

1

Friday, 1 July 2022

2

(10.00 am)

3

LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return this morning, as we

4

indicated yesterday, to some more oral evidence to

5

finish the week. The first witness I understand is

6

ready, Ms Innes?

7

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

8

As she explains in her statement, I think there are

9

some difficulties in finding records for the relevant

10

boarded-out time in Tiree. However, it does appear that

11

'Rose' was in the care of Glasgow Corporation,

12

subsequently Strathclyde Regional Council. The relevant

13

successor is, of course, Glasgow City Council.

14

She was boarded out to Tiree, possibly in 1966 --

15

but definitely from 1968 as she's found school records

16

from then -- until about [REDACTED] 1975.

17

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18

'Rose' (affirmed)

19

LADY SMITH: 'Rose', I just want to say a couple of things

20

before we start your evidence.

21

The red folder has the written version of your

22

statement in it that you signed. You'll be shown that

23

in a moment or two, but we're also going to put your

24

statement up on the screen and go to different parts of

25

it as you're being asked questions by Ms Innes.

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 LADY SMITH: But also, I want to tell you that I know what
3 we're asking you to do is difficult and I really want
4 you to understand that this is a place where it's okay
5 to be emotional if your emotions take you by surprise.
6 We're asking you as an adult to talk about difficult
7 things from your childhood. Please don't feel you need
8 to stand on ceremony. Do what you can to relax so that
9 then you can give better evidence. You don't have to be
10 anything other than yourself with me.

11 A. Okay. Thank you.

12 LADY SMITH: All right?

13 A. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: If you need a break, that's fine. If you just
15 want to pause when you're sitting there, it's fine. If
16 it works for you, it works for me, because it really
17 matters to me for you to be as comfortable as is
18 possible meeting the challenges of giving evidence in
19 public.

20 A. Okay.

21 LADY SMITH: Okay?

22 A. Yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and
24 she'll take it from there.

25 A. Okay, thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

2 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

3 Questions from Ms Innes

4 MS INNES: 'Rose', we understand that you were born in 1960?

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. If I can turn first of all to your statement, we give it
7 the reference WIT-1-000000929. If we can look, please,
8 at the final page of that. We see paragraph 99 there,
9 where it says:

10 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
11 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
12 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
13 true."

14 You signed that, I think, on 9 March of this year,
15 2022.

16 A. Yes, that's correct.

17 Q. Thank you. If we go back to the start of your
18 statement, at paragraph 2 you tell us a little about
19 your family and you talk about your parents and you say
20 that you have four full siblings.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So a sister who is older than you and then three younger
23 sisters; is that right?

24 A. Actually I have two older and two younger.

25 Q. Okay. So two are older and then two younger?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. One of my younger sisters passed away a long time ago.

4 Q. Okay. Was that when you were still a child or was

5 that --

6 A. No. I never knew her, because I never grew up with

7 them. So I was told by another sister that she had

8 passed away.

9 Q. Okay. So we'll come in a moment to what happened that

10 resulted in you being separated from your siblings.

11 You also say in this paragraph that in adult life

12 you discovered that you had a further six stepsisters.

13 A. Yes, that's correct.

14 Q. That's not something that you were aware of --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- as a child either?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You talk about living in a large house in Motherwell

19 above a pub, and then at paragraph 4 you say that you

20 can remember your parents having a massive argument.

21 A. Yes, that's correct.

22 Q. You remember, if we go over the page, you remember your

23 mother telling your father to leave and him doing that.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Then you say that you woke the next morning discovering

1 that they had both gone; is that right?

2 A. Yes, that's correct, yeah.

3 Q. Then you say that the next thing that you remember is

4 a social worker visiting you?

5 A. Yes. She was meant to take the three younger sisters,

6 myself and my two younger sisters, but instead she --

7 she took myself and my two older sisters into the

8 children's home, Lochgarry Children's Home.

9 Q. You say there that your younger sisters were left in the

10 house?

11 A. Yes. They were left in the house with this other ...

12 family that we lived with. I can't remember who this

13 other family were, whether they were my stepsisters, I'm

14 unsure of that.

15 Q. Okay. Then you tell us that you went to Lochgarry with

16 your two older sisters.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. After that point, when you were taken to Lochgarry, did

19 you see your younger sisters again --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- during your childhood?

22 A. No. Not at all, no.

23 Q. I think you tell us later in your statement that there

24 came a time that you were fostered and were your younger

25 sisters in that foster home?

1 A. Eventually when I was fostered back in Glasgow, I was
2 about 14 going on 15, all my sisters were there then --
3 Q. Okay.
4 A. -- and that was the first time I had seen them again.
5 Until that point, from the time I went to Tiree I had
6 totally forgotten I had siblings, because I never --
7 because when we were separated, I wasn't told anything
8 about them, where they were going or anything. I was
9 made to go to Tiree. I didn't want to go there. I was
10 made to go there.
11 LADY SMITH: 'Rose', it's really important we hear
12 everything you have to say. I wonder if we can get the
13 microphone a little bit nearer to you. Can you have
14 a go at pulling it forward?
15 A. There we go. Is that better?
16 LADY SMITH: That's coming over better. Thank you.
17 A. Okay.
18 MS INNES: You tell us in the paragraph that we can see in
19 your statement here, paragraph 9, that you can remember
20 being visited by a person called Mr Scott --
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. -- in Lochgarry. What did he tell you?
23 A. His -- what I can remember was he asked if I wanted to
24 leave the home and go to Tiree and I said no, because
25 I was with my children, sisters, but being a young

1 child, he bribed me and I said yes. And I went then.

2 Q. What did he bribe you with? What do you mean?

3 A. Sweets, books. I remember a little book, to this day

4 I still remember it, called Donald Quack Quack and that

5 was my favourite book then and that was how he managed

6 to bribe me.

7 Q. You say at paragraph 10 that you can remember a lady

8 coming to see you on the day that you left?

9 A. Yes. We went in an aeroplane. This lady came to get me

10 and we went on an aeroplane to Tiree. It was quite

11 a wintery day. When we landed there -- it's quite

12 a small plane as well. Loganair as it was then. We

13 landed on Tiree on a really windy day and a black car

14 came to take us to the farm where I eventually grew up

15 on.

16 Q. Were you on your own with this lady or --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- were there other children?

19 A. No.

20 Q. So --

21 A. By myself.

22 Q. By yourself, okay. You say that you think it was in the

23 [REDACTED] of 1966. If we go to the bottom of this page,

24 you say that you might be mistaken about the date

25 because I think you've tried to find when you were on

1 Tiree, but you had some difficulty in doing so?

2 A. Yeah, that's correct. When I eventually went back to
3 live in Glasgow, I tried to find evidence of me being on
4 Tiree for my own self, and we couldn't find any evidence
5 at all. We tried social workers and they said they
6 couldn't find anything of me ever being on Tiree. And
7 then a friend of mine recently found some -- a school
8 photograph of me being on Tiree in 1968.

9 LADY SMITH: 'Rose', I know from your statement that you'd
10 started school in Glasgow. Have you any idea from your
11 memory of how long you were at school in Glasgow before
12 you went off to Tiree?

13 A. I have no idea. I'm not sure at all.

14 LADY SMITH: I take it you've never come across any
15 records --

16 A. No.

17 LADY SMITH: -- of being at school in Glasgow?

18 A. Nothing at all.

19 LADY SMITH: Don't worry.

20 A. I have looked into it quite a few times and we still
21 can't find any evidence anywhere at all.

22 LADY SMITH: In the end of the day, we know you were boarded
23 out in Tiree for quite a number of years.

24 A. Yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: It may have been as much as nine years, it may

1 have been seven years.

2 A. Yeah.

3 LADY SMITH: But either way, it was a large part of your

4 childhood.

5 A. It was, yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

7 Ms Innes.

8 MS INNES: Thank you.

9 Over the page on page 4, at the top of the page, you

10 say you remained there until you were 14 in 1975?

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. At paragraph 12 you tell us about the people that you

13 went to live with, the ENR-SPO

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you remember meeting them for the first time?

16 A. They seemed really plenty people to start with. Maybe

17 that was because of the lady I was with at that time.

18 ENR was quite a large lady, grey haired.

19 was quite a tall slender gentleman and he seemed really

20 pleasant.

21 Q. You say there that you think that they would have been

22 in their 60s or 70s at the time?

23 A. At least that, yes. They weren't young, they weren't

24 young people at all.

25 Q. Were they a husband and wife?

1 A. Yes, they were, yes.

2 Q. If we go on to the next paragraph, you say there that
3 you were a boarded-out child on Tiree:
4 "I was not what I consider as fostered there."
5 Can you tell us about your reflections on that?

6 A. Boarded out, I've ... sorry. Can I have a drink?

7 Q. Yes. (Pause)

8 A. Boarded out on Tiree, I actually felt like I was a white
9 slave, the way I was treated. I didn't feel like I was
10 part of their family whatsoever. I had to be up early
11 in the morning to help on the farm. I had to do quite
12 a bit of cleaning up. Then there was two brothers
13 there, that I (unclear) doing hardly anything at all.
14 It was me that had to do all the work on Tiree in that
15 house.

16 Before going to school, I was -- I had to clean the
17 barn out, milk the cows by hand, and then come back and
18 have breakfast and then go to school. After school I'd
19 come back and do the same things all over again, do the
20 cleaning, clean out the coal fireplace, and basically
21 I didn't have much time at all to myself.

22 There were -- there were some good points, where I
23 would go and play with some animals sometimes, but
24 mainly it was like hard work all of the time I was
25 there. It was like I wasn't made to feel welcome there

1 at all. And the boys would always get me into trouble
2 and I'd always get beaten because of it.

3 ENR was not a nice person at all. -- to me,
4 was like -- he was too scared to speak up to
5 ENR. He would just agree with whatever she said. The
6 beatings I got, she would end up taking me into the
7 summer house, dragging me by my hair and pulling down my
8 pants and thrashing me with a leather strap on the bare
9 backside. Even if I didn't do anything, I kept saying
10 to her, "It wasn't me", but she wouldn't believe
11 anything I said. As far as she was concerned, I was the
12 liar because the boys were there long before me.

13 Sorry.

14 Q. It's okay. (Pause)

15 'Rose', I'm going to try and look at some of the
16 things that you've mentioned there, if that's okay.

17 A. That's fine.

18 Q. You mentioned there about a summer house, I think, and
19 a winter --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You tell us in your statement about a winter house.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. At the bottom of this page you're telling us about the
24 layout of the farm and so you say there was a big white
25 house at paragraph 15, which was referred to as the

1 winter house or the big house.

2 A. Yeah, the big house. There was like the upstairs, there

3 was the loft conversion, the boys' room and then my

4 room. Downstairs there was two bedrooms, a living room,

5 no -- three bedrooms, sorry, and a living room and

6 a bathroom at the back. We weren't allowed to use the

7 bathroom in the house. We had to use the outside

8 toilet. And at night-time we had to use what was called

9 a chantey.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Which is a potty under the bed, to go to the toilet.

12 Q. Did you stay in this house in the winter --

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. -- as the name suggests?

15 A. Yes.

16 And then in the summertime they would have people

17 over so they would stay in that house and we would end

18 up staying in the summer house as well.

19 Q. This summer house, you say it was next to a ruined

20 building not far away from the winter house?

21 A. Yeah, there was the big house, a ruined building and

22 then this -- and then the other house as well.

23 Q. In the summer house, you say that house had three

24 bedrooms in it?

25 A. Yes, that's correct.

1 Q. So one bedroom for the ENR-SPO one for the boys and
2 one for you --
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. -- is that right? Okay. And you say in your statement
5 there wasn't a toilet in that house at all?
6 A. No. Not at all, no. We had to use the outside toilet.
7 Q. And you say that none of the houses -- either house,
8 sorry, had electricity or gas?
9 A. Not at that time. We used to cook everything on a coal
10 fire. There was like an old-fashioned type of oven-type
11 thing, I can't remember what they're called. They run
12 on water on the fire, I'm not sure. But we used to
13 always put the pots on the fire to warm up and that.
14 Q. You have told us that there were two boys there, and
15 they're mentioned at paragraph 16. I think they were
16 brothers?
17 A. Yes, they were.
18 Q. Sorry?
19 A. Yeah, they were.
20 Q. They were quite a bit older than you?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. Were they still at school when you went there?
23 A. Yeah, they were.
24 Q. But at secondary school?
25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. You say that they had been boarded out I think as
2 well with the ENR-SPO or fostered by them?

3 A. Yeah, I was told they weren't their relatives, they were
4 fostered out there as well. Whether they were boarded
5 out I don't know, but they were there before I went
6 there.

7 Q. I think you mentioned in your evidence a moment ago that
8 they had been there for a while before you had got
9 there?

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. At paragraph 17 -- you've already alluded to this in
12 your evidence -- the boys had a completely different
13 relationship with the ENR-SPO than you had?

14 A. Yes. They were treated like family to them, but I never
15 was.

16 Q. You talk at paragraph 18 about friends that you had who
17 had a farm near to where you stayed.

18 A. Yeah, that's right.

19 Q. You talk about parents of two boarded-out children with
20 them at the time. Were the children friends of yours?

21 A. There was a girl there and her sister, and
22 FDG I became quite close to They had
23 another child who was their natural child, but
24 and FDG were fostered out to them as well, or
25 boarded out there as well.

1 Q. Okay, so there was this family who stayed nearby. There
2 were the parents, their own child and then these two
3 girls --
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. -- FDG [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. You say that over the years you became quite close to
8 the father of that family?
9 A. Yes. Yeah, he was -- he was more -- more like a father
10 to me because the way he treated me. He was really kind
11 all the time to me, not like ENR [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were.
12 I could actually go up to him and talk to him if
13 I wanted to, although I couldn't tell him what I went
14 through because I was -- I was told never to tell
15 anyone.
16 Q. Okay. Then over the page you cover there some of the
17 things that we've already talked about. We are going to
18 come back to the work that you did in a moment.
19 You talk about the sleeping arrangements in the
20 house. You say at paragraph 21 that there would be
21 people that would come in the winter house and would
22 stay there during the summertime, and that's when you
23 would move to the summer house.
24 A. Yeah.
25 Q. You say that you later found out in adult life that it

1 was in fact their biological children that were visiting
2 them?

3 A. Yeah, I actually found out -- I went -- when I moved to
4 Glasgow, I went on a [REDACTED] to
5 see if I could find [REDACTED] because I was quite close to
6 her growing up, and that was when I found out that --
7 that -- it was actually some people [REDACTED] that
8 knew me by my other name and they said that they were
9 actually their family that used to come and stay there
10 on Tiree in the summertime, because I didn't know if
11 they actually were relatives or not until I spoke to
12 them [REDACTED]

13 Q. Okay. We'll come back again to talk about that [REDACTED]
14 a little bit later on, but that was the means that you
15 found out that --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- these people that were visiting were in fact the
18 children of the ENR-SPO [REDACTED]?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. At the bottom of this page you talk about washing and
21 bathing and you say that there was an old bath, which
22 would be put in front of the coal fire in the living
23 room in the winter house.

24 A. Yeah, that's right. It was like a big tub bath thing
25 and they didn't -- they wouldn't allow us to use the

1 bath in the house, so I had to wash in this tub thing in
2 front of the coal fire all the time. And I didn't feel
3 comfortable as I was getting older because of the boys
4 being there. Eventually I wouldn't bathe in front of
5 them, I refused to.

6 Q. Okay. Over the page, if we can look at the heading,
7 "Work and chores", so paragraph 24, and you've talked
8 about a few of the things that you had to do already.

9 You say every day before school and at the weekends
10 in the mornings you had to bring in the cattle and milk
11 all the cows by hand.

12 A. Yeah, that's correct, yes.

13 Q. Did you have to do that from the start of the time that
14 you went there or was that something --

15 A. I think that was ... not the first few weeks, I was
16 there just to settle in, and then afterwards I was made
17 to get up early and start all my chores after that.

18 Q. Okay. I mean roughly how many cows are we talking
19 about?

20 A. Not -- not that many, about six or something.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. ENR would help as well, and I would -- first of all,
23 she would show me what to do and then I would carry on
24 doing it as well.

25 Q. Over the time that you lived there, did she always help

1 with those things or --

2 A. No.

3 Q. So once she'd showed you what to do, you would do it?

4 A. She would leave me to get on with it myself.

5 Q. Then you say that you would have to clean the barns out,

6 collect eggs, feed chickens and feed the sheep as well.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Again, just to give us a sense of this, how many sheep

9 roughly are we talking about?

10 A. I've no idea. It's quite a large farm, so we used to

11 just throw out the sheep feed and all the sheep would

12 come running down.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Because they actually had two farms, one close by and

15 another one in [REDACTED] which was a little bit

16 further away.

17 Q. Did you have to go to the farm at [REDACTED] to do work

18 as well?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. [REDACTED] would drive in the tractor up there to bring the

22 sheep back from there. Then at summertime we would walk

23 up there and bring them back because it was nice

24 weather, but in the wintertime [REDACTED] would drive the

25 tractor.

1 Q. Okay. You also say in this paragraph that you had to do
2 work in the evenings and at the weekends in the house.

3 A. Yes.

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

5 A. They had wooden floors and I would have to scrub the
6 wooden floors by hand with a scrubbing brush. And clean
7 the rest of the house. I'd make their beds up as well.

8 ENR was the one who would cook all of the meals,
9 I didn't have to do that, she did that, and I would do
10 the washing up and everything else. And I'd clean the
11 coal fire out every day as well.

12 Q. You also say that you did most of the washing?

13 A. Yes. We had an old washing machine with a big washer in
14 the centre of it and we'd do the washing in that, and
15 then the wringer, you would actually put the clothes in
16 the wringer and wring it through that way to get the
17 rest of the water out. And then we'd hang the washing
18 up on the line.

19 Q. Did ENR do any of these chores about the house as
20 well?

21 A. ENR would help sometimes with the washing. Other
22 times I was left to do it myself.

23 Q. What about if they had guests there over the summer, as
24 you've mentioned? Would you have to do washing for
25 them?

1 A. No. Not at all. When the guests were there, we weren't
2 allowed anywhere near the big house at all.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. We had to stay away from there. Well, I did, anyway.
5 What about the boys I'm not sure about, but I wasn't
6 allowed in.

7 Q. What about the boys? Did they have to do or help with
8 any of the chores about the house?

9 A. Not in the house, no. Not at all.

10 Q. Did they --

11 A. The boys would help on the farm. That was it. I was
12 the one who did all the work in the house.

13 Q. What sort of things did the boys do on the farm?

14 A. They would go with [REDACTED] to do whatever chores [REDACTED] was
15 doing. They used to collect in the hay and the potatoes
16 and all of the vegetables, because they grew their own
17 vegetables as well there.

18 Q. Okay. Would they have anything to do with the
19 livestock, because you've mentioned milking the cows in
20 the morning, feeding the sheep.

21 A. Not the cows, no. They used to go and collect in the
22 cattle and sheep from [REDACTED] After that, I never
23 saw the boys again.

24 Q. Once they had done that sort of thing, do you know if
25 they went to their room or did they go to see friends

1 or --

2 A. They would go with [REDACTED] wherever [REDACTED] went they would
3 go with him.

4 Q. If we go on over the page, please, to page 8, at
5 paragraph 27 you say there that you can't remember
6 having any personal possessions or things like toys of
7 your own.

8 A. No.

9 Q. Or any books or anything?

10 A. I didn't have anything like that at all. I had to make
11 my own stuff if I wanted anything.

12 Q. Okay. You say, I think, one of the boys was always
13 coming into your room and breaking things.

14 A. Yes. The bedroom door would have like a latch on it,
15 that was the only way to open and close it, and there
16 was two little holes that I kept blocking up and [REDACTED]
17 would keep unblocking them and watching me in my
18 bedroom. I'd have to try and find ways to hide so -- to
19 stop him from watching me, but he kept finding ways of
20 peeping in. Every time I blocked up the holes, he'd
21 find ways of unblocking these holes again.

22 And he'd come into the bedroom when I'm not there.

23 If I made something, I knew it was him because his
24 brother wasn't like that, his brother was quieter than
25 him, so I knew it was him that was doing it all the

1 time.

2 LADY SMITH: You said a few moments ago, 'Rose', that if you

3 wanted anything you had to make your own stuff.

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: What did you make?

6 A. I used to make little cardboard toys and things to play

7 with. Or I'd use pillows and just -- I wasn't supposed

8 to tear the pillows apart but I did, just to make

9 something to play with.

10 LADY SMITH: Where did you get the cardboard?

11 A. I used to take it from the outhouse it was called then.

12 If anything came, like any shopping came, I would take

13 it out of the outhouse, I'd actually sneak it in,

14 because I wasn't allowed it so I'd sneak it in, into the

15 bedroom.

16 LADY SMITH: You still had your imagination --

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: -- they couldn't take that away from you.

19 A. Yeah, I still had that.

20 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

21 MS INNES: You then go on to talk about being at school, and

22 I think you then talk about the friends that you've

23 mentioned already, that sometimes you would walk to

24 school with them.

25 A. Yeah, that's correct.

1 Q. Apart from these girls, were there other boarded-out
2 children at the school, can you remember?

3 A. I'm not sure at all. I can't remember.

4 Q. Over the page at page 9, at "Leisure time" you say that
5 you think you had more time at the weekends to do
6 things, but you --

7 A. Sometimes at the weekends I had more time. I used to go
8 to the beach with [REDACTED]. He would take me down to the
9 beach. We weren't allowed to go by ourselves, but the
10 odd time I'd actually sneak away and go to the beach on
11 my own just to get away from the boys. I wasn't allowed
12 to, but at that time I didn't care. I wanted to get
13 away. I wanted to have some me time. I used to go to
14 the beach and collect shells and seaweed, because I used
15 to eat this seaweed, which was nice.

16 And I used to play -- at the back of the house was
17 called a machair, and we used to walk across that to get
18 to the beach as well.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Also, we used to -- at the back of the house, it was
21 like a steep hill and the little burn at the bottom of
22 it where we used to catch eels, we used to get empty
23 tins and try and catch eels in the tins. So we did have
24 some time, the boys and I, but not very often. They
25 were more wanted to play with themselves rather than me,

1 so I'd just make time for me sometimes and go off and --
2 and do my own thing.

3 I remember one time we made a dare and at the bottom
4 of the hill was a lot of rushes, bulrushes, and I didn't
5 know there was a lot of bees in it. So I'm playing
6 roly-poly down this hill and I got stung by the bees,
7 which I wasn't too happy at.

8 And then the odd time we'd try and learn -- teach me
9 how to cycle, so I'd go on the top of the hill and then
10 sit on the bike and try and ride this bike down this
11 hill, but no avail, I couldn't do it.

12 Q. Were you able to spend some time with your friend [REDACTED]
13 that you've mentioned?

14 A. Yes. I used to go to their farm where [REDACTED] was and
15 I'd spend time with her and another girl called [REDACTED]
16 there I was quite close to, and [REDACTED]'s parents. So
17 I used to spend time there. They had horses on their
18 farm there as well, which I liked.

19 Q. If we go over the page, at paragraph 33 you mentioned
20 that you were never taken away on any trips or holidays.

21 A. No, not at all.

22 Q. You say that you remember being taken to [REDACTED] to
23 visit a friend of Mrs ENR [REDACTED]?

24 A. Yes, that's correct.

25 Q. That was a visit for a cup of tea?

1 A. Yes. I actually found out in later life that she was
2 actually her sister.

3 Q. I see.

4 A. I didn't find that out until much later on.

5 Q. Okay. Then you tell us at paragraph 34 about your
6 birthday and you say that you were always told that your
7 birthday was on a particular date?

8 A. Yeah, I was always told that my birthday was on
9 [REDACTED] for some reason, and then when I went to
10 secondary school they actually told me that my birthday
11 was on [REDACTED], so I asked, "How come?" and apparently
12 I was christened on [REDACTED]. Looking back at my birth
13 certificate, it is on my -- my birthday is on [REDACTED]
14 and I was actually christened on [REDACTED], and they've
15 obviously mistaken that.

16 Q. Okay. You say that your birthdays weren't really
17 celebrated --

18 A. Not at all, no.

19 Q. And you'd receive 25p extra pocket money on your
20 birthday?

21 A. Yeah, that was it. And I didn't get it until -- until
22 the end of the week. I'd always get it at the end of
23 the week, but I wasn't allowed to spend it until I'd
24 accumulated a certain amount and then I could go up to
25 the farm shop and buy whatever. I used to always buy

1 sweets up there.

2 Q. In terms of contact with your family, you've already

3 told us that during the time that you were on Tiree you

4 had no contact whatsoever with your younger sisters.

5 You tell us here at paragraph 35 that you didn't hear

6 from your mum or dad?

7 A. No, not at all. I never heard from anyone at all, so

8 I just assumed I didn't have any.

9 Q. Okay. Then you say that your sister, your older sister,

10 I think?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Arrived after she turned 16?

13 A. Yeah. She came to visit me and told me she was my older

14 sister and that they had been looking for me, and I said

15 to her, "Why has it taken you so long to find me then?"

16 and I can't remember what she actually said. But she

17 came to visit me for two weeks.

18 Q. Do you know where she had been living? Had she been

19 living with your other sisters or --

20 A. Yes, she had been. She'd been fostered out with the

21 rest of my older and younger sisters in the same family.

22 Q. Okay. So you said earlier in your evidence that when

23 you were taken away from the family home to go to

24 Lochgarry, you and your older sisters went there and the

25 two younger ones remained with the family.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But what you then discovered was that the rest of your
3 sisters had ended up in a fostering placement together?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay. Did your older sister -- you say she stayed for
6 a few weeks that summer?

7 A. That's correct, yeah.

8 Q. During that time, you felt that Mrs ENR s
9 attitude changed towards you?

10 A. Yes. She couldn't be more pleasant to me while [REDACTED]
11 was there. Although [REDACTED] could actually see through
12 her, I couldn't. [REDACTED] had -- [REDACTED] has slight learning
13 difficulties as well and when she came to visit me,
14 ENR couldn't have been any nicer. She was helping me
15 do everything, letting me spend time with my sister as
16 well, which was nice. Even though I didn't know [REDACTED]
17 it was nice to actually have another female that I could
18 talk to.

19 Q. Okay. We'll come back again later in your evidence
20 to --

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. -- that time with [REDACTED]

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. At the top of page 11, please, paragraph 36 you say that
25 you never saw any social workers during your time?

1 A. Not one, no. Not at all.

2 Q. You say that you think Mr Scott was supposed to come and
3 visit you? Why did you think that?

4 A. When I first went to Tiree, I was told that I would be
5 getting someone to come and visit me on a regular basis,
6 but no one ever did come. If they did come, I wasn't
7 there at the time.

8 Q. Then you talked about health issues and you remember
9 going to Glasgow to see doctors in a hospital there.

10 A. I was always a poorly child. Growing up I always had
11 sinus problems growing up, and I still had up until
12 about ten years ago when I eventually had to have
13 operations done. But growing up I was always poorly.

14 Q. You tell us at paragraph 38 about a time that you had
15 the mumps.

16 A. Yeah. I was just about to start secondary school at
17 that time and I felt quite unwell. My neck was so badly
18 swollen I couldn't move. I could hardly walk. And
19 I was made to go into this -- the summer house and
20 I ended up staying in bed for quite a few weeks there
21 because I just felt so ill with the mumps.

22 Q. You say that Mrs ENR would only come and see you
23 at meal times?

24 A. Yes, that's correct.

25 Q. You can't remember her asking you how you were or

1 anything?

2 A. No, not at all.

3 Q. Then if we go over the page, please, to page 12 and to

4 paragraph 42, you mentioned already that you had to use

5 the outside toilet because you weren't allowed to use

6 the inside toilet.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And I think that applied to the boys as well.

9 A. It did, yeah.

10 Q. You say that sometimes you would wet the bed and if you

11 did so, what was Mrs ENR reaction?

12 A. I'd get a thrashing for it and she would ask me why and

13 I said I couldn't wait to go to the outside toilet.

14 Whatever I did wrong, I'd get a thrashing for by

15 her.

16 Q. You go on to tell us about that in the next section, so

17 at paragraph 43 you say you had such a strict upbringing

18 in Tiree, you hated it there and that a lot happened

19 there but many things you've blocked out, you think.

20 A. Yeah. When I eventually came to -- I blocked everything

21 out until my divorce and then all of a sudden all my

22 childhood came flooding back, because I'd blocked it out

23 all that much. It was my way of being safe, I suppose.

24 Q. Okay. You go on over the page to tell us about some of

25 the things that happened to you. You've already said

1 that Mr [REDACTED] didn't stand up to her and it appeared
2 that he was scared of Mrs [REDACTED] ENR
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. You say that Mrs [REDACTED] ENR would thrash you with a strap
5 made of leather.
6 A. Yes, that's correct.
7 Q. What kind of strap was it, was it like a belt that would
8 have been used in school, like a tawse or --
9 A. No, the strap had -- there was like three prongs on it.
10 It was a strap I hadn't seen before and it was quite
11 a thick strap as well. I don't know where she got it
12 from, but she was quite handy with it, regularly.
13 Q. And you --
14 A. It was always ... she would always take me into the
15 summer house away from everyone else so they wouldn't
16 hear me screaming.
17 Q. You talk at paragraph 45 about being dragged there by
18 the hair.
19 A. Yeah.
20 Q. You go on at paragraph 46 to say that it was mainly the
21 belt that she used, and I think you've already said in
22 your evidence that she would always pull your pants down
23 before thrashing the belt across --
24 A. Yeah, that's correct.
25 Q. You say there that she would hit you multiple times with

1 the belt on each occasion?

2 A. Yes. Not just once but quite a few times with the belt.

3 Four or five, six times. Even if I kept saying, "Stop,

4 stop", she just wouldn't stop. In the end I just

5 accepted it.

6 Q. Did this carry on for the whole time that you lived

7 there?

8 A. Yes, yes.

9 Q. Did you have injuries as a result of these beatings?

10 A. Just bruising, that was all.

11 Q. At paragraph 47 --

12 A. She was -- she was -- she made sure that the thrashings

13 I got were never seen.

14 Q. Okay. At paragraph 47, you say that the reasons that

15 were perhaps given for what she was doing and what were

16 those?

17 A. One was bed-wetting that I did. I didn't wet the bed

18 very often, it was once in a blue moon, but because

19 sometimes [REDACTED] wouldn't let me out to empty the chantee

20 so I could use it again. And other times if I didn't do

21 the house chores I'd get a thrashing for that.

22 To this day ... sorry. (Pause)

23 To this day in work I'm really strict on myself, I'm

24 really hard on myself in work, making sure that

25 everything is done correctly.

1 One of the managers and I are quite close in work
2 and I've told her everything about my childhood and
3 everything, and I've told her if I don't do my work
4 properly, I've always -- I've become so like robot like
5 in work. I have to have everything to perfection in
6 work. When I've -- I mean she's always said to me,
7 "I won't ever tell you off, because you do such a good
8 job". I said, "I know, but that's my upbringing, it's
9 the way I've always been and I can't change that now".
10 Because I'm always -- in the background, I'm always
11 scared.

12 Q. Okay. You've already told us that sometimes you would
13 get beaten because the boys would pass blame to you
14 essentially for things that you hadn't done.

15 A. Yeah. If anything went wrong, if the boys broke
16 anything, if the boys told a lie, I'd get blamed for it
17 continuously all the time and I used to always say to
18 ENR "It wasn't me, it was [REDACTED]", and she wouldn't
19 listen to me. She kept saying, "No, it was you".

20 Q. Okay. That's a section of your statement where you deal
21 with the way ENR behaved towards you. I think there
22 are maybe other things that happened that aren't in your
23 statement. I don't know whether you want to say
24 anything more about anything else that happened to you
25 that ENR did.

1 A. (Pause)

2 ENR wasn't a nice person at all. I came to that
3 conclusion a long, long time ago. Any opportunity she'd
4 get, she'd tell me off. She didn't -- it's as if she
5 didn't like me. Don't know why. But it was as if
6 I wasn't there to be part of the family. It's as if
7 I was there to be her slave.

8 And she was always handy with her hands as well.
9 She'd slap me about as well. If I didn't say or do
10 anything to her correction. I just -- I hated it there.
11 I wanted to get away and I couldn't. I couldn't tell
12 anyone what was going on, because I was scared.

13 Q. If we can go on over the page, please, you talk in this
14 section about one of the boys, ENR who lived in the
15 house, and you've already mentioned -- you've already
16 told us about what's covered -- well, part of what's
17 covered in paragraph 48, that he used to watch you
18 through the holes in the door of your room.

19 A. (Witness nods)

20 Q. And then you say that he did other things to you. Do
21 you feel able to talk about those things?

22 A. Okay. One night -- ENR and ENR used to go and
23 visit -- Mrs ENR, her name was, at the other end of
24 Tiree, and every time they went there ENR would always
25 rape me. It started -- the very first time started, he

1 came into the bedroom and told me to undress and I told
2 him, "No, I'm not doing that", and he kept pushing me to
3 undress, I said no and then he'd slap me and in the end
4 I did. And then he got me on the bed and then -- and
5 then raped me. He penetrated inside me and I was
6 bleeding as well afterwards. And then he -- he would
7 just get off and leave. This happened quite regularly.
8 Every time ENR and [REDACTED] were away, he would take
9 every opportunity.

10 He also had had a friend named [REDACTED] who got
11 involved as well. [REDACTED] was a small, fat boy and
12 because I -- this happened outside the farm on hard
13 concrete, [REDACTED] grabbed me, banged my head on the
14 concrete, and because I was trying to get away, he
15 eventually kept banging me on the concrete and then
16 raped me as well.

17 The brother, [REDACTED] didn't want to get involved, at
18 all. He only raped me the once. And he didn't feel
19 comfortable after that. But it was always [REDACTED].

20 Q. Were you able to tell anyone --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- what was happening with the boys?

23 A. No. [REDACTED] told me never to tell anyone, otherwise I'd
24 get a thrashing off them. And because of the thrashings
25 off ENR [REDACTED] I couldn't take any more thrashings again.

1 So I didn't tell anyone. I kept it to myself until
2 [REDACTED] came to visit me. And I eventually told [REDACTED]
3 what was going on. [REDACTED] told me to -- because I said
4 to [REDACTED] I couldn't tell anyone, otherwise I'd get
5 beaten again, and so [REDACTED] said to me, "Why don't you
6 steal something then?" And I told her, "I can't steal
7 anything, I've never stolen anything in my life", and
8 then this one time I went to Mrs [REDACTED]'s and I did
9 steal a watch so I could get off Tiree, but [REDACTED] found
10 the watch, took it out of my bedroom and hid the watch,
11 and then the policeman -- there was a policeman got
12 involved, where he came from I couldn't tell you, and he
13 gave me two weeks to find this watch, otherwise I'd be
14 banned off Tiree and that was how I -- I managed to get
15 off Tiree, because I couldn't find the watch and I got
16 banned off Tiree.

17 Q. You tell us about that in the section of your statement
18 beginning on page 16 and going on to page 17. You say
19 at paragraph 60 that you did search for the watch.

20 A. Yeah, I did, yes. I searched all of my bedroom and
21 couldn't find the watch anywhere at all. I knew [REDACTED]
22 had took it because he was acting strangely about it, so
23 I knew he'd taken it, and he wouldn't tell me where it
24 was.

25 Q. What do you remember about being taken away from Tiree?

1 A. I remember leaving in a car, being driven to the
2 airport, and then I went into another remand home
3 because of it, but because of all the trauma I can't
4 remember the remand home, where it was or how long I was
5 there for.

6 Q. Can you remember how you felt about leaving Tiree?

7 A. I was glad. I couldn't wait to leave. Because I wanted
8 the rapes and the beatings to stop.

9 Q. Then you tell us in your statement that you went to the
10 remand home that you tell us -- that you've just
11 mentioned -- and then I think you went to the foster
12 placement in which your sisters were living.

13 A. Yeah, that's right.

14 Q. Okay. If we can move on, please, to page 20, you then
15 remained there I think until you became an adult and you
16 left there?

17 A. Yeah, I did do, yeah.

18 Q. Then you talk about some of your life after care. If
19 I can move on, please, to page 22 and to the impact that
20 your experiences have had on you, and I want to deal
21 with a couple of issues that you raise.

22 One of the things that you mention is at
23 paragraph 82, where you say that you struggle with
24 relationships.

25 A. Yeah. I have a problem with relationships, trust

1 issues, and if anyone gets close to me I push that
2 person away because I don't know how to handle it. Not
3 being shown love or affection, I can't handle that.

4 Q. You then say that that's also affected your relationship
5 with your family and your children?

6 A. Yeah. My daughter and I have been chatting quite some
7 time now and I've -- and I feel I'm not close to my
8 children because of my upbringing, because I don't know
9 how to ... I don't know how to love anyone because I've
10 not been shown it. I mean I tell my children I love
11 them every time I speak to them and I give them a hug,
12 but that's me, that's the way I feel. Not from -- from
13 the way I was brought up. That's just me as a person.
14 I'm a very huggable person. I like to hug, hug friends
15 and tell them I love them and that, and that's just me.
16 Even though I've had a really crappy childhood, I have,
17 out of it, become a really strong, stubborn person and
18 I've gone through a lot.

19 I feel like I'm not strong, but I am. But that's
20 just the way I am. I don't feel I'm a good-looking
21 person because of the way I was brought up and because
22 of past relationships. After my divorce I ended up
23 having two bad relationships, verbally abusive ones.
24 And with that I don't think I'm good-looking, I don't
25 think I'm a strong character. But a lot of people tell

1 me I am strong, but I don't feel that.

2 I've had to go through an awful lot of counselling.

3 I had to go through two parts of counselling.

4 The first part was to deal with the ... the rapes

5 and the beatings.

6 The second part of the counselling was to deal with

7 the child within. Because I was never allowed to be

8 a child growing up, I had to let that -- I had to learn

9 how to love that child within and let her grow up.

10 I'm now having to go back to another type of

11 counselling. The other type of counselling is to help

12 me because I've no confidence in myself, so ... sorry.

13 Q. It's okay. (Pause)

14 A. So this new type of counselling is to help me get

15 confidence in myself, help me to have -- to have

16 self-esteem, because I have low self-esteem of myself as

17 well. So I'm hoping that this new counselling will help

18 me. I'm still on the waiting list for that to start.

19 Q. Another thing that you've told us about is the

20 separation of you and your sisters. I don't know if you

21 feel able to tell us about the impact that that has had

22 on your relationship with them.

23 A. When I left Scotland to come to England, I left on bad

24 terms with my sisters because I never grew up with them,

25 we weren't close. And the first seven years we never

1 spoke. None of them would ever contact me. And from
2 then until now I've been trying to patch up, trying to
3 make ... trying to make us close again. But it's as if
4 I'm wasting my time. They don't contact me unless
5 I contact them. So this year I've decided I'm not
6 putting myself out anymore, I'm now going to start
7 looking at me and me only and thinking about myself. If
8 they don't want to know me, then it's their loss,
9 because as far as I'm concerned I'm a good person,
10 I enjoy life, I like to have a laugh and go out and have
11 fun with my friends here and they don't want to be
12 a part of my life.

13 At one point I was considering about leaving England
14 and moving back to Scotland to see if that would work to
15 try and get close to them, but thinking long term,
16 I think I -- I think I'm -- I'll always be the black
17 sheep of the family. I think I'll end up having the
18 same problems up there if I moved up, so I don't see the
19 point in moving back up to Scotland again.

20 Q. Moving on to page 24 of your statement, there's
21 a heading there, "Researching [REDACTED], and
22 you've talked about that already, so paragraph 88. You
23 say that you've gone onto this [REDACTED] I think, to see if
24 you could find your friend [REDACTED]

25 A. Yeah, there's a [REDACTED], and

1 [REDACTED] and I was trying to look for
2 a friend called [REDACTED] and then [REDACTED] and
3 [REDACTED] contacted me [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] asked me
4 wasn't I so-and-so. I went, "Yes, I was back then", and
5 then [REDACTED] put a sentence up saying, "When you come over
6 it would be nice to catch up", and I just said,
7 "Really?" And then [REDACTED] because I've --
8 I've since found out that everyone on [REDACTED] is very
9 cliquy with each other, and because of what's gone on
10 now, I won't go back [REDACTED] now.

11 Q. Over the page at page 25 you tell us at paragraph 90
12 that you felt strong enough to contact the police about
13 what had happened to you and you did that in June 2020.

14 A. Yeah. After all my counselling I went through, I felt
15 strong enough to report historical rape. So I was
16 interviewed for that. I hadn't heard anything.
17 I actually called a victim support officer to contact me
18 and we've been in touch all through the process. And
19 then she tells me one of the lads, [REDACTED] he can't be
20 interviewed because he's ended up in a nursing home with
21 dementia and had a stroke, so they couldn't interview
22 him.

23 [REDACTED] was interviewed, I don't know the outcome of
24 that.

25 And then [REDACTED] was interviewed as well and because

1 he kept saying, "No comment, no comment", they can't
2 prosecute him.

3 So when the victim support officer contacted me and
4 said that the case will now be closed, I just broke down
5 in tears. I felt devastated because I felt like I'd ...
6 done all that for nothing. Because I wanted to get
7 justice for what I went through and I won't ever get
8 justice now.

9 Q. You also say in your statement that you contacted the
10 police in June 2020, and I think that in December 2021
11 you were told that your case was on hold and then
12 obviously before you signed this statement in March of
13 this year you were told that they weren't taking matters
14 further.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. How did the time taken to carry out the investigation
17 affect you?

18 A. They kept telling me the reason why it was taking so
19 long was because of the problems with COP26 going on.
20 I wasn't too happy about it taking such a long time,
21 I just wanted to get it over with because I was --
22 I felt like I was in limbo all the time, not knowing
23 what's going on, and then eventually when I did find
24 out, I felt like it was a waste of time, because
25 nothing's going to be done about it.

1 Q. At paragraph 92 you tell us what you found out about the
2 girls that you mentioned, [REDACTED] and FDG [REDACTED]. You say
3 that no one knows where [REDACTED] is now, but I think you
4 had made contact with FDG [REDACTED]. Is that right?

5 A. I had made contact with FDG [REDACTED] before FDG [REDACTED]
6 passed away. [REDACTED] I've managed to get contact with as
7 well, but now [REDACTED] has just decided to stop talking
8 for her own reasons, I'm not sure why.

9 Both of them live in Scotland. FDG [REDACTED] had
10 a prosecution going ahead as well and she didn't see the
11 results of that because she passed away with lung
12 cancer.

13 Q. You tell us about that I think at the top of page 26 of
14 your statement. I'm not going to show it to you, but
15 for our notes, we have a copy of the conviction of
16 Iain McKinnon at JUS-000000110, my Lady.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS INNES: You then go on to talk at paragraph 94 about the
19 difficulties that you had in finding any records of your
20 time in Tiree. Do you have any reflections on that lack
21 of information?

22 A. I don't understand why -- why records have got lost.
23 You would think that there would be records around
24 somewhere to prove that I was on Tiree. It's as if
25 I didn't exist at all. It's as if part of my life has

1 just vanished. Even although I know I was there,
2 I can't prove to anyone else that I was there because we
3 can't find any records anywhere.

4 Q. What impact does that have on you?

5 A. Like I don't exist.

6 Q. You then go on in the next section of your statement to
7 talk about lessons learned and hopes for the Inquiry.
8 You talk about a lot of things coming out now about what
9 happened on Tiree and you say back in the 1960s no one
10 was listening to children who were in care, and is that
11 your experience?

12 A. Yes, it is. When you foster out someone or boarded out
13 someone, as far as I'm aware, you should always stay in
14 contact with that person. You should always check the
15 background of the people beforehand and get to know
16 a bit about them, what they're like, and make sure that
17 the person who is boarded out or fostered out, make sure
18 that they're happy staying where they are. You should
19 always be in contact with them.

20 I didn't have any of that. I was just left in
21 limbo. I had no one to talk to, no one to confide in.
22 No one came to see me at all. It was as if I was
23 just -- just a number and dropped off and left to get on
24 with it. Which isn't right, as far as I'm concerned.
25 No child should be left like that.

1 Q. You mentioned checks of the people that you're living
2 with, and from your experience, would that include other
3 children that have been placed --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- in that home? Okay. And checking whether that home
6 is suitable for the child that's going there?

7 A. Yeah. It should be. Whether it was or not, I don't
8 know.

9 Q. What about siblings? Do you think children should be
10 placed together with their siblings?

11 A. Children should -- siblings should never be split up.
12 They should always keep siblings together. Because of
13 the impact on me, the way it's left me with my siblings,
14 I'm not part of their life. I stand alone, because I --
15 because I never grew up with any of them.

16 One thing I will say, one of my younger sisters,
17 when my real mother came back on the scene I didn't want
18 to know her because I blamed her for what I went
19 through. My two older sisters and my two younger
20 sisters at that time went to visit her. My two younger
21 sisters had to stay with her because they weren't of
22 legal age, they were still quite young. But my two
23 older sisters went to stay with her for a couple of
24 weeks and they said to me that -- that the house was
25 an absolute mess, it stank of cats' urination, and it

1 just smelt disgusting. It's not a place you could bring
2 a child up in.

3 And then for some reason she passed away -- as far
4 as I'm aware -- as far as I'm aware, she passed away of
5 lung cancer. I don't know how old she was. I was about
6 19 at the time when she passed away, and for some reason
7 I felt sad. Don't know why. Never knew her. But
8 I just felt sad. I can't understand why.

9 But when my father passed away, I wasn't told. He
10 apparently passed away in 1966 and I wasn't told until
11 I was 16.

12 When I was living in the children's home, Lochgarry
13 Children's Home, he used to come and visit me at school
14 there, so I was quite close to him, and then that
15 stopped for some reason, not sure why, and then when
16 I was told he had passed away, it's as if part of me
17 died as well.

18 And then when [REDACTED] was born, [REDACTED] was only a few
19 weeks old at the time and I was resting in bed and all
20 of a sudden I felt a spirit coming into me and it was as
21 if my father had come back into me, and that part that
22 had died in me had come back again, so ... but I wish
23 I'd knew my parents, but ... especially my -- my father,
24 but that's something I won't ever know.

25 MS INNES: Right, 'Rose', I've finished all the questions

1 I have for you and there are no applications, my Lady.

2 LADY SMITH: 'Rose', just let me check whether there are any
3 outstanding applications for questions. I can confirm
4 there are no other questions for you.

5 A. Okay, thank you.

6 LADY SMITH: It just remains for me to thank you so much.

7 You say you feel like you're not strong but you've shown
8 remarkable strength in achieving what you've achieved
9 and engaging with us, both in providing this written
10 statement, which is rich in detail, and coming here
11 today and describing so many things that are plainly
12 difficult and painful to think back to and talk about.

13 You say you have no confidence in yourself, but that
14 has taken confidence and I've seen it in your ability to
15 make come alive not very pleasant descriptions, but it's
16 really important that we hear them and it's really
17 important that you've come here to help my education and
18 my learning, which it's done.

19 Thank you very much, you are free to go and
20 hopefully have a more restful time for the rest of
21 Friday.

22 A. Thank you.

23 (The witness withdrew)

24 LADY SMITH: Before I rise for the morning break, my general
25 restriction order preventing the use of certain names

1 outside this room applies, not only to the ENR-SPO
2 but those of her siblings that 'Rose' mentioned, to
3 ████████ to ████████ to ████████ to ████████ and to FDG ████████
4 I can't remember whether any of the second names were
5 mentioned or not, but in case they were and they're
6 identifiable, please bear in mind that those names were
7 for use here only.

8 Break now and another witness after the break; is
9 that right?

10 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady, there's another oral witness.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 (11.33 am)

13 (A short break)

14 (11.53 am)

15 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

16 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

17 The next witness is 'Rebecca'. She was in the care
18 of Glasgow Corporation and was in three different foster
19 care placements.

20 The first of those placements was with ENV-ENU ████████ in
21 Dumfries. She was there between ████████ 1963 and
22 removed from them on ████████ 1966. Although the
23 placement was in Dumfries, it's understood that Glasgow
24 Corporation appointed ENV-ENU ████████ as foster parents,
25 although they did get a home report from Dumfries when

1 they were setting up the placement.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes.

3 MS INNES: The next placement -- and a similar pattern
4 followed with the other placements. The next foster
5 placement was with [REDACTED] in Girvan. 'Rebecca'
6 was there from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] 1967 and on that
7 date she moved from there to [REDACTED] ENW-SPO in Saltcoats,
8 and she was there until [REDACTED] 1974.

9 It's understood that Glasgow City Council is the
10 relevant successor, although, as I've said, there was
11 some involvement from other Local Authorities.

12 'Rebecca' (sworn)

13 LADY SMITH: Just do what you can to make yourself
14 comfortable. I know coming into a public forum to do
15 what we're about to ask you to do isn't a comfortable
16 experience, but we'll do what we can to help.

17 The red folder there has your written typed
18 statement in it and you'll be taken to that in a minute
19 or two.

20 A. (Witness nods)

21 LADY SMITH: You'll also see there's a screen there and
22 we'll bring your statement up on the screen and the
23 particular parts of it that we'll want to discuss with
24 you will be shown. You don't have to use either of
25 these, but if they help, they're there for you.

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 LADY SMITH: 'Rebecca', please be assured, as I said at the
3 outset, I know this is difficult and you're going to be
4 asked about things that happened in childhood that could
5 trigger emotions that take you by surprise.

6 A. (Witness nods)

7 LADY SMITH: I get that, I do understand. If you need
8 a break, just to pause there or to get out of the room
9 and have a breather outside, that's absolutely fine.
10 You just speak up and tell me. You're allowed to speak
11 up here. You may not have found it so easy when you
12 were a child, but it's not a problem as far as I'm
13 concerned.

14 A. Thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: Generally, if it works for you, it works for
16 me, so use that as the key and see what we can do to
17 help you give the best evidence you can. Just trying to
18 relax and being yourself, all right?

19 A. (Witness nods)

20 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Ms Innes and she'll take it
21 from there.

22 MS INNES: Thank you.

23 Questions from Ms Innes

24 MS INNES: I think we might have to move the microphone
25 a little bit over, perhaps.

1 I was going to ask for the microphone so be moved
2 rather than you, 'Rebecca', but thank you.

3 A. Can I maybe sit more like this?

4 LADY SMITH: I understand that, 'Rebecca'. If you're more
5 comfortable at that angle, we can move the microphone.

6 A. That's great, thanks a lot.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS INNES: We understand, 'Rebecca', that you were born in
9 1960; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You've given a statement to the Inquiry, the reference
12 of which is WIT-1-000000854, and if we can just look
13 briefly at the final page of it, please, page 36, it
14 will come up on the screen, and it says there:

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

19 You signed your statement on 15 November of last
20 year, 2021. Is that right?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. You tell us a little bit about your life before going
23 into care and I think you probably found out about this
24 by making researches as an adult; is that right? You
25 were very young when you were taken into care?

1 A. Yeah, I think I was about 18 months or something the
2 first time.

3 Q. I think you have discovered, for example, later in life
4 that you have a number of half siblings?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You didn't know about them during your childhood?

7 A. No.

8 Q. In fact you tell us at paragraph 7 of your statement
9 that long before you knew about your siblings, you
10 thought you had a brother called [REDACTED]?

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. Was [REDACTED] somebody who lived with you?

13 A. Yes. In Dumfries. And then after Dumfries we both went
14 to Dunoon, to a children's home in Dunoon, and after
15 that went to foster parents in Girvan, but I don't know
16 where [REDACTED] went. But I thought he's my brother and
17 somebody was going to find out for me when I was older,
18 but they never got around to it, so, you know ...

19 Q. You mentioned going to a foster placement in Dumfries
20 and we know that you went there in 1963, [REDACTED] 1963,
21 so you'd just turned three at the time?

22 A. (Witness nods)

23 Q. We know that you were there until 1966, so between the
24 ages of three and six.

25 A. (Witness nods)

1 Q. Do you have many memories of your time with ENV-ENU ?

2 A. Just a few that stand out.

3 Q. Okay. We'll maybe come on to some of them.

4 If we go on to page 3 at paragraph 11, it says

5 there -- you can't remember how old ENV-ENU were, but

6 you think you've seen something in your records that

7 said that Mrs ENV was 42 at the time that you were

8 there.

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. And I think she was having another baby?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Can you remember the baby arriving?

13 A. I seem to remember something about going to the

14 hospital, but other than that, I don't really remember

15 much about it.

16 Q. Then you go on at the bottom of this page to say

17 a little bit about the house. Can you remember what the

18 house was like?

19 A. I can mostly remember a bathroom and a bedroom upstairs

20 and what the outside was, and I can remember sitting in

21 the kitchen with food that -- you know, that I didn't

22 want to eat because it looked -- if I remember rightly,

23 it was tripe or something. It felt as if I was there

24 for hours, you know.

25 Q. You say that you can't remember anything about the

1 ENV-ENU own children, although there is this baby. You
2 say you have a vague recollection of other young people
3 being there?
4 A. Just very vague, mm-hmm.
5 Q. But you remember being there?
6 A. Yeah.
7 Q. You tell us on page 4 at paragraph 17 that you remember
8 going to school, starting school?
9 A. Yeah. At St Andrew's School, if I remember right.
10 Q. And there were nuns at the school?
11 A. Yeah.
12 Q. I think there was one called, you say, Sister Mary
13 Magdalene?
14 A. I was thinking about that afterwards and I thought
15 I think that was -- I remember being in Saltcoats and
16 writing to a Sister Mary Magdalene, but I'm trying to
17 remember if it was actually Dumfries or Dunoon that --
18 I think it was Dumfries, but I do remember I was doing
19 a school project and I wrote to her to ask for some help
20 with the project.
21 Q. I think you're right about that. When we come to your
22 records in a moment, we'll see mention of a Sister
23 Magdalene at Dumfries.
24 A. Uh-huh.
25 Q. Then you mentioned something about a doctor. We'll come

1 back to him in the context of your records in a moment.

2 At paragraph 21 on page 5 you say there that you can

3 remember one time that you remember being caught

4 scooping up rainwater from a bin lid?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What can you remember about that?

7 A. I remember the trouble that I got into for doing that,

8 but I remember I was really thirsty and afterwards I was

9 taken up to the bathroom and given glass after glass

10 after glass of water to drink, to the point where I was

11 actually sick. That's what I remember about that. And

12 I also remember drinking water from the flower vases

13 because I was just thirsty, you know.

14 Q. You say that this was connected to you wetting the bed?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Then if we go to paragraph 24, do you remember people

17 coming to visit you when you were in the house?

18 A. In Dumfries?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. No, I don't remember anybody.

21 Q. Okay. So you've seen that from your records later on?

22 A. Uh-huh. I found out after calling the [REDACTED] and

23 it was somebody who was looking for somebody who

24 obviously was my mother and that was how I found out

25 about the other siblings, and my daughter sent away for

1 the records when that happened.

2 Q. You say that you saw something in the records that said

3 there was a comment:

4 "There was a good fire going and the child was in

5 hand-knitted woollens."

6 What was your reflection on that?

7 A. I just felt very much that's social skills, that's not

8 care.

9 Q. If we go over the page to page 6, you tell us about some

10 of your other memories. Can you remember what Mrs ENV

11 was like?

12 A. I just remember things like that, being taken to the

13 bathroom and made to drink the water. I can remember

14 her hitting me on the head with a shoe because I think

15 I wasn't getting ready quickly enough to go out, and

16 I remember being hit across the hand with a knife after

17 I had said to her -- she was crying and I remember

18 asking her why she was crying and she said, "Because

19 there's no coffee", and after that she hit me on the

20 hand with a knife and I remember my hand going -- like,

21 you know, red and everything from the knife hitting it,

22 you know.

23 Q. You say at paragraph 25 that you assume it was the flat

24 of the knife that she hit you with?

25 A. I assume that, I just remember being --

1 Q. You can't remember it bleeding?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay. Then you talk about being hit on the head with

4 a shoe. And then at paragraph 27, your memory of

5 Mrs ENV crying, and you think that maybe she was

6 covering up the real reason that she was crying?

7 A. Well, it's like I say. If that was one of my kids and

8 they asked me why I was crying I might not necessarily

9 want to tell them if they caught me. I would do my best

10 not to do it in front of me, but if they caught me

11 I would come up with something that wouldn't upset them,

12 you know. So I assumed it was that.

13 Q. Then you say at paragraph 28 that you have a memory of

14 being pushed to the floor?

15 A. I remember upstairs in a bedroom being -- and hitting my

16 chin, and I don't know if that's how I got the scar

17 that's on my chin, but I remember being pushed and

18 I seem to remember it was a male, it was a man who

19 pushed me to the floor.

20 Q. You say at paragraph 29 that if you had to summarise

21 your relationship with ENV-ENU you would say it was

22 scary.

23 A. Mm-hmm. I remember being sort of left outside to wait

24 for the social workers to come and take me away and

25 again I felt as if I was there for hours standing

1 outside the house with my bags packed, basically.

2 LADY SMITH: Were you on your own?

3 A. Yeah, I was standing out there myself waiting for them

4 to come.

5 MS INNES: You tell us on page 7 about that. At

6 paragraph 31 you say you can't remember who actually

7 told you that were you leaving.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. You remember standing outside ENV-ENU house waiting

10 for the social workers to come and collect you.

11 A. (Witness nods)

12 Q. Then from there you say that you can remember being in

13 the car and being upset in the car?

14 A. Yeah, which seems hard to understand now, but I just

15 remember driving away being upset, sort of watching

16 everything going into the -- I don't know, maybe because

17 I didn't know where I was going or I was with strangers

18 or -- I don't know.

19 Q. From there you say you went to Dunoon?

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. I think you -- well, you've already said that you

22 recovered your records, so I think you've seen some of

23 the material in your records that covers this time.

24 I wonder if we can look at GLA-000002062.

25 The first page here, we see "Corporation of Glasgow

1 Children's Department", and it's blanked out on the
2 screen, but this is particulars of the foster home of
3 ENV-ENU This looks like the cover of a book,
4 I think.
5 A. (Witness nods)
6 Q. If we just scroll down a little, I'm not sure if we can
7 see it on the screen, we can see in handwriting I think
8 it says:
9 "Unsatisfactory foster home."
10 That says.
11 A. Uh-huh.
12 Q. If we go on to the next page, this is where we maybe see
13 a bit more that it's a booklet, and there's some details
14 on the right-hand side of the page, again some are
15 blanked out but I can tell you that this refers to the
16 ENV-ENU It also tells us when they were born. So
17 Mrs ENV was born in 1929, Mr ENV in 1927.
18 A. Right.
19 Q. Then it tells us that there were other occupants other
20 than the foster children, so it says that there were two
21 children, one born in 1954 and one born in 1955.
22 A. Right.
23 Q. Then at the bottom of the page under "foster children"
24 there's reference to yourself and so this other
25 boy that was in the placement who you thought was your

1 brother but wasn't in fact related to you, I don't
2 think.

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. If we go over the page, please, this is all in
5 handwriting and I know that -- I think that when you got
6 it from the social work department, maybe somebody typed
7 it out for you?

8 A. But there was a lot that was illegible as well. That
9 was quite frustrating, trying to see what it said, you
10 know.

11 Q. Well, if it's okay, we're going to -- I'm going to try
12 and read a little bit or some bits of this.

13 We see on this page an entry, 2 December 1965, and
14 it says there:

15 "Ms Wilson, children's officer Dumfries, phoned to
16 report that Dr Carnie has been in touch with her as he
17 is most concerned about ..."

18 You, so that's you there, 'Rebecca'.

19 A. (Witness nods)

20 Q. "Mrs ENV has come to him complaining that she can do
21 nothing with 'Rebecca' since [REDACTED] came. She is now
22 wetting and most disobedient. Dr Carnie considers that
23 the child is extremely unhappy. I advised Ms Wilson now
24 that I intend visiting Dumfries and district next week
25 and will look into matters."

1 It looks from that that the local doctor has been
2 concerned that you were unhappy.

3 A. Mm.

4 Q. I think you noticed that yourself in your records?

5 A. I did.

6 Q. Can you remember what he suggested or what he did about
7 that?

8 A. I don't remember.

9 Q. If we go down there's an entry on 7 December 1965 and
10 Dr Carnie was out and then 8 December 1965:

11 "Phoned Dr Carnie and had a discussion with him
12 about 'Rebecca's' case. He is most distressed about
13 this child and feels she is extremely unhappy. He went
14 so far as to say he had approached his wife to take
15 'Rebecca', but since he has two children, one of whom
16 suffers from an asthmatic eczema condition, he
17 considered it unfair to subject 'Rebecca' to this
18 contact."

19 I think you mention that in your statement, that you
20 can remember -- well, that you saw in the records that
21 the doctor seemed to be suggesting that he might take
22 care of you.

23 A. Yeah, I saw that.

24 Q. Then it goes on to say:

25 "Dr Carnie resented the fact that Mrs ENV was

1 declaring to all and sundry, the receptionist and folks
2 in the waiting room, that 'Rebecca' was such a bad girl.
3 Dr Carnie is of the opinion that 'Rebecca' has become
4 increasingly more difficult since [REDACTED] was placed in
5 the home."

6 Then it goes on to the top of the next page, it
7 says:

8 "Dr Carnie stresses the fact that he is extremely
9 concerned about this child as he considers she is most
10 unhappy."

11 So again this is in December 1965, your GP seemed to
12 be very concerned about you at the time.

13 A. And I don't understand what she'd said about [REDACTED]
14 because I felt like I was quite protective of [REDACTED] If
15 somebody made him cry, I looked after him and told them
16 off for making him cry, things like that. So I felt
17 that I cared for him as a wee brother, it's that thing,
18 you know.

19 Q. Then on 9 December 1965 there's an entry:

20 "I called at St Andrew's School and had a lengthy
21 interview with Sister Magdalene."

22 So that's the person you mentioned?

23 A. (Witness nods)

24 Q. "'Rebecca's' teacher was also interviewed and she and
25 Sister have expressed great concern over 'Rebecca'.

1 They also feel she seems dreadfully unhappy and seems to
2 be possessed with some sort of fear."
3 So that's what the teachers were telling the social
4 worker.
5 A. Mm.
6 Q. Then it refers again to [REDACTED] coming and says that you:
7 " ... used to be most forthcoming and friendly, but
8 now [you're] exceptionally quiet and withdrawn. Her
9 teacher mentioned that some days she suspects that she
10 has been crying quite a bit before returning after
11 lunch."
12 Can you remember being sad when you were at school
13 there?
14 A. Not really, no.
15 Q. Okay.
16 A. I think I was maybe just used to feeling rubbish.
17 Q. Then it says:
18 "Sister and teacher confirm that 'Rebecca' has been
19 most disobedient. Last week she ran out of school over
20 the break and she was going into the boys' toilets."
21 A. I remember going and hiding in the toilets one day,
22 right enough.
23 Q. It says:
24 "She seems to be determined to attract attention by
25 doing what is wrong."

1 So that was the observation at the time.

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. There's then a visit on 9 December 1965 where the social

4 worker saw ENV-ENU and and is noted

5 to be very quiet and withdrawn.

6 A. Mm.

7 Q. Can you remember much of what was like as a child?

8 A. Not really, no.

9 Q. Then there's reference to talking in whispers.

10 "Mrs ENV seems to make quite a thing about keeping

11 the house quiet when her husband is on night duty."

12 A. I remember having to sit there quietly on the couch and

13 just being really aware of a ticking clock.

14 Q. It says:

15 "She has a note posted on the front door requesting

16 that no one [if we go onto the next page] should knock.

17 She is inclined to be a little regimental in her

18 attitude and perhaps too matter of fact at times."

19 A. I don't really remember that aspect, you know.

20 Q. Then the social worker goes on to talk about speaking to

21 a psychologist, and I think you've seen this in your

22 records before as well.

23 A. (Witness nods)

24 Q. This is in December and there seems to be some

25 discussion about setting up meetings with the

1 psychologist, a Mr Reeves. Can you remember going to
2 see a Mr Reeves?

3 A. I don't -- I remember going to see somebody when I was
4 a bit older, but that was Saltcoats. I don't remember
5 seeing somebody when I was younger.

6 Q. Okay.

7 We then see an entry on the bottom half of this
8 page, 25 February 1966:

9 "While down in Dumfries about another matter
10 I called on Mr Reeves and discussed 'Rebecca's' case
11 very fully. He is most concerned about 'Rebecca' and
12 feels that [REDACTED]'s arrival has had a great effect on
13 her. He is however worried about ENV-ENU [REDACTED]
14 attitude and conditional acceptance of 'Rebecca'."

15 That seemed to be a concern that the psychologist
16 had at the time about the attitude that ENV-ENU [REDACTED] had to
17 you.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Then he requested co-operation from the social worker to
20 help him with that issue.

21 He said:

22 "He added in passing that one day when in ENV-ENU [REDACTED]
23 house, Mrs ENV [REDACTED] apologised for the fact that there was
24 a whisky bottle lying around ..."

25 And I think you noticed that when you looked at the

1 records as well?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. "Mr Reeves hadn't noticed it but he just wondered what
4 the significance of it was."

5 Apparently. He says he let the matter pass.

6 His view at that time was essentially: leave things
7 as they are.

8 A. Because they chose for me not to go back, didn't they,
9 the foster parents, which I feel that shouldn't have
10 been a decision that was for them to make.

11 Q. Yes. That comes up in your records just in a moment,
12 but you're right that you were supposed to be seeing
13 this psychologist and then the foster parents decided
14 that you would stop going.

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. There's a paragraph there that the cursor is just around
17 just now, saying:

18 "Later I called on ENV-ENU and saw the whole
19 family."

20 It refers to you and being:

21 " ... warmly clad for this cold day and were playing
22 together quite happily."

23 A. That irked me somewhat.

24 Q. Why did it irk you?

25 A. Because it paints a picture that's a lot nicer than the

1 reality.

2 Q. It says:

3 "I had a talk with them about the whole set-up and

4 they too are anxious to persevere [I think it says]

5 until the new baby arrives, although they advised that

6 'Rebecca's' attitude at times is most difficult to cope

7 with, especially when she just won't talk."

8 LADY SMITH: I think it's "they admitted 'Rebecca's'

9 attitude", isn't it?

10 MS INNES: Yes, it does say that. I don't know what

11 I actually said, but it does say "admitted".

12 LADY SMITH: "Advised", I think it's "admitted".

13 MS INNES: Yes:

14 "They admitted that 'Rebecca's' attitude at times

15 made it difficult, especially when she won't talk."

16 They were suggesting that you weren't speaking, that

17 you were being very quiet.

18 A. I know I had problems with that when I was a bit older.

19 It was like I just couldn't speak. You know, no matter

20 how much I wanted to, I just -- I just couldn't.

21 Q. Okay. So that was all in February, and then there's

22 another entry at the bottom of this page,

23 21 February 1966, so this is still on page 4 at the

24 bottom of the page, at the bottom of the right-hand

25 side:

1 "I discussed the whole position with Mrs ENV who
2 admitted that she in her present condition has probably
3 aggravated 'Rebecca's' attitude as she may be less
4 patient at times."

5 I think that's possibly referring to the fact that
6 she was pregnant at the time.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. She seems to be suggesting that that's causing her to be
9 aggravated. It then says:

10 "She may be less patient at times and 'Rebecca' may
11 feel that she is the sole cause of it. I advised her
12 not to adopt this conditional attitude of acceptance of
13 the child."

14 So again this seems to be going back to the
15 terminology or the words that the psychologist had used,
16 that they had this attitude towards you.

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. Then if we go on to the bottom of this page there's
19 an entry on the left-hand side, 23 February 1966:

20 "While at the school about another child, another
21 teacher came to Ms Bell during the interview to report
22 that 'Rebecca' was complaining of a pain in her tummy
23 and said she was hungry. She was taken to the domestic
24 classroom and given soup, which she took heartily.
25 'Rebecca' was brought into the office to see me, and on

1 chatting to her she said that she had had bread and
2 cheese for lunch."

3 Then it goes on:

4 "Ms Bell states that Sister [I think that's Sister
5 Magdalene again] and all the staff are most concerned
6 about 'Rebecca' and feel that she is so unhappy, poorly
7 clad and not properly fed."

8 That seems to be painting a different picture to the
9 one that you commented on earlier about having warm
10 clothes and suchlike.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Can you remember being hungry when you were there?

13 A. Not so much there. More so -- I don't know if it was
14 that kind of attitude that a lot of people had years ago
15 where if you're given something to eat, even if you
16 don't like it, you have to eat it. And I can remember
17 being sat there for, oh, I actually got to the point
18 where -- I remember we got mashed potato and gravy and
19 the colour fawn, thinking I hate that colour, and being
20 sat there for what seemed like forever, you know?

21 Q. Then there's reference -- so sorry, just going back, so:

22 "Not properly fed and the class teacher was seen and
23 states that the position is growing worse."

24 Then it says:

25 "When leaving the school, I met Mr ENU collecting

1 'Rebecca' and I told him about her being hungry when he
2 states that she can never get enough to eat."

3 So the social worker's obviously said something to
4 Mr [ENU] about it.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. As I say, that was in February. The next entry is in
7 May, so 27 May 1966, and that's the entry that you
8 mentioned that Mr Reeves says that Mrs [ENV] has stopped
9 sending you to see him.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Mrs [ENV] apparently was saying that you'd been much
12 better behaved when you hadn't been seeing him.

13 A. I don't know about that.

14 Q. Then there was a visit again, and if we can move over to
15 the next page, please, there's an entry in the -- so the
16 entry in the top part of the page talks about you having
17 stopped going to the Child Guidance clinic, so that
18 would appear to be in May. Then a different pen is
19 used, but there's no date given, but we'll come on to
20 letters that might help us with this.

21 There's an entry that we can see there which says:

22 "While in Dumfries visiting another foster mother,
23 Ms [REDACTED] aunt of Mr [ENU] I met Mrs [REDACTED] senior, who
24 complained bitterly about the treatment these children
25 have from Mrs [ENV] She is said to have struck [ENS]

1 over the head with a high-heeled shoe ..."

2 A. I don't remember what kind of shoe it was, I just
3 remember being hit with a shoe and my impression at the
4 time was it was because I wasn't getting ready quickly
5 enough.

6 Q. This seems to be you -- you had that memory of that
7 happening.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. And this seems to be Mr ENU's mother reporting that to
10 the social work department.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. She says that and then there's reference about she'd
13 found out about that incident, which I think was from
14 Mrs ENV's daughter, so one of the other children in the
15 house.

16 A. Right.

17 Q. "Mrs [REDACTED] senior has had complaints from neighbours
18 about the treatment the children are getting and
19 Mrs [REDACTED] claims that they are receiving no love from
20 Mrs ENV and that great differences are being made
21 between her own children and the two foster children."

22 A. I wouldn't -- I was too young really to remember -- you
23 know, be aware of that, you know.

24 Q. I think that was something that you noticed and you said
25 in your statement that you weren't aware of that at the

1 time, but it's something that you've seen -- that's the
2 entry that you've seen in your records about it?

3 A. Yes, that's right.

4 Q. Then the next entry is [REDACTED] 1966, when you were
5 removed at that point.

6 A. (Witness nods)

7 Q. I just want to look at a couple of bits of
8 correspondence, so going on to page 7. This is a letter
9 dated [REDACTED] 1966 to ENV-ENU [REDACTED] and this says:

10 "I regret to inform you that, in the interests of
11 the above-named children, I have decided to remove them
12 from your care. Ms McArthur, the childcare officer for
13 your area, has been most concerned about 'Rebecca' and
14 she will contact you and advise you when she will be
15 calling to collect the children."

16 A. So --

17 Q. That might give us a sort of timeline, so it looks to
18 have been in [REDACTED] that the Local Authority took the
19 decision to remove you.

20 The next page is another letter, of [REDACTED] and it
21 says:

22 "I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 11th
23 instant, the contents of which have been noted. I can
24 assure you there has been no mistake."

25 It looks as though Mrs ENV [REDACTED] has perhaps said there

1 has been some mistake.

2 "Ms McArthur has received complaints from various
3 sources and reports regarding the children for some
4 considerable time, she has thoroughly investigated the
5 matter and did in fact receive the last complaint since
6 her last visit to your home. This recent incident has
7 given cause for concern and in the children's interests
8 I must remove them from your care. Ms McArthur will
9 advise you when she will travel south to collect the
10 children."

11 Again that's in [REDACTED]

12 Then the next letter I think is one that you comment
13 on in your statement at page 9. This is [REDACTED] 1966,
14 and there it says:

15 "Further to recent correspondence, I have to inform
16 you that someone will be calling for the children."

17 This was to be on [REDACTED]

18 "I shall not manage to come myself as I am out of
19 town up north next week on a council visitation.
20 Perhaps you will have the children medically examined
21 and a free-from-infection certificate obtained so that
22 you may give it to whoever calls."

23 What were your observations or feelings when you
24 read that letter?

25 A. I just thought it was like livestock or something.

1 I just thought it was horrible.

2 LADY SMITH: So, 'Rebecca', and the little boy, I take it,
3 had been left for how many weeks after the letter
4 telling ENV-ENU that the Local Authority -- I'm
5 paraphrasing -- didn't think they were providing a safe
6 placement for the children? How many weeks passed?

7 MS INNES: Three to four, so [REDACTED] was the first letter
8 and this is [REDACTED] that they are moving.

9 LADY SMITH: Mm. That might be considered as a period of
10 particularly high risk for the children, given what they
11 were being told.

12 MS INNES: I think that's something that you picked up when
13 you looked at the records, 'Rebecca'.

14 A. I felt that if any of us knew that somebody was in that
15 situation, we would want to get them out of there
16 immediately and not leave them for whatever else could
17 happen.

18 LADY SMITH: I'm thinking particularly of the risk of their
19 reaction to reading that letter.

20 A. Yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes.

22 Thank you.

23 MS INNES: It also seems to have been dealt with in
24 correspondence. We don't find it in the visiting
25 records, we just see a letter going to ENV-ENU

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. We also saw when we looked at the visiting records that

3 Dr Carnie raised concerns about you in December 1965?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. So the Local Authority I think were aware of that from

6 their records from that time until you were moved

7 in [REDACTED]

8 A. It did make me feel like if teachers were saying it and

9 the doctor was saying it and the nuns were telling

10 them ... why didn't they listen and do something, you

11 know?

12 Q. You went to the Dunoon Children's Home and then you went

13 to another foster placement I think [REDACTED] of

14 1967, if we go back to your statement, sorry, to page 8

15 and paragraph 38. You tell us about this placement in

16 your statement. Can you remember what the [REDACTED] were

17 like?

18 A. I just remember them as being very nice, very kind

19 people that took me to church and I used to spend quite

20 a bit of time with the nuns and things like that.

21 I just overall felt that they were good, nice people,

22 you know. I was sad that I was -- you know, I had to

23 sort of leave them, but their daughter was getting

24 married and I don't know if maybe because she maybe

25 helped them a lot -- because the daughter was very good

1 to me and did things like -- we would do like making
2 clothes for your dollies and all that sort of thing.
3 I just remember they were just really kind, really nice
4 people to stay with.

5 And the neighbours, I remember the neighbours were
6 all very -- they seemed to be all old ladies and they
7 were just all very nice and very kind and -- you know,
8 I just remember being happy.

9 Q. What sort of age were the [REDACTED]?

10 A. I mean even back then I remember them being like
11 an older couple. So I don't know if maybe they would
12 be -- they seemed to me, when I think back, maybe they
13 were in their 60s or something, but I couldn't be sure,
14 but they just seemed like an older couple, but really
15 nice people, you know.

16 Q. Initially was their daughter living in the house with
17 them --

18 A. Yes, their daughter [REDACTED] lived with them and she was
19 getting married and had actually made me a dress to wear
20 at her wedding. I don't know if I was going to be
21 a bridesmaid or something, looking back on it, I mean
22 I ended up I wore the dress for my first communion that
23 she had made me, so it was nice to still be able to wear
24 it, but I was upset that obviously I was looking forward
25 to it and then I was away before it happened sort of

1 thing, you know.

2 Q. You say from what you've seen in your records that you
3 can remember some reference to you being lonely when you
4 were at the [REDACTED].

5 A. I don't know if maybe I was just a loner. I don't know
6 if even at that age I was -- I've always been quite --
7 a tendency, I like to be alone sort of thing, you know.

8 Q. Yeah.

9 A. I sort of remember thinking when I was older I feel as
10 if the social part of my brain never developed, because
11 everybody kept saying, you know, we're all social
12 people, we're all social animals and all this, we need
13 to be around other people and they say -- I remember one
14 day somebody saying something about you can't imagine
15 what it's like to be like a mind without a body and
16 I felt like I could, you know? I just felt as if I was
17 quite happy on my own rather than being with people that
18 were just not behaving in a good way, you know? I think
19 that's just always going to -- I don't know whether
20 I would have been like that anyway or -- but it's always
21 stuck with me. I prefer to be on my own because I feel
22 like I have a reasonable level of intelligence when I'm
23 on my own, but when I'm around other people I feel as if
24 I just -- my brain goes blank constantly and I just
25 feel -- you know, if I'm in a stressful situation, it's

1 like I can't even think straight, you know? So ...

2 Q. Okay. So you were happy at the [REDACTED] --

3 A. (Witness nods)

4 Q. -- and you say that you don't really know why it was

5 that you were taken away from them.

6 A. I read in the records that it said that they thought

7 I was lonely, and I remember thinking that I was a lot

8 lonelier without you, sort of thing.

9 (Pause)

10 Sorry.

11 LADY SMITH: Don't apologise, 'Rebecca'. Are you okay?

12 A. I am fine, thanks.

13 It's a memory in a good way, because they were very

14 good to me and their daughter was very good to me, you

15 know, and the neighbours.

16 MS INNES: Okay.

17 I'm going to move on to ask you about the time that

18 you spent with [REDACTED] ENW-SPO in Saltcoats and that's at

19 page 12 of your statement. Who was living in the house

20 when you got there?

21 A. There was [REDACTED] ENW-SPO, there was [REDACTED] and

22 there was [REDACTED].

23 Q. Were these two girls foster children as well?

24 A. I think they were long-term foster too, uh-huh.

25 Q. You say that [REDACTED] was six years older than you and

1 [REDACTED] was three years older than you?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. ENW-SPO [REDACTED] didn't have any children of their own you

4 didn't think?

5 A. No. I know they must have fostered before, because she

6 was always speaking about a boy called [REDACTED]

7 that she always maintained that they took [REDACTED]

8 from her and like we were no replacement, because she

9 just spoke about him like he was just -- I even have

10 a vision even now of this wee boy with blue eyes and

11 blond hair that she was just really upset that they'd

12 taken away. I think his parents had decided to get back

13 together and they'd taken him back. But it's like

14 you're no replacement sort of thing. That was the

15 feeling that I got, you know.

16 Q. Okay. What sort of house did they have?

17 A. I actually lived in several -- well, two houses there.

18 There was [REDACTED] first and then later [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED] we moved to that one.

20 But I mean their attitude was like -- you know,

21 "I have a friend who doesn't even let her foster

22 children into her part of the house, they have to stay

23 in their part of the house", as if we were really lucky

24 to have free rein of the house, sort of thing. But

25 I mean spent a lot of the time like this, speaking about

1 where I had an exam at school in English and it was
2 a comprehension and it was said: What is a periwigged
3 flunky? Which I'd never heard of before. And when
4 I came out and I asked the teacher and she explained to
5 me what a periwigged flunky, and I thought: oh, me.
6 Because I was always like this, standing like this at
7 the side of the door. I wouldn't even have just gone in
8 and sat down. I didn't feel comfortable enough to come
9 in and just sit on the couch or something, I was like
10 this at the side of the door for long periods of time.

11 LADY SMITH: 'Rebecca', I don't suppose your life in
12 Dumfriesshire and Girvan had exposed you or brought you
13 into contact with a periwigged flunky?

14 A. No. I was surprised to find that in a -- when I think
15 back, you know, in an English exam. I'd never come
16 across that before.

17 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

18 MS INNES: Thank you.

19 How did you get on with the other two girls that
20 were in the house?

21 A. I think I got on okay initially, but as time went on it
22 just became -- I feel like Mrs ENW encouraged their
23 bad behaviour.

24 Q. Okay, and what was Mr [REDACTED] like?

25 A. He was just a very kind of quiet sort of man that all he

1 ever seemed to say to me was, "You're for the high jump,
2 you're for the high jump", like it was some terrible
3 threat, that, "You're going to be put back in care", but
4 I think I kind of felt like, "It will probably be better
5 than where I am now".

6 Q. What about Mrs ENW what was she like?

7 A. Oh, terrifying. Just an awful, awful person. Horrible
8 person.

9 Q. If we go on in your statement, please, to page 13 and
10 you talk there about the food that you received, was
11 that okay or were there issues with the food there?

12 A. I don't remember any real issues with food, just I only
13 remember one incident where I was worried about
14 a sausage being raw and she got really angry and forced
15 me to eat it and I felt like it was -- it wasn't cooked
16 all the way through, which is -- I mean I nuke
17 everything like that now to be sure, but apart from
18 that, I don't really remember much, other issues around
19 that.

20 Q. If we go on to page 14, you mention school there and
21 I think you went to a school that was maybe quite far
22 away from where you were living?

23 A. Where we lived was a way up the top end of Saltcoats and
24 the school was a way down at the bottom end, and I had
25 to run from up there all the way down to the school and

1 run away back up and then back down after lunch and then
2 back up after home. And I felt as if I was always
3 running, because I was in trouble if I didn't get back
4 within a certain amount of time and it was quite
5 a distance to go, you know.

6 Q. Was it a Catholic school that you were going to?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And were ENW-SPO Catholics?

9 A. I don't know if he was, but she was.

10 Q. Did the other girls go to the same school as you or not?

11 A. I presume so, yeah. Yeah, I think they probably would
12 have. Just them being that bit older, I seem to
13 remember more about them as they got older and they were
14 working and I was still at school sort of thing.

15 Q. Then on page 15 at the top you tell us about some of the
16 chores that you had to do. What sort of things did you
17 have to do in the house?

18 A. Oh, well, I did all sorts of cleaning and stuff like
19 that, but the particular things that I remember is like
20 hours and hours spent polishing this brass box with the
21 Cutty Sark on it and it was very detailed -- just this
22 sort of thing, you had to go between all the little
23 grooves and it was taking hours and I hate the sight of
24 that ship now. But I remember one night that for some
25 reason I didn't go to chapel with them that night and

1 I had to spend the whole time from when they went out to
2 when they came back polishing this chest of drawers, you
3 know that, "I want to see my face in it" sort of thing,
4 you know.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. And then she would take us into work with her sometimes
7 and we would wash floors and things like that, and then
8 I was in trouble because I was a bit liberal with the
9 Vim, you know, and left the floor all white and in
10 a worse state than when I started. But then I was only,
11 you know, maybe about -- what, about nine/ten or
12 something like that, so I didn't have the skills then
13 that I would have now.

14 Q. If we go on to page 16, paragraph 76, you talk there
15 about visits. Can you remember social workers coming to
16 visit you when you were at ENW-SPO ?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Were you able to speak to them on your own?

19 A. I was, but I didn't feel comfortable to speak, you know.
20 And then you sort of think: am I going to end up in
21 trouble for anything that I say? I mean I was already
22 in tears one day I remember them coming to the door,
23 I think it was Mr Caldo he was called, and I remember
24 him coming to the door and I had had to like wash my
25 face and dry my eyes just as he was coming in the house.

1 So he was downstairs and I had to get all ... and go
2 down and see him, you know. But I didn't feel
3 comfortable -- I mean, I didn't really know him, so ...
4 LADY SMITH: 'Rebecca', might it have been easier if there
5 was somewhere you could speak to the social workers that
6 wasn't in the foster house?
7 A. I think so. I think that probably would have been more
8 relaxed rather than worrying that they were just --
9 LADY SMITH: Somebody might hear you.
10 A. Yes, yes.
11 MS INNES: Then if we move on, please, to page 17 at
12 paragraph 81 and following, you say, I think, that you
13 sometimes wet the bed when you were at ENW-SPO 's?
14 A. Yeah.
15 Q. How did Mrs ENW react to that?
16 A. Oh, it was awful. It was like you would wake up and you
17 would be just lying there terrified for it was maybe
18 hours before anybody else was awake and you knew it had
19 happened and you would just be petrified thinking, you
20 know, I'm for it when she gets up and realises, you
21 know.
22 And I ended up that I was taking the sheets out in
23 the middle of the night and I remember going to the next
24 door neighbour's bin and putting them at the very bottom
25 of the next door neighbour's bin, because I couldn't put

1 them in her bin because she would probably have found
2 them and then I would have been in big trouble. I was
3 in big trouble anyway, but I'd have been in worse
4 trouble if she'd known I was taking the sheet out and
5 putting it in their bin and getting a sheet -- it was
6 these rainbow sheets, you know the ones with the
7 coloured lines, and I would get another one the same and
8 if I was lucky I would get away with remaking the bed,
9 but there was only so many sheets so when that ran out,
10 I was -- you know.

11 And I actually came in one time when I hadn't wet
12 the bed but [REDACTED] had -- it was like a wee plastic
13 luminous holiday statue and there was a wee hole in the
14 head of this statue and [REDACTED] was standing over the
15 sheet with this full of water putting it onto the sheet
16 so it would look as though I had wet the bed when
17 I hadn't.

18 So again Mrs ^{ENW} [REDACTED] wouldn't have taken my word for
19 that. She would just have given me what for for the
20 fact that it happened and then she would go out and tell
21 the neighbours and shame me in front of the neighbours
22 and I would be getting on the bus and [REDACTED] would have
23 told people it had happened and then they would all be
24 shouting, "Pee the bed" or whatever on the bus and it
25 was just completely utterly humiliating, you know.

1 Q. Okay. If we go on to page 18, at paragraph 85 you say
2 that [REDACTED] could be quite violent towards you
3 sometimes?

4 A. Yeah, I remember one time when she got angry and got my
5 head and battered it off the wall. And when I went to
6 school, there was a boy that I used to sit beside, who
7 was just carrying on, and he just went like that to my
8 head, just carrying on, and the blood started running
9 down my head where [REDACTED] had split my head and
10 I remember I had to go to Ms Conlon, the headteacher at
11 the time, to get treatment because this was all running
12 down my head sort of thing. She asked me what happened
13 and I told her.

14 Q. Was that passed on to ENW-SPO [REDACTED] do you know?

15 A. I really don't know, I don't know.

16 Q. Then at paragraph 86 you say:

17 "[REDACTED] and I used to argue. I think one of the
18 things that is hard is when you're moved from one type
19 of foster carer to another."

20 A. Well, I think when I lived with the [REDACTED] I just felt
21 like they were -- they were just really nice, decent
22 people. But when I went to live with ENW-SPO [REDACTED] just
23 the total -- it was like a complete change, like they
24 were crude, they were vulgar, they were just -- the way
25 they spoke was -- you know, and it's kind of hard to

1 sort of like be in a certain mindset and then suddenly
2 you're with these people and they're doing everything
3 that you would have been taught not to do when you were
4 with the other foster parents, you know, so I did find
5 that really hard. Like their way of speaking was
6 quite -- they were quite vulgar at times, quite crude,
7 you know.

8 Q. If we go on to page 19 at paragraph 88, I think we see
9 some of that, that you talk about the way Mrs ENW
10 spoke to you and that she also encouraged the other
11 girls to behave badly towards you.

12 A. I think she did, yeah, I felt she did.

13 [REDACTED] at one point -- actually, I liked [REDACTED]
14 at one point, it seemed to be as she got older she got
15 more kind of bitter. But she actually ran away twice
16 too, you know, so it couldn't have been a bed of roses
17 for her either. I remember crying because I was worried
18 about her and upset thinking I hope she's okay, sort of
19 thing, you know, but then as she got older she became
20 abusive too and you just sort of feel how did you turn
21 from being that person that I liked into that person
22 who's -- and I kind of felt Mrs ENW was the change and
23 it was her behaviour, you know.

24 Q. You say at paragraph 89 something that you saw in your
25 records, that it described Mrs ENW as "... a big jolly

1 woman who entertains her charges rather than subduing
2 them".

3 A. Oh, that absolutely -- oh, I was so upset when I read
4 that, because I felt I can assure you I never found her
5 in the least bit entertaining. Especially as she used
6 to hold my head beneath the water in the sink, you know.
7 How could you describe somebody like that, that you're
8 only seeing once in a blue moon, that you think that you
9 know who they are?

10 And then at one point they were saying -- like the
11 way that she was talking and behaving, sort of like,
12 "But **ENS** used to this", and I thought just because
13 somebody's used to something doesn't mean that that's
14 okay, you know. That really upset me, that comment
15 about the "jolly woman", oh.

16 Q. You say at paragraph 90 that she would say things to you
17 about your appearance and about your parents and --

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. -- and things like, "God's curse has followed us since
20 you came to live with us".

21 A. I don't think I even really understood what that meant
22 at the time, but -- you know, I knew it wasn't good.
23 But it was things like, "Oh, your own effing mother and
24 father didn't want you, why the hell should we?" And,
25 "God forgive me but you are the ugliest looking wee

1 lassie that God put on the face of this earth".

2 And that did affect me, because when I was married
3 to my first husband and he would be meeting somebody
4 I would go and hide in a shop so I wouldn't embarrass
5 him because I was ugly, do you know what I mean? And I
6 used to go in shops and be quite sort of, "Right, I'll
7 come out when he's finished talking to them" sort of
8 thing, you know.

9 Q. If we then go over the page, please, you talk about her
10 hitting you as well.

11 A. Mm-hmm. She did that quite a lot. It was big heavy
12 hands. I must have been one of the few people growing
13 up thinking how awful it is to get a slap on the face on
14 a cold day, because it seemed even worse on a cold day,
15 you know.

16 But one of the things -- and this might sound
17 strange because I myself think how did that happen to me
18 twice, because Mrs ENV had hit me with a shoe but
19 Mrs ENW also hit me with a shoe because she wanted me
20 to catch the dog and I didn't catch the dog and the dog
21 ended up getting knocked down, and that was when she hit
22 me in the head with a shoe as well. And I think how
23 does that happen to me -- what is it about me that makes
24 people want to slap me with a shoe, sort of thing?
25 I don't think I'm a bad person, you know what I mean?

1 Q. Okay. You tell us about various things, I think, that
2 happened when you lived with ENW-SPO .

3 Then I think there came a point where -- if we go on
4 to page 21, paragraph 100, you talk about wanting to
5 have long hair and when Mrs ENW got angry, she would
6 grab your hair into a ponytail and cut right through it.

7 A. Yes. She would just come up to me and grab me and pull
8 me into the kitchen, you know, just like she grabbed it
9 like a ponytail and she'd drag me into the kitchen and
10 she would say, "I'll leave your head like the back of my
11 hand", which I assumed meant bald. And she had a box in
12 the cupboard that had scissors and stuff like that in
13 and she would pull that box down and that was it, she
14 just cut it off.

15 And then I'd be going to school and people used to
16 call me skinhead and stuff like that. I remember going
17 in one day and I had a duffle coat on and I was
18 absolutely dreading having to take the hood down,
19 because everybody would see that my hair was gone again.
20 I remember somebody making a crack that, "Oh, your
21 hair's getting long, you'll have to get it cut again
22 soon", and it was quite a horrible thing to be -- you
23 know, just chopped off like that. I think because she
24 knew that I wanted to grow it long, you know.

25 Q. Ultimately I think her cutting your hair off led to you

1 running away and then that led to you leaving?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Can you tell us about that incident?

4 A. Well, I was bruised across my nose as well. She said

5 that she cut my hair for telling a lie and I don't

6 remember telling her any lie, because I can remember

7 there was a day where she'd accused me of opening

8 a window in the house and I said to her, "I didn't open

9 the window" and it became clear that she was hitting me

10 and everything and it became clear that she wasn't going

11 to accept that, so I got to a point where -- I was

12 trying not to lie, because I knew that was wrong, but

13 because it had got to the point where I thought she's

14 not going to stop this until I admit that I did it, so

15 I ended up that I did eventually, to stop it, say that

16 I had done it.

17 And the next day, the oldest girl, [REDACTED] came in

18 and she saw the bruises like on my back and on my chest

19 and she said to me, "What happened to you?" And I said,

20 "Well, she said that I opened a window and I didn't open

21 the window and she was angry because I wouldn't admit

22 that I opened the window", and [REDACTED] ended up going

23 to her and saying, "It was actually me that opened the

24 window, I was throwing out a cigarette stub", and

25 Mrs [REDACTED] ENW said to me, "Don't ever admit to anything you

1 haven't done again". You know, as an older person
2 I sort of think like, you know, a mortal hand to beat
3 you if you don't lie and a divine one to beat you if you
4 do, so what are you to do? So.

5 Q. If we move on to page 24 and paragraph 111, you tell us
6 that the time that you ran away from ENW-SPO just
7 shortly before your 13th birthday?

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. You say that Mrs ENW had not long cut your hair off in
10 a rage --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- and you decided to run away?

13 A. And I was bruised across my nose. It's like I say,
14 looking back, I would have thought that because I was
15 terrified I don't know how I would have had the courage
16 to run away, but I can only think looking back it was
17 fight or flight. Because it's like sometimes in
18 a certain situation I'll just act, do you know what --
19 and I just -- even as an older person, if I'm upset I'll
20 walk until I feel better, you know, and I ended up --
21 I walked -- because I had -- I had run away before that
22 and -- well, run away twice before that. The first time
23 I just stayed about Saltcoats, I went to the chapel, had
24 a good cry, went back.

25 The second time I actually walked to Largs from

1 Saltcoats and again went to the chapel, had a good cry,
2 started to walk back and it had got dark by that time so
3 I was walking through what looked kind of like country
4 roads, it was all these trees and fields and stuff like
5 that, and it was dark and I was really quite scared.
6 And a man in a lorry stopped and I was like what do
7 I do? And I know -- I knew even then that you shouldn't
8 take a lift, but at the same time I was terrified stuck
9 out here on my own with all these trees and trying to
10 walk back to Saltcoats, so I ended up I did take the
11 lift and the man dropped me off at the crossroads,
12 there's kind of traffic lights and things at Saltcoats,
13 let me off there and I went back.

14 So when I ran away the third time, I thought I want
15 to be far enough away to feel safe but I don't want to
16 go as far as Largs to have to try and make my way back
17 from there. So I went to Seamill, West Kilbride -- I'm
18 never quite sure where they cut off is, Seamill and West
19 Kilbride, but there was flats there and I went and slept
20 on the stairs of those flats. Nobody saw me overnight.
21 I slept on the stairs there and I heard the milkman in
22 the morning and I got up and left and I went down to the
23 beach. But that time when I was down at the beach,
24 I don't know if it was just the upset or what, but at
25 one point I thought it was Mrs ENW and the girls

1 coming towards me and I was so petrified that I -- they
2 used to have toilets in the upstairs part of the thing
3 that was on the beach and I remember running up there
4 and locking myself in there and not coming out for about
5 an hour and kind of, do you know, looking to see if
6 there was any sign of her. I don't actually think, as
7 an older person, I don't actually think that they were
8 there, but that's what I was seeing. I thought that it
9 was Mrs ENW and the two girls.

10 Q. Then I think a social worker came and you were found by
11 somebody, I think, and then you were taken to a social
12 worker.

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. If I can take you, please, to GLA-000002063, I think we
15 can see a letter from the social worker, who you
16 remembered was called Rennie McLean, so page 2 of this
17 document, a letter dated 15 October 1974, and he says:
18 "On Thursday, 17 September I was called out
19 concerning a girl who had been missing from home since
20 the morning of the 16th."
21 Then the next paragraph it says:
22 "This girl has been a foster child of Glasgow
23 Corporation for many years and has been in six different
24 children and foster homes."
25 Then it notes that your relationship with the foster

1 carers was very poor.

2 "It came to a head last week when Mrs ENW hacked
3 off the girl's hair for presumably telling her a lie.
4 The situation, although materially good, is emotionally
5 unstabling for 'Rebecca', who is a bright girl, and
6 obviously, in order to attract the attention of the
7 authorities, left home. This is the third occasion she
8 has run away and I am informed by the school that they
9 have sent repeatedly poor background reports to Glasgow
10 Corporation social work department and never had any
11 response."

12 Then I think Mr McLean notes that he interviewed
13 you, interviewed the foster parents and felt that you
14 should be removed to a children's home, where he says
15 you've now settled in well.

16 A. (Witness nods)

17 Q. He then goes on to say:

18 "These difficulties, I believe, could have been
19 alleviated had continual supervision been given by the
20 social work department involved and I feel at this time
21 it would be of benefit to the foster children and the
22 parents if we were advised of all the foster children
23 and their placement in our area by other agencies. This
24 would offer, in emergencies, the knowledge we require
25 and reciprocally offer the foster parent the facilities

1 of a social work department close by."

2 That seems to be the letter that Mr McLean sent to
3 the Corporation, and I think that they essentially did
4 confirm that you were to be removed from the foster
5 placement.

6 A. It felt like he was the first person to actually
7 challenge them on anything, you know.

8 Q. Just for completeness, if we can go on, please, to
9 page 4, this is a letter from the social work department
10 in Glasgow and at the bottom of the page we see
11 an entry, 18 September 1974, which refers to the message
12 from Mr McLean, who was the one who had highlighted the
13 issue.

14 A. (Witness nods)

15 Q. It then says, in the final paragraph:

16 "I visited the foster home on 19 September 1974 and
17 saw Mrs ENW the foster mother, who gave a long
18 account of the girl's shortcomings ..."

19 Then she refused to take you back, it goes on over
20 the page.

21 The next paragraph says:

22 "The houseparents [so this is at the home] have
23 found her very easy to look after, gives them no trouble
24 and they will be very happy to have her meantime until
25 another placement can be arranged. 'Rebecca' herself

1 says she would like to stay in this children's home and
2 is not very happy going back to [REDACTED] even if they
3 did want her."

4 I think that letter is from Mr Meldrum at Glasgow.

5 A. Yes, I remember Mr Meldrum. As I say I remember
6 Mr Caldo slightly, but I remember Mr Meldrum.

7 Q. Was Mr Meldrum somebody that visited you or was he maybe
8 somebody more in charge?

9 A. I don't know, I think he was a social worker too, as far
10 as I know.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But you know, I didn't tell the people in Harley Place
13 nor [REDACTED] about the day that I was in the house by
14 myself and I was just feeling really awful and I just
15 always remember hearing the George Harrison song, "My
16 sweet Lord", and I remember going into the kitchen to
17 [REDACTED] because I'd had enough. And I went into
18 the cupboard, I got a chair and went up into the
19 cupboard and the only thing that was in the cupboard

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED] but
23 that was the frame of mind I was in that day. I just --
24 I just didn't want to be here any more.

25 I don't know, I think I was around 11 or something

1 when that happened, Secondary Institutions - to be published later

2 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3

4 And you know it says about trying to attract the
5 attention of the authorities. I wouldn't agree with
6 that, because to me it was more kind of like just
7 a tripwire, where I was just like -- bolted, you know?
8 So.

9 Q. I just want to ask you lastly, 'Rebecca', about the
10 lessons that we can learn from your experience. If we
11 go back to your statement, please, page 34, and at
12 paragraph 157. You talk there about there should be
13 an inquiry beyond looking at the surface, and I think
14 you're referring there to the things that we've seen in
15 your records about the clothes you were wearing, for
16 example, in the house.

17 A. Yes. I don't think it's how the place looks. I don't
18 think people should take things at face value, you know,
19 like Mrs ENW being a big jolly woman, but that was
20 a big jolly woman that held my head beneath a sink of
21 water, after telling me that I was ugly and I was even
22 uglier when I cried. Things like having to wash my face
23 because I was ugly when I cried and go like this with
24 the water and it was getting colder and colder and
25 colder the longer I was -- so I was ending up trying not

1 to make contact with my face, because it was so cold.

2 And that was when she would stick the plug in and fill

3 it up and hold my head underneath, you know.

4 Q. If we go over the page to page 35, paragraph 159 you

5 talk there about maybe if there was someone that

6 children could go to outside of their living situation

7 rather than someone coming in, then that might help get

8 to the truth.

9 A. I think it shouldn't be somebody who's going to become

10 friendly with the family, too friendly with the family,

11 that maybe they can't see what's beneath the surface.

12 I sometimes think you hear about foster parents getting

13 training and stuff these days. Maybe it would be good

14 if children had an idea of what was acceptable that was

15 happening to them and what wasn't, you know? Because

16 you don't know. You think that's your normality, so you

17 don't know that that's -- anybody but you would find it

18 wrong or find it bad, you know?

19 And then even the likes of -- like my kind of safe

20 place at that time was like the fields that were beside

21 us and I used to go in there and I used to -- I call it

22 now like the acceptable face of talking to yourself, you

23 know, where I used to sing about what ever was happening

24 and that was like my safe place and my escape from them.

25 And then there were a couple of children murdered in

1 that field and it was like -- do you know what I mean,
2 that wasn't a safe place --
3 Q. Any more.
4 A. -- either.
5 Q. Then at paragraph 160, you also talk about -- it's
6 something that we've touched on before, which is the
7 change of living from one person to another --
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. -- and that a foster child isn't necessarily equipped to
10 do that.
11 A. Yes.
12 MS INNES: Thank you very much for your evidence, 'Rebecca'.
13 Obviously your statement as well forms part of your
14 evidence to the Inquiry, but I have no more questions
15 for you today.
16 A. Thank you.
17 MS INNES: There are no applications, my Lady.
18 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
19 questions?
20 'Rebecca', that does complete all the questions we
21 have for you.
22 A. Thank you.
23 LADY SMITH: Thank you so much for engaging with us as you
24 have done, both by providing your detailed written
25 statement, and I have read everything in it, including

1 [REDACTED] ENW-SPO other foster children, are all
2 protected by my general restriction order and they can't
3 be used outside this room.
4 Thank you.
5 (1.13 pm)
6 (The luncheon adjournment)
7 (2.00 pm)
8 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.
9 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady, the next witness is 'Sadie'.
10 'Sadie' was in the care of Glasgow Corporation and
11 was placed in foster care in Cumnock on [REDACTED] 1966.
12 Again, although they lived in Ayrshire, the carers were
13 appointed by Glasgow, although again the county of Ayr
14 was asked for their views and I think to carry out
15 a visit potentially.
16 'Sadie' remained with them until [REDACTED] 1981, when she
17 was discharged from care.
18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
19 MS INNES: By that time obviously reorganisation had taken
20 place and Strathclyde Regional Council were responsible
21 for the placement and Glasgow City Council is the
22 relevant successor.
23 LADY SMITH: Thanks.
24 'Sadie' (sworn)
25 A. Hello.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you. I think you've used a microphone
2 before. That will be helpful.

3 A. Yes.

4 LADY SMITH: A couple of other things I want to mention
5 first of all, 'Sadie'. The red folder there has your
6 statement in it. You'll be asked to look at that in
7 a moment. But your statement will also come up on
8 screen and we'll go to the relevant parts of it as we're
9 taking you through your evidence. You don't have to use
10 either, but it might be helpful if you want to, to know
11 that they're there.

12 Separately, 'Sadie', I do know we've asked you to
13 come along and talk in public about your own life and
14 your own life as a child, and particularly about things
15 that happened that I accept won't be easy to talk about,
16 and your own emotions may take you by surprise. I get
17 that, I do understand.

18 So if you need a break or just to sit and pause,
19 that's absolutely fine. Whatever works for you will
20 work for me, because what matters is to do what we can
21 to make the challenge of this difficult task a little
22 less challenging and as straightforward as we can in the
23 circumstances. Is that all right?

24 A. Yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: Good. If you're ready to start, I'll hand to

1 Ms Innes and she'll take it from there.

2 A. Okay.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS INNES: Thank you.

5 Questions from Ms Innes

6 MS INNES: 'Sadie', you were born in 1963?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I'm just going to ask you to look at your statement. We

9 give it the reference WIT-1-000000969, and if we can go

10 to the last page of it, please, and to paragraph 95, we

11 see there that you say:

12 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

13 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

14 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

15 true."

16 You signed this statement on 20 January of this

17 year?

18 A. Yes, that's correct.

19 Q. Okay. If we can go back to the start of your statement

20 now, please, paragraphs 3 and 4, you tell us that

21 I think you have very few memories of your life before

22 you went into foster care, because you were placed in

23 foster care when you were about three?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You don't remember anything that happened, really, prior

1 to being in foster care?

2 A. No. I did used to have a recurring dream, and when
3 I back storied my life, it was in a tenement garden and
4 it coincides with my mum being taken away from me again
5 when I was about one, and I managed to piece that
6 together because of doing my own research.

7 Q. I think you say that you can't really remember arriving
8 at the foster home, I think you just remember being
9 there. Is that right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. If we go on over the page, please, to page 2, at
12 paragraph 5 we see that you tell us that you were placed
13 in foster care I think with a couple called EYP-EYQ ?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. You have some addresses there, one in Cumnock and then
16 in Stevenston. Did they live in Cumnock to begin with?

17 A. Yeah, that's where I first stayed with them in
18 [REDACTED]

19 Q. You tell us in paragraph 5 that they had seven children
20 of their own?

21 A. Yes, that's correct.

22 Q. Were they all older than you?

23 A. Yeah, they were all older than me and one had a severe
24 disability with spina bifida.

25 Q. I know that you've not seen your records, but a moment

1 ago you and I were discussing what the Inquiry have
2 found from your records and we know from that that the
3 children, when the people applied to be foster carers,
4 the other children were aged 15, 14, 11, 10, 6 and 5.
5 The application says that it was a five-apartment house
6 and there were seven beds in the property at the time.
7 You also say that one of the children had spina bifida?
8 A. Yeah. And he might not have been living in the house
9 because I know he went to the -- he stayed in Yorkhill
10 Hospital a lot. And after I was fostered, EYP-EYQ
11 managed to full-time foster another child as well.
12 Q. Okay. So the other child that they fostered, was this
13 child older than you or younger than you?
14 A. She was a newborn baby out of the maternity unit.
15 Q. Okay. You tell us about the other foster child at
16 paragraph 7 of your statement and you say that she came
17 when you were about five years old?
18 A. Yeah.
19 Q. You later shared a room with her and did you continue to
20 share a room with her throughout the various houses that
21 they went to?
22 A. Yeah, yeah, there was like bunk beds.
23 Q. Okay. Before she arrived, can you remember where you
24 were sleeping, who you shared a room with?
25 A. Yeah, I'm sure I used to sleep in the downstairs room in

1 the Cumnock house with the older sisters, and eventually
2 they left the house and got married, because I was quite
3 a destructive child and I would ruin all their make-up
4 and things like that.

5 Q. You tell us at paragraph 7 that you moved to [REDACTED] in
6 Stevenston when you were about 10 or 11.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. So you were in Cumnock up to then, then you moved to
9 this house in Stevenston. Was it any different? Any
10 bigger than the house that you lived in before?

11 A. It was possibly smaller, because a lot of the older
12 children had left and it was only [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] --
13 not [REDACTED] [REDACTED] me and [REDACTED] then in that house.

14 Q. Then you moved to a further property in Stevenston when
15 you were in my school?

16 A. Yeah, [REDACTED].

17 Q. Again was that about the same size as the house you've
18 just described or was it smaller or bigger?

19 A. It was probably about the same size, maybe, but it was
20 a semi-detached council house.

21 Q. Okay. If we go on, please, over the page can you tell
22 us a little bit about each of your foster parents and
23 what they were like?

24 A. Yes. This isn't in the statement, but now that I am
25 a mother and I understand what's kind of required,

1 I look at her as a mother and a person and I think she
2 was a very needy woman and she loved being pregnant, but
3 when the children were older, the other children would
4 look after them, and that makes sense that she fostered.
5 She was looking for a toddler/baby. It's this kind of
6 like attention -- because I remember when I first was
7 pregnant and I had a baby and people go, "Oh, is that
8 your first baby? Oh, that's lovely", and she just
9 lapped that kind of behaviour up.

10 But then trouble started because I was a very
11 damaged child, I had been in the children's home,
12 I would say, about two years, you know, with no
13 nurturing or anything and quite traumatised, she wasn't
14 equipped to deal with that and she didn't have a very
15 good support network with the foster father, because he
16 was a very cold and man's man, you know, he would go to
17 the pub after the mines and that type of thing. And she
18 would always say she's living on her wit's end, you
19 know.

20 So any little thing -- because I understand some way
21 why the abuse became what it was, because she couldn't
22 cope with it.

23 Q. You mention that Mr EYP was -- he would go out to the
24 pub and he would be working. Was he round about the
25 house much? Did he take much to do with looking after

1 you?

2 A. No, not at all, not at all. Wasn't interested in that.

3 He was -- that's what I mean. I think that's where the

4 children failed the mother, because she was a product of

5 abuse and neglect, because she would tell us about she

6 had to marry the dad when she was 15/16. Her mother

7 died when she was young. So she had no skills either.

8 Q. You tell us a bit about what you were like when you went

9 into foster care if we go to paragraph 11 on this page.

10 You say that you were very damaged when you went into

11 foster care, you couldn't eat and could only take

12 porridge or soup. Can you remember that being the case

13 that that's what you could do or is that something that

14 you learned as an adult?

15 A. It was something that would be referred to quite often,

16 because she would give me things to eat, which I find

17 hard to believe. She said you would go out in the

18 morning with it in your mouth and you'd come back in the

19 night and you'd still have it, whereas I'm sure I would

20 have spat it out. So that's where I got this -- and

21 I do love porridge, I still love porridge, and there was

22 lentil soup all the time in the house, so.

23 Q. You say that you ripped up blankets, is that something

24 that she told you as well?

25 A. I remember doing that. Babies do it where they have the

1 soft nurturing thing and I would just rip and rip and
2 I remember seeing it all, so.

3 Q. You say that you sat and rocked constantly.

4 A. Mm.

5 Q. That was something that you did throughout your
6 childhood?

7 A. I did that up until I joined the army and the army
8 people were like, "What's she doing?" I would do it to
9 go to sleep, I would sit and do it, and again
10 I researched that and that's about -- monkeys do that
11 when their parents leave them.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. But they interpreted it as I was doing some kind of
14 sexual pleasure. You know, from a young age, this young
15 vulnerable child, and all they could think about was
16 sex, you know? Where is why didn't they go and take me
17 to Dr Boyd, who we know about, and say, "Why is this
18 child doing that?"

19 Q. Okay. You say that you were very insular and shy.

20 A. Yeah. They used to call me like "daft EZC" and --
21 I knew I wasn't because I could see things beyond me,
22 you know, and I'd ask questions. For example,
23 I remember they were having a conversation and I says,
24 "Yeah, everybody's got genes", and they were like, "No,
25 they haven't", because that's the way they used to talk,

1 "No, they haven't, hen, I've not got any jeans", and I'd
2 be like, "No, I don't mean like that".

3 That would be my kind of often battle. They just --
4 anyway, sorry about that.

5 Q. That's okay.

6 You then go on to talk about what it was like in the
7 house and you say that the routine and things were all
8 quite vague and your memories are really of the horrible
9 things that happened.

10 A. Mm.

11 Q. You say there that one of the daughters used to deal
12 with you more than the foster mother, is that going back
13 to what you said a moment ago, that the older children
14 were looking after the younger ones and so you were one
15 of the younger ones then?

16 A. Yeah, yeah.

17 Q. At paragraph 13 you say:

18 "There was always a coal fire on. My foster mum had
19 a wee table in the kitchen. We sat and had our meals on
20 our knees. The family were impoverished and the food
21 was bad."

22 Did that remain the case for the whole time that you
23 lived there, that there were issues with the amount of
24 food?

25 A. Yeah. When we lived -- while they were all still in the

1 house, and I think there was only one wage coming in and
2 at that time I didn't realise she got paid for me and
3 eventually for [REDACTED] so no, they never had any money.
4 I would always have second-hand clothes and stuff and
5 holes in shoes and no bus money to get to school and
6 stuff like that.

7 And when it says -- that sounds quite cosy, like
8 there was always a fire. I mean, I used to light the
9 fire and he was a miner so he'd get free coal. And the
10 wee table in the kitchen, it was a wee table and there
11 was lots of us in the house.

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. So reading that, that sounds like something out of
14 a lovely little book.

15 Q. You say there that sometimes you were sent to the
16 butchers to ask for credit.

17 A. It was just stuck in my mind, her sending me out and
18 saying, "Go and ask if I can get a pound of mince and
19 I'll pay them on Friday". And I was mortified, I was --
20 and I can't remember what he said, because when you do
21 this, you can't absolutely say on that Tuesday, at this
22 time, and that time, you're just going through all your
23 waves of memories and that's just one of them.

24 Q. You talk at paragraph 14 about being constantly hungry
25 and the other EYP-EYQ children were the same. There

1 wasn't enough to go around.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You received lunches at school, did you?

4 A. Yeah, we used to get free lunches at school. And as

5 I say, I was always up for extras because I was always

6 really hungry.

7 Q. Then in the final paragraph on this page 15 you say that

8 you never had a toothbrush until you went into the army?

9 A. No. And the thing is, I went into the children's home

10 but they weren't that invasive, so they probably didn't

11 realise I didn't have a toothbrush, because I was 16.

12 No, and they still don't do any oral hygiene in that

13 family. It's just not -- I remember the dentist coming

14 to the school and giving you that pink stuff, but

15 I don't remember using the toothbrush. And there

16 wasn't -- you know when you go into normal houses and

17 there's toothbrushes, et cetera. There was nothing like

18 that in their house.

19 Q. Okay. Can you remember how you cleaned your teeth then?

20 Or did you just not?

21 A. No, I didn't. It's amazing they've not fallen out, but

22 I've still got them.

23 Q. You say at paragraph 16 that your memory is getting home

24 from school, being put in your room and sitting in the

25 room and rocking.

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 Q. Is that a sort of constant throughout your childhood,
3 that memory?

4 A. Yeah, that -- that memory is very deep and dark. That's
5 the memory of hearing the school bell and knowing that
6 I'm going to go home and I won't know what -- and
7 I still get that anxiety, you know, when things -- some
8 mornings I wake up and I think why do I feel like that,
9 because there's no need to, and it's that kind of
10 trauma, every day you're walking home and it's turning
11 and it's turning and it's turning and you open the door
12 and you don't know -- sometimes you don't get sent to
13 your room and you don't get a beating. I mean, they
14 used to smell my fingers when I went home to see if I'd
15 been masturbating and then, "Right, get in that room and
16 wait until your father comes home", and then he'd come
17 home and batter me with a belt, like a leather belt.

18 I can't remember how I got food. I know that I was
19 always thirsty and I used to use [REDACTED] potty, because
20 we had a downstairs toilet and get some water that way.
21 I wasn't locked in the room, but often I'd be tied to
22 the bed at night because of the rocking.

23 Q. I think you do speak about this later in your statement,
24 but perhaps if we can cover that just now, so because of
25 the rocking, they tied you to the bed, you're saying?

1 A. Yeah, because again they thought I was masturbating and
2 they thought, well, if we tie her hands up, she won't be
3 able to do it. There was also this part of when I did
4 rock, it used to knot my hair. She imagined that I was
5 sitting at night and backcombing my hair so that in the
6 morning she'd have to comb it and she would break
7 brushes over my head. She'd get that angry she'd break
8 brushes and sometimes she'd just pull me upstairs by my
9 hair.

10 So kind of facing that in the mornings, then going
11 to school and having some like -- I would be sitting --
12 because that's the other thing about education.
13 I couldn't get educated because I was surviving. I was
14 like -- and any attention that I could get at school,
15 I got it. You know, like just being destructive.

16 Q. Okay. You talk at paragraph 18 about not getting any
17 pocket money. You don't think that EYP-EYQ children
18 had pocket money either.

19 A. (Witness shakes head)

20 Q. You say that you stole from shops and you can remember
21 being banned from all the local shops on the estate.

22 A. (Witness nods)

23 Q. Why were you stealing, do you think?

24 A. Because I was hungry. And I used to have these wellies
25 and I'd put them all down my wellies. And they'd say to

1 me, "Why have you got chocolate down your wellies?" And
2 I'd make up this story that I was getting it for my
3 sister and hiding it. As I say, eventually I was banned
4 from all the -- I used to live in a place called the
5 [REDACTED] so I was banned from all those shops so I'd
6 have to walk down to the town, to Stevenston, if she
7 sent me for a loaf or a pint of milk and stuff like
8 that.

9 Q. You then talk about school. What was school like at the
10 beginning when you were in Cumnock? So at paragraph 21,
11 sorry. It's further down the page.

12 If we go on over the page then, you talk about being
13 in a remedial class.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. I'm not sure, was that in Cumnock or in Stevenston?

16 A. That was at the very start, really.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Because -- again this isn't in my statement, but she
19 would get so angry that I couldn't read the Janet and
20 John books, because I am dyslexic, I still am dyslexic,
21 I mean I keep calling [REDACTED] and it's just
22 a play on words.

23 What was the question?

24 Q. So the remedial --

25 A. The remedial. She gave up doing the -- because it was

1 just another beating and I just got further and further
2 behind, but in myself I knew I wasn't stupid, you know,
3 and the people that were in the remedial class, they
4 were quite severe, you know, with behaviours and stuff.
5 And I used to think, "THIS isn't right, I shouldn't be
6 here".

7 What it also did, not only was I an insular child,
8 it made me more kind of excluded, because you weren't in
9 the normal classes. You would be in the normal class at
10 the beginning and then you would go off with all the
11 people that have got learning difficulties.

12 And I never really got out of that remedial, and
13 when I went to the high school, I loved German, because
14 for some reason it suited my dyslexia, but because again
15 at home I wasn't allowed to do any homework, I'd get the
16 belt every Monday with big Bertha, and then when it
17 became time for choosing subjects, they says, "No
18 chance, you're not taking an exam because you don't do
19 your homework", so I left school with nothing.

20 Q. You say in paragraph 23 that you drew black pictures in
21 art.

22 A. Yeah, I can still feel that feeling of why I did it.
23 I would start with something and then I would just start
24 painting it black. And the -- and I did that all
25 through my primary school. And the fact that the

1 teachers never really picked up on that -- there was
2 lots of things that the teachers should have picked up
3 on. Like I was spiteful and threw the -- I remember
4 doing that, throwing the last piece of jigsaw out the
5 window.

6 Q. You say that things should have been picked up, like
7 painting these pictures black and throwing things --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- and being destructive.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Then I think you talk at the bottom of the page about
12 the things that you've just mentioned about the -- being
13 in the remedial class and then also not being able to do
14 your homework and not being able really to fulfil your
15 potential in terms of your education.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. I think you tell us later on that that's something
18 that's had an impact on you throughout your life?

19 A. Very much so, yeah. I've tried to do -- I know people
20 have a kind of adverse past and, you know, I've read
21 about people like that and they become graduates, but
22 I wanted to do a social -- I worked for the YMCA and
23 they actually sent me on it, it was a social policy
24 degree to go and be a social worker, and I managed the
25 first year, but I just couldn't do the second year, it

1 was just so difficult.

2 They identified that I was a dyslexic, in the sense
3 that in the seminars I'd be very articulate and
4 debating, and then the essays were disgusting. There
5 was nothing -- because I've got word blindness and
6 stuff. And I had to just give up in the end on the
7 second year, because I just couldn't get through the
8 essays.

9 And it was about Marx and Weber, I thought to be
10 a social worker you would do counselling and listening
11 skills and stuff. So I was also thinking: what's
12 political theory got to do with me helping children?

13 Q. Then you tell us at page 6 and paragraph 27 about going
14 to see Dr Boyd in Cumnock and you say that the foster
15 mother told him that you were masturbating and he made
16 you feel even worse.

17 A. Yeah. And she went and told the school nuns as well,
18 I forgot to put that in there.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Yeah, and for some reason he used to call me EZC
21 EZC and I thought EZC was my name and
22 I had wrote that. I tried to change my name by deedpoll
23 before I got married and I had wrote EZC ,
24 but then when I applied for my original birth
25 certificates and that, there wasn't any EZC in it.

1 So that was all part of the creepy thing about Dr Boyd
2 and the foster mother telling him these things about me,
3 you know, which I think is terrible.

4 Q. Then you said that the nuns were told about it as well?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. So the nuns at school, presumably?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Did they speak to you --

9 A. I can't remember. It's that kind of pattern of wave of
10 memory. I know that she went to the school and told
11 them, because she was telling me that she was going to
12 tell them.

13 Because she even caught me -- I remember one day
14 I was changing a bed and instead of going around the
15 bed, I rolled over the bed and I remember her coming in
16 and going ballistic saying that I was doing it again and
17 I was like, "I'm making the bed!"

18 So, yeah.

19 Q. If we go on over the page to page 7, you talk at
20 paragraph 32 about having very fond memories of your
21 social worker when you were between about five and
22 seven.

23 A. (Witness nods)

24 Q. What can you remember about that social worker?

25 A. She was just lovely. She treated me lovely, you know?

1 And that was part of -- I remember thinking I'm going to
2 be a social worker when I'm big, because she was just --
3 I can't remember any conversations but I just have
4 a warm feeling about her and I remember having ice cream
5 and stuff and she had this little blue C5 with a pop-up
6 thing.

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. I remember before she would come they would give me new
9 shoes and new ribbons and socks and warn me not to tell
10 anybody anything, you know, like -- or I'll be put in
11 Rose's Home and they told me what happens in Rose's Home
12 is you get tied to this big circle thing and people whip
13 you. So that was my Rose's Home vision.

14 Q. When they said "Rose's Home", was that a place or
15 something that they made up?

16 A. I think it was just something that they made up. It's
17 a bit like I've got a Scottish terrier puppy and when
18 she's naughty I'm like, "You're going back to the lady",
19 so it's her Rose's Home.

20 Q. You say at paragraph 34 that you can remember going to
21 Stranraer in a caravan with your foster family and you
22 describe your cousins being there.

23 A. (Witness nods)

24 Q. So as in when you say "My dad's sister's children", do
25 you mean your birth father --

1 A. No.

2 Q. -- or do you mean Mr EYP ?

3 A. Yes, Mr EYP That was his sister and that was the

4 only holiday I ever went on, Stranraer, and it was all

5 their cousins and I think it was just me and

6 Q. At paragraph 35 you talk about your contact with your

7 birth family. Did you have any contact with your birth

8 family when you lived with the EYP-EYQ ?

9 A. No, she kind of would tell me this fairy story about she

10 had picked me and -- I can't remember if she told me

11 anything about them, but it would all be a bit of

12 a mystery, you know. There's this loyal thing in the

13 family, which is happening now in the EYP-EYQ and it's

14 like: oh, you know, it's a bit like a code, you don't

15 break it.

16 Because I remember the first time I attempted it and

17 my sister says, "How could you do that?" And

18 I was like, "Well, I had a different background from you

19 in that house".

20 But I would like to bring up that point when I was

21 16, because that was about the time that I got thrown

22 out of the EYP-EYQ house and that was the year that my

23 real mum died and they were contacting the social

24 work -- not to say that my mum died, but when I done my

25 back story, I met my sister and my dad, and they said

1 they tried to make contact to see how things were and
2 both in the records and in the birth family, the social
3 work said I was settled in my family and it would be too
4 upsetting.

5 You know, it's very regretful because my real mum,
6 who was called [REDACTED] died in a homeless hostel and was
7 Buried in a pauper's grave and she had cried every year
8 for me, and because of the state of mental health in
9 women back then, she was electrocuted for her mental
10 health. You know, I mean it's different now, I'm on
11 citalopram, I've got mental health, and the fact that
12 all that happened and my older sister let her die,
13 whereas even at 16 I was strong and I thought I would
14 never have let that happen to you, you know?

15 And if I had that opportunity to go and save her,
16 you know, I would have.

17 Q. I think you mentioned your older sister there, you maybe
18 say this in your statement, that you feel that your
19 older sister could have done more at the time perhaps
20 to --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- get in touch with you?

23 A. She was 15 when I got taken into care and when I met
24 her, she was a successful PE teacher and played Scotland
25 at [REDACTED] and she was ashamed of my mum, absolutely

1 ashamed. And fortunately I managed to cut her off,
2 because my husband joined the SAS and once you join the
3 SAS you're not on the electoral roll and when I found
4 all this stuff that she had done, or not done, for my
5 mum, I cut her off and that was the end of it.

6 She was quite assuming that I had this wonderful
7 life and expected so much from me as well, and I just
8 thought that was bizarre. But the biggest thing is what
9 happened to [REDACTED]

10 Q. And also you've highlighted there that the social work
11 department had decided that you were too settled --

12 A. (Witness nods)

13 Q. -- and that there wouldn't be contact. Can you remember
14 anyone from the social work department talking to you
15 about your birth family when you were a child?

16 A. No. Nothing. Because I actually went and traced them
17 and met my real auntie, and she was telling me things,
18 because she thought I was actually [REDACTED] and she was
19 telling me all the different stories and that's where
20 I got that back story about the garden.

21 Q. You then go on to talk at paragraph 36 about [REDACTED] who
22 was the other child in the foster home with you, and you
23 say that she was treated totally differently to you.

24 A. Yeah. Because she came in as a newborn baby with no
25 damage, no -- you know. And unfortunately, I mean

1 I might be skipping too far ahead, I've reported all
2 this to police and she witnessed a lot and things have
3 developed and she's decided to pull away from her
4 statement.

5 So -- because we were close, up until about three
6 months ago, very close, and she's seen all the things
7 that used to happen to me and she couldn't understand
8 why. But part of my behaviour -- because I can see it
9 in vulnerable children, you know, as a mum, and I would
10 see other children that would come to the house and play
11 and stuff, and you can just see children who are abused,
12 you know? It's like that vulnerability, they've got
13 that, you know, I've looked at pictures of myself and
14 you're just standing like this, you know, and it gives
15 that powerful adult a kind of opportunity to just press
16 and press, you know, and do all those things that
17 happened to me, you know, and the fact that maybe they
18 didn't see change or behavioural improvement, you
19 know ...

20 Q. We'll come back again to you having gone to the police
21 in due course, but thank you for highlighting that.

22 If we go on over the page, you speak again about
23 [REDACTED] paragraph 37. You say that you knew you were
24 worthless and that [REDACTED] was the golden child. Is that
25 how you felt that you were treated as a child?

1 A. Yeah, because they would go:
2 "Oh, look at [REDACTED] have you heard [REDACTED] doing her
3 reading? Not like you, daft EZC [REDACTED] get to your room."
4 That kind of stuff. And [REDACTED] would get beautiful
5 dresses and -- and I used to think even then that
6 I didn't think [REDACTED] was that bright, you know, because
7 she was obviously a lot younger than me, but she was
8 a very affectionate child as well, and that foster
9 family, they've got this thing and it's bizarre. So
10 their children have children, their gran weans, right,
11 and they get them to perform like circus clowns, oh look
12 at them and teach them really bad behaviours and laugh
13 at them, and then when those children get older, they
14 don't speak to them. None of the grandchildren speak to
15 them, because they realise how weird they are, you know?
16 It's that kind of thing. [REDACTED] was a kind of -- she
17 would perform into that behaviour, that kind of --
18 I can't describe it, really. Whereas I was very sullen
19 and -- I mean there's points that I just can't explain.
20 Q. At page 8 and from paragraph 38 you talk about the abuse
21 that you suffered. You've already talked about the
22 issue of you rocking and your foster parents continually
23 thinking that you were masturbating.
24 A. Mm-hmm.
25 Q. You say at the end of this that if she thought you'd

1 done something meriting being put in the room, you would
2 be put to the room, and then she would say that your
3 foster father would deal with you?
4 A. (Witness nods)
5 Q. What did he do when he came home?
6 A. Well, I would just wait and rock and pray to God that
7 he's not going to hit me, and he would come in and hit
8 me with a belt.
9 Q. You say that he would take the belt off his trousers?
10 A. Yeah, because he was a miner.
11 Q. And it was on your bare bum, you say?
12 A. Mm-hmm.
13 Q. Would he ask you or make you take your clothes off?
14 A. I don't remember that bit, I just remember that it was
15 on my bare bum.
16 Because the other thing I would add in that period
17 is my husband and I are the same age and he'll say to
18 me, "Do you remember this? Do you remember that?" And
19 I don't know any children's TV or back then, because
20 I never seen any, because I was always in my room. Just
21 thought I'd add that bit.
22 Q. Okay.
23 Then you say that that went on -- you know, you were
24 tied up in bed, locked in your room, and then you say:
25 "That went on every night throughout my childhood

1 until I moved to Stevenston. There was a change in my
2 foster father at the end of living in Cumnock. I think
3 he started to feel sorry for me."
4 A. (Witness nods)
5 Q. Did he stop hitting you then?
6 A. Yeah. Just to go back to correct, I wasn't locked in my
7 room, but I wouldn't have come out because I would have
8 been too scared. I'd come out for some water but
9 I wouldn't go in the living room and ask for anything.
10 And going back to your question about my foster
11 father, yes. So he would say to me, "Pretend that I've
12 hit you", and he would whack the bed. I do, I think he
13 started feeling sorry for me as I was getting older,
14 whereas the foster mother, I would say she was getting
15 more -- what's the word? Like frenzied, you know,
16 because she couldn't cope with all the children she had
17 because they were all -- I wouldn't say they were
18 deviants, but they weren't A-stream kids. She couldn't
19 discipline children. She couldn't -- as what I would
20 say is discipline, like show them the right way
21 behaviours. She would just thrash out at them and shout
22 and -- you know, and that was part of that list.
23 Q. Would she hit you as well then?
24 A. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. She would throw things --
25 Q. Would she use the belt?

1 A. No, she was more of a slipper person. And she was
2 always hitting [REDACTED] with a brush and stuff, but he
3 would laugh at her and run away.

4 Q. You talk about her going ballistic, so paragraph 41 you
5 talk about hating eggs and flipping them behind the
6 kitchen unit and then she went ballistic at you.

7 A. Yeah, we had this like kitchen, this 1970s style thing,
8 and I would sit here and she insisted that I had eggs
9 and I hated eggs, so when her back was turned I used to
10 flip them and then she pulled out the cupboard once and
11 she knew it was me, so ...

12 Q. At paragraph 42, you talk about being abused by your
13 foster brother.

14 A. (Witness nods)

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

16 A. Mm-hmm. He was called [REDACTED] in the family. I'm not
17 concrete sure, but I'm -- I think I remember he was home
18 from the Navy and he lay me on the couch and took my
19 pants down and started exploring that private area and
20 touching me and stuff, and he asked -- I remember he
21 said, "Do you want to see mine?" And I said, "No", and
22 he said, "No, because I would hurt you", and I had never
23 seen a penis before in my life.

24 And the memories that I have is that the foster
25 mother had a new carpet at the time, because he was

1 supposed to hoover it, and then there was another
2 time -- I think he did that quite a lot, but as I say,
3 it's this wave of memory so I can't say on Tuesday,
4 whatever.

5 Q. Mm-hmm.

6 A. Then there was another time that he come home and me and
7 ██████ were sitting on his knee and he put ██████ down and
8 he was offering me a 10 pence or a coin, I don't know
9 what currency it was, and he was touching me
10 inappropriately then as well and I just thought, mm,
11 this isn't right, you know?

12 Q. At paragraph 43 you refer to your foster father grabbing
13 you and doing certain things to you as well.

14 A. (Witness nods)

15 Q. How long did that go on for?

16 A. That went on a long time. As I say, my foster mother
17 got a job as a school cleaner and it started off when he
18 was decorating, because he would shout me up and I can't
19 remember the first time and I can't remember the last
20 time that he did it, but I remember what he did.

21 This is a very intimate thing, but I can't actually
22 physically kiss my husband, because it's a trauma, you
23 know, so I don't even attempt. He used to grab me and
24 put his tongue down my throat and smooch me. Again, as
25 a child, I didn't know what this was, but he obviously

1 had an erection and he was getting himself to climax on
2 me. And again I wouldn't know that. And it went on for
3 long enough -- probably until I got thrown out, because
4 then he attempted it on my wedding day, to kiss me. So
5 he still had that mindset that -- I don't know, that
6 I belonged to him or something, you know?

7 But yeah, absolutely disgusting. And he used to put
8 butter in his hair as well and he stunk, because they
9 weren't very good at personal hygiene. And I've
10 explained that to my husband and that's part of the
11 reason why I haven't got my husband here, because
12 I don't want to embarrass him in front of people and
13 I know this doesn't go any further and it's anonymous.
14 But I think it's important for me to say that, that
15 that's how scarred things have become -- you know, are.

16 Q. You then also talk about an incident with [REDACTED] that you
17 mentioned at paragraph 44.

18 A. Yeah. I would like to add as well, before I explain
19 about [REDACTED] this is all part of that kind of behaviour
20 of a vulnerable child. This wouldn't have happened to
21 somebody that would have another adult to say, "This is
22 happening to me". It's because I had no one and
23 I didn't realise what the role of a social worker was.
24 Maybe I would have shared -- I don't know, I doubt it,
25 because I was very scared.

1 So the [REDACTED] situation was that he wanted to break
2 me in. Obviously I was a virgin, I'd never been with
3 a man. And again the waves of memories, I can't
4 absolutely say whether he penetrated me or not, but
5 I remember him teaching me how to do it and that
6 I should use my fingers and a Tampax. So -- yeah. Oh,
7 I did say ... yeah.

8 And again I don't know if he ejaculated or anything.
9 I was probably about -- well, it says 13. 13/14.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And he knew -- he knows it was wrong, because he's
12 evaded me because -- you probably think why did you go
13 to your foster father's funeral but I did and he was
14 there and I said, "Hi [REDACTED] and he was like, "Who are
15 you?" And I said, "It's EZC [REDACTED] and he went, "Oh", and
16 I can tell he's ashamed he did it.

17 Q. You talk about your vulnerability at paragraph 45 and
18 you say what you mention there in your evidence, that
19 you were abused by the three of them because they knew
20 that you didn't have anyone and you were vulnerable.
21 And they would also shout you down when cousins came.

22 A. Yeah. With those same cousins, and I remember my foster
23 mother saying -- I could hear before she shouted me, she
24 said, "Watch this, she won't even ask for one". She was
25 dishing out sweets to all the cousins. Because I was

1 just absolutely terrified. I was just ... you know.

2 Q. Okay. Over the page at page 10 at paragraph 47 you say

3 that you didn't tell your social worker about the abuse

4 because you thought it was normal.

5 A. Yeah, well, that's an adult saying that, I thought it

6 was normal. As a child, you don't have any comparisons.

7 You don't have any trust people. And because of what

8 had happened to me, the social worker was lovely, but

9 there's also the fear because I was always worried --

10 I used to go and stay at one of the foster sisters and

11 she would come back and tell the foster mother all these

12 stories about me that weren't true. So there's that

13 trust thing as well about if I did tell the social

14 worker anything, you know, it would get back.

15 Q. Apart from the social worker that you had when you were

16 younger, the one between five and seven who you said you

17 had a warm feeling about, did you then have a social

18 worker who was consistently with you through the rest of

19 your childhood or did they change? Can you remember

20 anything about --

21 A. No, I can't remember any other -- I must have had one,

22 I imagine, because that's just bringing up a little bit

23 of a memory, because when I would have been going to the

24 children's home when I was 16, I think I had one then,

25 because she would have taken me to the children's home.

1 But I don't recollect any inputs and stuff.

2 Q. You tell us about leaving EYP-EYQ at paragraph 48.

3 You say that at the time that you were 16, you'd left

4 school, as you've told us, and you had a job. What

5 resulted in you leaving the foster home or being thrown

6 out?

7 A. I could tell that they didn't want me there. Before

8 I come home from work, they would be in the room

9 watching the TV and they wouldn't really engage in

10 conversation, and then there was this big argument about

11 Carnation Milk and I'm sure it was that did it,

12 but I got the blame of it and I was just told to pack my

13 bags and go. And I became homeless. I had no one. And

14 I didn't realise I was still under the Social Services.

15 And I had a boyfriend called and he took --

16 a real strong Catholic family, lovely family, and he

17 took me round to his mum's and his mum let me stay there

18 for a couple of nights while they got me a place in

19 Dalrymple Home.

20 But I don't know if I was exactly 16 or 16 and a

21 half.

22 Q. Okay. And then you were in Dalrymple Children's Home,

23 that's blanked out in your statement.

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. If we move on, please, to page 13 and paragraph 59, you

1 say:

2 "I kept in contact with EYP-EYQ I'm not sure
3 why."

4 A. (Witness nods)

5 Q. Did you keep in contact with them when you were at
6 Dalrymple Children's Home or was it later in life that
7 you got in contact with them again?

8 A. Yeah, when I told them that I wanted to join the army
9 when I lived with them and they would be going, "You'll
10 never make anything, blah, blah". And it's a bit like
11 the kind of Munchausen thing. I always wanted to prove
12 them wrong. Emotionally I cut them off, for my own
13 preservation, but I wanted it invite them to things to
14 say, "Look, I've done this". I invited them to my
15 wedding as well.

16 So that question, they came to the passing-out
17 parade and they were, "Oh, you're a feather in our cap,
18 well done". Stuff like that.

19 Was that the question?

20 Q. I was just asking about when you got back in contact
21 with them, you were explaining --

22 A. Yeah, and then the next part leads on to when I was on
23 leave in the army they let me stay there and gave
24 me a lift and I remember going past the Catholic church
25 in Stevenston and turning on him and saying, "How dare

1 you do that?" I can't remember the exact words but
2 I was giving him and he said, "I should have raped you
3 when I had the chance", and I was like: he isn't sorry.
4 So ...

5 Q. You talked about your foster father, that you went to
6 his funeral, but you also went to see him before he
7 died, you say.

8 A. Yeah, and that was a strange one because my husband took
9 me up because again, people outside the kind of
10 environment that I'd been growing up in would say why
11 would you do that, but there is that part of you that
12 it's -- I suppose it's a cultural thing that -- you
13 know, he's the foster father.

14 So anyway, I'll tell you what happened. So I went
15 into the hospital and he started -- all his beepers were
16 going off, he had days to live, and doing that, "I love
17 you", and I was like ...

18 So then when he died, the foster mother said, "Why
19 did your dad have a picture of you in his wallet?" And
20 I was like, "I don't know".

21 So that's the two things that are relevant there.

22 And he also -- I think he died of cancer because he
23 was worried that I would tell my foster mother, because
24 I come home -- what was it -- oh, I had my first baby
25 and I took them to show them her and they showed no

1 interest whatsoever and I thought why am I surprised?
2 So I then just started telling them what terrible
3 parents they were and the foster mother couldn't cope
4 and she ran away and I could see -- because it was on my
5 list, that he was like really panicking, because I was
6 going to tell her, but she ran out the house before
7 I could and my husband came and picked me up.

8 And I think he died with the stress of knowing that
9 at any point I could actually blow the whistle on him.

10 Q. Have you ever told your foster mother what happened?

11 A. No. I've only ever told [REDACTED] my foster sister, and
12 then when I was living in Hereford, one of my nephews --
13 nieces phoned me, and she told -- I won't mention any
14 names, but she told me that she'd been abused by her
15 father, which is my brother-in-law, and I said that's
16 interesting, because I have this to share with you.
17 I didn't tell her about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but I told her
18 about EYP [REDACTED] and she was, "Oh my goodness". That
19 story got out then, they started coming back at me and
20 saying, "Why are you saying this?" Et cetera,
21 et cetera, and that was probably about ten years ago.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. But only two of the family members and they were like,
24 "You dare tell mum, that will kill her", and I was
25 crying on the phone and I said, "Look, I'm the victim

1 here and if I wanted to tell my mum I would tell her".

2 I said, "I know it would break her", because he's dead
3 by this time.

4 Q. If we can move on a little in your statement and perhaps
5 talk about some of the impact that these experiences
6 have had on you, and if we can move, please, to page 15
7 and you mention at paragraph 69:

8 "The biggest impact is the lack of education."

9 You've talked about that already in your evidence,
10 that that's been a significant issue for you.

11 At paragraph 70, you also say that you've had mental
12 health issues throughout your adult life and I think
13 you've mentioned those as well.

14 A. (Witness nods)

15 Q. At paragraph 71, you say that when you think about
16 childhood memories and happy memories of childhood, you
17 don't have any.

18 A. (Witness nods)

19 Q. Does that sort of refer to the types of things that you
20 were talking about when your husband speaks about things
21 that he did in his childhood and you don't have similar
22 memories to share?

23 A. Yeah. There was this book that I read by Anne Frank and
24 I could relate to her so much. She had so much hope and
25 in the book she talks about, "If I can see it, I can

1 breathe it", it was just fresh air, but it was that
2 longing for freedom, you know, and that's what I used to
3 feel when I was a child. I felt -- and another book
4 I read was Maya Angelou's why does a bird sing in
5 a cage? And that's what it was like. I was like
6 a caged animal, but I knew that -- I didn't know I was
7 going to get older and I was going to have a lovely
8 life, but I knew there was more to this and I was just
9 living through it. And when I read those books, I could
10 relate to that, thinking about -- because it was like
11 imprisonment.

12 MS INNES: Okay. I'm going to move on to a different topic
13 and I don't have much further to go, but I do have some
14 further matters to cover with you.

15 Perhaps it might be a good time to have a break,
16 my Lady?

17 LADY SMITH: 'Sadie', we usually take a break about this
18 time in the afternoon. If that would work for you, we
19 could do that now.

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: Very well, let's do so.

22 (2.59 pm)

23 (A short break)

24 (3.15 pm)

25 LADY SMITH: 'Sadie', is it okay with you if we carry on?

1 A. Yes, thank you.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 Ms Innes.

4 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

5 'Sadie', I'd like to move on to page 18 of your
6 statement where you have a section headed, "Reporting of
7 abuse", it's paragraph 84. You tell us there that at
8 the time that you signed your statement or gave your
9 statement, you had spoken to the police a few months
10 prior to that.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Can you tell us what's happened with the police
13 investigation?

14 A. Yeah. Firstly I reported it and it took a few months
15 for two officers to come to the house, because of the
16 Covid, I think.

17 Q. Mm-hmm.

18 A. And I spent the whole day giving my statement and she
19 gave me a contact number. I didn't really hear anything
20 for a long time, so I decided to call her and the
21 officer mentioned there, Tracey Thomson, wasn't the
22 investigating officer any more, it had changed to
23 Irene Runcie, so I got a hold of her and she said that
24 because of all the other things that are happening, the
25 Covid and the live cases, there's not much happened in

1 the case. She says, "But I do plan to go and interview
2 the family members", and I says, "Okay, then, will you
3 let me know updates, please?"

4 Now I mention this, because this has been a tsunami
5 for me because they've opened the gates and I had
6 a really close relationship with my foster sister,
7 [REDACTED] and she's recently lost her husband and I've
8 supported her through that, and the combination of the
9 police investigating and interviewing family members,
10 they've all collated and become very tribal, a bit like
11 I indicated earlier, you know, where we couldn't speak
12 out of turn because this was EYP-EYQ [REDACTED].

13 So [REDACTED] is now kind of swearing on their side,
14 because [REDACTED] in the police interview, is my main
15 witness, because she would say to me, EZC [REDACTED] it really
16 traumatised me to see you tied up on the bed and
17 things", you know, "And I don't know why they would
18 treat you like that" and, "You were treated
19 differently".

20 So for my evidence, she's a key person and she's
21 withdrawn any support. She said that she doesn't want
22 to do it any more and that EYP-EYQ [REDACTED] are disgusted and
23 I said to her, "But you know it's true", and she's not
24 strong enough, because she's lost her husband, and her
25 husband was her -- a bit like my husband, her rock, you

1 know?

2 So there's that, but why I bring it all up is the
3 police, I feel, are treating me or my case like a kind
4 of appendix at the end. Yeah, we'll deal with that
5 because the world's a dangerous place at the moment and
6 this happened to you a while ago, but we need to deal
7 with all this other stuff.

8 So the latest communication was that I phoned and
9 I phoned and I phoned and I couldn't get a hold of
10 Irene Runcie and eventually she left me a voice message
11 and I returned that and the police officer who answered
12 the phone said, "Between shifts and live cases it's very
13 hard to speak to her", so I said, "Okay, then, could you
14 please ask her to give me an update on the case, because
15 I'm going to present my evidence at the Child Abuse
16 Inquiry and I'd like to be able to report some kind of
17 significant development", so the development is that
18 she's now wearied it down -- she sent me an email with
19 all the reasons why it was taking so long and she's now
20 down to the last two, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and she's going
21 to trace them and bring them in for interview.

22 And along the case, the [REDACTED] situation, he has
23 a history of doing similar things to a stepchild and
24 she's actually confessed that to the police, but she's
25 not strong enough to go to court with it, as it stands.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So that's -- but this has been going on about a year and
3 a half and it -- what you have to understand is coming
4 here and giving evidence, it's really good to have that
5 opportunity and I'm actually proud of who I am today and
6 sitting here being able to vocalise that, but that
7 journey -- you know, every time you open that box and
8 all that damage, and I don't want to -- I'm a mum now,
9 you know, with three grown-up children. I don't want to
10 be living that trauma every day.

11 So for me to think: Is the police going to phone
12 me? Is the police going to phone me? It's an added
13 abuse, you know, it's actually crippling me, the fact
14 that they're not doing anything, you know? It's kind
15 of, "Yeah, well, shifts and Covid and stuff", and
16 I understand that, but this is historical abuse, it's
17 a crime that happened. It happened to me.

18 Q. You mentioned that they needed to trace the two people
19 that you mentioned and would they be difficult to find?

20 A. No. Because they know -- because they went to -- she
21 told me she had spoke to [REDACTED] and he was not sure
22 where [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stay, but he does know
23 where they stay.

24 Q. In terms of the issue with [REDACTED] I think you say in
25 your statement and you said in your evidence already

1 that you used to be very close, the two of you.

2 A. Very close, because she had -- I didn't have my children
3 until I was seven years married and very grown and
4 strong to be a mum. She had hers very young. She had
5 five children under the age of seven or something, so
6 I was always there to help her and financially to help
7 her as well and just be there for her and the children.
8 We would go on family holidays together. Very close.

9 And that's why part of my evidence is that I told
10 her about my abuse to protect her own children, because
11 she's got two girls.

12 So for all this to be broken it breaks me as well,
13 because she needs me and I need her, but I have to
14 protect my own self-preservation, because she's now been
15 fed by EYP-EYQ and their tribal kind of parochial
16 behaviour ... and she start -- because we went away
17 a few months ago to Glasgow and this is where it all
18 come out. We had a weekend together and I couldn't
19 sleep for the weekend and my husband said -- I told him
20 everything and he said, and I agreed with him, that
21 I just have to cut her off, because otherwise it's just
22 continuous, you know?

23 And the fact that there's no kind of proper
24 progression with the case with the police, you know,
25 because it's been lingering in the background.

1 Q. That makes matters worse for you?

2 A. Yes, it does, yeah, definitely. Because the whole
3 process of coming and doing -- I wanted to tell my story
4 a long time ago.

5 First of all, I came out the home and I was in the
6 army and then I became a Christian, I've always been
7 a Christian my old life and there's that forgiveness, so
8 I have forgiven them, but I've not forgot. I'm not
9 vengeful either.

10 But then when I had my own children, I realised,
11 wow, you know? I had to go and do a child play group
12 practice diploma to learn how to nurture and love
13 a child and to learn how to discipline them and stuff
14 like that, because I had no clue. And what I didn't
15 want is to repeat history, to have three -- I've got
16 three beautiful children, all privately educated, all
17 have first class degrees. I didn't want to go -- kind
18 of produce delinquents, as the care system told me
19 I would. They told me that I was in care, your children
20 will be in care. So ...

21 Q. And when you say you had to go and do this case, do you
22 mean that somebody compelled you to do that or did you
23 do it yourself because you felt you had to?

24 A. I did it myself. I did it myself. I read so many
25 books. Because -- the person that I am today is because

1 I did my own self-development. My first start was with
2 Jesus and the gospels and the compassion that he had and
3 how he treated the apostles and the women at the well
4 and I'd never known about unconditional love, you know?
5 And I grew and that -- that's helped me heal all the
6 wounds.

7 And then I started reading a lot of -- like
8 Maya Angelou and Anthony de Mello, just really lovely
9 philosophical growing books. But I still can't write
10 an essay.

11 Q. If we can look on, please, to the next page, page 19,
12 and paragraph 89, you tell us there about some lessons
13 that we should learn from your experience. You talk
14 first of all about children in care being at
15 a disadvantage because they have no parents and you say
16 there should be positive discrimination for them. Can
17 you tell us your thoughts in relation to that?

18 A. Positive discrimination as in don't just send them to
19 like a state school, you know, where the norm is to put
20 the teacher and the pupil and the pupils there have got
21 a nurturing family. And I'm not talking about
22 children's home -- like my children went to private
23 school, I'm not talking about boarding school, where
24 they learnt the value of each person, they were treated
25 as an individual. Whereas often these children's homes

1 are plopped in the middle or foster families and the
2 children are all blanketed together.

3 Because at the beginning my children did go to state
4 school and my daughter would come home crying and
5 I would say: why are you crying? And she says, "Because
6 the teacher shouted". I said, "Was she shouting at
7 you?" And she says, "No, but she was shouting". And
8 it's that blank behaviour. If children have a trauma
9 and they're listening to stuff like that.

10 But I'm not talking about over therapy either,
11 because then you kind of institutionalise them.

12 But things like make sure that the money is being
13 spent on them and not the other members of the family or
14 the parents.

15 I know it's a difficult one, because it's ... it's
16 like as a child I didn't know how to sit at a family
17 table, I didn't know how to eat with a knife and fork
18 properly, holidays, days out, stuff like that should be
19 just normally given to a child, and I don't know how you
20 then kind of make that an intervention into a foster
21 child without making them a label as well. It is
22 difficult. But that would be one thing.

23 Q. You talk at paragraph 92 about money paid for fostering.
24 You say it shouldn't go directly to the foster parents
25 or the foster parents should be more accountable for

1 what they spend money on.

2 A. Yeah, like budgeting. You know, like send receipts
3 rather than a child having second class -- because for
4 example, maybe you get £1,000 a month for a child. You
5 should be -- any other industry, because it is, it is
6 I suppose a bit like a business and you should be
7 answerable for at least a percentage of it. You know,
8 I'm not talking about every -- but like swimming
9 lessons, tennis lessons, school uniform, stuff like that
10 should be more accountable.

11 And the other thing I would like to add in is
12 through my adulthood I've always been involved in the
13 military and one of the things that I found very
14 rewarding when I was a cadet instructor was that we
15 actually promoted children in care to come into the
16 cadets. Because what that does, it gives them
17 an unconditional family that they won't have at a high
18 school, because the things that we teach in cadets, the
19 kind of essence of the army, you know, and the kind of
20 one for all and all for one and integrity, honesty, and
21 I think it's a great thing.

22 If there was something like that -- but then if that
23 got out in the papers, it would be like conscript
24 children in care, but it's not like that, you know. And
25 these adult instructors, we go through a lot of training

1 and we go through all the kind of social service
2 training and stuff, and we take children away and they
3 have -- they grow so much, you know? I've seen young
4 people start at 11 and going off to join the army as
5 officers by the time they're 18 and becoming real good
6 adults.

7 Q. You talk at paragraph 90, if we can just go back up
8 a little bit, you say that there should be invasive
9 visitation rights over children in care.

10 A. (Witness nods)

11 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that?

12 A. (Pause)

13 Oh yeah, yeah, I remember about that.

14 Yes, so it's like when the social worker used to
15 come to our house, the ones that I remember, everything
16 was -- all the housework was done, the best clothes were
17 on, I was briefed, you know, "You do this, you do that,
18 you do this", whereas it should be an open thing maybe
19 where the children can -- if the relationship's right,
20 the child could just go and see them. Or -- it
21 shouldn't be -- maybe it should be more of a mentor
22 rather than a social worker, so an extended -- I know
23 that there's -- I used to live in Hereford and I used to
24 be a street pastor and part of the development they've
25 got funding for family liaison workers. So they're not

1 government, they're not church, they're just there to
2 help.

3 So if you were a link officer, you would just go and
4 help the children to read at night or in the morning
5 serve the breakfast while the mum gets ready for work.
6 That kind of soft input, where you have a trusted adult
7 but it's not establishment, you know, and you can then
8 build up a trust.

9 Because I do believe that a child needs five
10 influential people in their lives and that's why
11 I believe in the link worker, because that's the kind of
12 stuff that you do. You softly softly intervene without
13 having all the big red tape of a social worker and
14 stuff.

15 Q. Why do you say five?

16 A. Five influential people? It's just something that I've
17 read and I always want to be one of those people and
18 I believe that my children have had those kind of people
19 and that's things like their father, their mother, it
20 could be a teacher. For me I used to be a youth worker
21 and a street pastor. Again, they tell you things in the
22 street when they're drunk and broken that they wouldn't
23 tell anybody, and it's very confidential as well.

24 But that was in Hereford. The project's called
25 Vennture now, it's got bigger and bigger and

1 unfortunately I've moved to Scotland, otherwise they
2 would want me to work for them.

3 Q. You also say at paragraph 91 that there should be
4 a scaling up of people who work with children:

5 "I had signs like the destructive behaviour, the
6 black pictures ..."

7 And suchlike as you mentioned earlier. When you say
8 "scaling up", do you mean more people or do you mean
9 that the people who work with children should have more
10 skills or maybe both?

11 A. I'm not really sure what I'm saying there. Possibly a
12 bit like the Baby P thing, you know where they come
13 across so many people, but I think that's changed since
14 I've been in care, because my daughter's a primary
15 school teacher, she teaches four- to five-year-olds and
16 she knows straight away. She says, "Mum, we've got so
17 many children that are ..." I can't remember what she
18 calls it, but basically you make a note of it.

19 So I think that is happening, that scaling up, like
20 coordinating, because again with the -- the thing about
21 my records and Dr Boyd and, "Oh yes, this is a happy
22 clean family", you know, it's like this woman has got
23 seven children and you're quite happy for her to have
24 another one in the house and a disabled child as well?
25 And then obviously he probably wrote another note to say

1 yeah it's fine for my sister to come in.

2 Q. Over the next page on page 20 at paragraph 94, you talk
3 there about not being given the things that a loving
4 parent would have given them and then you reached an age
5 and the care system said, "Bye". Can you explain what
6 you mean there?

7 A. It's that unconditional love. It's that kind of -- you
8 know, as parents, there's times when you think: why are
9 you doing this? Why? But you never give up on them.
10 You never. It's a bit like Christ, it's unconditional
11 love. And these little children are in care. They've
12 got no one. You know, they remind me of -- because I'm
13 a dog lover and they remind me of my little Scotties,
14 you know, because if I didn't feed them and walk them
15 and cuddle them, nobody would, and these little children
16 end up -- and it's not their fault that they've got
17 issues, and there they are. Back in the day when I was
18 in the children's home, you know I would see these
19 children and you could tell the staff didn't really
20 care. There wasn't a nurturing bone in their body.

21 There was one lady that was really good, but it was
22 basically like a job that she was doing. I remember
23 challenging and saying, "How dare you? You're his mum
24 for the next 12 hours. How can you talk like that?"
25 You know? And it's that kind of -- and I don't know if

1 there's an answer, because it's like you're born into
2 this world and you hope and you pray that you have
3 a good structure and good parents and then you find out
4 that you've not for no reason about yourself. And
5 I don't know how to fix it. I don't know how you would
6 fix it.

7 But the fact that you just asked me about and then
8 they said "Bye", you're given a council house in the
9 middle of a kind of urban area and you're told, "There
10 you go", whereas my children, first of all they kind
11 of -- anything, you know, if they're going to move into
12 a place, we would vet it first and then we would get all
13 their furniture and we would help with the deposit, all
14 that kind of stuff. Whereas -- it's just bizarre.

15 Fortunately I said no I didn't want to and I joined
16 the army, and that was a big gamble.

17 Q. In terms of the transition, you're saying with your own
18 children they would perhaps have a more gradual and
19 supported transition to independent living, as it were?

20 A. Yeah, yeah.

21 MS INNES: Well, thank you, 'Sadie'. I don't have any more
22 questions for you and there are no applications,
23 my Lady.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 Are there any outstanding applications for

1 questions?

2 'Sadie', that does complete all the questions we
3 have for you. Thank you so much for everything you've
4 given us, both in terms of your written statement and
5 coming here to talk and reflect today. You tell me that
6 you've done your own self-development and I can hear
7 from the way you talk and think and reflect that that
8 carries on. Well done with that, particularly against
9 the background you describe here.

10 But I said at the outset that I know that we were
11 asking you to do something difficult and you've
12 described a really difficult challenging childhood with
13 distressing events peppered throughout it. I understand
14 what you mean about memories coming in waves and it not
15 being possible to say it was on Tuesday the 24th at
16 2 pm. Don't worry about that. You don't need to
17 apologise. I'd be surprised if you could, let me put it
18 that way.

19 But you have improved my learning and understanding.
20 I'm really grateful for that, so thank you for going to
21 the lengths of coming here and giving evidence today.

22 I can now let you go and rest. Thanks so much.

23 A. Thank you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: 'Sadie' mentioned the names of her foster

1 parents, EYP-EYQ and various other people in the
2 foster family. As you'll have guessed, they are covered
3 by my general restriction order and can't be used
4 outside this room.

5 Now, Ms Innes.

6 MS INNES: My Lady, there's a read-in that Ms Rattray will
7 deal with now. If I might be excused briefly?

8 LADY SMITH: Please do.

9 Ms Rattray. When you're ready.

10 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

11 'Pat' (read)

12 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant
13 who is anonymous and chose the pseudonym 'Pat'. Her
14 statement is at WIT.001.002.2281.

15 'Pat' was boarded out by Glasgow Corporation and
16 later Strathclyde Regional Council to five placements.

17 The first was to Mrs [REDACTED] in Knightswood, Glasgow,
18 from [REDACTED] 1964 to [REDACTED] 1967.

19 The second was to Mrs [REDACTED] in Larkhall, from
20 [REDACTED] 1967 to [REDACTED] 1968.

21 The third placement was to Mr and Mrs FKH/FKJ in
22 Tiree from [REDACTED] 1968 to [REDACTED] 1976.

23 The fourth placement was to Mrs [REDACTED] Kilsyth,
24 from [REDACTED] 1976 to [REDACTED] 1976.

25 The fifth was to Mrs [REDACTED] Bearsden, from [REDACTED]

1 to [REDACTED] 1977.

2 The current responsible authority is Glasgow City
3 Council. My Lady, 'Pat' died in 2020.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Pat'. I was born in 1962. My
6 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

7 I had several siblings, five brothers and one
8 sister. Somebody has told me that the family home was
9 in Glasgow, but I don't know if that's true or not. My
10 birth certificate says I was born in Glasgow. When
11 I was 16, I went and got my birth certificate and it
12 said I was born on one date in 1962. I had been brought
13 up to believe it was another date in that year.

14 My mother suffered from mental health difficulties
15 and the only help she got was to have her children
16 removed from her care. I had no contact with my mother
17 after being taken into care. I have learned that she
18 changed her name and had more children. When I found
19 that out, it was really painful. We were trying to
20 trace her when they found out that she had died.

21 I don't know much about my dad. The social work
22 department said that if I handed back some of my files
23 that I managed to obtain from a social worker that they
24 would give me a letter with details about him, but they
25 never did.

1 I was two years old when I was removed from my
2 parents' care. My memories of this time are extremely
3 limited. I was taken out of a house by two adults
4 wearing grey suits. One was male and one was female.
5 They were shouting at me and some other children,
6 presumably my siblings. They shouted at us to get into
7 a car. I remember being very distressed and upset.
8 I was crying, the other children were crying and
9 screaming in fear. We were told by the two adults in
10 suits to shut up and sit back. The female was
11 physically lashing out at us.

12 The next thing I remember is that we were put into
13 a big room. There was a piano in this room. I thought
14 it was otherwise empty but my sister has said that there
15 were beds in it. I remember my siblings playing with
16 the piano. I remember being too scared to move.

17 I don't know if Mrs [REDACTED] had a husband or children
18 of her own. I can't remember her address. My sister
19 and I were both placed with Mrs [REDACTED] I remember
20 feeling scared there, but Mrs [REDACTED] didn't abuse me, or
21 at least I have no memory of any abuse. I was too young
22 to have insight into the timescale of my length of stay
23 there. I remember Mrs [REDACTED] had some machine to exercise
24 her jaw. She was on it all the time. I have one
25 strange memory there of being taken away by a man and

1 Mrs [REDACTED] saying 'why have you got this child?' to the
2 man and grabbing me away from him. I don't know who the
3 man was. It could have been my dad.

4 Due to my young age, I have no recollection of
5 leaving Mrs [REDACTED] and going to my next placement with the
6 [REDACTED] family.

7 I remember feeling happy at the [REDACTED] placement.
8 I felt loved and part of the family. I remember going
9 around without any pants on. I think this may have been
10 when I was potty training. They had a little boy and
11 their parents were really nice, like grandparents to us.
12 I didn't understand that I wasn't part of this
13 supportive family unit. My sister and I had toys and
14 I felt secure. We had little gloves and bags for going
15 to church. I have no memory of abuse at this placement.

16 Mrs [REDACTED] was having a baby and we could no longer
17 stay there. My sister and I were moved from this
18 placement. This was very traumatic. I didn't
19 understand what was going on. I thought they were my
20 mum and dad. I remember being very upset. We were told
21 we were going to see our brothers and that our toys
22 would come with us. We were moved to Tiree, but my toys
23 never came.

24 I think I was taken to a children's assessment
25 centre whilst in this placement. I have memories of

1 a place called Larkhall. I remember being placed in
2 a playroom and adults were observing. I remember being
3 scared when other children came in and I would hide.

4 I went to Tiree in 1967 when I was five years old.
5 I remember getting off the plane in Tiree and waiting
6 for my toys. I was told they would arrive later, but
7 they never did.

8 My sister and I were placed at [REDACTED] Farm with
9 FKH/FKJ [REDACTED]. We were there for about seven
10 years. My brothers were in a different foster placement
11 with the EFA-EFB family. The FKH/FKJ [REDACTED] resided in
12 a four-bedroom house. The FKH/FKJ [REDACTED] had four children
13 of their own, two boys and two girls. The boys just
14 ignored us, we were just a pain to them. I had
15 a difficult relationship with one of their daughters.
16 She was the same age as me. I remember our birthdays
17 were very close together. She was the same age as me.
18 Perhaps that's when my birthday was moved to being one
19 date instead of the other. Their other daughter wrote
20 me a letter years after we left apologising for all of
21 her cruelty towards me. I remember she was very rough
22 washing my hair.

23 There were five of us there as foster children or
24 boarded-out children, as we were called. My sister and
25 myself and a family of three sisters. One girl suffered

1 very badly from asthma. I think the FKH/FKJ liked
2 the three sisters better than us. Mrs FKH used to
3 say to me, 'No wonder your mother didn't want you'.
4 I think we developed a bad reputation, as when my
5 brother left his foster placement elsewhere on the
6 island, he stole a lot of money but he didn't lock his
7 case and it fell out when he got onto the boat to leave.

8 All the boarded-out children slept in one room.
9 This room was small and removed from the main residence
10 but still part of the overall building. My sister and
11 I shared a queen size bed and the others had single
12 beds. I remember I shook my head from side to side to
13 get to sleep. There was no other furniture. We had to
14 use an outside toilet and the FKH/FKJ used the inside
15 toilet.

16 We were boarded out on a small island and everyone
17 was aware of who we were. We were treated like slaves.
18 We were made to do heavy farm duties when the biological
19 children of the FKH/FKJ were not.

20 Mrs FKH would make our clothes from old
21 bedsheets, linen and curtains. Her own children wore
22 normal clothes purchased from the shops. Occasionally
23 I would get something from the FKH/FKJ daughter if
24 she didn't want it. We had one set of normal clothes.
25 These were kept for church on Sunday or for when the

1 social worker visited.

2 We were told to call the FKH/FKJ mum and dad but
3 I just couldn't do it. I couldn't bring myself to call
4 her mummy.

5 Mr and Mrs FKH/FKJ received stamp books that were
6 for the foster children. This was the money from the
7 social work department for our pocket money or for
8 expenditure. I remember opening a cupboard once and
9 seeing these payment books. We were never allowed
10 money, nor were we treated as equals in the home.
11 Coming from Glasgow to a Gaelic-speaking island was like
12 being on the moon. I was criticised for my speech.

13 The boarded-out children were not allowed to eat
14 with the family. We ate afterwards. We were only
15 allowed to eat with the family on harvest days or the
16 occasional Christmas.

17 We ate the leftovers. Mrs FKH would break up
18 the leftover chicken carcass into five portions and we
19 would have that and a few potatoes. We were only
20 allowed one potato. We worked for all this and washed
21 all the dishes. We ate in the scullery.

22 When they had chicken, they would get a chicken and
23 wring its neck but sometimes it would still make a sound
24 like it wasn't completely dead. They had them hanging
25 up in a cupboard and when I had to go in there, I would

1 hear these poor creatures. I can't eat chicken now.

2 At times we were so hungry that we would eat raw
3 potatoes from the field. They would say, 'you can eat
4 them quick enough, but you can't pick them quick
5 enough'. It made you scared to eat even when they were
6 giving you food. This is where my eating disorder
7 began.

8 We didn't get access to fresh water. We would drink
9 out of puddles. You didn't dare ask for a glass of
10 water. You were too scared. The school was aware of
11 the level of starvation and deprivation we were living
12 in. Some of the dinner ladies would give us extra food,
13 as they knew we were starving.

14 Occasionally we would steal food. I stole porridge
15 oats. I became very ill. Mrs FKH told me that
16 she had put rat poison into the oats. We stole food out
17 of the freezer and left it under our beds to thaw out.
18 I remember that for breakfast we would have a piece and
19 jam.

20 I remember being the dummy of the class at school.
21 I was barely picking up English, let alone Gaelic. The
22 school taught in English but the accent made it
23 difficult.

24 The secondary school was also on Tiree. Mr Eves was
25 the English teacher. He was wonderful. I loved him.

1 If he was taking an activity I would do it, no matter
2 what it was.

3 When we went to secondary school, I got to see my
4 brothers. They were in a different foster placement on
5 the island with EFA-EFB family and had been at
6 a different primary school.

7 After school, we did our homework in the scullery.

8 We had to polish all the shoes but we wore wellies
9 most of the time. We were up at 6 am to work with the
10 farmers. I had to do the hens. I was terrified of
11 them. I would have to collect the eggs and feed the
12 hens. We had to dig up potatoes and plant potatoes. We
13 had to lift the hay, which could be really heavy. What
14 angers me is that their own children were not allowed to
15 lift it, as if it was too much to expect them to do
16 that.

17 When we had done all that at the FKH/FKJ we then
18 had to do it for their friends. Going to school was
19 a release.

20 On Sundays, Mrs FKH would get comics for her
21 daughters. Afterwards, we would get to look at them.
22 I can't remember any books but I couldn't read anyway.
23 My sister used to read a book to me.

24 My sister and I were in the Brownies but we didn't
25 get to go to the Guides. We were told by the FKH/FKJ

1 that we weren't good enough because of stealing bread
2 when we were hungry. They called us thieves. They had
3 all these stamp payment books for the boarded-out
4 children for the payment of pocket money, et cetera, but
5 I never got any of it. They were the thieves, they kept
6 the money for themselves.

7 There were no trips away for the day. At the annual
8 animal show, if they sold all of their livestock, we
9 would get half a banana each.

10 One year they told us we were all going to Tenerife,
11 but then my sister and I were told that we were not
12 going. That was because my sister had broken a dish and
13 hadn't admitted to doing it. She usually did admit it
14 if she had done something wrong. Instead of going to
15 Tenerife, we went to a different foster placement in
16 Coatbridge for two weeks. It was good. At least we
17 were fed there. Usually when the FKH/FKJ went on
18 holiday, we stayed with other islanders.

19 I didn't suffer from bed-wetting. There was one
20 girl who did. She was given tablets but that didn't
21 stop it. She would have to do the walk of shame and
22 carry her sheets downstairs. I'm ashamed to say I hit
23 her a couple of times. I couldn't stand the smell of
24 urine.

25 We had a bath once a week and we went in the bath

1 two at a time. Mrs FKH was a trained nurse. Due
2 to this, the boarded out were not permitted access to
3 medical services on the island. We were treated with
4 animal medication. When I got ringworm I was treated
5 with animal medication.

6 They kept our hair cut short and it was kept to
7 an inch below the ears. Their daughters had beautiful
8 long flowing hair and I admit I was jealous.

9 When I got my first period, I thought I was dying.
10 No one explained to me what was happening to me. My
11 sanitary towels were just torn-up sheets and they had to
12 be reused.

13 The dentist used to come to the school in a caravan.
14 I never saw the FKH/FKJ daughters going to the
15 dentist but we boarded-out children did. There was no
16 anaesthetic and I had three teeth taken out in one day.

17 I don't think it was anything to do with the dentist
18 but there was a girl, another boarded out, who lived in
19 a different house. She had five teeth taken out on the
20 Friday and on the Saturday she was dead. She died in
21 a shed or barn that had been set on fire. I don't know
22 if it was reported. That day was the only day
23 Mrs FKH cuddled us.

24 We were dressed in our nice clothes when the social
25 worker visited. Our beds were made nice and in all

1 appearances the placement looked nice. The social
2 worker did speak to us, but they never spoke to us
3 alone. The social worker I remember was called Scott.

4 [FKJ] 's brother worked at the airport and
5 his friends worked on the ferries, so he knew about all
6 comings and goings. They knew when this social worker
7 would be visiting so they knew to get our good clothes
8 and to have the bedding all changed.

9 I can remember three social work visits but we never
10 had the opportunity to speak to them on our own. There
11 were no other official visitors to the house.

12 Your birthday was celebrated with a cake. I don't
13 remember any presents.

14 At Christmas we would get some toys. I had a dolly
15 with no legs and I loved it. Once, [FKH] bought
16 me a dolly's bed for my dolly, but later she got angry
17 and stood on it.

18 At New Year, they would wake us up at midnight for
19 a midnight feast.

20 We went to church each week. It was in Gaelic. The
21 Protestant Church is a big thing in the Western Isles.
22 We said prayers every night. Mrs [FKH] must have
23 taught us them.

24 Mr [FKJ] would beat us with a belt. You were
25 allowed to hit children then. All the boarded-out

1 children got it except one girl. She was too ill.
2 I never saw him hitting his own children. It was always
3 Mr FKJ who beat us, not Mrs FKH He would
4 make a noise like sucking on his teeth. When he made
5 that noise, you knew you were going to be belted. It
6 would be prompted by our behaviour, for example if we
7 had stolen food, so the beatings could be quite
8 frequent. It was usually about four or five hits of the
9 belt each time.

10 He would aim for your bottom or other areas of your
11 body where the marks wouldn't be seen, but of course you
12 would try to protect yourself. It was a reflex to try
13 to cover where he was aiming with your arms and hands so
14 you would end up with visible welts.

15 As a child, it was frightening to be belted. I got
16 used to it. It became part of life, part of my
17 existence. I can't remember when it started.

18 I remember visiting an empty house up the road from
19 the FKH/FKJ. I was about seven years old. I knew
20 I shouldn't have been there but it was an empty house
21 and I used to go there and play house. One day there
22 was an old man there. I think his name was or
23 He lived in a place called in a thatched
24 house. I think he was checking the house, it may have
25 belonged to his mother. This man showed me his penis

1 and told me to touch it and to kiss it. He said if
2 I did, then he wouldn't tell the FKH/FKJ I was in the
3 house, so I did as he said. I knew that if the
4 FKH/FKJ found out I was in the house I would be
5 beaten and abused in other ways, like having food
6 withheld. I never went back to that house, but I did
7 see the man again going to check the house or in the
8 passing. It was a small island. If I saw him, I would
9 run and hide. You didn't know that you should tell
10 anyone about this type of thing.

11 When I was in secondary one or two, I was asked by
12 Mr FKH to take something to a neighbour called
13 [REDACTED] It was his pension money. I was entrusted with
14 it because I would never steal from him, he was such
15 a good man. On the way to [REDACTED]s, I met up with the
16 brother of one of my friends. He was called
17 Iain McKinnon. He had blond hair. His nickname was
18 Scruffy. I think he lives in Oban now. Iain was over
19 school age, he was an adult. He had a motorbike and he
20 offered me a lift on the bike. It was normal custom on
21 the island to accept lifts from people and if you
22 didn't, it would cause offence. When we got to a ruined
23 house close to [REDACTED]s house, he took me into the
24 house. He grabbed me and kissed me. Then he raped me.
25 I didn't know what rape was at that stage. I thought

1 you could get pregnant from just a kiss. I was in
2 shock. I didn't tell [REDACTED] when I got to his house,
3 I just gave him his pension and walked home. I had to
4 walk past the ruined house again.

5 Much later in life I told my sister what had
6 happened to me. She said that it hadn't happened to
7 her.

8 My sister was removed from the [REDACTED] not long
9 after I was raped by Iain McKinnon. My sister had
10 reported the abuse at the [REDACTED] home and that is
11 why she was removed. She reported it to
12 a schoolteacher, Mr McPherson.

13 When she left I was devastated. I wasn't told
14 anything. No one explained anything. I just came home
15 from school and she was gone.

16 I was also removed shortly after the rape. I was at
17 breakfast and I was told that I was not going to school,
18 I was going to Oban. I was given my nice clothes to
19 wear so I knew something important was happening.

20 We took the ferry to Oban and then the train to
21 Glasgow, but nobody told me what was happening. The
22 [REDACTED] daughter must have known what was happening
23 because she gave me a set of her earrings. They left me
24 on my own at Queen Street station. Mrs [REDACTED] told
25 me to sit on a seat and that a black man called

1 Fred Burke would come and collect me and they just left
2 me there. I was screaming, 'Don't leave me, I'll be
3 good'.

4 Fred Burke was a social worker. He was black and
5 that was quite a shock as I had never seen a black
6 person before. I'm not racist, I had just never seen
7 a black person. We didn't have television on Tiree. He
8 arrived about 30 minutes after Mrs FKH left me.
9 I could see that he was deeply upset that Mrs FKH
10 had left me alone. He tried to console me and he could
11 see that I was scared. He didn't ask me any questions
12 about any abuse at the FKH/FKJ He told me that he
13 was going to take me to see my sister, and he took me to
14 my placement at Ruckhill.

15 Fred took me to Ruckhill in Glasgow. My sister was
16 already there. The placement was quite normal. No
17 abuse occurred here to the best of my knowledge. I did
18 feel scared being in the city. It was extremely noisy.
19 I had grown up on an island and I wasn't used to the
20 sound of fire engine sirens. Secondary Institutions - to be published I

21 Secondary Institutions - to be published lat. This was a short stay
22 placement and then I got relocated to Kilsyth where my
23 sister had already been placed."

24 My Lady, I should just clarify that whilst in the
25 statement there's a heading that suggests this is

1 a foster placement and it may well have felt like
2 a foster placement to 'Pat', the records indicate that
3 it was not a foster home but a temporary placement in
4 an approved boarding house.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you. By that time she was 13/14 years
6 old, something like that?

7 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

8 "The Kilsyth foster placement was with a woman
9 called [REDACTED] She was a single parent. She
10 worked for the Liberal Party. She had a wee black boy.
11 I had thought he may have been fostered but he was her
12 own. My sister and I ended up being great babysitters
13 for her. She went out a lot. I can't remember how long
14 we were there.

15 My sister and I shared a room. We had our own
16 clothes and we got pocket money. We were well looked
17 after.

18 The food was good at this placement.

19 We were enrolled in a mainstream school, but I can't
20 remember which one.

21 We just had to do what you might expect your own
22 children to do, washing dishes, et cetera. I used to
23 have to go to the shops to get cigarettes for

24 [REDACTED] I used to open the packet carefully,
25 take three out and then seal the packet up again.

1 I can't remember having any birthday or Christmas at
2 Kilsyth.

3 I remember one day going home from school, three
4 boys caught me in a quarry type area. I think they were
5 older than me, above me in school. I don't know their
6 names. They raped me. They called it a gangbang. They
7 all had their own way with my body. I didn't tell
8 anyone about this incident.

9 I can remember Ms [REDACTED] asking my sister and I if
10 we wanted to go on holiday and obviously we said yes.
11 She offered us the choice of going to stay with the
12 FKH/FKJ [REDACTED] on Tiree for a week or going on holiday with
13 her to Cornwall. I don't know why, but my sister and
14 I chose to go back to Tiree. I think I thought I might
15 get to see my brother.

16 We only went back to Tiree for one week. The
17 FKH/FKJ [REDACTED] just left us to our own devices. Then
18 Mrs FKH [REDACTED] told us that we weren't going back to
19 Kilsyth. She said [REDACTED] didn't want us
20 anymore. My sister and I then went to West Princes
21 Street Children's Home."

22 From paragraphs 69 to 84, 'Pat' speaks of her
23 experiences at West Princes Street Children's Home and
24 Marthara Salvation Army hostel. Both in Glasgow.

25 Moving now to paragraph 85 on page 17:

1 "The Bearsden foster placement was in a family
2 house. It was a great placement. I don't know how long
3 I was there. I stole £5 for my sister. She had been in
4 touch with me and told me that she had no food. When my
5 theft was discovered, I was removed from this placement
6 and went to Beechwood. I am so sorry for stealing from
7 them."

8 From paragraphs 86 to 114 'Pat' speaks of her
9 experiences at Beechwood assessment centre and
10 St Euphrasia's, Glasgow.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MS RATTRAY: Moving now to paragraph 115 on page 23:

13 "You were allowed to leave when you were 16. I ran
14 away after finishing school in 1978. I never went back.
15 I told them I was staying with a friend in Drumchapel
16 but that wasn't true, I just wanted to be free from the
17 care system. The social work department never checked
18 up. I think there was a children's panel hearing and
19 I was told I didn't have to go back. I had no further
20 contact with the social work department until I was
21 about 20.

22 I was never given any preparation in care for living
23 life out of care."

24 From paragraph 117 to 139 'Pat' speaks of her life
25 after care. She found herself homeless. At times she

1 slept rough in a park and in a friend's close. At other
2 times she stayed with friends. She had two children.
3 She married and had two more children. 'Pat' divorced
4 and moved with her children to Aberdeen. She was
5 diagnosed as suffering from complex post-traumatic
6 stress disorder. 'Pat' says her mental health suffered
7 greatly at this time. After her mental health improved,
8 'Pat' worked for a long time in the care sector looking
9 after the elderly.

10 Moving now to paragraph 140 on page 28:

11 "I did try to make a report when I went to the
12 National Confidential Forum. The police came to see me
13 but I was frightened by them. They wanted dates and
14 specific details that I just don't have.

15 I realise that the Inquiry is investigating abuse
16 that I suffered when I was in care. I continued to
17 suffer abuse throughout my life after leaving care
18 because the system failed me emotionally, educationally,
19 socially and financially. This led to periods of
20 deprivation and being abused by others. I am not even
21 certain if I am myself or my sister. They made
22 a mistake about my date of birth when I was taken into
23 care. I don't know if they made a mistake about my name
24 too. I feel bad about myself. I feel guilty about
25 things.

1 I was confused as an adult and had disabilities that
2 were never diagnosed or acknowledged when I was growing
3 up. It has made me feel shame, guilt, worthlessness and
4 a sense of disconnection from others. I would rather
5 have died at the hands of my parents than go through the
6 abuse I suffered.

7 I never knew why I was placed in care and I worried
8 that it was something to do with my parents' behaviour
9 towards us and that I may repeat it and harm my own
10 children. I made many wrong choices. I have four
11 children who grew up exposed to the difficulties that
12 I suffered from. Despite this, I do have a good
13 relationship with my four daughters and my two
14 grandchildren.

15 My experience in care affected my relationship with
16 my siblings. I am no longer in contact with two of my
17 brothers. One brother feels like I am trying to blame
18 the government for what happened to me whereas he feels
19 that the government was providing for me, providing for
20 me in some positive way. That's not how I feel.

21 Given my history, I don't trust doctors and decided
22 to self-medicate with cannabis. I smoked all the time
23 I was bringing up my children to keep me calm. Cornhill
24 Hospital in Aberdeen refused to help me when I was
25 smoking cannabis. They prescribed diazepam, which I now

1 get from my own GP. Cornhill Hospital treated me for
2 alcoholism. I was prescribed Antabuse.

3 I describe myself as being asexual. I have never
4 had pleasure from any sexual encounter in my life.
5 I believe that woman should have pleasure from sex, but
6 it's never been that way for me. I like the attention
7 of men, but I never like to take it further.

8 I did previously go for counselling but I think the
9 counsellor needed counselling after seeing me. After
10 speaking to her, she left the room and I saw her
11 throwing water on her face. When she returned, she told
12 me to come back and see her again, but I didn't.

13 I think there should be CCTV in care facilities for
14 children, except in the toilets. I know it would be
15 expensive but they can find the money for the police to
16 wear body cameras so it could be done.

17 The system is prepared to give money to foster
18 carers to look after children, but I think more should
19 be done to provide money to parents who are struggling.

20 I feel that even today institutional abuse and
21 bullying still occurs. Services that say they want to
22 help still don't listen.

23 The system is unable to quantify the extent of the
24 life-changing destruction that occurs through the misuse
25 of power by people placed in authority over the

1 vulnerable.

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

6 'Pat' signed her statement on 12 November 2018.

7 My Lady, to conclude, many years later,
8 Iain McKinnon was prosecuted in respect of the rape of
9 'Pat' on Tiree and also the rape of another complainer,
10 also on Tiree in the 1970s. 'Pat' passed away before
11 the case came to trial. However, a recording of 'Pat's'
12 police interview was played to the jury.

13 On 26 January 2022, Iain McKinnon was convicted of
14 the assault and rape of 'Pat' and the assault and rape
15 of the other complainer. He was sentenced to five years
16 imprisonment.

17 From the information the Inquiry has, the other
18 complainer was also a child who had been boarded out to
19 Tiree.

20 A copy of the conviction is at JUS-000000110.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes the read-in and it
23 concludes the evidence for this week.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

25 I'll rise now and we sit again on Tuesday when we go

1 on to further oral evidence, as I understand it, yes?

2 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

3 LADY SMITH: Until Tuesday at 10 o'clock, I wish you all

4 a good weekend and hopefully some better weather than we

5 might have thought the forecast was going to give us.

6 It's looking better now.

7 I wish you well. Thank you.

8 (4.10 pm)

9 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on

10 Tuesday, 5 July 2022)

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