate of chips". And they were white  
20 chips, I mean they weren't even cooked properly. And,  
21 "Light me a fag off the cooker, hen".

22 It was just ridiculous, and I couldn't -- I would  
23 complain, but not loudly. Number one, she was drunk.  
24 And other people are going, "Leave the wean alone", you  
25 know, she wanted a pot of chips made and that was it.

1 It was made in lard and it took forever until the  
2 electric cooker would be red enough to cook the lard on  
3 and just drunks everywhere. Drunks everywhere. It was  
4 mainly always females, until one night it wasn't only  
5 the females, but I couldn't -- I couldn't get the bus in  
6 the morning. 8.30 was the bus and I was never awake for  
7 it. I loved school, I absolutely adored school.

8 Q. Over the page in your statement on page 19 at  
9 paragraph 84 you talk there about visits from social  
10 work. Can you remember a social worker coming to visit  
11 you?

12 A. Yes. I specifically remember they sent a nun, which  
13 really freaked me out. But she was lovely. Her name  
14 was Anne, [REDACTED] and she wore a grey habit, but  
15 you could see her hair and she both wore a short --  
16 I lie, not short, she wore a shin-length grey skirt and  
17 like a wee grey jacket, a cardigan, and she was such  
18 a lovely person. She really, really was nice and I told  
19 her about a lot of things that were going on and she  
20 just says, "You'll soon be out of all that". I didn't  
21 know what she meant.

22 I didn't tell her about what happened, which is  
23 about to come up, because number 1, you wouldn't dare  
24 tell on anyone like that, you know. Or I certainly  
25 wouldn't. I last seen her when I was 16, walked her to

1 the train station. She was awful nice. But the other  
2 ones that came, no one talked to me. They would talk to  
3 FVP [REDACTED] wouldn't be there, because [REDACTED] would be  
4 at work, I think, up until I was about -- I don't know,  
5 14?

6 So he must have been made redundant -- I was either  
7 13 or 14 at the time.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I think so, I think so.

10 Q. You mention that your granny would sometimes be there?

11 A. Oh yeah, my granny would be there often, my wee granny.

12 Q. Was she your actual granny?

13 A. She's my maternal granny.

14 Q. Okay. So your maternal grandparents -- sorry, I'm just  
15 going to take a drink of water, bear with me.

16 You mentioned your maternal grandparents earlier,  
17 that they were looking after your older brother, who you  
18 didn't know was your older brother at the time, who you  
19 thought was a cousin.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. But these grandparents, did they live near where the

22 FVP-SPO [REDACTED] lived then?

23 A. [REDACTED] two buses away.

24 Q. Did you see them over the time that you lived at the

25 FVP-SPO [REDACTED] ?

1 A. Yeah. I ... how did I find out the conversation? I was  
2 probably being nosey. It turned out that my granda  
3 [REDACTED] and my granda [REDACTED] worked down the coal  
4 mine together. And I don't know how I found this out  
5 but I remember I ran away thinking I was going to be  
6 sent back to the convent, my mother and my father.  
7 I can't remember for the life of me. But I did meet up  
8 with -- it was my granny I liked the most because back  
9 then all Scottish older men were dour as everything, you  
10 know, dour and stern. So I had a great relationship  
11 with my granny and I used to see -- but she used to come  
12 down to Croy until I was old enough to be able to get  
13 buses up to see her, two buses up to see her, and she  
14 said, "Oh, your mother, (unclear) a weak kid, she's the  
15 only black sheep of the family, I don't understand what  
16 she did at all", but I couldn't care less, I wasn't  
17 interested in who my mother was. Because if you didn't  
18 have a mother in your life, you're not going to miss  
19 what you don't have.

20 But my granny was brilliant, she bought me my first  
21 bra, which was a little triangle thing and I was a late  
22 developer, so I had nothing anyway. She taught me how  
23 to make soup, and how to make stews, and the sweetest  
24 rise pudding you have ever tasted in your life.

25 She was great. She lived until she was 92, you

1 know.

2 Q. She was sometimes at the meetings with you and

3 Mrs FVP and the social worker then?

4 A. She was at least at one meeting that I can remember my

5 granny being there, because she bought me American tan

6 tights, which I hated, hated.

7 Q. You say that when the social worker came, you would just

8 nod your head --

9 A. You weren't allowed to speak. No, you weren't allowed

10 to speak.

11 Q. Who told you --

12 A. FVP FVP "Don't you dare open your mouth. You'll go

13 back. You'll go back".

14 Q. You say at paragraph 85 that you'll go back or "you know

15 what's going to happen".

16 A. Sorry, I didn't even see that on the screen there, I'm

17 just going from memory.

18 Q. That's okay.

19 You say that she would say what's going on happen

20 and that would mean going back to the convent or back to

21 your dad?

22 A. Yeah, that was the only two threats I ever heard,

23 convent or him, yes.

24 Q. You say that you didn't think that social work visits

25 were announced?



1 A. No. I have no recollection of any letters, because if  
2 a letter came in the door it was highly unusual. It was  
3 only people that came through the door, not mail. The  
4 only letters I knew that came through the door was  
5 cheques for her. Cheques, you know, for -- she would  
6 claim I was still wetting the bed when I wasn't so she'd  
7 get more money and things like that. So it was only  
8 like cheques. And you could clearly see it was like  
9 a -- not a local letter. You didn't get letters back in  
10 their days. Sure the only people you knew were round  
11 about you, you know?

12 Q. You say that she would know when to get the sandwiches  
13 out though and the teacups and you were told to be on  
14 your best behaviour.

15 A. I wasn't informed. Maybe they were informed but  
16 I wasn't informed. I would just be told, say, on the  
17 morning, "Get your Sunday best on", because I remember  
18 one time wearing a tweed suit and it was as itchy as  
19 anything, a grey tweed suit, and I was just -- I was  
20 like an ape in a zoo, I would just keep scratching  
21 myself because it was so itchy. But I would only be  
22 told prior, maybe an hour or so, and, "Shut your mouth",  
23 you know.

24 Q. Then you go on to speak about contact with your sisters,  
25 first of all, so paragraph 86. Were you able to keep in

1 touch with your sisters over the time that you lived at  
2 the FVP-SPO ?

3 A. I was, but it was kind of -- I wouldn't say it was  
4 regular. I remember the summer holidays and my granny  
5 would take [REDACTED]. I think my auntie [REDACTED] would sometimes  
6 take [REDACTED] and we'd sometimes have [REDACTED], but it  
7 was on a rota. You know, it was a well, you've had [REDACTED]  
8 this time, so you can take such-and-such the next time.  
9 You know?

10 But it didn't happen often, as far as I'm aware.  
11 I remember there was one long summer that [REDACTED] was  
12 there, but we were older then because she went ballistic  
13 when somebody died. The neighbour next door across the  
14 landing died and I had to stay with the widow for a lot  
15 a lot of weeks, because she was too scared to be in her  
16 own bed on her own, so I had to sleep in the bed with  
17 her and mind her.

18 I think I was 15 and [REDACTED] was 14 and [REDACTED] was  
19 going ballistic because they had a wake and of course  
20 everyone was drinking and she couldn't understand why  
21 people were being merry and ... she was really going  
22 mental about that, about that wake, you know, people  
23 seemed to be enjoying themselves and somebody had died  
24 and [REDACTED] couldn't work that out in her head, so  
25 I remember at that time [REDACTED] was there.

1 I remember [REDACTED] coming out. I remember [REDACTED]  
2 coming out, but for a visit, because she had to go up to  
3 my auntie [REDACTED], which was my granny's daughter. So she  
4 would always be with [REDACTED]. That's what I remember.

5 Q. You remember I think going to the convent and you tell  
6 us about an incident when your dad appeared at the  
7 convent unexpectedly?

8 A. That was shocking, that was absolutely shocking, that  
9 was.

10 Q. What happened?

11 A. It was coming up for Christmas and we were taking  
12 Christmas presents then and I was wearing a wee velvet  
13 coat and white patent shoes and a little muffler that  
14 you put your hands in to keep warm and I couldn't wait  
15 to see [REDACTED], I was closer to [REDACTED] than I was to  
16 [REDACTED] -- and [REDACTED] wasn't there anyway, he'd gone by  
17 this stage to Boscal House. And I can't even remember,  
18 I think we were leaving, I think we'd been in and gave  
19 the presents and we must have been leaving because we  
20 were on the stairs and I think [REDACTED] let out -- not a  
21 scream, she didn't scream, that would be exaggerating,  
22 she let out a kind of startled taken-aback sort of sound  
23 and I knew something was wrong and next thing my father  
24 jumps out of a car.

25 Now, I cannot remember how I recognised him. I have

1 no clue, because I'd never seen a photograph of him or  
2 anything. And his pal was with him. He said the  
3 strangest thing, "Leave the bairn alone, she's crying  
4 her een out", and I never ever knew what that meant, it  
5 must have been an Edinburgh thing for "eyes", "een", and  
6 Jesus, that man was bad to me. He got me under the  
7 armpit with one arm and FVP has got me the other side  
8 and flapping like a chicken not knowing what to  
9 do, and I was in a tug of war but he won and then he  
10 managed to try and get me -- he got my legs into the  
11 car, but I was kicking and screaming the whole time and  
12 he hit me the hardest slap on my cheekbone, the hardest  
13 slap he gave me, that his fingerprints were still on my  
14 face for hours afterwards and that was it, FVP said,  
15 "We're never going back to that convent again, just in  
16 case".

17 And she didn't get the train, because she was too  
18 scared in case he was at the train station, so she must  
19 have rang somebody in Croy. Cars were few and far  
20 between then -- had a car, one of those little  
21 things with wood all over the trim, I can't remember  
22 what it's called now, but we never drove to the convent,  
23 we always got the train then and then a taxi.

24 But the police turned up, someone had called the  
25 police and he was -- that's only when he left me alone

1           then. But that was shocking, that. Terrified me, that  
2           man.

3    Q. You tell us at page 20 and paragraph 88 that after that  
4           Mrs FVP would threaten you about going back to your  
5           father.

6    A. Oh, absolutely. He started sending letters to me,  
7           I can't remember all the contents, but at one  
8           paragraph did stick out -- oh, he actually sent -- it  
9           must have been a Christmas, he actually sent it with  
10          a huge bride doll. It was like two feet/three feet  
11          high, and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got the bridesmaids,  
12          I remember that's what they got for Christmas, even  
13          though they weren't with us, I know that's what they got  
14          in the convent and I got the bride. Very strange.

15                 But on the letter it said, "As you've decided not to  
16                 be my daughter anymore, I'm not ever going to be sending  
17                 you any more Christmas presents", so it could have been  
18                 that year, because obviously he did, I got the bride  
19                 doll, so it must have been a different letter than that.  
20                 So basically I was getting the blame for -- oh, if you  
21                 could leave your siblings -- he didn't say siblings, if  
22                 you could leave [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the convent and go  
23                 off, you know.

24                 Horrible man. Horrible, horrible man.

25    Q. Again on page 20 and if we go down to paragraphs 89 and

1           90, you tell us I think that your mother was brought in  
2           secretly to see you.

3   A.   Yes.   Yes.

4   Q.   And so this person was at a party?

5   A.   My granny's.  She was at my granny's, yeah.

6   Q.   Okay.  And you weren't told by the family that this was  
7           your mother?

8   A.   It was [REDACTED] birthday and she was at my granny's for  
9           a week or so, I don't know.  And I was brought up by our  
10          [REDACTED] who was FVP [REDACTED] sister, and we were going up  
11          there for this party and I think we were supposed to be  
12          staying the night, I can't remember, but the party was  
13          in full swing.  Why do adults need to drink at kids'  
14          birthday parties?  I have no clue, but it was in full  
15          swing anyway.  And then someone says get ready for bed,  
16          so there obviously must have been the plan to stay there  
17          overnight.

18                 And then a woman with red hair walked in crying and  
19                 there's only two redheads in that family and one's my  
20                 auntie [REDACTED] and the other one is my so-called  
21                 mother, and I'm the only redhead in my family, I'm just  
22                 this colour with age now, I've just gone very light with  
23                 age.

24                 So she's on the bed reading us a book, me and [REDACTED]  
25                 crying her eyes out and she was brought out the room,

1 but none of the adults said anything. It was my brother  
2 [REDACTED], who said at the front door, just a stupid  
3 teenager going, "Ha ha, that's your ma in there, that's  
4 your ma in there" and my aunt [REDACTED] threatened to  
5 box him in the head and she says -- oh, poor [REDACTED] had  
6 alopecia and she threatened to rip the only remaining  
7 hair that was in his head out of his head and when our  
8 [REDACTED] found out, she said, "You're getting out of  
9 here". But no one ever sat me down and explained  
10 everything after, but I felt really disturbed by that,  
11 you know.

12 I didn't have a mother. She was just a stranger to  
13 me, a woman with red hair.

14 Q. If we go on to the next page, please, page 21, you say  
15 I think at paragraph 95 that you ran away frequently  
16 from the FVP-SPO .

17 A. I did.

18 Q. Why did you run away?

19 A. I remember our [REDACTED] taking me a walk in the early  
20 days, she was only four or five years older than me, and  
21 there's only one main road in Croy. How I got lost,  
22 I don't know. To the left of me there was what they  
23 call a hill and it's just a steep climb, but you went up  
24 it and you lie down nobody could see you as they're  
25 walking past. So she out of just pure spite said, "When

1 we go back, you're going home ..." To be true she said,  
2 "Your father and your mother are down there waiting for  
3 you" and I just freaked and I ran away. She thought it  
4 was hilarious, you know. But she did get told off for  
5 it, but there was never any great relationship between  
6 me and her. I last saw her when I was 32 and she was  
7 still exactly the same person.

8 Q. Was it that occasion that you were found by the police  
9 under a bench or was that another time?

10 A. No, that was another time late at night and I have no  
11 idea what happened in the house. I was in the  
12 FVP-SPO, I've no idea, I must have overheard something  
13 or something must have been said, because I was like  
14 a greyhound out of a trap and I was out of there.

15 And I had a kitten down my top, I remember I used to  
16 find stray animals and bring them back all the time and  
17 I had a wee kitten down there and I ended up in the  
18 train station, which was very small at the time, and it  
19 had a bench on it and it was freezing cold and pitch  
20 black and I slithered under the bench, just in case any  
21 teenagers came around and, you know, they used to  
22 congregate there all the time.

23 So, yeah, and I was asked my name by a policeman.  
24 I was just mute, I would just go mute all the time.  
25 A lot of people wish I was mute today, I'll tell you.



1 I am not. I'm very talkative now.

2 So yeah, I was put in the back of the car.

3 Obviously if they found a wee red head, that wee red  
4 head was under the bench at the train station, even  
5 though they didn't know my name, because it was such  
6 a small village they obviously though we know who she is  
7 and who she is going back to, and if it wasn't for [REDACTED]  
8 I'd probably still be an anal retentive today, because  
9 he's the one who made me write things down, and I still  
10 do that today.

11 Okay.

12 Q. Okay, I'm going to go on to talk about some of the abuse  
13 that you suffered at the [REDACTED] if you feel able to  
14 go on to that just now?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Page 22, and at paragraph 97 you talk first of all about  
17 Mrs [REDACTED] starting on you because she wanted you to go  
18 to a neighbour to ask for money?

19 A. Not just one neighbour. Many neighbours. It was the  
20 most humiliating experience of my life, that even today  
21 I would starve and wouldn't tell anybody I was starving  
22 because I could never ask anybody for anything, all  
23 because of this.

24 Q. Was that because there wasn't money in the house or what  
25 had happened to the money?

1 A. She was drinking it all.

2 Q. And so --

3 A. Carlsberg Special Brew, it was always Carlsberg Special  
4 Brew, four cans.

5 Q. You say at paragraph 98 I think as you mentioned earlier  
6 in your evidence that after [REDACTED] lost his job the  
7 drinking got worse?

8 A. Much worse.

9 Q. Were they both drinking at that time?

10 A. Yeah. Yeah, both drinking. In fact, poor [REDACTED] he  
11 would go out asking people if he could do odds and sods  
12 for them so he could get a couple of coppers and a  
13 couple of coppers was to buy drink. It was so sad.

14 Q. You talk there about it being so cold in the house.

15 A. Freezing, mm. There was no -- the houses got renovated  
16 by the council, but I was a fully grown teenager by that  
17 time. So there was no central heating. It was freezing  
18 in there, yeah, freezing.

19 Q. We talked a little bit about food earlier, but did they  
20 have enough money to buy food?

21 A. I can't ever remember anything ever being in the  
22 cupboards apart from my two rolls and sausage that [REDACTED]  
23 always made me. She would just make the same as  
24 grandad's house, the one pot on three rings, there would  
25 be stew at the start of the week and keep tipping things

1 into it and it would be soup at the end of the week.  
2 But she would use a whole packet of salt and even to  
3 this day I don't take salt, I don't touch salt, I can't  
4 stand the taste of salt. So if she did cook, she  
5 stopped.

6 I mean when she was banned from my grandad's house,  
7 nobody ever spoke to her for many years, so she wasn't  
8 getting their money any more to spend on drink, and ...

9 I do not where she was getting money from. I've no  
10 idea. Obviously [REDACTED] must have got redundancy money,  
11 but nothing was mentioned to me about anything like  
12 that. But no, food was -- there wasn't any food there.

13 Q. Then you tell us at paragraph 99 about people coming to  
14 the house and you being asked to make the white chips  
15 that you've already mentioned.

16 A. Mm.

17 Q. At paragraph 100 you mentioned this briefly in your  
18 evidence earlier, but I wonder if you can tell us  
19 a little bit more about it. You say that you had to  
20 light fags for [REDACTED] from the electric rung of the  
21 cooker?

22 A. Mm-hmm, "Light me a fag off the cooker, hen". Yeah,  
23 that would be in her bedroom. She'd be in her bedroom  
24 (unclear) drunk.

25 Q. You say that your eyebrows and eyelashes would get

1           singed?

2   A.   Yeah.  I've got white eyelashes and white eyebrows and  
3           both would get singed.  I never wore any mascara  
4           obviously as a child, never wore make-up until I was 28.  
5           I had these wee white stubby things and I blame it on  
6           smoke gets in your eyes when you're lighting cigarettes  
7           off -- had to light off an electric ring for her.  She'd  
8           be in the bed.  She'd be lying on the bed.  She wouldn't  
9           sling a leg out of the bed to go and do it herself.  No,  
10          why would you when you have a wee gofer in the house?

11  Q.   You say that this also meant that you started smoking  
12          from the age of 12?

13  A.   It took many, many, many, many, many months and age 12  
14          was when I first had to start lighting them off the  
15          cooker for her in the wee small hours.  In the winter it  
16          was grand, there would be some embers of the coal left  
17          in the fire that would light, but after the winter -- in  
18          spring and summer there was no fire lit and it would be,  
19          FWX   FWX   light me a fag off the cooker, hen", and  
20          I'd have to go into the kitchen and I never got any  
21          sleep.  And yeah, I'm addicted to smoking now.  Now  
22          I have got down to five a day.  But sure you've got to  
23          die of something anyway, it's just a pity I never got  
24          the freedom to make my own choice about smoking.

25  Q.   You tell us about having to help her get ready to go

1 out.

2 A. It was really funny. If you can see the picture in your  
3 head, it should be like a sketch on a sitcom. I find it  
4 extremely amusing now because I can still see her.  
5 Because I was bigger than her and she'd be down here and  
6 if there was a function on, she'd have -- panty girdle  
7 like a bleeding -- sorry, did I say bleeding?

8 LADY SMITH: That's okay. Don't worry, 'Carol'.

9 A. Oh God. She had a panty girdle -- you see, I'm away  
10 back in the place, that's why I'm talking like that.  
11 No, she would have a wee tweed dress or something to  
12 wear going out, but everything had to be squashed in and  
13 it was my little thumbs that would roll up this panty  
14 girdle. Plus a small Johnson and Johnson baby powder to  
15 try and slide it up. I don't know what material it was  
16 made of. And I would always be stuck, my wee thumbs  
17 would always be stuck.

18 That wasn't too bad, because she was sober and she  
19 was on her feet and I could turn my head away from the  
20 naked wobbling flesh, but on the way back when she was  
21 back, I'd be sound asleep, **FWX** **FWX**, come in here,  
22 get in here", it was, "Help me off, help me off", and  
23 she'd be like one of the Weebles Wobble (But they don't  
24 fall down), you know with the drink in her, and  
25 I couldn't get the thing off. You'd get the straps off.

1       It wasn't made of rubber. It was thicker than rubber.  
2       It was panty girdle of some description. And you'd get  
3       the straps off the arm, the shoulders, and you'd get the  
4       fingers down and you'd be doing all this as if you're  
5       doing a conga trying to get it off her. And she'd be  
6       swaying and oh my God, and everything would be wobbling  
7       and bouncing everywhere and if she landed on me, I would  
8       not have been breathing in the morning, you know. She  
9       might have been little, but she was as wide as she was  
10      high.

11             But it is really funny looking back on it now, you  
12      know. I was only small, I was only a child, but I was  
13      taller than her.

14   Q. You say, as you've already mentioned, that she'd be  
15      bringing people back from the social club --

16   A. (Witness nods)

17   Q. -- and you say in this paragraph you would often wake up  
18      and there would be strangers sleeping on the sofa.

19   A. There were two girls there one night, and I had never  
20      seen them before. Normally it would be people that you  
21      knew in the village, that you grew up knowing. These  
22      two girls must have come from outside the village,  
23      because one was on one side of the sofa, I had nowhere  
24      to sit.

25   Q. You then go on at paragraph 102 to mention something

1 I think you referred to in your evidence earlier, that  
2 normally there were women that came, but --

3 A. Mm.

4 Q. -- on this occasion --

5 A. There was a man.

6 Q. -- there were men in the house?

7 A. Not men. One man. It was -- I don't know how I know,  
8 but the woman who slapped me across the cheek on that  
9 occasion was his mother and I don't know how I know, but  
10 somebody said she fancied the pants off my granda.  
11 I don't know how I know these things. But there was the  
12 saying I'd heard before I fell asleep, "I want a voddie  
13 for my body". Who talks like that? A vodka, "I want  
14 a voddie for my body", I can still hear her voice and  
15 she was dyed -- she was an older woman, but dyed blonde  
16 in a beehive, she was still living in the 1960s and  
17 a bow in the front.

18 It was her son, I don't know how I knew it was her  
19 son. I must have been told it was her son. Yeah, he  
20 was, oh, oh. Oh my God.

21 Q. You tell us there that he sexually assaulted you.

22 A. Yeah, with two fingers that you hold up as if you're  
23 saying "good luck". But I was still asleep and I didn't  
24 know what was going on and the only reason I do know  
25 what was going on is I was in a wee tiny room and the

1 bed was to the left of me on the left wall and the door  
2 was where I'm sitting now and when I was screaming [REDACTED]  
3 came in. After all the women had disappeared, because  
4 their room is just here to the left of me and he was  
5 behind [REDACTED] doing that, with his crossed fingers.

6 But he told [REDACTED] that he was in my room because he  
7 went to the toilet and he heard me having a nightmare.  
8 He's a liar.

9 Q. You say that after that [REDACTED] put a lock on your door?

10 A. A wee sliding snib with a lock on the inside, I said  
11 I want to leave this place -- no, I didn't say that.  
12 I said I don't want to stay here anymore and he patted  
13 me on the head and said, "I'll stop her parties".

14 Q. Did he?

15 A. No. He couldn't. She was the one that wore the  
16 trousers.

17 Q. Can you remember how old you were when this happened?

18 A. In my head I'm convinced Donny Osmond was number 1 with  
19 Puppy Love. But because I always played that nonstop,  
20 I can't remember. So I was either 12 or I was 14. And  
21 I know it was a mock exam the next day. I looked  
22 forward to Thursdays because on a Thursday [REDACTED] still  
23 went up to -- oh, where was it he worked? Every  
24 Thursday -- [REDACTED] used to get paid on a Thursday and  
25 he'd bring home TV dinners, just the little tray, like



1 prisoner's dinners I suppose, I've never been  
2 a prisoner, though. But two scoops of potatoes and  
3 a wee bit of roast beef and a wee bit of vegetables and  
4 you took the lid off -- I suppose like a ready meal we  
5 call it today. And they were gorgeous, especially since  
6 we didn't get any dinners.

7 So if [REDACTED] was still bringing them home ... I must  
8 have been 12/13.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. If I was 14, he wouldn't have been working then, so how  
11 would he get the TV dinners on a Thursday? But I was  
12 convinced that Donny Osmond was number 1, but actually  
13 I loved Donny Osmond for a long time, so ...

14 Q. The Sister Anne that you've mentioned, was she your  
15 social worker at the time?

16 A. Yes. No, no, Sister Anne was when I was 16. Because  
17 I remember what my -- I wasn't -- I was coming up to 16.

18 Q. You say at the bottom of page 23, at paragraph 105, that  
19 your social work involvement stopped when you were 16 --

20 A. I was of the age -- sorry, sorry, sorry.

21 Q. And Sister Anne came to see you at the foster home and  
22 you told her about the parties, but I think you  
23 mentioned earlier that because she was a nun you  
24 couldn't tell her the full story?

25 A. Not about that man doing that to me, my insides, no way

1 would I have spoken to a nun about anything like that.

2 But Sister Anne was later --

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. -- because I'm sure I was coming up to 16, because she  
5 said to me when I told her about the smoking, told her  
6 I had to light up cigarettes and about the parties and  
7 I told her how difficult things were and the words she  
8 said was, "Don't worry, you'll soon be all out of that"  
9 and I thought it meant because I was coming up to 16  
10 which meant I was of age then.

11 Q. You tell us on page 24, paragraph 106 that you had left  
12 school and you started working as an office junior in  
13 Glasgow?

14 A. For [REDACTED] yeah.

15 Q. You say that you lasted four weeks, you got a cheque at  
16 the end of it and Mrs FVP [REDACTED] took the money off you.

17 A. Yeah, the whole lot, yeah. It was a cheque, I wouldn't  
18 have had a bank account.

19 Q. Then you say at paragraph 107 that there was an argument  
20 between you over the money. You wanted to keep the  
21 money?

22 A. Oh no, that was completely different --

23 Q. All right.

24 A. -- I was in a different job then and I had to walk  
25 through two fields to get to the job and I had no

1 clothes and I had no shoes and I was wearing Jesus  
2 sandals in all weathers and our neighbour, a girl I knew  
3 from school, she had lent me a pair of silver  
4 bell-bottom trousers and I was absolutely ashamed that  
5 I had to wear them every single day that I worked in  
6 this quarry. It was a quarry. And to get the bus you  
7 would have to walk to [REDACTED], so I had no bus fare  
8 either.

9 So I found the shortcut, because most of the men in  
10 Croy worked in the quarry anyway so they would have  
11 shown me how to get there and it was through these two  
12 fields and there was two young girls in there and they  
13 really ... I wouldn't say bullied, but they weren't kind  
14 to me. I was the only other female there. I didn't  
15 have nice clothes. I was always scruffy. I didn't have  
16 shoes. I didn't smell nice. Even today I have a thing  
17 I need perfume all the time, I like to smell nice.

18 And that was that job where I was only getting paid  
19 out the petty cash for the first year and it was £8,  
20 I actually got -- I was demoted wages, I went from £10  
21 a week to £8 a week and that was cash in a little brown  
22 envelope and she took it all off me and I was fuming,  
23 because I think I'd had a particularly bad day in the  
24 job with these two young girls that looked like, I don't  
25 know, models and I just looked like a tramp all the

1 time. If people embarrass me I'm going to get angry and  
2 I was so embarrassed and humiliated and we had  
3 an argument and I started shouting at her and I said,  
4 "I need money, I need clothes". It was £5 for a bomber  
5 jacket and I really wanted that bomber jacket. I don't  
6 know why. I think it was all the rage then. 1976 it  
7 was.

8 And she was just nasty. I don't think it was the  
9 evening -- no, I know it was the daytime, it was during  
10 the day and I happened to ask her a question out the  
11 blue, completely left field, I don't know why I thought  
12 it, and I says, "Why am I not adopted?"

13 "I wouldn't get no money for you. I wouldn't get no  
14 money for you."

15 And I just snapped and so I pushed her into her  
16 bedroom and I held the door. The door opened in the  
17 way, so she couldn't open it because I was holding it  
18 the other side.

19 She just lifted the window that faced the street and  
20 started screaming, "'Carol's' going off her head, she's  
21 trying to kill me". And I am thinking, how am I trying  
22 to kill her, she behind a door.

23 Sorry.

24 So that was 1976 that was, that job was.

25 Q. Then after that, did you go to live with your

1           grandfather? Your granda?

2   A. Not immediately.

3   Q. Okay.

4   A. I was thrown out, I was thrown out.

5   Q. Okay. Where did you live in between being thrown out

6           and going to live with your granda?

7   A. I had a black bag of clothes and a £10 note -- I don't

8           know if [REDACTED] gave that to me and I got the train to

9           Cambuslang, to where [REDACTED] sister lived and her

10          daughter took me to her house in Cambuslang and it was

11          totally alien to me, you know, and one of my sisters,

12          [REDACTED], out the blue happened to ring up [REDACTED] niece,

13          I think a similar age, they got on. And she happened to

14          mention "'Carol's' here" and [REDACTED] says, "Put her on the

15          phone" and when I got on the phone she says, "Get back

16          on the first train now". I said, "I have nowhere to

17          live", she says, "You will go and live with your

18          granda". And my granda got a single bed from somewhere

19          and put it in one of the rooms. I'll be grateful till

20          the day I die that he did that for me. Because Croy was

21          kind of all I knew by that stage. I didn't want to be

22          anywhere else.

23   Q. Okay, now I'm going to move to the end of your statement

24          and to page 29, paragraph 129 where you tell us about

25          some lessons that we should learn from your experience.

1 A. I've got a bit of a cheek, haven't I? Gosh, I forgotten  
2 all about this.

3 Q. You mention at paragraph 129 that there should be no  
4 advance warning of visits to children in care.

5 A. No.

6 Q. You think --

7 A. No --

8 Q. Sorry --

9 A. Social workers should not be giving anyone advance  
10 visits. I mean professionals, you know, and I don't  
11 mean for the children, I mean for the people who are  
12 supposed to be caring for children. They should not be  
13 given prior warning.

14 Q. You also talk about every check possible on people who  
15 work with children?

16 A. Absolutely.

17 Q. And that there should be personality checks of these  
18 people and that would be -- that would include foster  
19 carers, I think --

20 A. Absolutely.

21 Q. -- from your experience. What sort of checks do you  
22 have in mind?

23 A. Well, I can't remember what job I was going to when  
24 I moved to London, but I had to what was called  
25 a psychometric test. Oh, it was fabulous, I'm such

1 a good person according to this test.

2 I think it's so easy to go to an interview with your  
3 best foot forward, your best clothes on, your best  
4 rehearsed answers. You don't get to see the real person  
5 until the real person starts working for you and then  
6 you find out, "Oh, they've got this idiosyncrasy or that  
7 idiosyncrasy". Psychometric tests would solve  
8 everything. I think so, anyway. It would say who is  
9 potentially an abuser. I think so, anyway.

10 Q. At paragraph 130 you talk about other adults who work  
11 with children speaking up.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. So you say there that -- I think this is by reference to  
14 what happened at the primary school that you told us  
15 about, but maybe other -- did other neighbours and  
16 people in the local community know what Mrs FVP was  
17 like?

18 A. Yeah, because if you have a neighbour who's having  
19 parties every night, you're disturbing your neighbour.  
20 And I know one lady, [REDACTED], she was a real close friend  
21 to her and she would say, "Leave the lassie alone, just  
22 leave the wee lassie alone, she's got school in the  
23 morning", and she'd get a mouthful of abuse and  
24 swearing.

25 If your personality changes on the drink, who is

1 going to confront you? You can confront them when  
2 they're sober and they're compos mentis enough to take  
3 in the information, but no one could confront her when  
4 she was drunk. She was a demon, an absolute demon. She  
5 wasn't nice at all.

6 Q. No one, as far as you're aware, reported any concerns to  
7 the social work department?

8 A. I don't think anyone would even have the -- this sounds  
9 terrible, I don't mean it, but the sensibility to even  
10 think of doing such a thing. I don't think. It  
11 wouldn't have dawned on anyone back then to do any such  
12 thing, you know? Now you've got the mandated reporting  
13 if you see something wrong you should speak up, if you  
14 see it, speak it, you know, you should -- yeah, you  
15 should grass them up, as they say.

16 But back then, no, it wouldn't even have dawned on  
17 them to do anything about it.

18 Q. You talk at paragraph 131, you're saying this by  
19 reference to something that happened in Nazareth House,  
20 but if we look at the second sentence there, you say  
21 that you think the courts should have taken into account  
22 the age of the children who were abused and the damage  
23 done to them at a vulnerable age.

24 A. That should have been taken into account first, not  
25 afterwards for nuns who are now aged. They weren't aged



1           when they were doing the cruelty that they were doing.

2   Q.   You're talking about the age of the victim as opposed to

3           the --

4   A.   Absolutely.

5   Q.   -- age of the perpetrator.

6   A.   Yeah.  Because if we were children, I mean in a convent,

7           being so young, these were grown women.  I mean ... when

8           you are a child you can't really tell anybody's ages,

9           but I'd hazard a guess at middle 20s up to 70s.  I think

10          the nun who was what I call the nurse was in her 70s or

11          maybe 80s.  They were all ages.  They weren't children.

12          They were -- sorry, I may as well say it, grown-ass

13          women.  They knew right from wrong.  We were just

14          learning.  We were just vulnerable children.

15   Q.   Then in paragraph 132 you talk about whistle-blowers and

16          the use of the term "whistle-blowers".  I think you made

17          reference to that earlier or a moment ago in your

18          evidence where you were talking about mandatory

19          reporting, that people --

20   A.   Yes.

21   Q.   -- should have to report if abuse is taking place, if

22          they have a suspicion.

23   A.   (Witness nods)

24   Q.   You also refer here to the term whistle-blower, which

25          you think is a damaging term.

1 A. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, yeah. I had to leave two jobs when  
2 I spoke up about things that I wasn't happy about.  
3 I was told, "Maybe you'll be happier elsewhere, we'll  
4 give you a good reference". And practices did not  
5 change in the nursing homes that I worked in that I know  
6 of. Yeah, even if you hear it on the news, I mean look  
7 at poor Julian Assange. He's one of the biggest  
8 whistle-blowers in the world and they want to take him  
9 to America. I don't know why he came up in my head, but  
10 he's a whistle-blower and look what is happening to him.  
11 It's a disgrace.

12 MS INNES: Thank you very much, 'Carol', for your evidence.  
13 I don't have any more question for you.

14 And no applications have been made, my Lady.

15 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
16 questions of this witness?

17 'Carol', thank you so much. That certainly does  
18 complete all the questions we have for you today. It's  
19 been really helpful to hear from you in person and to  
20 get that evidence in addition to the written evidence we  
21 already have from you. You certainly made your young  
22 life come alive. Thank you for coping with the  
23 difficulties that I'm sure you've felt in going back and  
24 revisiting those times.

25 We're able to stop doing all that now. It's

1 lunchtime and I hope you can have a better time for the  
2 rest of the day. But you go with my thanks.

3 A. Thank you, ma'am.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you so much and we'll now switch off the  
5 link.

6 A. Take care.

7 LADY SMITH: You too.

8 A. Thank you.

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 LADY SMITH: Just before we stop for the lunch break, again  
11 the names of the foster parents were used there, the  
12 FVP-SPO They're not to be used outside this room, and  
13 the names of others in the foster family were used.  
14 They're also protected by my general restriction order.  
15 Indeed at one point 'Carol' used her own name, but that  
16 is covered by the general restriction order too. I'm  
17 sure you'll all remember that.

18 We'll now rise for the lunch break and I'll sit  
19 again at 2 o'clock.

20 (1.03 pm)

21 (The luncheon adjournment)

22 (2.00 pm)

23 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. I understand the next witness  
24 is ready. Is that right, Ms Innes?

25 MS INNES: That's right, my Lady. The next witness is

1 Richard Tracey. Richard lived with Mr and Mrs FLB/FMX in  
2 Kilmarnock from about April 1971. He was adopted by  
3 them on 5 June 1973.

4 From around late 1980 into 1981 and following there  
5 was further involvement from the social work department  
6 and Richard had periods in institutional care, as set  
7 out in his statement. The FLB/FMX were foster carers  
8 for Kilmarnock Burgh Council, a predecessor of East  
9 Ayrshire Council.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 Richard Tracey (sworn)

12 LADY SMITH: I hope you find the first question I have for  
13 you to be an easy one.

14 A. Okay.

15 LADY SMITH: Would you like me to call you by your first  
16 name or --

17 A. Yes, please.

18 LADY SMITH: Richard?

19 A. Yes, thanks.

20 LADY SMITH: Okay. Richard, practicalities. The red folder  
21 in front of you has the written version of your  
22 statement in it, the typed version.

23 A. Okay.

24 LADY SMITH: We'll also bring your statement up on screen  
25 and take you to particular parts of it that will be

1           discussed with you this afternoon in the course of your  
2           evidence.

3    A.   (Witness nods)

4    LADY SMITH:  But separately from that, I want to make clear  
5           to you I do understand that asking somebody in your  
6           position to come in public to talk about their  
7           childhood, particularly where that childhood had  
8           distress characterising it and talking about it is  
9           likely to bring to the surface emotions that can take  
10          you by surprise, however prepared you think you are --

11   A.  Sure.

12   LADY SMITH:  -- for this session.  I get that, I do  
13          understand it.  That means if you want to pause at any  
14          time, take a break out of the room and come back, that's  
15          absolutely fine by me.  Or if you have questions, please  
16          ask.

17   A.  Okay.

18   LADY SMITH:  You're allowed to ask questions here.  You may  
19          have been silenced when you were a child, but that's not  
20          what we are here for.

21   A.  Okay.

22   LADY SMITH:  If it works for you, it works for me.  That's  
23          the key, so you keep me right on what can be done to  
24          make this as straightforward a process as we can,  
25          bearing in mind I know it's not an easy one, all right?

1 A. Okay, thanks.

2 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Ms Innes now and she'll take  
3 it from there if you're ready. Is that all right?

4 A. Okay.

5 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

6 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

7 Questions from Ms Innes

8 MS INNES: Richard, we understand that you were born in  
9 1968. Is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. We have your statement here which we give the reference  
12 WIT.001.001.1110. If I can ask you to look at the last  
13 page of it, page 52.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. There we see paragraph 251, where you say:

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

20 You signed this statement on 6 February 2017.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Thank you.

23 Can we go back to the start of your statement,  
24 please, and you tell us that you know very little about  
25 the time before you lived with the **FLB/FMX**, because

1 I think you were very young when you went to live with  
2 them.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you've discovered some information about your family  
5 later in life; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You tell us that your mother died I think in 1970?

8 A. Yes, she committed suicide, yes.

9 Q. At that time, were your mum and dad together, do you  
10 know, or not?

11 A. They were. My mum had only recently moved over from  
12 Northern Ireland where I was born, to move in with my  
13 father, thinking my father had a house for her, myself  
14 [REDACTED] but he'd lied to her so she had  
15 to move in with his mother.

16 Q. Okay. If we look on, please, to page 2 of your  
17 statement and paragraph 6, you tell us there that your  
18 mother committed suicide, as you've said.

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. Where was your dad at that point, do you know?

21 A. At the exact point when she took [REDACTED] he was  
22 actually in the pub. He was an alcoholic.

23 Q. When she died, you say at paragraph 7 that you were  
24 looked after for a period by your paternal grandmother?

25 A. That's right, yeah, for a few months and then she died.

1 Q. By the time that she died, do you know where your father  
2 was? Was he still around in the area or not?

3 A. He was still around but he wasn't really, if that makes  
4 sense. He was still in the pub a lot, things like that.

5

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12 A. [REDACTED] I was my father's son. [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED] they blamed  
14 my father, to some degree quite rightly, for mum taking  
15 her own life.

16 Q. As you said, you lived with your paternal grandmother  
17 for a few months?

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. But she was ill --

20 A. Yeah, she was dying from cancer.

21 Q. Then you tell us at paragraph 8 that you were taken by

22 [REDACTED] FLB/FMX [REDACTED] ?

23 A. Yeah.

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15 MS INNES: You go on to tell us about the placement with the  
16 [REDACTED] and who else was living in the family.

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. At paragraph 9, you say that you understand that your  
19 placement with them was informal initially?

20 A. It was, assisted by Peter Murphy from Kilmarnock Social  
21 Services, from some of the documents I have.

22 Q. You say that the [REDACTED] had five children of their own  
23 and you mention them there. Am I right in thinking that  
24 all of them were older than you apart from --

25 A. Oh they were, yes, apart from [REDACTED]. There's six

1 months' difference between us two.

2 Q. So they had four older children, you, and then

3 [REDACTED]?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. But we also know, as you say in your statement, that

6 they also had three foster children living --

7 A. That's right, [REDACTED] 'Alex' and [REDACTED]

8 Q. Were they all older than you as well?

9 A. Yes, very much.

10 Q. You've mentioned Peter Murphy there and you talk at

11 paragraph 11 about him being somebody who you became

12 aware of maybe later --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- in your time with the FLB/FMX, but you understood

15 that he was the social worker for the three foster

16 children?

17 A. That's right, yes.

18 Q. If we go to the top of page 3, you say that he had been

19 involved with the FLB/FMX since 1964?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Was that when the foster children had gone to live with

22 them?

23 A. It was, yes.

24 Q. Okay.

25 I'd like to look at a document, WIT-003-003-3238,

1           which is a document which --

2    A.   Oh yes, yes.

3    Q.   -- I think you found and you gave the Inquiry, Richard.

4           It's been redacted to protect the identities of certain

5           people --

6    A.   Sure.

7    Q.   -- but I can go through it with you.

8           I think if we just scroll down to the bottom of this

9           document, we see that this is a document signed by

10          Peter Murphy --

11   A.   Yes.

12   Q.   -- on 26 March 1973.

13   A.   Yes.

14   Q.   I think you go on to tell us that you were adopted by

15          the **FLB/FMX** in 1973; is that right?

16   A.   That's right, yes. This was his letter of support.

17   Q.   If we just look through it -- just bear with me

18          a moment. It tells us there that -- referring to you,

19          it's talking about your parents. Then in the next

20          paragraph it goes on to talk about your mother having

21          committed suicide and that your grandmother had died.

22          Then in the next paragraph it says:

23          "Mr and Mrs **FLB/FMX** then  take Richard for

24          a few weeks until his father could effect a long-term

25          solution. The **FLB/FMX** received only one visit from

1 Richard's father. The grandfather visited them on a few  
2 occasions but then he too broke off all contact."

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. Do you know if that's correct or --

5 A. Well, I now know from a statement I received last year  
6 from the Police Review Commissioner that

7 FMX -- I'd known nothing about this -- was  
8 actually interviewed in 2002 and in her statement she  
9 makes it clear that my father came to visit with me and  
10 then he abandoned me, he left me there. So in fact  
11 that's not true what Peter Murphy had written.

12 Q. It's not as though they offered to take you in --

13 A. Not at all. No, not at all, he left me there with them.

14 Q. Then in the next paragraph it says:

15 "For some years the FLB/FMX have acted as foster  
16 parents on behalf of Kilmarnock social work department."

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is that referring, do you think, to the three foster  
19 children --

20 A. To 'Alex', [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] yes.

21 Q. It says:

22 "When they realised their predicament regarding  
23 Richard, they enlisted our help and guidance in this  
24 matter."

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Do you know what they did about enlisting --

2 A. I don't know. I mean, I just -- I'm aware Peter Murphy  
3 assisted them -- obviously this was quite a major part  
4 of that, the letter to the court.

5 Q. Then it goes on in the next paragraph to say:

6 "Every effort was made to trace Richard's father."  
7 Then I think he goes on to talk about efforts being  
8 made to find your father --

9 A. Sure.

10 Q. -- and speaking to your grandfather and suchlike.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay. Right, we can leave that document now, please,  
13 and go back to your statement. At page 3 and  
14 paragraph 12 you say:

15 "A letter in the file shows that FMX  
16 was trying to hand me back, as she'd done with the  
17 foster children a few times."

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Is that your understanding from something that you've  
20 seen in your papers?

21 A. Yeah, it was one of the -- it was actually a response  
22 letter that had been sent to her, saying that -- by  
23 Alexander Orr, if I'm right, who was saying that there  
24 was very little he can do, because this seems to be  
25 a private arrangement.

1 Q. Okay. Then you say that you were later adopted with the  
2 help of the social work department.

3 A. (Witness nods)

4 Q. I think that's what you're mentioning --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- that Peter Murphy provided reports to the court --

7 A. Yeah, and assistance, yeah.

8 Q. Then you talk about what life was like with the [REDACTED] FLB/FMX  
9 when you first moved there and you say there were a lot  
10 of people in the house.

11 A. Yes, yeah.

12 Q. So there was obviously yourself. Had [REDACTED] been  
13 born by the time you went to live there?

14 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] was six months younger than me.

15 Q. Yes, that's right, sorry. And [REDACTED] 'Alex' and  
16 [REDACTED] were all there?

17 A. Yes, yeah.

18 Q. Okay. What about the [REDACTED] FLB/FMX own children? Were any  
19 of them still living at home?

20 A. They were for the -- for some of the initial years, yes.  
21 And then they all started to move out. The first one  
22 who moved out was [REDACTED]. I have very vague memories  
23 of [REDACTED] but she moved out and I never saw or heard  
24 from her again.

25 Q. She's the oldest?

1 A. She was, yes. [redacted] own daughter, yeah.

2 Q. As you say, essentially they gradually moved out --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- as they got older?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Okay. You have mentioned [redacted]. Were there some

7 health concerns with --

8 A. Yes, [redacted] suffered from epilepsy quite severely,

9 having seizures every day. I now know she had learning

10 disabilities, but at the time that wasn't known. The

11 [redacted] took her to [redacted], et cetera, to try and cure

12 her and things like that.

13 Q. If we can go over the next page, please, you talk about

14 being adopted on 5 June 1973 and then you talk about two

15 different properties that you lived in.

16 Before we talk about the two different properties,

17 you mentioned later in your statement that they also had

18 a lodger, you think, staying with them?

19 A. They did, yeah, a guy called [redacted] who [redacted]

20 worked with.

21 Q. Was he there for the whole time that you lived there or

22 part of the time?

23 A. No, no, he was there. I mean I can't remember the

24 length of time, but he was certainly there probably for

25 at least a year. And he worked for Scottish Gas with

1           FLB

2   Q.  You tell us that there were two different properties

3       that you lived in with the FLB/FMX

4   A.  Mm-hmm.

5   Q.  The first one I think was at           ?

6   A.  That's right, yes.

7   Q.  You say that you vaguely remember that?

8   A.  I vaguely -- yeah, I only have very, very vague

9       memories.  I was there when I started primary school.

10       I still remember my first day at primary school.

11  LADY SMITH:  You must only have been about five years old

12       when you were adopted, Richard?

13  A.  I was, yes, during 1973, yes.

14  MS INNES:  You then say in paragraph 17 that you'd moved to

15       this second property at           in Kilmarnock.

16  A.  That's right, yes.

17  Q.  You I think have made some enquiries as to when you

18       actually moved there?

19  A.  Yeah, I wrote to the housing department and they sent me

20       a letter confirming the actual dates that the FLB/FMX

21       had moved there.

22  Q.  It was in 1974 --

23  A.  That's right, when I was six.

24  Q.  You say that you don't remember anything nice about

25       that --



1 A. Not at all, no.

2 Q. You say that that property was a five-bedroomed council  
3 house?

4 A. Yes, it was, yeah.

5 Q. What were the sleeping arrangements in that house? Did  
6 you share a room with somebody?

7 A. Yeah, I actually shared a bed for a while with  
8 [REDACTED], but I was still wetting the bed until  
9 I was about nine, because I remember being beaten for  
10 that quite a lot. And again that was a very, very busy  
11 house. Constant movement just very, very busy.

12 Q. So you shared a room with [REDACTED] at least --

13 A. I think it was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I could be wrong  
14 about that, I certainly shared a bed with [REDACTED] for  
15 a while.

16 Q. Then did the [REDACTED] FLB/FMX have a room themselves?

17 A. Yes, they did, yeah.

18 Q. The girls, did they have a --

19 A. They did as well, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], yes.

20 I say, [REDACTED] I know moved out in 1977, I know that  
21 from a document to do with [REDACTED] that was in my file.  
22 That lists the dates of who was there then. That was  
23 from 1977.

24 Q. Then in the next couple of paragraphs at the bottom of  
25 this page you tell us a little bit about each of the

1       FLB/FMX . You mentioned that Mr FLB worked for  
2       Scottish Gas --

3   A. That's right, yes.

4   Q. -- and you said this lodger worked with him there.

5   A. (Witness nods)

6   Q. And you describe him as being dirty?

7   A. He was vile, yeah.

8   Q. Mrs FMX you say she was always drunk?

9   A. Always drunk, yes.

10   Q. Was that sort of morning till night? Would she start  
11       drinking in the morning or was it more prevalent later  
12       in the day?

13   A. Certainly from memory it was more -- I mean, I'd come  
14       home from school and she'd be drunk, her and her  
15       daughter [REDACTED], and at the weekends it would be  
16       a constant thing. I think it's in one of the parts of  
17       my statement. I mean my worst memories are always  
18       a Wednesday night when Dallas was on, because I'd be  
19       sent to bed and then I'd be pulled out of bed for  
20       something that could have happened a month before. But,  
21       yes, she was constantly drunk. And falling over and  
22       things like that as well.

23   Q. Okay. You talk in this paragraph about her sending  
24       [REDACTED] or 'Alex' out with --

25   A. Yes.

1 Q. -- bottles to get alcohol for her.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You said you didn't have to go and fill empty lemonade  
4 bottles, but --

5 A. No, but I remember being sent for stuff and it being  
6 given to me in a sort of package and things.

7 Q. Okay.

8 Then if we go on over the page, please, to  
9 paragraph 22, you talk there about there being no  
10 emotional attachment with the [REDACTED] ?

11 A. Not at all. No, not at all. Nothing. Nothing at all.  
12 There was never anything. You couldn't even speak with  
13 them. It wasn't that sort of environment. You couldn't  
14 sit there and relax and talk about -- it just wasn't --  
15 it just didn't happen.

16 Q. You say at the end of paragraph 22 that she was  
17 different with her own kids?

18 A. Oh, she was, very much, yeah. If we wanted anything to  
19 eat, we had to ask both of them. We weren't allowed to  
20 go into the kitchen at all and take anything, and it was  
21 constant. Sometimes you'd be refused, whereas their  
22 children could do what they want, really. Especially  
23 when it came to getting food. As I say, we weren't  
24 allowed to. There was a lock on the fridge door at  
25 [REDACTED] a little padlock. So, yeah, we weren't

1           allowed to help ourselves at all.

2   LADY SMITH: Richard, when you say "we", who are the "we" --

3   A. Myself and the foster children, 'Alex', [REDACTED] and

4       [REDACTED] We were never allowed to help ourselves to

5       anything.

6   LADY SMITH: You're giving me the impression there was one

7       group of children, that included you --

8   A. Yes.

9   LADY SMITH: -- even after you were adopted --

10   A. Yes.

11   LADY SMITH: -- and the other group of children, who were

12       the [REDACTED] own children --

13   A. Own children, yeah.

14   LADY SMITH: -- and the two groups were treated differently?

15   A. Entirely differently.

16   LADY SMITH: Do I have that right?

17   A. Yeah, very much.

18   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19   MS INNES: In terms of what you were discussing about

20       emotional attachment, were the [REDACTED] affectionate to

21       their own children? Did they speak to them?

22   A. They certainly spoke with them. I don't remember seeing

23       any affection at all. There was a lot of -- they had

24       a good laugh with their own children. I mean there

25       wasn't any humour at all there for me. It was like two

1 different families, really.

2 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 23 that you always knew that  
3 you didn't belong to them.

4 A. Yes, I always knew I was different.

5 Q. What sort of things made you feel different?

6 A. I mean FLB [REDACTED] was very -- he was filthy, he was  
7 vile, and just -- I never felt I fitted in. I just  
8 always, always felt that I was different. And I didn't  
9 find out until the day I was being taken into care for  
10 the first time that I was adopted. And that's when  
11 I was being taken to Kilmaurs Children's Home and  
12 FMX [REDACTED] said to me, "Is that the thanks we get for  
13 adopting you?" And that's the first time I knew  
14 anything at all about it. Plus I knew I had an aunt and  
15 an uncle in Quebec but no one else did, but it was never  
16 explained to me why I have an aunt and an uncle in  
17 Canada that the other children don't have.

18 Q. You talked about the foster children, did you know that  
19 they were fostered then?

20 A. Not at all, no. But they -- I always got on very  
21 well -- I mean, 'Alex', [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] never  
22 raised their voice to me. Not once. Never lifted  
23 a hand to me. I always felt -- I certainly felt more --  
24 I felt more closest, I think, to [REDACTED]. It was her  
25 house I used to run away to when I used to run away.

1 I used to go to her house.

2 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 24 that you couldn't speak  
3 to the FLB/FMX or --

4 A. Oh no.

5 Q. -- perhaps anybody about feeling different and not  
6 feeling --

7 A. Not at all, no. I certainly couldn't initiate  
8 a discussion with them, it wasn't that type of  
9 environment. There was nothing like that at all.

10 Q. Okay. You say at the end of this paragraph you were  
11 always tidy, which is another reason you never felt you  
12 belonged with them?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Is that sort of in contrast to what you've described of  
15 them as --

16 A. Yes, I mean especially FLB . I mean FLB  
17 would come in from work and he'd be digging the roads  
18 up, so he'd be covered in tar and he would sit in those  
19 same clothes and when he was eating -- I mean, I always  
20 thought of him as a pig, to be honest, because the most  
21 appalling eating habits and the noise that he would make  
22 and he'd be slurping and it was just -- I couldn't  
23 tolerate that. I still can't, actually. But it was  
24 just, yeah, very different.

25 FMX when she was drunk was pretty much

1 the same.

2 Q. You go on in the next section, if we can go down to  
3 paragraph 25, to talk about some of the abuse that you  
4 suffered when you lived with the [REDACTED]

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. You talk first of all about wetting the bed, which  
7 you've already mentioned, and you say there that that  
8 happened right up until you went into care.

9 A. Well, it certainly happened I think up until I was about  
10 nine. I mean there is one document that's missing from  
11 the social work file and that refers to a psychological  
12 report when I was nine years old, but that's not in the  
13 file and it's not actually mentioned. It's mentioned  
14 very briefly but it's not in any detail at all. But  
15 I certainly remember being dragged out of bed because  
16 I'd wet the bed and I was old enough to remember that.

17 Q. Okay. If we can move on, please, to the next page, you  
18 say that Mrs [REDACTED] didn't lift her hand that often but  
19 she always started it?

20 A. She did, yes.

21 Q. Can you tell us what you mean by that?

22 A. I mean I would come home from school and she would be  
23 drunk with her daughter [REDACTED] and I'd usually get  
24 sent up to bed for something that had happened whenever  
25 ... [REDACTED] would come in and he wouldn't get to

1 sit down and she would start telling him things that we  
2 had done, that I had done. And it was always the same  
3 routine. I'd hear them talking downstairs but  
4 I wouldn't be able to make out what they were saying,  
5 partly because of the massive electricity pylon that was  
6 outside and it was the constant buzzing and my heart was  
7 beating so fast, you know, I couldn't hear really. And  
8 he'd come upstairs, you'd hear them speaking and he'd  
9 come upstairs and what he'd do, he'd take his belt off  
10 his trousers as he was coming upstairs, so I knew he was  
11 coming.

12 That was very much a general routine with them.  
13 That didn't change very often at all. And the beatings  
14 were, you know, they were very regular.

15 Q. You were saying that you were in your room. Would she  
16 have sent you to your room to wait for him or --

17 A. Yeah. No, I'd just be sent upstairs, "Go to your room",  
18 then obviously I'd -- I mean, I'd sit in the room and  
19 I would hear -- because the **FLB/FMX** house was right next  
20 to the roundabout with the pylon on it, so I'd hear all  
21 the traffic coming around and then I'd hear his van. He  
22 always did the same, when he pulled the handbrake up it  
23 always clicked and when he came out the van he closed  
24 the door and it always made an ah when he closed the  
25 door. So it was all these sort of things happening, if



1 that makes sense, it was very much a fixed pattern of  
2 things that would be going on, as I say. And then I'd  
3 hear them talking but I couldn't work out what was being  
4 said, but I'd need to sit there and wait for everything  
5 to happen.

6 Q. You say that you can remember Mrs **FMX** shouting,  
7 "Don't hit him on the head"?

8 A. "Don't hit him on the head", yes, that's what she always  
9 said. I mean that was if he was beating me in the  
10 lounge and she was there. Sometimes I would get beaten  
11 in the bedroom, but then I'd be taken downstairs and  
12 that's the one thing she would constantly say was,  
13 "Don't hit him in the head", and I think that was  
14 obviously so that he didn't injure me too much.

15 Q. At paragraph 27 you say that he mainly used the belt on  
16 you that you've mentioned --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- but sometimes his hands and a slipper?

19 A. And a slipper, yeah.

20 Q. And you used to be naked when he beat you?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. He would make you take your clothes off?

23 A. Yeah, yeah, in front of whoever was there.

24 Q. You say that I think he also used a fishing rod?

25 A. Well, he didn't use that on me, I know that he used that

1 on [REDACTED]. I certainly remember him using that on  
2 [REDACTED]. I don't think I had that used on me, but I had  
3 certainly his belt, that was the main instrument that he  
4 used.

5 Q. At paragraph 28 you say anything could lead to  
6 a beating.

7 A. Yeah, it was usually -- I mean [REDACTED] would be  
8 drunk, so it would be something that could have happened  
9 weeks before and the later it went on to the night, then  
10 that's the more chance I had of being dragged out of  
11 bed.

12 Q. You say in the middle of that paragraph there didn't  
13 have to be a reason, he would grab you --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- slap you on the face, grab you by the hair?

16 A. Yeah, and he'd pull my ears, that's the one thing  
17 I always remember him doing was pulling me right back.

18 Q. You say at the end of this paragraph that he was a very  
19 violent man?

20 A. He was.

21 Q. He also was violent towards [REDACTED]; is that  
22 right?

23 A. Yes, he was. I remember a couple of instances when they  
24 were fighting and he was trying to strangle her and  
25 their own children were trying to pull him off. I mean,

1           one particular one I remember when she was in the corner  
2           of the lounge I think it was and he had his -- when he  
3           got very angry, his tongue used to come out slightly  
4           and, you know, he'd be so angry and his tongue sticking  
5           out a bit and saying he's going to effing kill her and  
6           you know, but I'd get that as well, plus his favourite  
7           saying, "I'll give you ... Paddy gave the drum a good  
8           effing kicking", in a strong Irish accent.

9    Q.   If we can move on please to page 7, at paragraph 30 you  
10       say you never saw a hand getting lifted to their own  
11       children?

12   A.   Never, no. I mean [REDACTED] I did, who was only six  
13       months -- occasionally she would be slapped but no,  
14       I never saw not once any instance with the other  
15       children, with his own children.

16   Q.   You mentioned, I think in your statement, that you saw  
17       'Alex' and [REDACTED] getting beaten?

18   A.   Very briefly, yeah. Because they were quite a bit older  
19       than me. I certainly -- I mean I remember [REDACTED]  
20       coming in drunk a lot and getting in fights with him and  
21       things like that, but those memories are very vague  
22       because they were quite a bit older than me.

23   Q.   What about [REDACTED]? In terms of physical abuse, did  
24       you see --

25   A.   I didn't with [REDACTED]. I mean, I know from [REDACTED]

1           telling me that FLB [REDACTED] had sexually abused her.  
2           That's something -- that was one of the conditions of  
3           [REDACTED] speaking with Kilmarnock Police in 2015 and  
4           2016, it was under the condition that they -- and I've  
5           got that in letters -- that they didn't approach, you  
6           know, that subject of her being sexually abused. That  
7           was one of the conditions of her speaking with them  
8           about what I had told her and what had happened with me.  
9        Q.   Okay. So am I understanding that correctly to mean that  
10       [REDACTED] didn't want to speak to the police --  
11       A.   She didn't, yeah, about it, about sexual abuse, yeah.  
12       Q.   But she disclosed to you that she'd been sexually abused  
13       by FLB [REDACTED] ?  
14       A.   Yes, she did, yes. Well, she told me in 1990 -- well,  
15       when I went to the police one of the times it was 1994,  
16       so she told me in 1993 about it and that's the first  
17       time I'd known about it.  
18       Q.   I'm going to your statement at paragraph 31, you talk  
19       about running away all the time.  
20       A.   Yes.  
21       Q.   Why were you doing that?  
22       A.   To get away from the FLB/FMX [REDACTED] .  
23       Q.   Where would you go?  
24       A.   I'd run away to [REDACTED] house or I'd run away to  
25       Glasgow, which is what I done a couple of occasions with

1 one of my school friends. But, yeah, usually I'd go to  
2 [REDACTED] house until it clicked when she was going  
3 next door to the neighbours, [REDACTED] was going to  
4 phone them to let them know I was there. Which I know  
5 she didn't have any choice in doing. Hugh Quinn the  
6 social worker writes sarcastically in his notes that  
7 perhaps that because she didn't with the FLB/FMX it is  
8 nothing to do with that. It's because I trusted her.  
9 She never lifted a hand to me.

10 Q. Would anybody ask you why you were running away or  
11 anything like that?

12 A. No, I mean, Hugh -- I mean I was constantly asking the  
13 social worker, that's clear in his notes, I was  
14 constantly asking to be taken into care and all he would  
15 write was that I seemed fed up. But I wouldn't tell  
16 Quinn anything anyway, because I didn't trust him. The  
17 first thing he made clear to me when he became my social  
18 worker was that anything I discussed with him -- and  
19 again it's in his notes -- he would go back and tell the  
20 FLB/FMX, so that completely removed the opportunity for  
21 me to have anyone to speak with, you know.

22 Q. Okay. Now you talk at paragraph 32 about being sent  
23 early to bed --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- for, you say there, six weeks.

1 A. Yeah, after school every single day, yeah. Sometimes --  
2 I mean I'd be allowed up at the weekends, but  
3 FLB would just send me outside to weed the  
4 driveway, because he didn't want to see me. But yeah,  
5 bed was constant. I was constantly in bed.

6 Q. Would you be sent to bed without any evening meal?  
7 A. Yes, totally, yes.

8 Q. Would anything be brought to you to eat or not?  
9 A. No, no, no, not at all.

10 Q. You talk in the next paragraph, about a time --  
11 paragraph 33 -- where you say that you sneaked  
12 outside --

13 A. Yeah, and up to the ice cream van. I think I'd stolen  
14 50p, I don't know if it was from the church money, or  
15 whatever, and I put the door on the snib but it must  
16 have blown open or whatever, but I realised that  
17 FLB -- that the door was now closed and  
18 I waited for what seemed like hours and I went to the  
19 next door neighbours', who were called and  
20 , and opened the door and said something  
21 along the lines of, "God, what are you doing out?" And  
22 I went in and he was going to take me back in and  
23 I said, "No, you don't know what he'll do", and that was  
24 the first time I ever found out that anybody else knew  
25 what was happening, because he said, "We can hear you".

1       They used to hear me screaming through the walls. And  
2       I hadn't realised.

3               That was the very first time that I knew anybody  
4       else even had an idea of what was going -- it hadn't  
5       occurred to me that anybody else could hear me,  
6       especially screaming through the walls, but they could.  
7       And FLB [REDACTED] had several fights with [REDACTED] as  
8       well.

9       Q. So you became aware that the neighbour knew what was  
10      going on?

11     A. Yes.

12     Q. But did you know or have you ever been able to find out  
13      if the neighbour alerted Social Services or the police  
14      to what was going on?

15     A. I was told by 'Alex', [REDACTED] that the [REDACTED] had  
16      actually phoned Social Services a few times.

17     Q. Right.

18     A. But obviously I don't know, you know, I mean I always  
19      got on very well with them, with the neighbours.

20               As I say, there was one particular incident  
21      FLB [REDACTED] had a fight with the [REDACTED] and he was  
22      trying to use a hammer on [REDACTED]. He was an extremely  
23      violent man, he really was.

24     Q. Have you seen anything in your own notes about the [REDACTED]  
25      trying to contact the social work department?

1 A. No, not at all.

2 Q. Then at paragraph 34 you say obviously the other FLB/FMX

3 children who were in the house, you say they knew what

4 was going on?

5 A. Very much.

6 Q. Did any of them try to step in?

7 A. Not at all. No, never.

8 Q. If we go on to the next page, please, page 8,

9 paragraph 35, you talk about getting a full body search

10 before you went to school?

11 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

12 Q. What was going on there?

13 A. That was in case -- that was one of the times where --

14 I can't remember, Quinn had written his notes anyway,

15 but it was when I'd been stealing. I mean the stealing

16 only started after the abuse. Again, that's clear in

17 his notes. And I'd steal records and sell them at

18 school and I'd steal money out the sponsor money.

19 Basically, yeah, I was searched by anyone really, but

20 somebody had to search me before I went to school and

21 that was a full body search to make sure that I didn't

22 have anything on me.

23 I think Quinn refers to that at one point of them

24 trying to be a bit kinder to me, but obviously that was

25 still happening, you know, before I left the front door.



1 Q. At paragraph 36 you talk about one of the older  
2 daughters, [REDACTED] I think.

3 A. Oh, yes.

4 Q. And you say she was involved in everything?

5 A. She was, everything. She was vile, she really was. She  
6 was the main instigator. And she was FMX [REDACTED]  
7 drinking buddy so they would sit and get drunk together.

8 Q. You talk at paragraph 36 about an incident where she  
9 accused you of something and --

10 A. Yeah, she accused me of -- I was dragged out of bed,  
11 I think it was about midnight, and apparently I had  
12 jumped from the wardrobe, which is quite interesting  
13 because the wardrobe was only about 3 inches from the  
14 ceiling, so how I had got up there I don't know, but  
15 they said I'd flashed my penis at her daughter, which  
16 was complete nonsense. That was the one incident where  
17 I know that FLB [REDACTED] didn't believe her, because he  
18 never done anything, he just sent me back to my bed.

19 But [REDACTED] was awful. [REDACTED] was at the centre  
20 of everything and she would initiate most of the  
21 beatings. I have no nice memories at all about her.

22 Q. When you say she would initiate them --

23 A. She would start the arguments, really.

24 Q. You talk at paragraph 37 about the thing that you  
25 mentioned earlier about Wednesday nights?

1 A. Oh, when Dallas was on, that was -- I mean that's when  
2 I wished that the social worker had popped around. It  
3 was a very different picture.

4 Q. You talk at paragraph 38 about **FMX** crashing  
5 the car.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Then you say that Mr **FLB** beat you for not taking the  
8 keys off her?

9 A. For not taking the keys out, yeah.

10 Q. But then you say you would have been beaten if you  
11 had --

12 A. Of course I would have, yes, if I'd had the audacity to  
13 do something like that. That was when she had the Mini  
14 and if I'm right there was a piece of glass that ended  
15 up stuck in the passenger seat. She also crashed the  
16 Ford Escort that she had, an Escort estate, but I wasn't  
17 in that at that time.

18 Q. Can I ask you, please, to look at another document.  
19 It's WIT-003-002-3305.

20 I think this is a social background report that  
21 you've seen in your records, Richard, and this is from  
22 16 February 1981 is the stamp at the top.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. If we go down into the report, we see a summary and then  
25 there's a list of people living in the home. Then if we

1 scroll down a little more, please, the  
2 paragraph beginning, "Mr Blank", so Mr FLB ?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. It says there:

5 "Mr FLB is a hard-working Irishman who works long  
6 hours in order to provide for his family. Over the  
7 years this has meant his being out of the home a lot of  
8 the time, either because of working over time or being  
9 out of town."

10 Is that consistent with your memory that he was out  
11 a lot?

12 A. He was out a lot during the day, but, no, he was always  
13 home at tea time. I mean what he did was at night-time  
14 he used his work van as a taxi for the local pub, the  
15 pub, so he was in that at night-time as well.  
16 But he was certainly home at tea time and at weekends.

17 Q. It goes on to say:

18 "The day-to-day running of the home and matters of  
19 discipline were therefore left to Mrs FMX Recently,  
20 however, Mr FLB has taken a more active role in these  
21 matters."

22 A. That's referring to his violence, he was very active.

23 Q. Is it your memory that Mrs FMX mainly dealt with  
24 discipline and Mr FLB took a back --

25 A. No, I mean Mrs FMX was drunk for the vast majority of

1 the time. I mean there was no mention in there  
2 obviously of [REDACTED] You know, [REDACTED] was --  
3 I mean, I'd come in from school and I would dread -- I'd  
4 dread getting off the bus. I was always the joker at  
5 school and that changed as soon as I got on the bus.  
6 I'd get off the bus and I'd hate walking down  
7 [REDACTED] and just walking in. [REDACTED]  
8 didn't have a back door, it had a side door that was off  
9 the driveway going into the kitchen and I'd dread that.  
10 And I'd go in and [REDACTED] and FMX [REDACTED] would be  
11 sitting there and nine times out of ten they would be  
12 drunk and [REDACTED] would start, you know, pointing.  
13 But yeah, FLB [REDACTED] certainly -- he was very  
14 active in respect of his violence.

15 Q. It then goes on to say:

16 "He is a fairly quiet man but admits to having  
17 a temper and is quite strict in matters of behaviour."

18 A. Yes, that's certainly true.

19 Q. "Mrs FMX [REDACTED] is a lively personality who has dedicated  
20 her life to her family and home. All the children have  
21 been treated alike, no difference being made between her  
22 own children and the others."

23 A. Yeah, I think the fact -- I mean the fact that's  
24 mentioned that she -- that there's no difference, I mean  
25 that's complete nonsense, it really was.

1           And obviously I mean when I got the file there was  
2           a social background report in there for [REDACTED] which  
3           was the first document I found, and that was written  
4           I think it was February 1977 and the wording is exactly  
5           the same in both documents, although there's four years'  
6           difference, including comments like, "Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]  
7           could be described as two of 'life's givers'" and I'd  
8           certainly agree with that in respect of violence. And  
9           Mrs [REDACTED] being a "lively individual", I mean there are  
10          points throughout the file where Hugh Quinn writes in  
11          inverted commas how he was on the phone with Mrs [REDACTED]  
12          and she was rather befuddled. She was drunk, but he's  
13          obviously not able to mention that. And lively, I would  
14          say -- again, she was quite drunk. She was also  
15          addicted to Ativan, which I know in the 1970s was  
16          described I think as "mummy's little helper".

17        Q. It says at the first sentence in the next paragraph:

18                "The very size of the family has made the job of  
19                bringing them up extremely difficult. Added to this is  
20                the fact that Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] have experienced  
21                difficulties with some of the children as they have  
22                grown older."

23        A. Mm-hmm.

24        Q. "They have also been in constant worry over the youngest  
25                child."

1           Would that be [REDACTED]?

2   A. Yes, [REDACTED] because of the epilepsy, yeah.

3   Q. You've described the household as being extremely

4       busy --

5   A. Yes.

6   Q. -- with people coming and going --

7   A. Constantly, yeah, constantly.

8   Q. Okay.

9   A. And not just that. Obviously they had the good family

10       friend, Mr FLA [REDACTED] who I'm sure we'll come onto at

11       one point, he was the one that sexually abused me, and

12       he was there a lot.

13   Q. Okay. You mentioned there that you've seen a social

14       background report from [REDACTED] in I think 1977.

15   A. Yes.

16   Q. And material that was written about you I think or about

17       the FLB/FMX [REDACTED] for your file --

18   A. It's exactly the same --

19   Q. -- in 1981 --

20   A. Especially I mean, "Mr and Mrs FLB/FMX [REDACTED] could be described

21       as two of 'life's givers'", that's in both documents.

22       What's also in [REDACTED] document is Mrs FMX [REDACTED] has

23       admitted she's taken on too much over the years. So

24       from my perspective that would have been an ideal

25       opportunity for some intervention, but it never

1           happened.

2   Q.   Yes, okay.

3           Can we go back to your statement again, please, and  
4   if we go on to page 9, please, and you talk there about  
5   school in paragraph 41 and you mentioned school already,  
6   but you say at paragraph 41 that you never told anybody  
7   at school about the abuse.

8   A.   No.

9   Q.   Did you not feel there was anybody that you could  
10   approach?

11   A.   Well, there wasn't. I mean obviously my social worker  
12   could have been the person but the first thing he made  
13   clear to me was that anything I discussed with him, he  
14   would go back and tell the [REDACTED]

15           And I wasn't able to. When I was that age, I had no  
16   confidence whatsoever. I used to walk with my head down  
17   all the time. I think -- you know, I can't remember  
18   which age, it's in some of the notes, when I tried to  
19   [REDACTED] and I was just so depressed  
20   and I'd run away from home, and I'd spoke to  
21   [REDACTED] -- again it's in the notes -- and I'd  
22   told her that I was going to commit suicide because the  
23   amount of bad things that were happening were just  
24   pretty awful.

25           And, no, I didn't have the confidence tell anybody.

1 Not at all.

2 I mean, I did tell Quinn a few things about the  
3 beatings and stuff, but as we all know, nothing happened  
4 about that.

5 Q. We'll come back to that --

6 A. Sure, sure.

7 Q. -- and have a look at a couple of things from your  
8 records on that shortly.

9 Then in your statement you go on to talk about some  
10 of the differences in treatment between you and the  
11 foster children and the FLB/FMX

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. You've mentioned some of these already, so I'm just  
14 going to pass over some of these things you've  
15 mentioned. For example, as you say at paragraph 42,  
16 that the fridge was padlocked, you couldn't get into  
17 food.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. If you didn't eat your food one day, it would be there  
20 the next day.

21 A. It would be, yes.

22 Q. You then go on to talk about you always had cheap  
23 clothes?

24 A. Very much, yeah.

25 Q. If we go on to the next page, paragraph 46, at birthdays



1 and Christmas, you talk there about the FLB/FMX would  
2 get nice brand new presents?

3 A. Yes, they would, and we would get, for want of a better  
4 word, something that was quite minging or just something  
5 that was really old. I mean that's one of the points  
6 that's noticed when I was in the assessment centre,  
7 that's one of the problems that I had, not feeling that  
8 I belonged was watching their children get birthday  
9 presents but then when it came to my birthday, not  
10 getting anything, sometimes not even getting a card.  
11 That just highlighted again how different I felt to  
12 them.

13 Q. At paragraph 48 you talk about a present that your aunt  
14 and uncle in Canada had sent.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. What happened to that?

17 A. Well, it was like a camper van and it had a boat on top  
18 of it upside down and I remember getting it and it was  
19 all broken and I had little doubt that was [REDACTED]  
20 because that was the sort of thing that she would quite  
21 happily have done. Again, that just made me feel very  
22 different.

23 Q. At paragraph 49 you say that all the money the FLB/FMX  
24 had went on booze?

25 A. It did, Merrydown Cider, Old English, Carlsberg lager,

1       yeah.

2   Q.  You go on to refer to getting child benefit and claims  
3       that she made to the social work department for things.

4   A.  Well, they're in my file as well, you know, claiming for  
5       a holiday and for help towards getting a car.  There are  
6       quite a few receipts in my social work file for money  
7       that she obtained from Kilmarnock Social Services or  
8       from some child fund of some sort.

9   Q.  Even although you had been adopted by them, she was  
10      still going to the social work department --

11  A.  And getting assistance.

12  Q.  -- to ask for help?

13  A.  Yeah, she was, yeah.  They also had -- I mean I still  
14      remember the TV, because it was a Radio Rentals and you  
15      put 50p in it and she used to have the man from  
16      Provident come in as well and there was Shopper  
17      Cheque(?), as it was then, and she used to get loans  
18      from them and she'd buy things from key catalogues and  
19      stuff.  But, yeah, a lot of -- what appeared to me as  
20      a lot of the money certainly went -- she always had  
21      booze.  She was never short of that.

22  Q.  On the next page at page 11 you talk about the sexual  
23      abuse that you suffered that you've already mentioned.

24  A.  Mm-hmm.

25  Q.  This was FLA who was the son of a family

1 friend of the FLB/FMX

2 A. Yeah, that's right.

3 Q. You say that you found out that he left the RAF in 1976,  
4 but you say you can remember him coming to the house  
5 even before that?

6 A. Yes. I can always remember FLA very, very  
7 briefly in but not much to be honest, but  
8 certainly in yeah.

9 Q. You say I think at paragraph 53 that the sexual abuse  
10 began, from what you can remember, when, presumably you  
11 were living in

12 A. Very much, yes.

13 Q. This was in that house?

14 A. It was, yes. I mean FLA and FLB --  
15 the older children would be out for whatever reason.  
16 FLB would be using his work van as a taxi  
17 service, so FLA would be there when FMX  
18 and were drunk and he'd be able to come  
19 upstairs and sexually abuse me whilst they were drunk  
20 downstairs.

21 I think I've said in my statement it perhaps felt  
22 like an hour, it probably wasn't, might only have been  
23 a few minutes, but at that time it certainly felt a lot  
24 longer. But he was able to do that, yeah, whilst they  
25 were downstairs. And then it got to the point where

1 I would be sent to stay with him for the weekends to  
2 give them a break from me, because I was such an awful  
3 child, apparently, but -- and that was constant, and  
4 that only stopped when I was taken into care.

5 Q. You talk about that progression of starting staying  
6 overnight or --

7 A. Going to his for the weekend, yes.

8 Q. -- going to his for the weekend, and you say that at  
9 paragraph 55. If we go on over the page, please, you  
10 say that [REDACTED] also stayed there for a while.

11 A. He did, yeah.

12 Q. Do you know if [REDACTED] suffered sexual abuse?

13 A. Well, [REDACTED] told me to watch him and I never --  
14 I never explored that further with him. And [REDACTED]  
15 also told me when he was drunk that he'd touched him,  
16 but that was as far as that got. [REDACTED] was pretty  
17 screwed by the time he was 14, he was heavily into  
18 alcohol and he ended up in borstal, (unclear) school and  
19 borstal, and obviously he died in 2012, a drug addict  
20 and alcoholic.

21 But [REDACTED] wasn't very bright either, he didn't  
22 really have a head on him.

23 LADY SMITH: I see, Richard, you've given a rough estimate  
24 of this man, <sup>FLA</sup> [REDACTED] age in your statement.

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: That would suggests that he was, I don't know,  
2 less than 30 years old, between 20 and 30?  
3 A. Yes, yeah.  
4 LADY SMITH: So himself a young man?  
5 A. He was, yes.  
6 LADY SMITH: Would seem much older to you, I suppose, yes.  
7 A. Very much, yes.  
8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
9 A. Obviously the things that I found later on, when I found  
10 him on the Forces Reunited website, because Police  
11 Scotland were unable to do that, there was actually  
12 a photo of him on there which I found and again Police  
13 Scotland didn't seem to be able to do that. It didn't  
14 have his name on the photograph, it was actually a group  
15 photo and I spotted him straight away, even though he  
16 was right at the back of the photograph, his face was  
17 partially hidden but I knew it was him straight away.  
18 But, yes, he was obviously a lot older than me because  
19 I was a young boy, but he wasn't that old, really.  
20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
21 MS INNES: As you say, you started going there for the whole  
22 weekend --  
23 A. Yes.  
24 Q. Every weekend?  
25 A. It wasn't every weekend, no, but I mean it was the

1 lesser of two evils. I didn't understand child abuse,  
2 obviously, but FLA was never violent towards  
3 me. I'd get to stay up late, which never happened at  
4 the FLB/FMX I'd get lots of sweets, which never  
5 happened at theirs. As I now know as an adult he was  
6 basically grooming me, but I didn't -- as a little boy  
7 I didn't know that. But it was certainly the lesser of  
8 two evils.

9 But one incident at his, it was a flat he had, I've  
10 always called it a house and it wasn't, it was a flat.  
11 He was downstairs but one incidence never left me and  
12 that's when he was abusing me actually it made me --  
13 I started to feel sick, I was sweating. I remember my  
14 head over a toilet bowl and him sitting rubbing the back  
15 of my head and things like that.

16 LADY SMITH: Did he in some way make you feel special?

17 A. Of course he did, yeah, yeah. I mean there wasn't  
18 any -- there was no special feelings at all with the  
19 FLB/FMX There was no affection, there was no warmth.  
20 I felt very much like an outsider. Yeah, and he did,  
21 yeah. I felt guilty actually going to the police about  
22 him initially, but I'm now aware that's a little bit of  
23 survivor's guilt, but I did feel really guilty about  
24 going to the police about him, because he had -- at some  
25 points I actually saw him as a bit of a saviour, because

1           he'd taken me away from the physical abuse and the  
2           horrible feeling of just being in that house.  
3   LADY SMITH: Thank you, Richard.  
4   MS INNES: My Lady, I'm going to move on to another topic  
5           and I wonder if just now might be a good time to have  
6           the afternoon break.  
7   LADY SMITH: Yes.  
8           Richard, would that work for you?  
9   A. That would be fine.  
10  LADY SMITH: We usually take a break about this point in the  
11           afternoon, which I can do now  
12  A. Okay, thank you.  
13  LADY SMITH: Very well. We'll take the break.  
14  (3.00 pm)  
15   (A short break)  
16  (3.10 pm)  
17  LADY SMITH: Richard, are you ready for us to carry on?  
18  A. Yes, yeah, sure.  
19  LADY SMITH: I hope the break helped.  
20  A. It did.  
21  LADY SMITH: Ms Innes, when you're ready.  
22  MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.  
23           If we can look, please, at page 13 of your statement  
24           and at paragraph 64.  
25           In this section you're talking about your dealings

1 with the social work department and some of the things  
2 we've already covered in your evidence like the same  
3 terminology being used --

4 A. Yes, yeah.

5 Q. -- and words being used in reports by different social  
6 workers for different children several years apart,  
7 I think.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. At the bottom of this page at paragraph 64 you talk  
10 about a time that Hugh Quinn took you to the Transport  
11 Museum in Glasgow?

12 A. Yes, yeah.

13 Q. You say that even in that context you felt like you  
14 couldn't tell him anything?

15 A. I couldn't, no. There was never any -- I didn't feel  
16 there was any connection between myself and Quinn.  
17 There wasn't any -- I certainly didn't trust him. And  
18 I just I don't know, I just thought he was at  
19 a different level.

20 I mean even taking me to the Transport Museum,  
21 I didn't really see the point of that, to see lots of  
22 different cars. It didn't do anything to help me.

23 But I do know -- I didn't trust him. I mean there  
24 were times when I did tell him things, as can be seen in  
25 his notes, but nothing was done about it. Even though



1 he never believed me and then he found out it was true  
2 but then the goalposts were moved.

3 Q. You say here that he had noted that when you were at  
4 a panel, so a Children's Hearing perhaps --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- that you would answer with one-word answers.

7 A. Yes, that's right, and I think quite sarcastically in  
8 his notes how I confined myself to one-word answers, but  
9 that's because I had FLB on one side and  
10 FMX on the other and I still nine times out  
11 of ten had go home and that's when I would get slapped  
12 when obviously you said this, or the words would be  
13 a lot stronger, but there'd be violence back home. So  
14 I wouldn't say anything at all, because I was too  
15 scared. I don't care how many other people were in the  
16 room to help me or to assist me. You know, the panel  
17 members. I was still too scared to say anything.

18 Q. So you'd be there at the panel and the FLB/FMX would  
19 both be there?

20 A. Yes, they would, yes, one on either side, yeah.

21 Q. Your social worker would be there as well perhaps?

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: Am I right in thinking that you must have been  
24 about 12 when he first became --

25 A. Yeah, 12. I think 12 was the first panel that I went

1 to, if I'm right. I think that was after Kilmaurs  
2 Children's Home, if I'm right.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS INNES: Then over the page at paragraph 65 you talk about  
5 Hugh Quinn saying the FLB/FMX always gave him a warm and  
6 sincere welcome and that's because they knew he was  
7 coming.

8 A. Yeah. There weren't any unannounced visits. Any visits  
9 wouldn't be after say 4 pm during the day. They'd never  
10 be at weekends. FMX would always know,  
11 because he would tell her. So she wouldn't be drunk.  
12 The house would be tidied up. As I say, there was never  
13 any -- I really wished that he came at night-time,  
14 because it was a far, far different picture.

15 Q. You say he didn't spot things and he didn't want to spot  
16 things.

17 A. He didn't, no, he didn't want to -- Hugh Quinn, from my  
18 perspective, was much more of a friend to the FLB/FMX  
19 and I was -- I was at times, I felt, a sort of mere  
20 inconvenience that troubled him, sometimes he had to do  
21 extra work, but I never felt he was there for me.

22 LADY SMITH: Richard, I don't know if you can answer this,  
23 and if you can't that's fine, but looking back to that  
24 time, what would it have taken for you to feel you could  
25 talk to the social worker that was involved with you?

1 A. I think if I'd been told that, look, you can talk to me  
2 and I'm not going to go back and tell them. And that  
3 never happened. It never ever happened. And I'd  
4 probably have preferred to have a female social worker.  
5 And that was nothing to do with my sexuality, because  
6 I didn't know I was gay then, but I just would have felt  
7 more at ease.

8 But, yes, Quinn, I never felt comfortable with.  
9 There was never any situation that arose where he made  
10 me feel comfortable.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you. That's helpful.

12 MS INNES: You go on to say the same about Peter Murphy in  
13 terms of his relationship with the family.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. That your impression was that he was almost a friend to  
16 them as well?

17 A. Yes. He was, yes, he was. I mean he was never there  
18 for us. I don't think he was ever there for [REDACTED] he  
19 was more concerned with getting [REDACTED] put away.  
20 That's the impression I got at the time, because [REDACTED]  
21 ended up in I think it was Longriggend and places  
22 like -- he turned up in (unclear) school and then  
23 borstal. But yeah, Peter Murphy was never -- I didn't  
24 feel was ever there for us.

25 Q. Okay. At paragraph 66 you say that you think

1       FMX                   got Social Services involved because  
2       she was worried that FLB                   was going to go over  
3       the score with his abuse of me.

4   A. That's the exact wording. I mean I think she was  
5       worried that he was going to kill me. I was worried  
6       that he was going to kill me. I think that's why the  
7       don't hit him in the head part came in, in case he did  
8       actually kill me. And that was the first reason I was  
9       taken into care, because Quinn acknowledged that  
10      FLB                   might go over the score. In other words  
11      beat me up too much.

12   Q. If we can look, please, at WIT-3-000001189 and page 1 of  
13      that document.

14               I think this is an excerpt of your social work  
15      records from December 1981 to March 1982?

16   A. Yeah.

17   Q. And I think we find on this page the excerpt that you're  
18      referring to in your statement you've mentioned there in  
19      your evidence.

20   A. Mm.

21   Q. There's reference to the overall situation and then  
22      there's a paragraph, December, and if we can go to --  
23      yes, that's fine. At the beginning of this paragraph we  
24      see that from the beginning of December, the situation  
25      began to deteriorate and there were complaints from

1 Mrs FMX it says.

2 A. Mm.

3 Q. At the bottom of this paragraph we see a sentence  
4 beginning:

5 "Eventually ..."

6 And Hugh Quinn says -- so he's describing  
7 a conversation. He says he spent an hour on the phone  
8 with her?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And he says:

11 "Eventually I had to ask her directly if her concern  
12 was that Mr FLB might go 'over the score' if he  
13 physically punished Richard. 'Yes'. Do you feel it  
14 would be safer if we took Richard into care until the  
15 situation calmed down?' 'If you think it would be for  
16 the best'."

17 That was her response?

18 A. I mean, again, I mean -- December -- I mean Christmas --  
19 my initial referral in 1981 was around December,  
20 December or January, but Christmas time was the worst  
21 time of the year because FLB -- I mean  
22 FLB was drunk all the time anyway, but  
23 a lot more so, and he would go out a lot more using his  
24 van and stuff. But yea. I mean, Quinn after an hour on  
25 the phone eventually asking her that -- and there are

1 other times I think that are clear in the notes where  
2 Quinn keeps suggesting that the Social Services  
3 completely withdraw from the situation and let the  
4 **FLB/FMX** handle it in their own way, so he was quite  
5 happy just to leave me there. But I think his concern  
6 at that point was, you know, obviously if **FLB**  
7 did kill me, then Hugh Quinn would probably have got  
8 into trouble, although I'm not convinced.

9 Q. At that point I think you were taken to Kilmaurs, which  
10 you mentioned --

11 A. To Kilmaurs, and that's when I found out for the very  
12 first time that I was adopted, because **FMX**  
13 said to me as I was being taken away, "Is that the  
14 thanks we get for adopting you?" and that's the first  
15 time I found out about it.

16 Q. At the bottom of the screen we see:

17 "Richard has settled well at Kilmaurs and has posed  
18 few difficulties ..."

19 A. I loved it. Quinn's written sarcastically about me  
20 being in Kilmaurs as a -- what was it? A holiday camp  
21 or something? It was, compared to the situation that  
22 I'd been in. There wasn't any beatings, I was being fed  
23 properly. I felt quite relaxed. So it was like  
24 a holiday camp.

25 LADY SMITH: And just remind me, Richard. At that stage,

1 and I mean December 1981, there were still foster  
2 children in the FLB/FMX house?

3 A. Yeah, I think [REDACTED] was still -- or he was in care,  
4 but yes, yeah.

5 LADY SMITH: And was FLB [REDACTED] behaviour then really any  
6 different than what it had been for a number of years?

7 A. Never. No.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS INNES: If we go on to -- so you went to Kilmaurs and  
10 I think you then went back to the FLB/FMX --

11 A. Yeah, I went to Kilmaurs, and obviously when I got to  
12 Kilmaurs it said in one of the documents my head was  
13 infected with head lice, which again was quite a good  
14 indicator, really. But yeah, I loved Kilmaurs, I really  
15 did, and I didn't want to go back to the FLB/FMX house.

16 Q. Okay. Just bear with me -- sorry, if we scroll back up  
17 to the top of this page, I think in that first paragraph  
18 we see the reference that you've just made in your  
19 evidence, Richard, that it was said:

20 "It's difficult to know how to handle the whole  
21 situation and I often feel the situation might be no  
22 better or no worse without social work ..."

23 A. Yes, that's him trying to withdraw again, yeah. I mean,  
24 that happened many times. I mean, I was constantly  
25 asking to be taken into care and Hugh Quinn was

1 basically constantly suggesting that maybe Social  
2 Services withdraw completely.

3 Q. So you were in Kilmaurs, then you went back to the  
4 FLB/FMX If we go over the page to page 2 of this  
5 document and we move to October, so the middle of the  
6 page, there's a reference on 7 October 1982.

7 A. Mm-hmm. That's when I went to Ian McLaughlin.

8 Q. Yes. I can't see it on the screen behind you at the  
9 moment. We can just scroll down a little, please?

10 A. It's at the top of that page, I think.

11 Q. Slightly further up. Yes, there. We're on 7 October  
12 1982 and this it says:

13 "Richard called at the office where he saw  
14 I Laughlan."

15 So somebody else?

16 A. It was Ian McLaughlin, yeah. What I'd done was  
17 FLB had battered me again and Hugh Quinn was  
18 on holiday and I knew that was the only opportunity  
19 I was going to have to get all the beatings stopped and  
20 stuff, so I went and reported it to Ian McLaughlin, who  
21 if I'm right took me to see Peter Murphy and he took me  
22 straight back to the abusers and suggested to the  
23 FLB/FMX that they get a doctor's appointment made for  
24 me. For their sake, not for mine.

25 And the doctor examined me and wrote the bruises on



1 the interior aspects of my lower legs were consistent in  
2 keeping with a boy of my age and Quinn wrote the  
3 injuries did not warrant any further action. But then  
4 Quinn went on later on to deny that I'd been assaulted,  
5 even though he'd written "injuries".

6 Q. You've mentioned some of the things that are said in  
7 this entry here, which talks about Mr Laughlan  
8 consulting Mr Murphy "and they took Richard home and  
9 spoke to the parents" --

10 A. Back to the people that had just abused me, yeah.

11 Q. "Mr FLB admitted hitting Richard but denied punching  
12 or kicking."

13 A. I don't know what he'd done, how he'd have hit me  
14 without punching or kicking me.

15 Q. Then it says that you'd been late home and had been in  
16 the company of two younger boys.

17 "This had really angered Mr FLB and he had hit  
18 Richard."

19 Then in the next paragraph it says:

20 "Richard had been playing up quite a bit recently  
21 and it's no surprise."

22 A. Yeah. Again that's Quinn justifying the abuse, which he  
23 did constantly.

24 Q. And then there's reference to the appointment with the  
25 doctor and, as you said, "injuries didn't warrant any

1 other action".

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. If we could go back to your statement again and page 16,  
4 paragraph 79. You say that after that you got slaps  
5 from Mr FLB but --

6 A. But the beatings, yeah, I never got the beatings again.  
7 But I still got the slaps and pulled about for things.  
8 But the level of beatings weren't the same again.  
9 Nothing that would justify a medical examination.

10 Q. Then in your statement there's a heading, "Disclosing  
11 FLA abuse".

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. And you tell us that in January 1983 you'd been away  
14 somewhere else with a boy from your school?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And then when you got home, at paragraph 81 you describe  
17 FLB beating you?

18 A. Yeah, that I did get a kicking for that. I thought he  
19 was going to kill me in the van, because he picked me up  
20 from Glasgow and even whilst he was driving on the --  
21 I think it's the A77, he was throwing tools from the van  
22 and screaming and shouting and swearing at me. And then  
23 when I got in, I was made to strip naked and he was --  
24 I was lying between the lounge and the kitchen door with  
25 nothing on and he was basically kicking the hell out of

1 me and screaming, "Why did you effing run away?" And  
2 I said, "Because FLA [REDACTED] a poof", and that's how  
3 it came out. And it stopped straight away and I was  
4 sent up to my bed and I never saw FLA [REDACTED] again.

5 I know now from the statement I got from the Police  
6 Review Commissioner last year that FMX [REDACTED]  
7 admitted that in 2002 to the police officer. She  
8 admitted that I'd told them that when I was 14, but  
9 they'd always known that I was gay -- I didn't know  
10 I was gay when I was 14 -- and they went and they'd  
11 asked FLA [REDACTED] he denied it and that was the end  
12 of the matter.

13 Q. Okay, so you know from something that you found out  
14 later that FMX [REDACTED] did admit that you'd made  
15 a disclosure --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- in respect of FLA [REDACTED] ?

18 A. Yeah, it's the one piece of the jigsaw that I've never  
19 had any proof of apart from the notes in Quinn's where  
20 he said a claim of sexual abuse had been made, but he's  
21 not sure whether it's by the boy or by the adoptive  
22 parents. Never spoke to him about it. But it was the  
23 one piece of sort of evidence that I've never had until  
24 last year and I only got that statement because  
25 FMX [REDACTED] had died and that's when the police --

1 I made an application for it and the Police  
2 Commissioner -- Police Review Commissioner gave it to  
3 me.  
4 Q. And you say that at paragraph 83 of your statement, the  
5 reference to --  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. -- what was in your notes, that Mr Quinn said there had  
8 been an allegation of abuse but --  
9 A. Yes.  
10 Q. -- he didn't know whether it was you that had made it or  
11 the FLB/FMX  
12 A. Yes. There was never an investigation. What he had  
13 written is that it's -- I think it was in black bold  
14 letters, I mean it may be in there, but it's that  
15 (unclear) the house of known homosexuals. So I think  
16 his homophobia got in the way of -- you know, they'd  
17 never touched me. It was a good old family friend.  
18 Q. You talk in that part of your statement about there  
19 having been no investigation --  
20 A. No.  
21 Q. -- at that time, Hugh Quinn not having spoken to you  
22 about that?  
23 A. No, nothing at all.  
24 Q. Then you tell us in your statement that you went to  
25 Cardross Assessment Centre, and then on page 19 you tell

1 us that you were put back to the FLB/FMX again.

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. And this was the time that you self-harmed?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you've mentioned that?

6 A. I've still got the [REDACTED].

7 I mean, when I was taken to Cardross -- well, all the  
8 times I was taken into care, I never stole once,  
9 I wasn't wetting the bed, I wasn't running away, but  
10 there was never -- that was never looked at. Hang on,  
11 why, we've taken him into care and all the bad  
12 behaviour, the negative behaviour's stopped. Oh, we'll  
13 send him back to the abusers. That's what always  
14 happened.

15 Cardross was the one place where I think, from some  
16 of the reports that I now have, there were a lot of  
17 things that were noticed at Cardross, particularly by  
18 one of the members of staff which were really good. She  
19 knew that I wasn't in a situation where I was loved and  
20 that I felt rejected by the FLB/FMX and I had been. You  
21 know, and that was -- it was one of the best reports  
22 I've read actually in an old file. Nothing from Quinn,  
23 but certainly from other people.

24 Q. And then you went back again to Cardross and then on to  
25 Redbrae.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And we're not going to look at that in your oral  
3 evidence, but we have that in your statement, Richard.

4 A. Sure.

5 Q. I think you mentioned there in your evidence that the  
6 way in which you were behaving wasn't being picked up by  
7 social workers.

8 A. Mm.

9 Q. And I think you've spoken to a Bill Jordan?

10 A. Professor Jordan, yeah, that was one of my tutors when  
11 I started my social work diploma, which I never  
12 finished. I done a year of that.

13 Q. And I think you shared with him some of your social work  
14 records?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And he has written a book called "Social work and the  
17 Third Way: Tough Love as Social Policy" --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- and he refers to your experience as a case study,  
20 I think, in that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. If I can ask you, please, to look at WIT-003-002-3647.  
23 This is just an excerpt from the book. I think first  
24 there's a quote from your social work records?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And we see there in the second line of the quote the  
2 "life's givers", so that's the document that you were  
3 referring to earlier?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. And he's obviously seen this. If we look under  
6 "Discussion", and in the report there's reference to you  
7 stealing and other issues.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. And it says:

10 "In this report, the social worker shows  
11 an awareness of most of the factors in ..."

12 I think it says "Michael's behaviour"?

13 A. I was called "Michael" in the book.

14 Q. "... but fails to make the connection with possible  
15 abuse. Other signals -- short concentration span,  
16 restlessness, over-anxiety to please -- might have  
17 signalled the possibility of abuse and the fact that the  
18 parents were not protecting him. Above all, the  
19 acknowledgement that the parents could not meet all  
20 Michael's needs and that he required the attention,  
21 stimulation and challenge of outside activities was  
22 important, but not sufficiently acted upon when [you]  
23 were younger or developed at this stage of the social  
24 worker's contact with him. The example shows that it is  
25 difficult to recognise all the signs of abuse, even when

1 a social worker is in regular contact with a child (as  
2 in this case) ..."

3 That's Professor Jordan's comment. And he says  
4 that:

5 "Only sensitive and imaginative supervision is  
6 likely to lead to the awareness of the need to protect  
7 a child where the Social Services department and the  
8 child her or himself have much invested in the security  
9 of a family placement and the stability of a set of  
10 relationships sustaining several vulnerable children."

11 So he's also talking there about the issue of what  
12 does a social worker do if somebody makes a disclosure?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. We'll come back to that when we talk --

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. -- about your reflections at the end of your statement.

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. Okay. If we can move on, please, to page 32 of your  
19 statement and paragraph 157. You tell us there that you  
20 tried to make a report to the police about the sexual  
21 abuse that you had suffered, and this was when you were  
22 living at the YMCA in Kilwinning.

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. When was that?

25 A. I was 18. I think I was 17 and a half, I can't



1 remember, but that was the first disclosure that I'd  
2 made officially. But the police officer wasn't remotely  
3 interested. And I now suspect that he probably got in  
4 touch with Quinn who said, "No, no, it's all made up".  
5 I don't have any proof of that, but that's what  
6 I certainly suspect. But I felt that I had to move out  
7 the YMCA after that because I felt no one believed me,  
8 and that was -- I ended up moving to a caravan park in  
9 West Kilbride and that was the first time I tried to  
10 kill myself [REDACTED] I was 18.

11 Q. Was a statement taken by the police?

12 A. No, no. Not that I remember. It may have been, but  
13 I don't actually remember that.

14 Q. You say your impression of the police officer was he  
15 wasn't in the least --

16 A. Wasn't in the slightest interested.

17 Q. Okay. We know, I think, that FLB [REDACTED] died in  
18 1993?

19 A. That's right, yeah.

20 Q. Sorry, I should have asked, in relation to that time  
21 that you spoke to the police officer at Kilwinning, did  
22 you just try to speak to him about FLA [REDACTED] or did  
23 you also speak to him about the FLB/FMX [REDACTED] ?

24 A. No, I think it was just about FLA [REDACTED] because then  
25 it wasn't -- I mean, I didn't know anything about child

1 abuse, never mind the physical abuse. But it wasn't  
2 something that I'd even thought that there was grounds  
3 to speak to anybody about, really. Because up until  
4 that age, it would appear that that was okay for  
5 everything to happen to me, really.

6 Q. Now if we can move to page 37 and paragraph 181, and you  
7 explain there that in 1993 you went to report the sexual  
8 abuse again?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. This time close to where you were living at the time?

11 A. In Plymouth, that's right, yeah.

12 Q. And you tell us that you told them about the sexual  
13 abuse and I think you also discussed your time in care?

14 A. Briefly. Well, I told them how I'd ended up in care.  
15 That's what I liked about the police officer, a female  
16 officer because I couldn't just talk about the sexual  
17 abuse. It was what had gone on before and what had led  
18 up to me running away from home and stuff like that, and  
19 self-harming and being taken into care. And it was  
20 transferred to Kilmarnock Police, who never got in touch  
21 with me once.

22 Q. And did you find out at the time -- you say Kilmarnock  
23 Police didn't get in touch with you at the time. Did  
24 you get any feedback from the police officer in  
25 Plymouth?

1 A. Yes, WDC Edwards came back to me and told me that they'd  
2 brought FLA ██████ in, but there wasn't any evidence.  
3 And that was -- never -- nothing else happened, as I  
4 said. Not once did they hear from -- I now know it was  
5 a James Kirkland that was dealing with it, but I didn't  
6 hear from him once. Never phoned me despite what he  
7 would say in later years, that he was in regular contact  
8 with me. That's complete nonsense.

9 Q. You have subsequently discovered, I think, that they  
10 didn't speak to any of the foster children?

11 A. Not at all. I mean, ██████ was waiting to be  
12 contacted. Kilmarnock -- I mean the investigation then  
13 was eventually ruled inadequate a few years ago. But  
14 Police Scotland didn't obtain my social work file.  
15 I would get that myself in 1997. They didn't interview  
16 'Alex', ██████ or ██████ the three foster children,  
17 didn't even approach them. Apparently, according to  
18 James Kirkland, he spoke with the FLB/FMX ██████ You know, so  
19 there was -- yeah, there wasn't any investigation,  
20 really. And he's -- I mean James Kirkland has lied  
21 completely. As has his colleague, Mary Kirkland.

22 Q. So they didn't speak to the FLB/FMX ██████ children --

23 A. No, they spoke to the FLB/FMX ██████ children, not the foster  
24 children.

25 Q. He didn't speak to the foster children?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. They didn't get your social work file?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And they didn't get your medical file either?

5 A. No, no, and they didn't speak with me.

6 Q. Okay. Because you'd only spoken to the police officer  
7 down in Plymouth?

8 A. Yeah, the female officer in Plymouth, yeah.

9 Q. And you have later had a finding that that investigation  
10 was inadequate?

11 A. After a lot of hard work and lots of lies and more  
12 deceit from Police Scotland, yes. It was eventually  
13 ruled inadequate and I got another apology to go with  
14 the one that I've got already.

15 Q. Okay. And then you tell us at paragraph 183 that you  
16 spoke again to the police. I think this was in Bristol?

17 A. Yes, that was in 2002.

18 Q. And you spoke again to a police officer there over  
19 a number of months?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. Giving a statement?

22 A. Yeah, WDC Tracey Sparrow, yeah. I mean she was lovely.  
23 She was very, very nice, very good. And then obviously  
24 she transferred it to Kilmarnock Police.

25 Q. And, again, did Kilmarnock Police do anything about it

1 as far as you were aware?

2 A. Well, it was Mary Kirkland who was then dealing with it.  
3 What I now know is -- I've just had another complaint  
4 upheld because I got a -- I managed to get the report  
5 last year that she submitted to the Crown Office in 2002  
6 where she totally misled the Crown Office Procurator  
7 Fiscal. She'd written that I'd got the social work file  
8 and then I'd gone to the media. I hadn't. I'd got the  
9 file in 1997 and I went to the media after discussions  
10 with Kilmarnock Social Services, which I've got proof  
11 of, who got in touch with Kilmarnock Police, who then  
12 advised me to get in touch with Bristol Police. And the  
13 report that she put into the Crown Office was totally  
14 misleading and I've now had that complaint upheld that  
15 she did mislead the Crown Office.

16 Q. And in the 2002 investigation, do you know if the foster  
17 children were spoken to --

18 A. Not at all, not at all.

19 Q. And I think you said in your evidence earlier that

20 [REDACTED] was spoken to at that time?

21 A. Yes, which I now know. I knew nothing about until last  
22 year. It was only when I got the report that she  
23 submitted to the Crown Office that I realised -- it was  
24 written in there how she'd interviewed [REDACTED]  
25 and then I got a copy of that statement where she

1 admitted, yeah, I did tell them when I was 14, but again  
2 they always knew that I was gay, you know, which I still  
3 find shocking.

4 Q. And we know from what you've already told us that

5 [REDACTED] died, I think he died in 2012?

6 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] died in 2012, a drug addict and alcoholic.  
7 Basically his heart exploded.

8 Q. And then we know that you've spoken to the police from  
9 your statement, you tell us you've spoken to them again  
10 more than once, I think?

11 A. I've been in touch with -- I mean, I was put in touch  
12 with a DCI Scott McCallum, can't remember if it was last  
13 year or the year before. Up until that point -- I mean,  
14 since Scott McCallum took over, it was like dealing with  
15 an entirely different organisation. Because the level  
16 of deceit and arrogance, which seemed to be  
17 a requirement for DCI and above, dealing with Somerville  
18 and John Hogg was just -- I'm still shocked by that.

19 And he admitted himself, the first thing he did was  
20 apologise and say, "It's quite clear you've been  
21 policing Police Scotland for the last five years", which  
22 is what it's felt like. It's been up to me to catch the  
23 police out when they've been lying to me and withholding  
24 information. And then I make a complaint through Park,  
25 I get it upheld and the officer involved gets put on

1 improvement action.

2 That's been the one consistent theme throughout.  
3 I think Police Scotland seem to think because I'm  
4 a survivor I'm somewhat lacking in capacity and they've  
5 been quite surprised at the level of awareness I do have  
6 about my own case. But just having to push, push, push  
7 the whole time is so draining.

8 But, yeah, Police Scotland have been awful. I don't  
9 have any problem with saying that.

10 Q. And I suppose you might say that had the police taken  
11 you seriously in --

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. -- when you went in when you were 18 --

14 A. This could have been sorted in the 1990s if they'd got  
15 the social work file. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

16 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

17 Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
18 But they didn't and they lied about it, and they  
19 said they were in constant contact with me, which is  
20 complete nonsense.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. And I actually asked about the two officers with the  
23 surname Kirkland who were in the same unit at Ayr  
24 Police. I asked DCI Alan Somerville, who couldn't even  
25 write a letter properly, if they were related. And what

1 I should have done is asked him if they were married,  
2 because he got back to me and said they weren't related,  
3 but I've now found a Jim and Mary Kirkland who live in  
4 a house together up there in the right sort of age group  
5 for retired police officers, but again that's something  
6 else I'm going to need to spend time doing.

7 Q. Now, Richard, as we know that you've given another  
8 statement to the Inquiry which we're not going to look  
9 at --

10 A. Sure.

11 Q. -- today, but just for the notes it's reference  
12 WIT.001.002.2507, and in that you provide further  
13 details of the various complaints that you've made --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- and all of the efforts that you have gone to in  
16 relation to the police and also in respect of complaints  
17 made, I think, against Hugh Quinn to the Local  
18 Authority?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So I'm not going to go into those today --

21 A. No, no.

22 Q. -- but those are included as part of your evidence to  
23 the Inquiry in general.

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. You also tell us in your statement about the impact that



1 your experiences in the FLB/FMX home have had on you,  
2 and again I'm not going to go through the detail --

3 A. Sure.

4 Q. -- of that, we have that in your statement, but I wonder  
5 if you can tell us -- I think you would say it's been  
6 a lasting impact?

7 A. It's been a life sentence. It still is. I mean,  
8 I still can't sleep with my partner, EZQ I have to  
9 sleep in a separate bed because of the nightmares that  
10 I have, the flashbacks, the complex PTSD that I suffer  
11 from. I mean, it's people like my partner -- and I've  
12 got some very good friends who are here today who have  
13 helped to save my life over the years. And my job, I'm  
14 very good at looking after other people. Just when it  
15 comes to myself, I haven't been as good.

16 But it's been a life sentence. It really has. It's  
17 affected everything and it continues to do so.

18 And things like the situation with Police Scotland  
19 have just exacerbated. It's made the sentence a lot  
20 worse. And Police Scotland have put me in some very  
21 dark places sometimes. Especially the two DCIs, Hogg  
22 and Somerville, who really -- you know. I mean,  
23 I nearly killed myself a few years ago. I actually  
24 booked into a hotel, paid cash, parked my car around the  
25 corner [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] That was purely because of DCI Alan Somerville and his treatment of me.

So yeah, I'm still paying for this. And that angers me. It angers me what I could be by now, you know, instead of just being a carer, because I had a good head on me as a little boy. Quite a high IQ. That's in the reports. But I left care without any qualifications and pretty screwed up.

Q. Okay. Now just dealing with that issue that you've just raised, we're going to go on to look at your comments about lessons that we should learn from your experience, if we go on, please, to page 50.

Before we look at what you say in the paragraphs there, you've been talking in your evidence there about the way in which Police Scotland, for example, have responded to you.

A. Yeah.

Q. What do you think that authorities should learn about how to deal with people who have suffered abuse and who report abuse?

A. I don't think I've got enough time today, to be honest. I mean, Police Scotland in particular, and the Crown Office to some degree as well. Police Scotland have been awful. They seem to have this notion that because

1       you're a victim of abuse, that you're -- you know,  
2       you're a survivor, that you're lacking in capacity and  
3       you get put -- I mean, you get pushed from pillar to  
4       post.

5             And the length of time. I mean, it took Police  
6       Scotland over a year to implement some of the  
7       recommendations from the Police Commissioner. I would  
8       send an email to DCI Somerville and I'd wait four months  
9       for him to reply to me, and then when he did reply, he  
10      couldn't even write a letter probably, he didn't even  
11      use spell check.

12            It's just that constant insult and just not seeming  
13      to want to help you. Perhaps they're thinking maybe  
14      he'll get fed up and let this go. And I'm not able to  
15      do that, you know, fortunately.

16            But the thing with organisations is it appeared --  
17      the same with the SSSC. The Scottish Social Services  
18      Council. They were so insulting in the correspondence.  
19      Maree Allison. She was so arrogant to me. And again it  
20      seemed as if they were protecting themselves. They  
21      don't want to get too involved in this because it's too  
22      complex. I know that.

23   Q. I think another thing that you might highlight is that  
24      there's no joined-up working --

25   A. No, not at all.

1 Q. -- between different organisations.

2 A. Yeah, the amount of work that I've had to put in, time  
3 spent having to -- I'll give you an example. When  
4 I came up in Scotland in 2015 to be interviewed about  
5 the sexual abuse, I had two female officers and one of  
6 them was extremely hostile to me. And I actually said  
7 to her at one point during the interview, "So is this  
8 good cop, bad cop?" and she said, "Yeah, we can be", and  
9 I was told afterwards the other officer would be my  
10 point of contact. Never heard from her again. That  
11 seemed to be the theme, different officers dealing with  
12 it and then having to -- when I made the complaints  
13 against Police Scotland with DCI Malloy, I had to resend  
14 everything again to her, and then when it went on to  
15 DCI Somerville I had to resend everything again to him  
16 that I'd already send to her. There was no effort to  
17 help me whatsoever.

18 Q. So even within an organisation --

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. -- you're having to repeat yourself?

21 A. Having to repeat everything, absolutely everything.

22 Q. Okay. Now if we can look, please, at page 50 of your  
23 statement, in this section you draw together some of the  
24 things that you've already told us about in your  
25 evidence.

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. So at paragraph 240 you talk about not being able to say  
3 anything at panels.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Not feeling safe.

6 A. Not at all, no.

7 Q. And Lady Smith asked you earlier to the effect what  
8 would have made you feel safe?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. And I think you said you'd have needed to have somebody  
11 that you knew wasn't going to feed back information to  
12 the **FLB/FMX**

13 A. Yeah, yeah. Or someone that made me feel safe and told  
14 me that I was going to be safe, and that was never the  
15 case.

16 Q. At paragraph 241, you refer to the various behaviours  
17 that were seen: stealing, running away, bed-wetting.

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. But you feel that you were seen as the problem.

20 A. Oh, I was, yeah. There was never any -- there didn't  
21 seem any acknowledgement: hang on, why has this young  
22 boy stopped -- we've taken him into care, why has he  
23 stopped wetting the bed, stopped stealing, why is he not  
24 running away? Let's send him back. There wasn't any  
25 link-up between my behaviour and the really -- the quite

1 big changes in my behaviour since I was taken into care.

2 Plus me constantly -- it was a constant request to  
3 Hugh Quinn that I want to go into care. Why would  
4 a young boy want -- why would any child want to be taken  
5 into care? That's because I was very unsafe where I was  
6 and I was being abused in every way possible.

7 Q. If we go over the page, please, to page 51 and  
8 paragraph 243, you mention that issue there, how it  
9 would be giving in to you to let you go into care --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- and you felt you had no input into decisions that  
12 were being made about you.

13 A. No, I didn't. It was all about pleasing **FLB/FMX**

14 **FLB/FMX** And then saying that I wouldn't leave  
15 the house until I'm 16. Yeah, there was never any --  
16 there was never any input from myself. Not any real  
17 genuine input. They weren't interested, including the  
18 social worker.

19 And I think it was a bit -- I mean, obviously they'd  
20 already been foster parents for Social Services.

21 I think it was a bit late for them to say, "Hang on,  
22 maybe we've got this completely wrong". They can't  
23 backtrack. They'd assisted the **FLB/FMX** in adopting me  
24 as well, so a bit difficult to then say, "Oh, hang on,  
25 we've got all of this completely wrong". I think there

1           was a degree of that. Including Quinn writing things  
2           like he'd spent an hour on the phone with Mrs [FMX] and  
3           she was rather befuddled. No, she was drunk. She  
4           wasn't befuddled. Things like that. There was  
5           a certain awareness of what was going on to a degree.

6   Q. You talk in your statement about there being too much  
7           familiarity.

8   A. Mm-hmm.

9   Q. You feel that they ended up siding with the [FLB/FMX] --

10   A. Very much.

11   Q. -- and you've talked about that relationship. At  
12           paragraph 245 you say:

13           "There needs to be a system of checks and balances.  
14           The same team of social workers shouldn't be involved  
15           with one family for too long."

16   A. Not for that length. I mean, Peter Murphy from 1964  
17           until 1980-something. Absolutely shocking. And the  
18           same with Peter Quinn. I could be wrong, but I think  
19           Quinn was just finishing off his training when he became  
20           involved with me and obviously he wrote his own notes  
21           but Peter Murphy countersigned every single page of  
22           Quinn's notes.

23   Q. You've talked about this issue of the social workers  
24           have placed you there or have helped with the adoption  
25           or they placed the foster children there.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And I think what you're highlighting is that there's  
3 then a danger for the social worker in not -- failing  
4 to -- well --

5 A. Well, they didn't --

6 Q. -- not wanting to admit they were wrong?

7 A. Yeah, they didn't send anybody independent outwith. It  
8 was Peter Murphy and Hugh Quinn, or Ian McLaughlin and  
9 Jim Gallagher. They were the main sort of social  
10 workers. They didn't send anyone at all. Children's  
11 Panel were obviously independent, but the situation  
12 never arose for me to have trust in them, you know.

13 Q. Okay. And you talked in your evidence about how it was  
14 always known that the social worker was coming, and you  
15 mentioned this at paragraph 246. Then in 247 you say  
16 that you think there needs to be unannounced visits by  
17 social workers and that would include going outwith  
18 office hours --

19 A. Very much, and weekends and night-time. Yeah, very  
20 much.

21 Q. And I think you said in your evidence earlier that if  
22 they had come at night, they would have seen --

23 A. It was an entirely different picture, yeah. Well,  
24 they'd have seen the truth.

25 Q. Okay. At paragraph 248 of your statement there you talk



1 about how you feel let down by the authorities that  
2 allowed you to remain or be adopted with the FLB/FMX --  
3 A. Very much, yeah.  
4 Q. -- and the subsequent issues that you faced.  
5 A. Very much, yeah. Well, I had -- I mean it shaped my  
6 life. I mean, even coming out as gay when I was 19,  
7 that was a horrible experience. And that's when  
8 I drinking started -- I always knew when I was growing  
9 up I would never touch alcohol. So to then end up  
10 becoming an alcoholic ... but when I came out,  
11 I couldn't let anybody even talk to me. I had no  
12 confidence. I used to walk constantly with my head  
13 down. And that's the impact it's had on me.  
14 Q. You say at paragraph 249 that you hope that this Inquiry  
15 gets the whole picture and goes some way to improving  
16 child protection.  
17 A. Mm.  
18 Q. And you say that you want to see social workers be held  
19 criminally responsible for failing to take action?  
20 A. I do, in situations like mine where Quinn acknowledges  
21 that I'm being abused and he -- I mean, he -- Quinn  
22 actually created an environment where people knew that  
23 if they abused me, then nothing would happen and he  
24 helped to create that by his -- or his lack of response.  
25 Including when I was taken into care and I was assaulted

1 and then he'd move the goalposts, you know. "Oh, they  
2 were young members of staff, they didn't know any  
3 better." That was after initially disbelieving me. And  
4 his response word for word was exactly the same to every  
5 allegation: "This could be open to misinterpretation,  
6 exaggeration or exploitation", on my part, "on the part  
7 of the child". Then he'd find out it was true and then  
8 he'd move the goalposts.

9 So situations like that where there's clear evidence  
10 that he knew I was being abused and he allowed it and  
11 assisted it at times.

12 Yeah, I do, very much.

13 Q. Apart from that issue, is there anything else that you  
14 think that is your hope for the Inquiry in terms of  
15 improving child protection?

16 A. I don't think -- you know, there's probably some but  
17 I can't remember it now. No, I mean I'm really shocked.  
18 Obviously I knew what happened to me as a little boy and  
19 then when I got the social work file with everything in  
20 black and white, all the allegations that I'd made and  
21 how they knew they were true and stuff like that. I was  
22 just -- I was shocked. I still am. I'm still shocked  
23 by what's written in that file. Especially in  
24 Hugh Quinn's notes, his 29 pages of progress notes,  
25 I mean, which is quite funny, really, because there

1           wasn't much progress. But I'm still shocked by what's  
2           in those documents.

3           Including the psychological reports, you know, that  
4           make it clear I was very clever. But yeah, I was -- but  
5           nothing was being done to help me with that. And  
6           everything was quite clearly my fault when I was  
7           a little boy. There was no -- I don't think there was  
8           any recognition at all of the trauma I'd been through  
9           just by the time I was two and a half. You know, my  
10          father had abandoned me twice, my mum had committed  
11          suicide, my grandmother had died, [REDACTED]

12          [REDACTED] There was no recognition at all of that,  
13          all the possible implications for me as a little boy.  
14          And for mum to kill herself and then for what happened  
15          afterwards, you couldn't make it up if you tried.

16        Q. These alone should, you might say, have resulted in you  
17          being given more care and support?

18        A. Yeah, very much, very much. Instead of ending up with  
19          an alcoholic adoptive mother and a violent father, yeah.

20        Q. Thank you very much, Richard.

21        A. Thank you.

22        Q. I don't have any more questions for you just now.

23          Obviously your statements are part of the evidence to  
24          the Inquiry, as I've said.

25        A. Okay, sure.

1 MS INNES: There are no applications, my Lady

2 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
3 questions of Richard?

4 Richard, that does complete all the questions we  
5 have for you.

6 First of all, I have one small question. Clarify  
7 this for me. When you say you wanted to be taken into  
8 care, are you talking about being taken into being cared  
9 for in an institution yes?

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: What you didn't want was another foster family?

12 A. Not at all, not at all.

13 LADY SMITH: I thought I'd got that right.

14 A. I mean there's one point that was brought out when I was  
15 in Cardross and that was by them saying that I seemed to  
16 at that time bring out the mothering instinct in all the  
17 female staff, but that's because I wasn't getting it  
18 from **FMX**

19 LADY SMITH: The other thing I want to say that struck me in  
20 this last little section of your evidence, you said you  
21 thought Police Scotland seemed to think that because  
22 you're a survivor, you're somewhat lacking in  
23 capacity --

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: -- and they've been quite surprised at the

1 level of awareness you have about your own case.

2 A. Very much, yes.

3 LADY SMITH: You may or may not appreciate this, but that is  
4 a picture that has been presented to me by other people  
5 in other situations, other people who, like you, are  
6 survivors, and I'm not necessarily talking about the  
7 police, but by authority.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 LADY SMITH: And I've seen it the other way, in one  
10 particular case study the other way around, when the  
11 authorities certainly were regarding those who were  
12 survivors as not being people who knew best what would  
13 work for them with a degree of paternalism or a failure  
14 or sometimes refusal to listen.

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 LADY SMITH: What the survivor was trying to tell them was  
17 just ignored.

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 LADY SMITH: So you put it very well, if I may say, that you  
20 think that because you were a survivor, they thought you  
21 were somewhat lacking in capacity.

22 Let me say this: it's quite clear you are not  
23 lacking in capacity and you do your homework and you  
24 have worked so hard at trying to ascertain what you can  
25 put forward as the facts that relate to you. I have

1 enormous respect for that, so thank you for all the hard  
2 work you've put in.

3 A. Thank you.

4 LADY SMITH: And thank you for coming forward and engaging  
5 with us. You've given us so much, both in writing and  
6 by coming here today to talk about some aspects of your  
7 written evidence. There's a wealth here and it's  
8 enhanced my learning and improved my understanding  
9 enormously.

10 A. Thank you.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed, and I'm now able to  
12 let you go and hopefully try and have a restful evening.

13 A. Yes. Thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 (The witness withdrew)

16 LADY SMITH: I see some new faces here this afternoon and  
17 it's for them or anybody else that's listening in that  
18 wasn't before the lunch break, although Richard,  
19 Richard Tracey's name can be used outside this room,  
20 other names, generally the **FLB/FMX** and their family,  
21 are covered by my general restriction order, as was  
22 **FLA** so they're not to be repeated.

23 Any queries or doubts, please speak to somebody from  
24 the Inquiry to check.

25 Now, that takes us to the plans for tomorrow,

1 Ms Innes.

2 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. We have three witnesses coming  
3 tomorrow to give evidence orally.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you. And we'll be starting at  
5 10 o'clock.

6 MS INNES: Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: We may or may not fit in read-ins. I think  
8 they're looking like quite full witnesses, if I remember  
9 rightly.

10 MS INNES: Yes. We may or may not fit in read-ins,  
11 depending on the time available.

12 LADY SMITH: We'll see what we can do. Very well. Thank  
13 you very much and I'll rise now until 10 o'clock  
14 tomorrow morning.

15 (4.02 pm)

16 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
17 on Thursday, 30 June 2022)

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1	'Alex' (sworn) .....	1
2	Questions from Ms Innes .....	2
3	'Carol' (sworn) .....	52
4	Questions from Ms Innes .....	53
5	Richard Tracey (sworn) .....	100
6	Questions from Ms Innes .....	102
7		
8		
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