

1 Thursday, 18 August 2022

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. This is the third day this week
4 of oral evidence in relation to our foster care and
5 boarding-out case study. We start this morning with
6 a witness who's ready to give her evidence, I think.

7 Is that right, Ms Rattray?

8 MS RATTRAY: Yes, indeed. The next witness is an applicant
9 who is using the pseudonym 'Julie'.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS RATTRAY: 'Julie' was in the care of Grampian Regional
12 Council. She was in two foster placements in Aberdeen.

13 The first was with Mr and Mrs EPG-SPO from
14 [REDACTED] 1991 until [REDACTED] 1994.

15 The second was with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] from
16 [REDACTED] 1994 to [REDACTED] 1996.

17 The current responsible authority is Aberdeen City
18 Council.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 'Julie' (sworn)

21 LADY SMITH: That sounds as though you're in a good
22 position.

23 A. Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: If you stay in a good position for the
25 microphone, it will help you and it also helps us

1 because we need to hear you through the sound system,
2 'Julie'.
3 A. Okay.
4 LADY SMITH: The red folder has a typed copy of your
5 statement in it and you'll be taken to that in a moment,
6 but we'll also put it up on screen in front of you
7 there. You might find that helpful and we'll go to the
8 different parts of it that we want to discuss with you
9 as we go through your evidence.
10 Please also bear in mind that I do understand that
11 what you've agreed to do today isn't easy. We've asked
12 you to come to a place to meet strangers, to be in
13 public and to talk about your own life when you were
14 a child?
15 A. Yeah.
16 LADY SMITH: And I know that's hard, it can become very
17 emotional, it can be distressing. So if at any time you
18 want a break, whether just by sitting there or leaving
19 the room, please do let me know. Or if there's anything
20 else I can do to help you give the best evidence that
21 you can because this is an opportunity for you to do
22 that to add to what we already have in your written
23 statement, please let me know.
24 A. Okay.
25 LADY SMITH: If it works for you it will work for me,

1 whatever it is.

2 A. Okay.

3 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Rattray

4 and she will take it from there, is that okay?

5 A. Yeah, that's fine.

6 LADY SMITH: Very well.

7 Ms Rattray.

8 Questions from Ms Rattray

9 MS RATTRAY: Good morning, 'Julie'.

10 A. Good morning.

11 Q. As you know, you've given your statement to the Inquiry

12 and just for our purposes we've given your statement

13 a reference which I'll read out and that is

14 WIT-1-000000924 and you'll see that on the screen in

15 front of you.

16 To start with could I ask you to look at the paper

17 version which is in the red folder beside you. What I'd

18 like you to do is to go to the back page of your

19 statement.

20 A. Oh yeah.

21 Q. That's page 19 and really just asking you to confirm

22 that you have signed your statement?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do we see at paragraph 99, just above your signature,

25 that you say that you have no objection to your witness

1 statement being published as part of the evidence to the
2 Inquiry and you believe the facts stated in your witness
3 statement are true?

4 A. Yeah, absolutely, yeah.

5 Q. That's fine. You can leave that to one side just now.

6 'Julie', this morning in terms of helping you give
7 your evidence, what I'm going to do is I'm going to ask
8 you questions about your memories and what you say in
9 your statement and I will do it in different parts.

10 The first part will be very brief and it's just
11 looking at how you came to be in foster care.

12 Then I'll move on and I'll ask you about your
13 memories when you were staying with the EPG-SPO

14 Then we'll move on and ask you about your memories
15 with the

16 The final part, I will ask you about some things
17 following your experiences in foster care such as the
18 impact upon you, your experience in trying to recover
19 records and also any lessons that you think we are able
20 to learn from what your experiences have been.

21 So that's the kind of structure for this morning.

22 A. (Witness nods)

23 Q. Turning to the first part of that, the background, you
24 tell us that you were born in 1979 and were you born in
25 Aberdeen?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You have one brother who's a year older than you; is
3 that right?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. You say that you never knew your dad?

6 A. No.

7 Q. You tell us that you have very few memories of your home
8 life. I appreciate we're not looking at the details at
9 all, but I think you also tell us that during your time
10 at home you suffered sexual abuse by your mum's
11 boyfriend.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You also tell us that you have memories of your mum
14 having a baby?

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. What are your memories about that?

17 A. Just that -- that's just strange, that one night I have
18 very clear memories of her being on the sofa in the
19 middle of giving birth and I remember running out the
20 house in the middle of the night and I came back and
21 there was a baby born. I remember being in the
22 ambulance. I remember being at the hospital, maternity
23 hospital.

24 I remember my mum, myself and her partner coming
25 back home without a baby. And that's it. That's all

1 I remember.

2 Q. I think you tell us in your statement around that time
3 you think you were allocated a social worker?

4 A. Yeah. She was -- I know for a fact I was because she
5 was lovely. She was from the maternity social work.
6 She was really nice. That's the lady that took me
7 through the first year of being at the EPG-SPO

8 Q. I think you tell us her name there. Is that something
9 you remember?

10 A. Yeah, absolutely.

11 Q. What was her name?

12 A. Fiona Greig.

13 Q. Fiona Greig?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. We'll move on to the second part that I spoke to,
16 which is in relation to foster care with the EPG-SPO
17 How old do you think you were when you moved to stay
18 with the EPG-SPO?

19 A. Ten and a half.

20 Q. I think in your statement you think it happened in 1990,
21 albeit the records suggest it was the following or
22 thereabouts, in 1991.

23 A. No, that's when I moved to ... the second foster people.
24 When I went to stay with the EPG-SPO, I was only ten and
25 a half, I was halfway through Primary 7.

1 Q. Right, okay. Would that have been in about 1991 or
2 thereabouts; do you think?

3 A. Yeah, when I -- I went to stay with the EPG-SPO
4 Q. Mm-hmm?

5 A. I was born in 1979 -- 1989, 1990, I was thinking.

6 Q. Okay. I think you said to me before what you remember
7 about it is you were in Primary 7?

8 A. Mm-hmm. Definitely, yeah.

9 Q. Is it fair to say that whatever the particular date
10 might have been, you were definitely in Primary 7 at the
11 time?

12 A. I was definitely -- I know that for a fact, yeah,
13 absolutely. Because I remember -- yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: I think it was the 1991 according to the
15 records, the written records, but maybe you had had your
16 11th birthday in Primary 7? It was during
17 Primary 7 that you went there.

18 A. That I went there, yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: Knowing when your birth date is, I think you
20 might have had your 11th birthday, been one of the
21 children that was older in the Primary 7 year by then.
22 That's possible, isn't it?

23 A. (Witness nods)

24 Oh, right, okay.

25 LADY SMITH: You see what I mean?

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: Could have been.

3 A. I don't know.

4 LADY SMITH: It doesn't matter, but you clearly remember you
5 were still at primary --

6 A. Absolutely.

7 LADY SMITH: -- and you were in your last year at primary?

8 A. Yeah.

9 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

10 MS RATTRAY: You tell us that you moved to stay with Mr and
11 Mrs EPG-SPO What did you call them?

12 A. (Witness shakes head)

13 Just horrendous. It's just embarrassing. Yes, so
14 we had to cry -- the lady we had to cry her Granny and
15 the man, his name was EPG we had to cry him EPG
16 Oh, just awful. It wasn't at the time because I was
17 young, but when I think about it now, oh my goodness.
18 Just weird. I don't understand it to this day why you
19 would cry foster people that.

20 Q. What do you find weird about it? Can you explain that
21 to us?

22 A. I don't know. I actually -- no. I don't know. You
23 wouldn't cry foster parents Granny and -- I don't know.
24 In this day and age you would cry them EPG or EPG --
25 well, the man -- and I went to say with in

1 [REDACTED] it was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] just clearly cried
2 [REDACTED] " [REDACTED] " and [REDACTED] we cried him [REDACTED]. Why did you --
3 it's just weird, I don't know.

4 Q. Is one of the issues perhaps that you were calling her
5 Granny but you weren't related to her?

6 A. I don't know. I -- I don't know. All the children
7 cried them Granny and EPG [REDACTED]. The children did before
8 then, before then and before then, so, I don't know ...

9 Q. The reference to being Granny, what kind of ages were
10 Mr and Mrs EPG-SPO ?

11 A. They were -- I think they were older, a lot older.
12 I don't know if that's where the Granny thing came in.
13 When I think about it now, they must have been a lot
14 older because she had a son, he would have been about
15 40, I'm thinking. I don't know. I'm trying to think
16 how old they would have been myself.

17 Q. But your memories are of them being older people?

18 A. He was -- the man, EPG [REDACTED] EPG [REDACTED], whatever he wants to
19 cry hisself, Mr EPG [REDACTED], he was -- I am sure he was
20 retirement age. He worked for some kind of tatty
21 company, I think, before. He was -- they were old.
22 They were old.

23 Q. What I might add --

24 LADY SMITH: Did you say he worked for a tatty company?

25 A. Yeah, and I'm sure he retired just before I left.

1 LADY SMITH: They were in I think in the Garthdee area of
2 Aberdeen; is that right?
3 A. Mm.
4 LADY SMITH: I'm just trying to remember, is that close to
5 farm land?
6 A. Oh no.
7 LADY SMITH: Is it on the edge of Aberdeen?
8 A. No. He maybe delivered -- I just remember something
9 about a tatty company, but I'm not sure.
10 LADY SMITH: Okay. It may have been somebody warehousing
11 potatoes in the town or something.
12 A. I am sure he was definitely retiring anyway from what he
13 was doing.
14 LADY SMITH: Okay, that's helpful. Thank you.
15 MS RATTRAY: I think it might help if I say to you, 'Julie',
16 because as you're aware we've recovered records and
17 while we don't have any date of birth for Mrs [REDACTED],
18 we do have a date of birth for EPG [REDACTED] and he was born in
19 1923.
20 A. Oh, my goodness.
21 Q. Which by my calculation he would have been about 68 when
22 you were first placed with the EPG-SPO [REDACTED]
23 A. Oh my God. That is old. It's not old, I'm sorry,
24 I didn't mean that in a disrespectful way, but it's old
25 for young children, because they had children younger

1 than myself. It was just ... oh. So, yeah, they were.

2 Q. In the foster parents' house in Garthdee, who all lived

3 there?

4 A. So there was a young, young girl of four or five, she

5 wasn't in the care system so I can't really say too

6 much, but she lived there. And there was three other

7 children obviously in the care system. Two girls and

8 a boy.

9 Q. Carry on?

10 A. (Witness nods)

11 Q. I think you also tell us that in addition to perhaps the

12 core group who lived in the house, she would take in

13 other children as well?

14 A. Yes, she did respite care, once a fortnight this lovely

15 little Down syndrome girl came. She did emergency care.

16 Yeah.

17 Q. At any one time, what do you think was the biggest

18 number of children who were staying in the house

19 overnight, for example?

20 A. So we will have had -- there was two sets of bunk beds

21 in the girls' room, there was three beds in the other

22 room. There would have been myself -- am I allowed to

23 say names? No.

24 Q. Please.

25 A. There would have been myself.

1 Q. Don't worry about it.

2 A. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and the girl that came
3 once a fortnight, so about seven.

4 Q. And the house itself --

5 LADY SMITH: 'Julie', sorry to be a nuisance, can I just ask
6 you to stay in the right position for the microphone,
7 because I'm losing what you're saying sometimes.

8 A. Yeah.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS RATTRAY: The house itself with up to seven children in
11 it, was it a big house?

12 A. It was. It was three bedrooms, upstairs and downstairs.
13 It was big, but the bedroom -- I don't think they should
14 have been cramming two bunk beds in for the girls.
15 There was no room. What I remember, there was no room
16 whatsoever in the girls' room, it was just two sets of
17 massive bunk beds with a chest of drawers at the end
18 that filled of all the girls.

19 It was a big enough house, but -- you know.

20 Q. You're saying essentially there were four girls sharing
21 a bedroom?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. You said there are two sets of bunk beds and a chest of
24 drawers?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. Was there room for any other furniture?

2 A. There wasn't -- from what I can remember, there wasn't

3 any -- I don't know where our toys, whatever that age,

4 I don't know. We didn't have a -- I don't remember

5 a TV. Any toys were out in the garden. No. I don't

6 know. I can't really remember. There certainly wasn't

7 like toys lying about. Everything was out in the

8 garden, nothing was kept inside.

9 Q. At paragraph 17 on page 4 of your statement, 'Julie',

10 you say you don't have many memories of living with the

11 EPG-SPO but you do make some general comments and you

12 say that your time there was horrendous. Why was that?

13 A. Oh ... it wasn't when I stayed there, because obviously

14 coming from my mum to there, I must have -- it must have

15 been such a difference, but -- I don't know. The way we

16 was brought up, it was just horrendous. The travelling

17 about. We was all made to wear the same clothes. We

18 had no outside contact with other children in the area.

19 We just was in the garden, we didn't get to (unclear).

20 We didn't get to associate with our own friends, our own

21 friends didn't get to come to the house. The travelling

22 about was just awful. I just hated it. We lived like

23 their kind of life, which maybe worked for them in the

24 past, I don't know. All the other children seemed to

25 love the way things were, but I don't know.

1 Q. I think at paragraph 18 you tell us how you responded to
2 this and you say that you weren't really a badly behaved
3 child, so you just put your head down and got on with
4 it?

5 A. Mm. She -- I've just remembered, she used to sit and
6 put my hair in curlers, like whether she was trying to
7 pleat our hair. When I went into first year all the
8 girls were like -- I know this might sound irrelevant,
9 but do you know the soft polo shirts? So all the girls
10 in the class, they had all the soft polo shirts, they
11 had all the like new kind of type blazers and I was the
12 only one that had to go to school with a hard shirt and
13 like a fluffy -- a weird fluffy old-fashioned blazer.

14 So my friend [REDACTED], she used to take in every
15 morning a polo shirt for me and her mum bought me a new
16 blazer. And she would brush my hair out in the morning.
17 I would go to school and my hair, oh my goodness, when
18 I think about it now, my hair would be tight, curly, and
19 my friend [REDACTED] would get a wet comb and she'd brush all
20 the curls out. Yeah.

21 LADY SMITH: How kind.

22 A. Oh. It's just -- just not right.

23 MS RATTRAY: I think you tell us about clothes at paragraphs
24 24 to 26 in your statement. Did you ever get a chance
25 to choose your own clothes?

1 A. No.

2 Q. What about going shopping? Did you ever get to go to
3 the shops and buy new clothes?

4 A. No. Definitely not. We did a lot of -- no. Was
5 never -- I don't have any memory of being in town. It
6 was all just when we went on holiday -- no. There was
7 no -- I don't remember being in town or going normal
8 shopping or -- no.

9 Q. Whereabouts did your clothes come from, do you know?

10 A. But she did a lot of charity shop clothing. I do that
11 myself, but I don't know if we got -- I don't know,
12 I don't have any memories of where our clothes -- if we
13 ever had brand new clothes -- we did have brand new
14 shell suits that we were made to wear -- all made to
15 wear the same, they were brand new, I don't know where
16 they came from, they came from that market, the old
17 market on the Castlegate, she went there a lot. She did
18 a lot of charity shop shopping, but I don't think
19 anything is wrong with that. It was a lot of
20 old-fashioned clothes we wear, really old-fashioned.

21 Q. That must have made you stand out at school a bit?

22 A. Yeah. The only reason that I realised our differences
23 is because as soon as I went to stay with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
24 it was just totally -- the difference was unreal. And
25 that's when I started to realise wait a minute, things

1 just weren't right.

2 Q. You tell us in relation to the routine at the EPG-SPO

3 house about the time you were put to bed in the evening.

4 What time was that?

5 A. We was put to bed at a -- well, went to bed I think

6 between 8 and 9. What I remember is in summer holidays

7 it was like staying in a cul de sac and it was up

8 upstairs, the curtains were closed and all the other

9 children were outside playing. Now, they knew I was in

10 my bed, because I remember we went to Girls' Brigade and

11 later girls from Girls' Brigade, they all used to come

12 around, I just remember shouting outside. The boys that

13 were -- [REDACTED] the lad that stayed there, they were

14 shouting his name and I'm thinking this is just -- it

15 was just horrible.

16 Q. So essentially you were in your bed at a time where all

17 other children of your age were outside playing?

18 A. Yeah. That could have been like a late time for their

19 children, they maybe thought that was right, I don't

20 know, but it was just -- other children weren't allowed

21 into the garden to play and we certainly weren't allowed

22 out, out to play with.

23 Q. In relation to mealtimes and food, what was the food

24 like?

25 A. We were sat at the kitchen table, I don't think there'd

1 be anything wrong with the food. I don't really have
2 any memories of food or Christmas Day or mealtimes.
3 I just know there was a big kitchen table in the kitchen
4 and we did all sit round there to eat our dinner.
5 Q. When you were sitting round for dinner, was that Mr and
6 Mrs EPG-SPO and all the children in the household?
7 A. Yeah.
8 Q. Do you remember at all that if a child didn't like what
9 was being served up whether anything happened about
10 that?
11 A. I don't know, no.
12 Q. That's not something you have any memories of?
13 A. No.
14 Q. In relation to washing and bathing, when you needed
15 a bath or whatever, were you given privacy to do that?
16 A. Well, no. But I don't know if it was age appropriate.
17 We had to share bathwater but a lot of people says back
18 when we were younger that's what people had to do. But
19 I mean the girls had to share a bath together to
20 a certain age, well we all had to share a bath together.
21 I bathed the little girl [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] that
22 stayed with us. Me and one of the other girls, once we
23 got a bit older, I remember, it was either her or me
24 that did it first, we put on a swimming costume or
25 something, but I don't know whether it was for fun or

1 because we were embarrassed. I have little blackout
2 bits that I remember and little bits I don't.

3 Q. We know you were in Primary 7 when you first went there,
4 so you weren't a tiny child.

5 A. (Witness shakes head)

6 Q. You were a sort of older child.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And you were sharing a bath with another girl.

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. I think in your statement at paragraph 23 you refer, as
11 you have said, to you and the other girl starting to
12 wear swimming costumes in the bath. You say in your
13 statement you thought it was because you were both
14 feeling a bit self-conscious.

15 A. Mm.

16 Q. In relation to school, you tell us about school at
17 paragraph 27 onwards of your statement, page 6, and you
18 say you have great memories of school. What was it
19 about school you enjoyed?

20 A. I don't know, I just -- I loved school. I got on with
21 my -- my best friend [REDACTED] was there. I got on with my
22 guidance teacher, I got on with all my teachers. I just
23 loved being at school.

24 Q. The other children there at school, did they know you
25 were in care?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. How did other children sort of respond to that?

3 A. I think in first and second year I had -- this is what's

4 really strange as well. I had a -- from a group of

5 girls I had a really hard time in first and second year

6 and it actually got -- little bits of my memories, it

7 got actually really bad. But when I went to stay with

8 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] it all changed. It's really strange.

9 I don't understand.

10 Q. I think we'll come to your experience with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

11 later on.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. But perhaps it's because you blended in more perhaps?

14 A. Yeah, and I'm thinking the way I dressed, the way

15 I looked. When I look back at pictures and we had

16 like -- it was year books we did in secondary school.

17 When I look back at pictures in first and second year,

18 oh my goodness. I just shake my head and I think oh me.

19 Q. Did anyone at home encourage your education, such as

20 help with homework, for example?

21 A. Mr and Mrs EPG-SPO?

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. I don't remember. But I try and figure that out myself

24 and I can't remember anything about homework in first

25 year or the work I did or -- it's really weird, because

1 I remember being at school clearly, I remember I loved
2 being at school, but I don't know. I don't understand
3 the part of being there and homework and ...
4 Q. I think elsewhere in your statement you do make the
5 point that you think good things you're able to
6 remember, but perhaps the bad things or the things that
7 weren't that good, you've just put to one side in your
8 memory.
9 A. (Witness nods)
10 Q. Is that fair?
11 A. Yeah, I have got a lot of confusion but not just -- just
12 all my life, so ...
13 Q. You tell us at paragraph 29 that there was a school play
14 you were in, a school show?
15 A. Mm-hmm.
16 Q. And there were rehearsals for that. Were you able to go
17 to the rehearsals?
18 A. Yes. Like I said, there was one time -- I don't want to
19 get it wrong -- yeah, I'd lied about where I was going
20 and she -- Granny had a -- now, it was her granddaughter
21 or her niece, I don't know. She had told -- I can't
22 remember if it was -- I don't know if that part's wrong
23 or not. I'd got caught out about going to school
24 rehearsals but I also got caught out about going to --
25 there was like a young kids' night out on a school --

1 a disco somewhere in New Street, it was completely
2 legal, but I wasn't allowed to go and I went and I can't
3 remember if I lied about going to school rehearsals or
4 I lied about going there and her granddaughter, or her
5 niece or whoever was there and she went back and told
6 her and I don't know what repercussion I got, what --
7 what had happened after, but yeah, it was just -- just
8 awful.

9 Q. In your statement you tell us about rehearsals and you
10 say the rehearsals were after school at night.

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. And you thought you weren't allowed out at night, so you
13 weren't able to go.

14 A. No, no. That's why I maybe started lying. I was going
15 with my friend [REDACTED] but then I can't remember if she
16 started coming with me or put me with someone or what
17 happened. There was only Mrs [REDACTED] came to the
18 concert and I kind of thought she just came to make sure
19 I'd actually been in the concert because I don't
20 remember any of the other children being there or ...

21 Q. I think --

22 LADY SMITH: Can I just take you back a moment, 'Julie', to
23 the kids night out and you said it was a disco somewhere
24 in New Street.

25 A. Dee Street it was.

1 LADY SMITH: Dee Street?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 LADY SMITH: Did you say it was completely legal?

4 A. Yeah, oh yeah.

5 LADY SMITH: There was nothing illegal about it?

6 A. No, but I knew there was no way in this earth, because

7 something to do with the rehearsals I knew I wouldn't be

8 allowed, but I didn't ever think for one minute that her

9 granddaughter would have been there. But I'm sure she

10 was a lot older than me, so I don't know. It's a bit

11 strange. But yes, she was definitely there, went back

12 and told her -- I don't know what the repercussion was.

13 LADY SMITH: That's clear. Thank you.

14 MS RATTRAY: The granddaughter you speak of or the girl, the

15 relative -- this is the girl who also lived with the

16 EPG-SPO ?

17 A. No, no, no. This was her blood relative.

18 Q. That girl, did she live with the EPG-SPO or did she live

19 somewhere else?

20 A. No, no, she didn't -- this was her real blood relative.

21 I know the girl's name, but when I was young I thought

22 she was a lot older, but I think she was the same age or

23 maybe just a couple of years difference now.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. She stayed with her parents at the time I would imagine,

1 yeah.

2 Q. You say in your statement about the rehearsals, that you

3 remember because you weren't always able to go to the

4 rehearsals in the evening that your teacher, Ms Gardner,

5 helped you rehearse at lunchtime?

6 A. Yes, she was lovely, yes.

7 Q. In relation to religion, did you go to church or Sunday

8 School or anything like that?

9 A. Yeah. Yeah. We was made to go to Sunday School and

10 Girls' Brigade, yes.

11 Q. Was that something you enjoyed at all?

12 A. I did to start with but not carrying on. But we had to

13 go. We actually didn't have an option. Well, that's

14 the memory I have. We all went to Girls' Brigade, we

15 all had to go to Sunday School and [REDACTED] the boy, he

16 went to Boys' Brigade and he went to the same but

17 different.

18 Q. At paragraph 35 of your statement you speak about

19 chores. What kind of chores did you do in the [REDACTED] EPG-SPO

20 home?

21 A. I actually enjoyed helping doing chores, because it kind

22 of got me out of being put out in the garden to play.

23 It was either go out to the garden and play or stay

24 inside and tidy up, so I loved doing ironing, we had

25 turns of doing dishes. I don't ever remember tidying up

1 bedrooms or anything. Hoovering I'm not sure. There
2 was a hoover, I remember having a shot at that, but
3 I can't remember 100 per cent. I know we used to get
4 a shot. But I did -- I was the oldest one, nobody ever
5 got to iron obviously because I was the oldest. We all
6 took turns at doing dishes.

7 Yeah, I enjoyed doing the chores because it was
8 either that or be out in the garden.

9 Q. It's fair to say that they weren't excessive chores,
10 they were just perhaps the ordinary chores that any
11 child family member might help out with?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You speak about one time that you were doing the ironing
14 and you managed to burn Granny [REDACTED] nightie.

15 A. Oh.

16 Q. And you hid it?

17 A. Yes. Absolutely.

18 Q. Why was it you felt you couldn't tell her that you'd
19 burnt her nightie?

20 A. I don't know. I -- I don't know, because that's one
21 thing I can't lie about, I never would lie. I never
22 ever remember Granny or Mrs [REDACTED] raising her voice,
23 she certainly never smacked or anything. I don't know,
24 I just remember ironing, I singed a hole right through
25 it, I don't know, I just automatically thought oh my

1 God, I wrapped it up and I put it in my school bag,
2 I took it away, I put it in a bin away beside school,
3 and for months and months after that I remember
4 worrying. But I don't know why at the time. I don't
5 know.

6 Q. Was she someone that you could speak to or tell about
7 your thoughts or your problems or anything like that?

8 A. I don't know. I can't remember. I don't know if I ever
9 spoke about anything to her about being at my mums or
10 anything, I don't know. Maybe I did. I don't know.

11 Q. Do you remember getting any pocket money?

12 A. Yes, we did. We got pocket money and 100 per cent the
13 only reason I remember is because our tins all got put
14 in a certain place in the cabinet. We got pocket money
15 but it had to be put -- saved, because they took us away
16 a lot so we had to save our pocket money, our tins all
17 got sellotaped up, it was just weird, but yeah, we did
18 get pocket money.

19 Q. So they were all sellotaped up so if on a Saturday you
20 wanted to go out and buy some sweets, were you allowed
21 to use your pocket money, get into your tin and go and
22 use your own pocket money?

23 A. (Witness shakes head)

24 No. The only time we got to use -- to spend my
25 money was when they took us away.

1 LADY SMITH: When they took you away?
2 A. Yeah.
3 LADY SMITH: On holiday?
4 A. Yeah.
5 LADY SMITH: Was the idea that they were helping you to save
6 up your pocket money and then you would have --
7 A. Yeah.
8 LADY SMITH: -- a good bit of money for when you were away
9 on holiday?
10 A. Yeah.
11 LADY SMITH: What did you spend it on when you were away?
12 A. Just -- I don't know, wherever we were, wherever they
13 took us. I don't know. Spades for the beach. Buckets.
14 We did a lot of charity shop shopping, which there's
15 nothing wrong with, but ...
16 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
17 MS RATTRAY: When you were spending your money on holiday,
18 at that stage were you allowed to choose how to spend
19 your pocket money?
20 A. I think we were, yeah, but we were very limited because
21 like I said we weren't -- we didn't go into like normal
22 shops in town. We did a lot of shopping up Inverurie,
23 up Elgin way, it was like charity shops. There wasn't
24 like big toy stores, big like Primark then or -- I don't
25 know. I don't really have memories of proper shopping,

1 like Asda or Tesco or big normal shops like that, no.

2 Q. You speak about going on holiday. What kind of places

3 did you go to on holiday?

4 A. We always went to the same places, which is -- we

5 started -- we just started from Aberdeen, up the top of

6 Scotland, Elgin, Fochabers, Inverness. To me it was

7 elderly people places, but -- I don't know.

8 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 40 of your statement

9 going to a holiday park called "Grannie's Heilan Hame"?

10 A. I must watch what I say because a lot of people give me

11 a right kick for -- yeah.

12 Q. In your statement you tell us that you hated it.

13 A. Mm.

14 Q. And you thought it was really for older people rather

15 than children, is that fair?

16 A. The way they put it across, yes, because they took us to

17 the nighttime entertainment and I always remember like

18 all old men singing with kilts and old lady and men up

19 dancing and music that I would have never heard young

20 people nowadays listening to, whatever. Like I said,

21 I don't want to be rude and say anything untowards, but

22 yeah, no, just ...

23 Q. Okay. You've mentioned about leisure time, when it

24 wasn't -- well, it might have been holiday time, but

25 when you were at the EPG-SPO house and you weren't at

1 school, what kind of leisure time did you have and what
2 did you do with your free time? You've already spoken
3 about playing in the garden.

4 A. That's it. The only -- that's all we ever done was go
5 to Girls' Brigade, go on holiday or be out in the
6 garden. That's it. That was it full stop.

7 Q. What kind of things were there for you to do in the
8 garden?

9 A. There was a set of swings, there was a dolls' house,
10 there was umpteen like till things, toys. Just --
11 I think very inappropriate toys for our age. But I mean
12 maybe that's what it was like back then, I don't know.

13 I certainly know if I was to put my two boys at that
14 age in that position, oh my God, I just think oh my
15 goodness. But I mean it's a different era, I don't
16 know.

17 Q. What you're describing is toys for younger children but
18 nothing that's going to be of interest to someone who's
19 age 11, 12, 13?

20 A. (Witness shakes head)

21 Q. And we are in the 1990s here?

22 A. (Witness nods)

23 Q. You know, we're not in 1930 or something like that.

24 A. Oh. Well, maybe we were, but yeah, no, it was just
25 awful.

1 Q. What about TV? Was there a TV in the house you were
2 able to watch?

3 A. Yes, I've been trying to rack my brains about TV. There
4 was, because we got to watch -- my favourite programme
5 was Home and Away and I know we got to watch that and we
6 also got to watch -- but I don't know when. But
7 certainly there was no TV in the bedroom, absolutely
8 100 per cent no way, but that would just be normal back
9 then. I don't know when we got to watch TV in the
10 living room. I don't remember it being on all the time
11 or -- because we never spent time indoors. We only
12 spent indoors if it was raining and that is the
13 100 per cent honest truth. We even ate outside.
14 Whether we enjoyed that, it was better eating outside,
15 I don't know, but whenever it was lovely, we'd just --
16 she had like a big picnic table or a big picnic mat but
17 you knew if you were eating inside it was cold and windy
18 outside.

19 Q. If you only got to watch Home and Away or something like
20 that, what other activities were there for you to do
21 inside?

22 A. I don't know.

23 Q. Were there books to read?

24 A. Probably but I don't really ... I don't remember.
25 Maybe. I don't know.

1 Q. If you weren't watching that much TV, did that impact at
2 all when you were at school if perhaps your friends were
3 talking about a programme they'd seen? Do you remember
4 that being an issue at all?

5 A. Maybe. Like I say, I noticed a big difference when
6 I went to stay with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] That's when
7 I realised that things weren't right with Mr and
8 Mrs EPG-SPO [REDACTED] My life just totally changed. My attitude
9 and my happiness and everything.

10 Q. Whilst you were staying with the EPG-SPO [REDACTED] did you see
11 your mum and your brother?

12 A. No. Maybe once. I don't know. It says totally
13 different in the papers, but I can't remember. My
14 brother definitely -- my brother was at school. I seen
15 [REDACTED] at school. But it was a weird thing about that as
16 well I don't know. My mum definitely not, maybe once or
17 twice but I can't remember.

18 Q. Okay. You say in your statement that your mum lived
19 close by and so you decided to start going to see her.

20 A. Mm.

21 Q. Is that something you remember?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Do you remember if anyone sat down with you and said,
24 "This is where your mum is, it's fine to see her", or
25 anything like that?

1 A. Well, that's where I left. I left my -- she still lived
2 there. When I left in Primary 7 she was still there, so
3 I was clear, I knew exactly where she was.

4 Q. You've mentioned Fiona Greig, your social worker, who
5 you remember from shortly before you went to live with
6 the EPG-SPO At paragraph 44 you speak about Fiona
7 again. What do you remember about any visits from your
8 social worker?

9 A. She was lovely. She came to school every week or every
10 fortnight, whatever. I don't know if she came to the
11 EPG-SPO, but she was lovely. I don't know. I think
12 I could -- I remember I could speak to her. I was
13 really, really upset when she left. I remember that.

14 Q. You say she left. Were you then given a new social
15 worker?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. What was your new social worker like?

18 A. She was -- she was like an old Sergeant Major, but Fiona
19 was so -- she was young and laid-back and just
20 different. I don't know what the difference was.
21 Elaine seemed really strict. She seemed more, "Oh, this
22 is what's going to happen, this is how it's going to
23 be", sort of thing. Maybe that's how it is, but that's
24 how I kind of seen things.

25 Q. Was Fiona someone that you could potentially speak to

1 about --

2 A. She was, yeah, she must have been, yeah.

3 Q. But the second social worker, that wasn't someone you

4 could speak to?

5 A. No, I just remember her being -- I don't know. Maybe

6 from the first time I met her, I don't know if it's just

7 the way -- no, because even now when I remember her,

8 it's like a hard -- harder, more stern ...

9 Q. You tell us at paragraph 45 that you remember once going

10 to a Children's Hearing. What do you remember about

11 being at a Children's Hearing?

12 A. Nothing actually. Do you know where I remember it was,

13 unless it's a different made-up memory, was away at the

14 top of Queen's Cross where I would have been at that

15 time.

16 LADY SMITH: That's Queen's Cross in Aberdeen?

17 A. Yeah.

18 LADY SMITH: Might have been, 1990s.

19 A. I just remember sitting around a big round-table, but

20 not -- no --

21 MS RATTRAY: Sitting around a big round-table, you say in

22 your statement sitting around a big round-table with

23 lots of adults.

24 A. Mm.

25 Q. Was that a place that you could have spoken up about

1 being unhappy?

2 A. No. I have no idea. I cannot remember 100 per cent.

3 I don't know. I can't -- I don't know if my mum was

4 there. No.

5 Q. Moving on to the question of discipline, do you remember

6 what happened if your foster parents thought you or

7 another child had misbehaved?

8 A. No, because we never. [REDACTED] the boy that stayed there,

9 he did, but no, there was certainly absolutely no

10 smacking ever went on, no shouting. I don't know, it's

11 just a bit strange thing, no.

12 Q. You tell us in your statement about that boy. He was

13 a boy who wet his bed.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Do you remember how the EPG-SPO [REDACTED] responded to him wetting

16 his bed?

17 A. No. They just -- no. I don't know if they ever got --

18 he wet his bed every night. It was a shame. They

19 washed his -- rewashed his sheets, they rewashed his

20 jammies. I remember every night it was a lot of

21 expense, they would put his stuff in the tumble dryer

22 and I just remember the smell going through the whole

23 house and it was just awful. I don't know whether that

24 was their punishment. I don't know. It was just

25 horrible.

1 Q. Who was doing the washing and the drying? Was that the
2 child or was it Mrs [REDACTED]?
3 A. No, no, Mrs [REDACTED], yeah.
4 Q. I think you make the point in your statement that you
5 had to iron sheets and his pyjamas and you speak about
6 the smell.
7 A. Oh, yeahs.
8 Q. And you think there was a stage at which the sheets and
9 the pyjamas ought to have been replaced.
10 A. It was just awful, yeah.
11 Q. At this stage, 'Julie', I'm going to ask you -- well,
12 firstly, before I go on to that, just generally from
13 what you've told us, how would you describe your
14 relationship with your foster parents?
15 A. With Mr and Mrs EPG-SPO ?
16 Q. Yeah.
17 A. I'm not sure, really. When I first went there --
18 I don't know. I don't know how I'd describe it.
19 Q. Tell me -- you know, did they ever show you affection?
20 A. Mrs [REDACTED] didn't really -- as in -- we did good night
21 kissing, as in just have a good night kiss. Cuddling,
22 I don't remember, to start with when we first went there
23 until things got a bit strange with the man. It depends
24 where -- I don't know what -- affection, there wasn't
25 really much affection with Mrs [REDACTED]. Not close.

1 Just like good night kissing, similar when we went to
2 school, a kiss on the cheek.

3 Q. Did you feel loved by her while you were there?

4 A. Maybe possibly, I don't know.

5 Q. I'm going to ask you about what you tell us happened
6 involving Mr EPG .

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. You tell us about that at paragraph 49 onwards in your
9 statement on page 10. Are you able to tell us what
10 happened?

11 A. Yeah. So yeah. I can't clearly remember how it first
12 started. I was kind of coming up and down -- I was
13 getting older, I was coming downstairs in the evening,
14 later on in the evening when everybody else was up in
15 bed, going through the living room.

16 LADY SMITH: 'Julie', try to stay closer to the microphone,
17 could you?

18 A. Yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: You can move it, the microphone will move. The
20 arm might move to a better angle for you. Try that.

21 A. Yeah. So, yeah, I kind of started going up and down, up
22 and down. It was really just for the toilet. Then
23 I would go through to the living room, talk to
24 Mr EPG before going back upstairs.

25 LADY SMITH: And what happened?

1 A. I can't remember the very first time he was giving me
2 money, I think maybe one time -- my friends used to get
3 money to go to school with and every day I was always
4 the only one who never had any change. We got just like
5 10p sweets or packets of crisps for break. So I don't
6 know whether I started telling him that and he would
7 offer -- he would give me a 50 pence. I don't know
8 how -- he started touching me and -- I don't know.
9 Really close cuddling before I'd go back upstairs,
10 asking for a good night hug.

11 As the weeks went on the money increased. As the
12 weeks went on I noticed when he was asking for a cuddle
13 or the touching got closer, he would touch my shoulder,
14 and every week it just got a wee bit more and more till
15 I couldn't -- couldn't take it any more.

16 LADY SMITH: You talked there about him touching your
17 shoulder. Was that the only part of your body he
18 touched?

19 A. Kind of caressed his body down below. Tightly. And
20 I just remember the jammies he used to go about in
21 wasn't very appropriate.

22 LADY SMITH: How was it not very appropriate.

23 A. Just like old man see-through pyjama bottoms.

24 LADY SMITH: What were you wearing?

25 A. We wore proper pyjamas, if I remember. Dressing gown.

1 I can't remember actually to be honest how exactly
2 I would be dressed. But I certainly wouldn't be going
3 about -- we wore proper pyjamas.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 Ms Rattray.

6 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

7 You tell us at paragraph 51 that you were getting
8 really nervous about this --

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. -- and you noticed something else. Can you remember
11 what you noticed?

12 A. Sorry?

13 Q. Sorry, in paragraph 51, it's on the screen in front of
14 you, you say that you were getting --

15 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

16 Q. -- really nervous and it went on for a few more nights
17 and you noticed something about his pyjamas.

18 A. Yeah, yeah. He started -- when I noticed down below, he
19 obviously had no underwear under his pyjama bottoms, but
20 I can't see Mrs [REDACTED] letting him go about like that.
21 I mean when we was put to bed, that was it, you weren't
22 meant to come back out, so they're entitled to their own
23 time in the evening, but I cannot see Mrs [REDACTED]
24 allowing him to go about dressed like that if she
25 thought there was any of the children going about the

1 house, it just was not appropriate, and after that night
2 I just -- I don't know, I just -- just --
3 LADY SMITH: But you're saying he was?
4 A. (Witness nods)
5 LADY SMITH: He was in the room the way you describe in
6 paragraph 51.
7 A. Yeah.
8 LADY SMITH: Was that one of those occasions that he had you
9 sitting beside him?
10 A. Mm-hmm. There was no other children going about,
11 Mrs [REDACTED] was in her bed. Oh.
12 LADY SMITH: How did that make you feel?
13 A. I can't remember at the time -- I knew it was wrong.
14 I knew it was wrong, but -- I don't know. I've got
15 confused memories up until I started realising this is
16 not right, I shouldn't be -- he shouldn't be cuddling me
17 the way he is. I shouldn't be taking money -- it was
18 when I realised I shouldn't be taking money from him.
19 He was touching my shoulder and when I seen down below
20 kind of bare a wee bit, I thought there's something not
21 right. And I was continuing, I think the pound coins
22 went up to like £1.50, now that was a lot to be getting.
23 LADY SMITH: Yes.
24 A. So ...
25 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

1 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

2 Moving to paragraph 52, 'Julie', were you able to

3 tell anyone about this?

4 A. Yeah. Like it says in the statement there, I was

5 telling my friend [REDACTED], every day I was going and

6 telling her, "Oh my goodness", I was speaking like it

7 was just a normal everyday story until obviously

8 I couldn't take it any more, I don't know how, on the

9 last day before [REDACTED] went to my guidance teacher what

10 I'd said, I remember it was on the bus, and I broke

11 down, I think that was the time when he touched my bra

12 or whatever I had on, whatever I was wearing then and

13 caressed his body -- I remember he pulled his body right

14 up against me and it was just horrible. It was just

15 awful.

16 Q. You told your friend [REDACTED]?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. Then was it you or your friend who went to your guidance

19 teacher?

20 A. No, it was [REDACTED] but I don't know, I think at the time

21 I wasn't wanting her to go to anybody. Because I didn't

22 want to get Mrs [REDACTED] in trouble. I don't know what

23 I was wanting at the time. I just -- I don't know.

24 I certainly wasn't wanting her to go to my teachers or

25 anything.

1 Q. But [REDACTED] told your guidance teacher?

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. Did your guidance teacher then speak to you?

4 A. Mm-hmm. She took me right out of class.

5 Q. Were you able to tell her what had happened?

6 A. (Witness nods)

7 Q. What did your guidance teacher do?

8 A. That was it. That -- what I remember that day, I never

9 went back there. I don't think any other children went

10 back there. It was a wee bit horrible actually when

11 I think about it now. Because I didn't want to get

12 Mrs [REDACTED] into trouble. I actually just wanted him to

13 move away from the situation and I'd go back there with

14 all the children, but that wasn't the case. It made me

15 feel really, really bad because that's not what

16 I wanted, that's not what I wanted at all.

17 Q. You say that apparently you spoke to the police but you

18 don't remember that?

19 A. I don't remember, no.

20 Q. What about your social worker? That wasn't Fiona at the

21 time, it was the other lady?

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. Did you speak to her, do you remember her being there?

24 A. (Witness shakes head)

25 I can't remember. I just remember I never went back

1 there and I felt bad about it for a long, long time.
2 Even at how happy I was at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], I still felt
3 really bad about it. I was scared as well as feeling
4 bad. I remember when I was going into town at the
5 weekend, I just had dread fear of meeting Mrs [REDACTED] or
6 any of her family. For a long time, even growing up as
7 older, being 17/18, when I was away from care and moved
8 back into town myself, I used to worry about going in
9 town and meeting any of them.

10 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 55 that you felt
11 guilty.

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. Can you help us understand why you felt guilty when you
14 hadn't done anything wrong?

15 A. I don't know. I just ... all that girls and boys that
16 day, they all went to school just like myself, just
17 a normal day, and then none of them ever went back
18 there. Just like myself. Not knowing why or whatever
19 got explained to them, I don't know what was explained.

20 Q. Did anyone sit down and explain to you that that wasn't
21 your fault? If anyone's at fault it would be
22 Mr [REDACTED]?

23 A. (Witness nods)

24 I think I kept a lot of thoughts to myself.

25 Q. Once you told your guidance teacher, things started to

1 happen and you didn't go back to the EPG-SPO and the
2 other children didn't go back to the EPG-SPO. Where did
3 you go?

4 A. So I went to Garthdee -- [REDACTED], sorry, to stay with
5 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I couldn't believe the difference from
6 one house to another in one night.

7 Q. We'll come to that in a minute, but do you remember,
8 because I think you say in your statement initially you
9 went to stay with your friend?

10 A. Yeah. Yeah, I stayed with my best -- well, [REDACTED] and
11 her mum and dad in Cove for a week, just till they found
12 somewhere.

13 Q. Do you remember whether anyone spoke to you about you
14 having a choice as to what would happen next or where
15 you might go?

16 A. Maybe, probably, I don't know. I don't know. You
17 wouldn't really get a choice at that age, would you,
18 really? What's going to happen's going to happen.

19 Q. You speak about not getting support. What kind of
20 support do you think would have been helpful for you at
21 that time? I'm talking about in the context of having
22 told about what had happened with Mr EPG [REDACTED].

23 A. I don't know. When I think about it now, if you dig
24 your heels in as a child, but I don't know. I seemed to
25 go through quite happy when I stayed with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

1 It's when I left there I sort of kind of been dragged
2 back.

3 Q. Now --

4 A. You can't really get support if you are going to bury
5 your head in the sand, you just have to try and go on.

6 Q. Do you have any memories of being offered counselling?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Is it possible, because obviously we've seen your
9 records and I think there is reference in your records
10 to a referral being made to the Department of Adolescent
11 Psychiatry, but at the time you just were not ready to
12 engage with that, and the advice that was being given at
13 the time to the professionals was that you were not
14 ready to speak about what had happened and everyone
15 would just have to wait until whenever you were ready.
16 Is that something you remember people speaking to you
17 about?

18 A. (Witness shakes head)

19 Maybe possibly.

20 (Witness shakes head)

21 Q. But you don't have any memories of that?

22 'Julie', obviously a child like yourself, this
23 should never have happened and you should never have
24 been put in a situation where you were being abused, but
25 given what did happen, can you help us learn from your

1 experience by telling us how you think the adults of the
2 time could have responded in a better way or a different
3 way? Is there anything that they could have done or
4 done differently that you think would have helped you at
5 that time?

6 A. I don't know, because the age of the foster parents at
7 the time, I don't know if that's anything to do with it.
8 I just cannot believe for one minute that that kind of
9 thing would go on in this day and age with older people.
10 I don't know. I can't -- I don't know. I can't comment
11 on that, sorry, I don't think.

12 Q. Okay. Moving on to the next stage of your statement,
13 I'm going to ask you about the [REDACTED]. Can you tell us
14 what your first impressions were of the [REDACTED]?

15 A. It was just unreal. The change in lifestyle was
16 dramatically unreal. Yeah.

17 Q. In what way was life with the [REDACTED] different?

18 A. Oh, I remember as soon as I got to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] she
19 threw all my clothes out. The bedroom I had, I had
20 a bedroom with a proper bed. There was a TV in my room.
21 And a stereo, just like her daughter had. It was just
22 unreal, life was just totally one extreme to another.
23 I had clothes like my friends had at school, I had
24 trainers like my friends had, jumpers, school uniform.
25 She took me for a totally different haircut. I think

1 what I remember when I went there, they were -- well,
2 she -- I didn't -- she put all my clothes out. I don't
3 know what -- if I went -- I didn't go there with any
4 toys or anything. Life was just totally different. It
5 was just you went from one extreme to another.

6 Q. You speak about your clothes. I think you speak about
7 new experiences with food as well?

8 A. Mm-hmm, that's right, I had Chinese -- I experienced
9 a Chinese for the very first time. Yeah. Just lots of
10 different things. Life was so much different. It was
11 just -- normal.

12 Q. In relation to Girls' Brigade and church, did you still
13 go to Girls' Brigade and church?

14 A. I could have if I wanted to, because I remember [REDACTED]
15 and [REDACTED] they were -- they were -- I don't want to use
16 the word religious, but [REDACTED] ... her daughter went to
17 Girls' Brigade but, no, I told [REDACTED] exactly how I felt
18 and no, I didn't have to go back there.

19 Q. Essentially they were giving you the choice as to
20 whether you went or not?

21 A. Yeah. I started to get to go out with my friend at the
22 weekend. Just lots of different things, yeah.

23 Q. You tell us that you were taken everywhere with them?

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. What kind of things --whereabouts were you going and

1 what were you doing?

2 A. Just normal things, normal shopping. I remember Asda,
3 normal food shopping. Shops I hadn't experienced with
4 Granny and EPG before.

5 Q. Were these the kind of shops that perhaps your friends
6 at school would go to as well?

7 A. I think so, yeah. I know that's hard -- I can't think
8 right now, but, yeah.

9 Q. In relation to pocket money, did you get pocket money
10 there as well?

11 A. Yeah. [REDACTED] gave you your pocket money. You spent it,
12 you spent it. If you wanted more you earned it in
13 an appropriate way just like anybody else. It was
14 great, I loved it. I remember just having a ball.

15 Q. Okay, and so were you allowed to spend your pocket money
16 when you chose to do that?

17 A. Mm-hmm. Yeah. But mostly it would be at the weekends.
18 We got our pocket money at the weekend, the same time --
19 she had a daughter and a son. They were adopted,
20 because [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] couldn't have a family, but she
21 made absolutely no difference to any of us.

22 Q. All the children in the family were treated the same
23 way?

24 A. I think I was their first foster child, [REDACTED] and
25 [REDACTED] -- like I said, they couldn't have family of

1 their own, they were adopted very young, which to them
2 it was their real parents, but, yeah, we were all
3 treated the same, yeah.

4 Q. Did you have to change school at all when you moved?

5 A. No.

6 Q. In relation to support with school, do you remember
7 receiving any encouragement with your school work at the
8 [REDACTED]?

9 A. Yeah, absolutely. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were strict on
10 homework, studying for exams, prelims, very, very
11 strict. Which was for my own good, yeah.

12 Q. Did they ever speak to you? You were obviously growing
13 up by this stage. Did they ever speak to you about what
14 you might do when you left school?

15 A. Yeah, well, [REDACTED] worked at an oil company. He must have
16 been a director of some sort, because I remember he'd go
17 out every morning in proper white shirts. And I was --
18 I got some work experience at his office in Bridge of
19 Don. And I remember right if I'd stayed there after
20 16/17, I can't remember if he was going to get me in --
21 yeah, we were going to look onto definitely further
22 education, but that was my choice not to follow that.

23 Q. I think you say in your statement he arranged work
24 experience for you --

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. -- and he would talk to you about possibly you could go
2 to university?

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. Whilst you were there, what was their approach to you
5 keeping contact with your mum and your brother? Was
6 that something they encouraged or did they not want that
7 to happen or --

8 A. I think, no, [REDACTED] just -- as long as I was never in any
9 danger with my mum. I can't really remember, it was
10 really up and down with her. I can't remember a lot.
11 I went to see her a lot in the house in Tillydrone that
12 we lived, back and forth. I don't know what she was
13 told by social work. But being the age -- after
14 obviously when you get to 13/14, you can't really be
15 stopped going somewhere. So I don't know what the
16 circumstances were, but no.

17 LADY SMITH: 'Julie', when you say "it was really up and
18 down with her", are you talking about your mum?

19 A. Yes, sorry.

20 LADY SMITH: That your mum would be sometimes up and
21 sometimes down?

22 A. Yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: That's fine, I thought that was what you meant.

24 MS RATTRAY: I think you say in your statement one of the
25 points you made is when you were at the [REDACTED], you

1 were able to phone your mum if you wanted to phone her.

2 A. (Witness nods)

3 Q. Was that something you were able to do [EPG-SPO] ?

4 A. No. They -- I'm sure you had to get a phone call from

5 your parents there. I can't remember. Now and again

6 there was a phone call -- there was a phone in the

7 lobby, I have very ever rarely been at -- like I say we

8 were younger then. But yeah, the phone at [REDACTED] and

9 [REDACTED], you got to use that freely.

10 Q. What about discipline? What was the [REDACTED] approach to

11 discipline? If you'd done something you shouldn't have

12 done, what was their response to that?

13 A. I'm not sure, because like I said, I never -- I never

14 misbehaved. I did what I was asked. I remember [REDACTED]

15 their daughter, I think she was a bit of a tearaway, but

16 I can't remember. There was never really anything bad

17 that I remember.

18 Q. I think you say in your statement you remember the other

19 girl being grounded.

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. Is that something you recall?

22 A. It's about the only thing I can remember. There was

23 never anything bad I can recall.

24 Q. You say at paragraph 72 that you just didn't want to

25 upset them, the [REDACTED] What was it about them that you

1 didn't want to upset them? I'm presuming it wasn't
2 because you were afraid of them or anything like that?
3 A. I don't know. I came home -- what -- "I always came
4 home when I was meant to" ... yeah. I don't know.
5 There was -- I don't know. I would get to go out when
6 I wanted to go out, I'd come home at a reasonable time.
7 Q. You say that in your statement. You say you always came
8 home when you were meant to, "... it was that kind of
9 family, I just didn't want to upset them".
10 A. Mm-hmm.
11 Q. Sometimes in very different situations we've heard
12 people say they didn't want to upset the foster parent
13 because they were afraid of them, for example.
14 A. Oh no, no.
15 Q. That's not --
16 A. Absolutely not.
17 Q. -- what was happening here?
18 A. (Witness shakes head)
19 Q. Was it because you liked them and you didn't want to see
20 them upset? Would that be fair?
21 A. I don't know. I don't know what I meant by that
22 actually, to be honest. I just -- no, they were kind.
23 I don't know. I don't know what I meant by that
24 actually. We all got on. You were good to them, they
25 were good to you back. They just treated us all the

1 same.

2 Q. I asked you this question about the EPG-SPO and I'll ask
3 you about the [REDACTED]. How would you describe your
4 relationship with the [REDACTED]?

5 A. I don't know. I can't answer that either. I don't
6 know.

7 Q. Did they ever show you affection?

8 A. It depends what you mean by affection. I don't know
9 what you mean. As in what ...

10 Q. For example, if you were upset about something, you
11 know, imagine you'd fallen out with a friend at school
12 and you were upset about it, would they console you?
13 Would they give you a hug? Would they sit down and have
14 a chat with you? Would they be kind to you?

15 A. (Witness nods)

16 Mm-hmm.

17 Q. Yeah?

18 A. (Witness nods)

19 Yeah. I don't know. I wasn't really that kind of
20 child that needed that kind of affection. I don't know.
21 Because of the way things were with mum, I just --
22 I wasn't that kind of child that --

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. I think. I don't know. I can't remember. I don't
25 really have much memory on affection and things like

1 that.

2 Q. I'm going to ask you about leaving foster care. In what
3 circumstances did you move out from the [REDACTED]?

4 A. My own. Absolutely my own. I wanted to go back and
5 I wanted to experience life with my mum again. She gave
6 up the house that her and [REDACTED] moved to after
7 Tillydrone, she moved all the way out to the country.
8 I don't know what possessed me that I was going to live
9 with her and her partner out in the country and that's
10 what was happening and that's what I did.

11 Q. How old were you then?

12 A. I would have been 16, I think, maybe.

13 Q. Looking back on that, was that a good decision to make?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you remember whether anyone gave you advice about
16 that or perhaps even not advice but just told you, "It's
17 not happening, you have to stay here"?

18 A. I can't remember. I know for a fact [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would
19 have tried and persuaded me totally different. I can't
20 remember. Elaine at the time, I don't know. But I know
21 that wouldn't have been the case, I would have been
22 absolutely trying to persuade not to, but I know I would
23 have dug my heels in and that's what was happening. Why
24 I don't know -- it didn't last long at all.

25 Q. After leaving the [REDACTED], what support did you receive

1 from the social worker, given that you were still only
2 16 years old?

3 A. I remember none. Whether there was or not -- but
4 I remember I had no support, because it never lasted
5 long. I ended up in town about six months after in
6 a bed and breakfast in [REDACTED] I don't know if
7 there was any social work support there. I can't
8 remember. There might have been. I can't remember
9 being any. If I'd gotten or I'd refused any. I don't
10 know, I can't remember.

11 Q. Looking back on it, what kind of support do you think
12 would have been helpful?

13 A. Just like the support that's given nowadays, but it's
14 whether you want to accept it at that age. That part is
15 very hard because I know I was very stubborn and adamant
16 that was what was happening then.

17 Q. Right, moving now to impact, and you tell us about
18 impact from paragraph 82 of your statement and
19 reflecting on that now, in what way have your childhood
20 experiences, including your time in care, affected you
21 as an adult?

22 A. I've no idea of, because like I said there that I got
23 really clear parts, but even staying with my mum I've
24 got so clear parts and there's years and years I've got
25 no memory. I don't know if it's affected me now,

1 I don't know if this is the way I would be. Like I say,
2 I've got three boys of my own and I just -- I'm
3 different from everybody else, but maybe that's the way
4 I am. I don't know.

5 Q. You're referring to your memory. In your statement you
6 say there are parts of growing up that everyone should
7 remember but you just can't, there's nothing there --

8 A. (Witness nods)

9 Q. -- and you wonder if that's because your brain has
10 banished them. So you're not clear whether that's just
11 you or whether that's been one of the effects of your
12 experiences as a child?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. You also tell us that you think the way you were brought
15 up has impacted on your ability to raise your own
16 children. In what way do you think has that affected
17 how you've chosen to raise your own children?

18 A. I don't know, I've never really been a mum to my boys.
19 When my -- I've got a younger boy, but my two older
20 boys, we were like friends more, really close friends.
21 I was so scared of losing them growing up because I had
22 a lot of social work in my life. I was always under
23 threat of losing them and it was just ... I don't know.
24 I can't answer that. I don't know.

25 Q. Fair enough.

1 A. Because I had them very young. I can't blame social
2 work for me taking that decision. I had them both too
3 young and not very much family support behind me, so.
4 Q. I think you also tell us again about leaving [REDACTED] and
5 [REDACTED] and you think you making that decision and
6 perhaps being allowed to make that decision --
7 A. Yeah, it's the worst decision of my life.
8 Q. That's affected you?
9 A. Yeah.
10 Q. In what way do you think your life could have been
11 different?
12 A. Well, when I look at my age and I look at my friends my
13 age, I just think I'm not normal. Everybody's married,
14 everybody's got a proper house, everybody's settled into
15 a job, a proper job, a proper house. I just -- I didn't
16 feel -- not normal, but like the person I should be or
17 the age I -- the appropriate age I should be -- I know
18 that sounds silly, but I still feel young, like
19 I haven't grown up. That seems even worse but -- yeah,
20 I don't know. Yeah.
21 Q. At paragraph 92 of your statement, 'Julie', you tell us
22 about trying to recover your records and you tell us you
23 don't remember how you came to get your records but you
24 got some when you were quite young, 19 or 20. And at
25 the time you thought you were just better leaving some

1 things and you were worried about reading them, but then
2 more recently you were in touch with the council to
3 recover records?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. I think you have just told me before you gave your
6 evidence this morning that you have now recovered some
7 records.

8 A. Mm.

9 Q. How straightforward or easy or otherwise was it for you
10 to be able to recover those records from the council?

11 A. They weren't easy at all, actually. The council never
12 knew that I had papers from --

13 I do not, like I said I don't know how I got them.
14 They were kept in my neighbour's safe. I don't know if
15 I had asked for them but that's a long time ago, when
16 I'm 21 I had them. So anyway, when I went to recover
17 them myself, yeah, I know the lady that I got them from,
18 it was weird, it was a weird process to get them.

19 Q. What was harder or weird about the process?

20 A. I don't know, because I don't remember how I got the
21 first set. I absolutely do not remember if I got them
22 myself, if it's -- because I remember that Marischal
23 College was changing building and that was back then,
24 when I went to get them myself just not long ago it was
25 just a weird process. There was a lot of phone calling

1 back and forth, there was a lot of strange questions she
2 was asking. Then there was a long period of time left
3 and I never actually got them until -- I'm not sure if
4 someone from this company or another company had got in
5 touch and she got back in touch with me and says, "We
6 realise we've got to issue your papers", but it's not
7 actual papers, it's online that I've got to open.

8 Q. Okay.

9 At paragraph 95 you've been asked about redress and
10 you say you've never applied for any sort of
11 compensation and it makes you feel a bit guilty thinking
12 this.

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Why do you feel guilty about that?

15 A. Because I think there's a -- there's a lot more people
16 suffered a lot lot than I have. Other people listening
17 just now must think, well, you were looked after, you
18 were taken out of a situation from your mum, you were
19 looked after, you were fed, you were put in new clothes,
20 which was (unclear) the time, you weren't beaten up, we
21 weren't raised ... we were never smacked. I don't know.
22 I do feel bad, because there's a lot more horrendous
23 stories, people have suffered a lot more horrendous
24 abuse than obviously I have.

25 Q. In relation to lessons that perhaps the Inquiry can

1 learn from your experiences you tell us a little about
2 that from paragraph 96. What lessons do you think we
3 ought to learn?

4 A. As in social workers, you mean?

5 Q. Yes, or anything. In relation to making sure that
6 children in the care system are safe and are not abused.

7 A. I don't know, I can't answer that because I have had
8 a really, really bad experience with social workers
9 since my second son started growing up. There's a lot
10 of lies. I really don't want to speak out of turn.
11 I've experienced a lot of good times with social work
12 and I've experienced a lot of very bad time with my sons
13 growing up. There's a lot of lies gets told, that's
14 there in black and white. If I look back my records for
15 both my sons, I just think ... and nobody believes
16 social workers do lie. They make things up to make
17 things worse, but you don't get believed and I don't
18 want to go saying things out of turn, because that's not
19 what we're here for, obviously.

20 Q. From that do I take that being believed is important,
21 it's important to be believed?

22 A. Yeah.

23 (Witness nods)

24 Mm-hmm.

25 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, 'Julie'. That concludes my

1 questions. I don't have any further questions for you.

2 My Lady, I'm not aware of there being any

3 application for questions.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

5 Are there any outstanding applications for questions

6 of 'Julie'?

7 'Julie', that completes everything we want to ask

8 you this morning. Thank you very much, both for your

9 written statement -- as I mentioned earlier, we have

10 that, that's part of your evidence, I've read it

11 carefully -- but thank you for coming along today to let

12 us hear from you what you wanted to say here about your

13 time in foster care. It's very helpful to have heard

14 that.

15 I'm able to let you go and I hope you can have

16 a less stressful time for the rest of the day.

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Just relax now.

19 A. Thank you.

20 Thank you very much.

21 (The witness withdrew)

22 LADY SMITH: In the course of 'Julie's' evidence we used

23 names of two sets of foster carers, the EPG-SPO and the

24 [REDACTED]. Their identities are protected by my general

25 restriction order, so they can't be identified outside

1 this room. At some points 'Julie' referred to the first
2 names of the [REDACTED] foster children. Their identities
3 are also protected by my general restriction order.

4 I think it's probably time now for the morning
5 break; is that right?

6 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

7 After the break there'll be a further oral witness.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

9 I'll rise now.

10 (11.26 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (11.49 am)

13 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

14 MS INNES: My Lady, the next witness has chosen to remain
15 anonymous and is using the pseudonym 'Susan'. 'Susan'
16 was in the care of Fife Regional Council. She was in
17 more than one foster care placement, but from
18 [REDACTED] 1994 until [REDACTED] 1995 she was placed in foster
19 care with Peter Forbes (PF) and GKN [REDACTED]. So Fife Council
20 are the relevant successor.

21 On 17 October 1995 Peter Forbes pled guilty to
22 sexual offences against 'Susan', a breach of the peace
23 and a breach of bail. On 7 November 1995 he was
24 sentenced to a total period of one year, commencing on
25 14 August 1995, which I think was a date on which he was

1 remanded in custody following the breach of bail.

2 The relevant references are in the bundle and they

3 are at JUS-000000112 and JUS-000000113.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

5 'Susan' (affirmed)

6 LADY SMITH: If you can stay in a good position for that

7 microphone, it'll help you and it'll help us.

8 A. Okay.

9 LADY SMITH: Particularly the stenographers, who need to

10 hear you through the sound system.

11 A. Is this okay?

12 LADY SMITH: That's great, so somewhere around there would

13 be good.

14 That red folder you'll be taken to in a moment. It

15 has the typed version of your statement in it. But

16 we'll also bring your statement up on screen, the one on

17 the desk in front of you.

18 A. Yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: You'll be able to see it there and go to

20 different parts of it as we're talking about the bits

21 that we want to discuss with you.

22 A. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Susan', quite apart from all those

24 practicalities, please do understand I know how

25 difficult it is to come into public, to talk to

1 strangers and to talk about your own life and in
2 particular your life as a child, when you're having to
3 go back into your memory banks and you worry about
4 whether you are going to remember everything and then
5 you worry about how you're going to feel talking about
6 things that were distressing in your childhood.

7 A. (Witness nods)

8 LADY SMITH: I understand that, I get that and I know that
9 people can be taken by surprise at how their emotions
10 run away with them. That's perfectly all right.

11 A. (Witness nods)

12 LADY SMITH: If you want a break, that's fine by me.

13 A. Okay.

14 LADY SMITH: If you want a break out of the room or just
15 pausing where you are, that's absolutely okay.

16 A. Okay.

17 LADY SMITH: Or if there is anything else I can do to help
18 you give the best evidence you can so as to enable you
19 to tell us what you want to tell us about your
20 childhood.

21 A. Okay.

22 LADY SMITH: Particularly your childhood in foster care as
23 you know we're particularly interested in here.

24 A. Yeah.

25 LADY SMITH: So I hope it helps for you to know that --

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: -- and that we'll do what we can to ease your
3 way through this.

4 A. (Witness nods)

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

7 Ms Innes.

8 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

9 Questions from Ms Innes

10 MS INNES: 'Susan', we understand that you were born in
11 1981.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Your statement, we give it the reference
14 WIT-1-000000928. If we can go to the last page of that
15 and paragraph 201, you say there:

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

20 I understand that you signed the statement earlier
21 this year on 7 March 2022.

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. I think you've had a look through your statement again
24 before you came to give evidence this morning?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Okay. If we can just go back to the beginning of your
2 statement, you tell us a little bit about your family.
3 At paragraph 3 you mention that you have an older sister
4 who is six years older than you?
5 A. Yes.
6 Q. You then talk about another sister and two brothers?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. Is that right? Then you also say that your mum
9 remarried and you have two step siblings there too?
10 A. Yeah.
11 Q. When you were in care, were you in care with any of your
12 siblings?
13 A. No.
14 Q. Okay, you were just by yourself?
15 A. We were put in foster care at the same time but with
16 different families.
17 Q. I see.
18 A. Me and my stepbrother -- well, he's not -- my dad wasn't
19 married to his mum, so that's why I've not included him
20 in the siblings part, but we were put in care at the
21 same time but with different foster families.
22 Q. I see, I'll come back to that.
23 You tell us about various placements that you had
24 when you were a child. If we go on to page 2, you
25 mention that you were in foster care I think when you

1 were very young --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- in 1983/1984?

4 A. (Witness nods)

5 Q. And you know that you were with a family called the

6 [REDACTED]?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Who told you about that?

9 A. I knew I was in care when I was younger, I didn't know

10 the name or whereabouts or how long I was there. It was

11 my big sister that filled that in for me.

12 Q. Okay, and you say that you have no memory of where they

13 lived or what they looked like or anything like that?

14 A. (Witness shakes head)

15 Just they tried to make me eat porridge one day,

16 it's the only memory I have of being there.

17 Q. Yes, you talk about that at paragraph 8, that you can

18 remember being given porridge?

19 A. Yeah, it had salt in it and I didn't like it.

20 LADY SMITH: That's an old Scottish habit --

21 A. Yeah.

22 LADY SMITH: -- that some people have. It can be tough for

23 a child.

24 A. Yeah. I thought it was sugar to start with, so I did

25 take a wee bite, but oh, it was horrible, and they

1 wanted me to eat the rest of it. I couldn't.

2 MS INNES: Then you talk about I think being with your mum

3 and then you talk about going to Playfield House in

4 Cupar --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- and you spent some time there?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. If we move on to page 7, at paragraph 33 you say that

9 after you left Playfield House, which you think was

10 round about 1990 to 1991, in that sort of period, you

11 would go between your mum and dad's houses?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. You also say in this section, I think, that your dad

14 arranged with somebody to look after you?

15 A. Well, I had got a phone call one day from my dad and

16 I had been quite naughty that day and I had been telling

17 my dad on the phone and he was like, "You can come and

18 stay with me", and I says to my mum and she --

19 practically packed my bags and sent me up there. And

20 then that night he put me with a couple that they used

21 to drink with years ago and I was there for a whole

22 year.

23 Q. You talk about that at paragraph 34. You say that your

24 understanding was that it was sort of private foster

25 care and it wasn't through the social work?

1 A. That's what my dad called it, yeah, private foster care.

2 Q. Can you remember any social workers coming to see you

3 when you were living there?

4 A. No.

5 Q. So you stayed with this -- was it a couple?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. You stayed with them for about a year?

8 A. Yeah. I stayed with them from 1990 to 1991, I think it

9 was, because I was exactly ten-year-old when I left

10 them, so it must have been 1990 I went to live with

11 them, until 1991.

12 Q. Then in 1991, if you go on to the next page, page 8. At

13 paragraph 38 you tell us that you went back to your

14 dad's and at paragraph 40 you say that there was another

15 time that you went back into foster care and was that

16 just a brief stay in foster care at that time, can you

17 remember?

18 A. Who was that with?

19 Q. You don't say there. At paragraph 40 you just say that

20 you went back into foster care around that time.

21 A. I think that was with [REDACTED]

22 Q. Okay, we'll move on to her just in a moment.

23 At page 9 you talk about being at Foot Place in

24 Rosyth?

25 A. Yes, actually that would be been the care setting I was

1 talking about, because that was before [REDACTED],
2 I think. I think it was before [REDACTED] yes.
3 I was up there for about eight or nine weeks, ten weeks,
4 something like that.

5 Q. What was Foot Place? Was it a children's home or --
6 A. I believe it was a converted care house, it used to be
7 a care home for the elderly and I think the unit was
8 opened specifically for the people -- because when
9 I went up there, the people that were there had just
10 arrived that day as well. So it felt like it was just
11 a new -- a new -- we all turned up at the same time kind
12 of thing.

13 Q. I see.

14 A. And I was there for about -- well, I was there I think
15 for three place of safety orders, so that would have
16 been like nine weeks.

17 Q. If we move on to page 12, paragraph 61, you say that you
18 went to foster care and this is [REDACTED] in
19 Kirkcaldy?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. You think you'd just started high school when you went
22 to live with her?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Where were you going to high school?

25 A. Buckhaven.

1 Q. Buckhaven?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You say that her husband was in the Navy, so he was only

4 home --

5 A. Yeah, you didn't see him too often.

6 Q. If we go on over the page to page 13, at paragraph 62

7 you say you didn't get to meet her before going to stay

8 with her?

9 A. No, I was just took there.

10 Q. You say that with any of the foster carers that you had,

11 you never met them in advance?

12 A. Not that I could remember. I mean not that I could

13 remember. Just being took there.

14 Q. Do you know why it was that you didn't meet them before?

15 A. I don't know. I didn't think that was -- I don't think

16 that was done.

17 Q. Okay. You talk about who else [REDACTED] lived with, you

18 think she had two daughters?

19 A. She did have two daughters, yes.

20 Q. So one a year or two younger than you, you say, and --

21 A. Yeah, one a year or two older.

22 Q. You say that I think one of them had already left school

23 when you were living there?

24 A. Yeah, one was at school. The older one wasn't, she'd

25 left.

1 Q. How did you get on at [REDACTED]?

2 A. She was quite strict, but not the strictness that I was
3 used to. I was used to my dad lifting his hands and
4 grounding, but she was more -- she would do things like
5 take your pocket money, ground you, and she was really
6 strict, but I understand why she was like that because
7 I was quite -- I was quite wild.

8 LADY SMITH: You said although she was quite strict she was
9 not as strict as --

10 A. She was a different strict from my dad, because my dad
11 used to lift his hands and that kind of stuff. She was
12 more structured strictness if you know what I mean, like
13 you would maybe get extra chores or fined 50 pence on
14 your pocket money or something like that.

15 LADY SMITH: She had rules, your dad had his fists?

16 A. Yes. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 A. That's a good way of putting it.

19 MS INNES: Did she behave the same way to her own daughters?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So they had rules as well?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. It was the same sort of things as --

24 A. I wasn't treated any different.

25 Q. Okay. At paragraph 64 you say that her daughters would

1 say to you, "Just do what she tells you"?

2 A. Yeah, because they obviously knew she was quite strict
3 as well, so they were like, "Look, just do it and she'll
4 get off your back" kind of thing. I wasn't used to
5 doing chores and that before then or anything like that,
6 really. I mean she was really structured with the
7 chores, like walking the dogs in the morning, ironing.
8 I'd never done anything like that before.

9 So I suppose it was -- she was giving me life skills
10 in a way, but you don't see it that way when you're
11 young.

12 Q. Did the daughters have to do these chores as well?

13 A. Yeah, they had chores as well to do, yeah.

14 Q. Did you do it on a kind of rota or take turns?

15 A. Yeah, I had certain chores and they had certain chores,
16 so we just stuck to our own chores. I probably felt
17 like I had more to do back then, but I probably didn't.
18 I probably didn't.

19 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 66 that you used to have to
20 go from her house to Buckhaven High School?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. The school that you'd been at, so you were at Buckhaven
23 before you went to [REDACTED]?

24 A. Yeah. I used to walk to the bus station and get the bus
25 to school and then the same home.

1 Q. You didn't have to move school when you went to [REDACTED]?
2 A. No, no.
3 Q. You talk about the chores at paragraph 67 and you say
4 you would get money for doing the chores?
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. Okay. That would earn you pocket money, but if you
7 swore or something --
8 A. It would get taken away.
9 Q. -- it would get deducted?
10 A. Yeah.
11 Q. Over the page, at paragraph 68 you say that you feel
12 that [REDACTED] set you up with a good routine?
13 A. Yeah. By the time I went back to my dad's I was kind of
14 used to the routine. Aye.
15 Q. How long do you think that you were at [REDACTED]?
16 A. I don't think it was quite a year, less than a year.
17 Q. You talk about social work visits at paragraph 69 and
18 you talk there about your social worker?
19 A. Yeah.
20 Q. Had he been your social worker before you went to
21 [REDACTED]?
22 A. Yes, yeah.
23 Q. How did you get on with him?
24 A. I used to hate getting in his car, because he smoked
25 a pipe and he smoked it in the car when he was driving

1 it and I used to stink of that smoke, oh, I hated
2 getting in his car. I felt I couldn't tell him anything
3 because he was terrified of my dad.

4 Q. How did you think that he was terrified of your dad,
5 what made you think?

6 A. I heard him tell my mum -- I heard him say to my mum and
7 my stepdad that he was scared of my dad.

8 Q. Did he explain to them why he was scared of your dad?

9 A. My dad was just aggressive. He didn't care that it was
10 a social worker in the house. He was still shouting,
11 all the rest of it. And I think Dave Deaton knew what
12 was going on in the house but he just was too scared to
13 say anything to my dad about it, because I was getting
14 battered on a daily basis and I was telling my guidance
15 teacher and my guidance teacher was phoning Dave Deaton
16 but I wasn't getting listened to. I even had marks on
17 my back one day when I went to my guidance teacher and
18 they just -- I just felt like it was writ off. The
19 police weren't called or anything like that.

20 Q. Okay. So Mr Deaton had been your social worker when you
21 were living with your dad as well?

22 A. Yeah. He was my social worker right up until I went to
23 Rimbleton House when I was 14.

24 Q. Okay.

25 At paragraph 69 you say if you'd had problems at

1 [REDACTED] house you think you would probably have spoken
2 to your guidance teacher at high school?

3 A. Yeah, Mrs Thompson. I had a good relationship with her.

4 Q. Was she your guidance teacher all the way through high
5 school?

6 A. Yeah.

7 You get put into a -- it's like you get put into
8 a group [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] so you get kept in that group
11 your whole -- all your years at school. So, yeah, she
12 was my guidance teacher the whole time.

13 Q. You felt that she was somebody that you could speak to?

14 A. Yeah. Eventually. Maybe once I got into like (unclear)
15 and built up a friendship with her, I was able to tell
16 her more things. I was forced to one day when I come in
17 because I had that mark on my back and I was still
18 really upset about getting beat up. And she knew
19 something had happened and she got me into the guidance
20 room and I was able to tell her.

21 Q. How were you able to sort of build up a relationship
22 with her? Did you have sort of times that you spoke to
23 her, that you met with her?

24 A. She was my guidance teacher, so sometimes she used to
25 make appointments --

1 Q. I see.

2 A. -- that you'd turn up to. She was just really kind and
3 nurturing and I felt I could tell her things.

4 Q. Okay.

5 You tell us at paragraph 70 again about [REDACTED]
6 approach to discipline. You say that you learned to
7 respect her.

8 A. Yeah. She was really -- she was really strict. I mean
9 if I said "aye", she used to say, "It's 'yes'", and like
10 correct all my words so by the time I went back to my
11 dad's, I was speaking proper. I was a totally different
12 person.

13 Q. At paragraph 71 you say that you don't know why you left
14 her house?

15 A. I ran away one night. I think it was to meet up with
16 a couple of people. One of them -- one of the guys that
17 were -- had run away from a home and we had met up and
18 that's -- I think that's where I ran away, just to be
19 with them. But I went back. I knew where my bread was
20 buttered that night and wanted to go home.

21 Q. Then after you went back to [REDACTED], did you stay there?

22 A. I don't think it was long after that that I went back to
23 my dad's. I don't think it was too long after that.

24 Q. Okay. You talk in this paragraph about having to hold
25 [REDACTED] hand when you were walking along the High

1 Street.

2 A. Yeah, across the roads and stuff. She used to hold my
3 hand, it was really embarrassing.

4 Q. What year in school were you?

5 A. First year, so I'd have been 13 -- no, wait a minute,
6 I started school at 11 I think in fact, I'd have been
7 about 11 or 12, something like that, 12 I think I'd have
8 been.

9 LADY SMITH: You'd have become 12 during your first year
10 maybe.

11 A. Yeah.

12 MS INNES: You talk about a time that you ran -- at
13 paragraph 72 you say you ran away and you were away for
14 the whole night.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Is that the only time that you ran away from [REDACTED]?

17 A. I think so, yes, aye.

18 Q. You say that you went to the police station and you
19 wanted to go home?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. To [REDACTED]?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. I think that you'd maybe been drinking with your
24 friends.

25 A. Yeah, that was my first experience with spirits and

1 I totally felt out of control of my body, so I just
2 wanted to get home and get into my bed.

3 Q. At paragraph 74 you talk about being at children's
4 panels.

5 A. Mm.

6 Q. What can you remember about your experience of that?
7 Can you remember when you started having to go to the
8 children's panel?

9 A. I think my first panel would have been round about the
10 time -- maybe [REDACTED] time, I think. What
11 I remember about the panel is quite a long table.
12 I remember a lady that was always chairing it, her name
13 was Pat Callander.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. And as far as I could remember there'd be three people
16 on this side, three people that I had never met before,
17 and me and maybe my dad or my mum -- whoever I was
18 living with at the time -- would be on this side of the
19 table and the social worker and that's it. And I just
20 remember them talking about what was -- what would be
21 happening next. That's really what I remember about the
22 panel. It would be to either put me in foster care or
23 put me back to my dad's. That's what I thought a panel
24 was for.

25 Q. You thought it was about talking about where you

1 would --

2 A. Where I'd be going next, yeah.

3 Q. When you say that there were the three people, was

4 Pat Callander one of these three people?

5 A. No, she'd be up at the top of the table and then there'd

6 be another three people on this side, from what I can

7 remember.

8 Q. Do you know what they were doing, were they part of the

9 panel?

10 A. I think they were part of the decision that was going to

11 be made. I got to speak at one panel, because the

12 three -- one of the three people -- one of the three

13 people that were sitting there, a lady, had asked me

14 a question and it was the only time I actually got to

15 speak at a panel.

16 Q. Can you remember what she asked you?

17 A. Where I wanted to stay, what I wanted for the outcome of

18 the panel.

19 Q. Did you feel able to give her an honest answer?

20 A. No, because my dad was sitting ...

21 Q. Was sitting next to you?

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. So did that influence what you said?

24 A. (Witness nods)

25 Most definitely.

1 Q. Okay. So if you weren't speaking at the panel, who was
2 doing the speaking?

3 A. Social workers, my dad. Maybe the people asking
4 questions. It certainly wasn't me, anyway.

5 Q. Okay. If we go on to the bottom of this page, at
6 paragraph 76 you say that you can remember being at
7 a foster carer where there was -- she had a lot of
8 gnomes in her garden?

9 A. Yeah, the house was full of like frilly curtains and
10 kind of all that sort of stuff. But I don't remember
11 her name or how long I was there or if -- I can't
12 remember if it was -- it might have not even been foster
13 care. This is the wee bit I'm confused about, this
14 could have been -- see when I left care, when I come out
15 of Rimbleton, the social worker got me a ... they just
16 let the room out, like a landlord. He got me
17 a landlord, and it could have been that, because
18 I haven't got any memories of that lady at all. I could
19 only remember what the garden looked like and what the
20 bedroom looked like and I don't think I was there long,
21 but I don't know if it was something that they put me in
22 after I left Rimbleton because they got me
23 accommodation, one accommodation when I left Rimbleton
24 and then that was it.

25 Q. That might have been called something like lodgings or

1 supported accommodation?

2 A. That's it, supported lodgings, that what it, supported
3 lodgings, that was it.

4 Q. You remember that that happened, you're not sure if that
5 was at this house or not?

6 A. Yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: At this stage you'd still just be about 13,
8 would that be right?

9 A. Well, that's what I'm saying, because I can't remember
10 too much about this lady, it's just a bit -- I only
11 remember that I stayed with her and about the garden and
12 the bedroom. I can't -- I really can't remember the
13 date. I don't know why it's in there. I don't know if
14 maybe it's the way I've said it or something, but
15 I don't know if that was a foster care placement or if
16 it was a supported lodgings placement.

17 LADY SMITH: It could have been later, maybe?

18 A. It could have been later, yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: Don't worry, you've been in so many places as
20 a child --

21 A. Yeah.

22 LADY SMITH: -- it's readily understandable that you might
23 not get the detail right.

24 A. It's a chronological thing that was quite hard when
25 I was doing my statement, to try and get them all in

1 order because there has been quite a lot.

2 LADY SMITH: Don't worry, I can deal with that.

3 A. Yeah.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS INNES: After you were at [REDACTED], as you've told

6 us, you went back to your dad's and then on page 17 you

7 tell us that there was an incident with your dad at

8 paragraph 84 and at paragraph 85 you say that you told

9 the social workers about the incident and you got put

10 into care at that point.

11 A. (Witness nods)

12 Q. You say that you remember that there was an emergency

13 panel --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- and you were put into foster care?

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. Can you remember being at that -- was that a panel that

18 you were at?

19 A. I don't know. I think I would have been, emergency

20 panel, I think I probably would have been, but I can't

21 remember.

22 Q. You talk about you and your stepbrother --

23 A. Stepbrother [REDACTED] yeah.

24 Q. That you went into care on the same day, but you went to

25 two different places?

1 A. Yeah, that's what I was talking about earlier when
2 I said my stepbrother had went -- yeah, it was
3 an incident that had happened that involved me and my
4 brother, so I think that's why we were both put into
5 care at the same time.

6 Q. If we go then onto paragraph 86, you tell us that you
7 went to PF-GKN at that point.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. What was your first impression of PF-GKN?

10 A. My first impression was it's just another family that
11 I'm going to be living with. They were a bit older.
12 Didn't have any other kids there -- oh, sorry, they had
13 a wee baby there when I first went, but that wee baby
14 went back to its mum within a couple of weeks. But then
15 it was just -- I don't know. I don't know what
16 I thought, really. I'd always been used to being around
17 other kids and stuff, so I suppose that was a bit of
18 a bummer, but to me it was just another family that
19 I was getting put with, so just make the most of it.

20 Q. You were used to being either with your parents with
21 other children being about --

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. -- or in placements where there were other children?

24 A. Aye. And foster care by that time just came -- just was
25 sort of the normal thing. When things broke down at my

1 dad's, I knew that was what was going to happen.

2 Q. That you'd be put into foster care?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. So you were put to this couple. They were a bit

5 older?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. I think we know that you went there when you were 13 and

8 I think Mr Forbes was --

9 A. I think actually I went there when I was 12, I had my

10 13th birthday when I was there.

11 Q. I think we know again from your records that Mr Forbes

12 was 49 when you went there and turned 50 --

13 A. We had our birthdays in the same month. He was [REDACTED]

14 as well, I think, he was [REDACTED] or close to that. Our

15 birthdays were round about the same time anyway. He

16 turned 50, I turned 13.

17 Q. Okay. What was GKN [REDACTED] like at the beginning?

18 A. Just like any other mum, I suppose.

19 I didn't have much stuff when I went there, so she

20 took me and got me clothes and stuff. She was -- how

21 can I say it? She was pretty hip, you know, she wasn't

22 too strict. She let me smoke in the house. She was

23 actually all right. I mean, she never -- she never done

24 anything wrong to me or that.

25 Q. Okay. You remember going out shopping with her and

1 getting some clothes that you liked?

2 A. Aye. I remember it, because she had these green velvet
3 jeans and that's what was in at the time and I got the
4 exact same pair, because I liked them that much, so we
5 had the same jeans. I remember that, going to the shop
6 that day and getting all the clothes.

7 Q. Okay.

8 If we can go over the page, at paragraph 87 you say
9 that you can remember it was before Christmas that you
10 went there.

11 A. (Witness nods)

12 Q. And you remember going there in the car with Mr Deaton.

13 A. Mm.

14 Q. At paragraph 88 you say that you thought they seemed
15 like an old couple when you arrived?

16 A. Yeah, aye, because my dad was in his late 30s, early
17 40s, or something like that so they were older to me.

18 Q. You say the house looked nice?

19 A. Aye, they had a nice house. It looked bought, and they
20 had the kind of brown windows and stuff. It didn't look
21 like -- I don't mean this bad, but it didn't look like
22 a council house or that, it looked bought, it had a nice
23 garden and they had a car and -- aye.

24 Q. You describe them as being warm and friendly?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. You then talk about asking to put the TV on and watching
2 a film.

3 A. Calamity Jane. Because all the Christmas films were on
4 at that time and she says, "That's my favourite film,
5 you'll really like it" and I sat and watched it from
6 start to finish and to this day it's my favourite film
7 as well. Although there's a lot of crappy memories tied
8 with that, I still like the film.

9 Q. You then talk about where they lived at paragraph 90,
10 was it a village that they lived in?

11 A. Yeah. [REDACTED] and it was a street called
12 [REDACTED] and none of my friends at school
13 believed me that it was a street called [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]

15 Q. Was it a big village or were there just a few houses in
16 the village?

17 A. Well, you've got [REDACTED] which is smaller
18 and then you've got about a half a mile stretch of road
19 and then [REDACTED] which is much bigger, but
20 I wouldn't say it was too big, it's maybe about a mile
21 long, something like that

22 LADY SMITH: 'Susan', can you remind me again, you've got
23 [REDACTED]

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: And then the other village, which is smaller?

1 A. No, [REDACTED] is the smaller one, then you pass
2 the castle, there's a big long road, and then you have
3 [REDACTED], which is the next village along.
4 Which is that's where they lived, PF-GKN [REDACTED]
5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
6 MS INNES: Did you have your own room in the house?
7 A. Yes.
8 Q. If you go on to paragraph 91, you mention there, as
9 you've said a moment ago, that you think there was
10 a baby there when you went there?
11 A. Yeah, a wee baby called [REDACTED] She was beautiful,
12 really beautiful. She was just a newborn. I loved that
13 wee baby, but she went back pretty soon after I went
14 there.
15 Q. Then at paragraph 92 you tell us that they had three
16 children.
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. Were any of their children living in the house?
19 A. No, but two of them lived in the same street and the
20 other daughter lived just over the back, so they were
21 all quite close.
22 Q. Okay. You say that they had two sets of grandchildren?
23 A. Yes. The son had -- I think he had one son and then the
24 daughter [REDACTED] she had two daughters, and the daughter
25 [REDACTED] at that time she didn't have any kids. She was

1 married but had no kids.

2 Q. Did they come about the house when you were there?

3 A. [REDACTED] was there all the time, the daughter that lived

4 in the street. I never seen the son, hardly ever. The

5 daughter [REDACTED] well she worked in the doctor's surgery,

6 she was just really busy all the time with work and

7 stuff, so she wasn't around much either. I mean they

8 did come to the house, but just not very often, but

9 [REDACTED] did and the grand kids as well. [REDACTED] set of

10 kids were always there, but the -- now that I think

11 about it the son's kids were never there.

12 Q. Okay. So there was the one daughter and her children

13 that you maybe saw a bit more --

14 A. Yeah, I seen them all the time, aye. We went on holiday

15 with them and stuff. I would say the daughter [REDACTED]

16 was down probably most days.

17 Q. Okay. Were her children younger than you?

18 A. Oh yeah, much younger.

19 Q. They were little children?

20 A. Yeah, I think one was about five, and I can't remember

21 her name, and then the other one, [REDACTED] she would

22 maybe be about eight, seven or eight.

23 Q. Okay.

24 Still at the same paragraph you say that you

25 wouldn't say that either PF - GKN [REDACTED] was the main

1 carer, both of them?

2 A. I would say he, him, done everything with me.

3 Everything. She done all the stuff in the house, like

4 the washing, drying the clothes and all that, but it was

5 he that would come to take me anywhere, he was the one

6 that done it, he took me to school, picked me up, that

7 sort of stuff.

8 Q. You say at paragraph 93 that you were still going to

9 Buckhaven High School?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. How did you get there?

12 A. I would get a volunteer driver, they were called, it was

13 just a guy that I didn't know would pick me up in the

14 car and take me to school and pick me up again.

15 Pete Forbes used to drive me as well. He drove me for

16 the first while and then I don't ken why, I don't ken if

17 his job or something changed and then for a wee while

18 I had what I just called it there, a volunteer driver.

19 Q. At the beginning Mr Forbes took you to school and picked

20 you up from school?

21 A. Mm.

22 Q. Then there came a time that there was a volunteer

23 driver?

24 A. Aye. I think that's when I stayed there -- I had

25 a couple of volunteer drivers in a couple of placements

1 that I was in so -- but most of the time he took me.

2 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 94 that you missed your

3 tea -- you liked the food, but you say you missed your

4 tea a lot of the time at night because you were meeting

5 Mr Forbes?

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. Can you explain, were you meeting him straight from

8 school or later?

9 A. No, just shortly before teatime he'd go over to his work

10 and he had me meet him at the top of [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED] and go to his work with him, and then he'd

12 bring me back for 9 o'clock, time to be back in for 8 or

13 9 o'clock.

14 Q. Would you come back from school to the house --

15 A. Yeah, aye.

16 Q. -- and then go --

17 A. Tell her I'm going out to play and then I would say I'm

18 having my dinner at my pal's or whatever and she was

19 cool with that, but obviously I wasn't, I was going --

20 Q. You would tell her that you were going out to play with

21 your friends or meet your friends at that stage --

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. -- and instead of doing that, you would go and meet

24 Mr Forbes --

25 A. And he would take me up to Glenrothes Ice Rink, that's

1 where he worked, he was a security guard up there. To
2 start with when he said to me about going up the ice
3 rink, I just thought, "Oh, yes, I'm going to go on
4 an ice rink, maybe I will put skates on and go on this
5 ice rink", but it wasn't, it was all shut down and the
6 ice was all melted and it was just a tiny wee box room
7 that he sat in with a radio and a wee TV in it and
8 a sofa.

9 Q. Did you walk from the house to meet him?

10 A. Aye. He would leave for his work and I would leave
11 about the same time, and he would just sit up at the
12 shop at [REDACTED] and wait for me. He would
13 go right up the top because his daughter [REDACTED] lived
14 about halfway up that street, so he would have to go up
15 way past her house, obviously, so it would be up near
16 the top of [REDACTED] at the roundabout, just
17 somewhere around there, and he would sit in the car and
18 wait for me coming up.

19 Q. How long after you started living with PF - GKN [REDACTED] did
20 this sort of thing start happening, that you would meet
21 him?

22 A. Well, it started when he come up to my room one day and
23 kissed me on the forehead when I was sleeping, and
24 I mentioned it at the table the next morning, that I'd
25 never had anything like that. My dad wasn't one for

1 giving me a cuddle me and telling me he loved me or
2 anything like that. So I said in the morning, I was
3 like, "Who gave me a kiss on the head? That was nice",
4 and he kicked me under the table. She never said
5 nothing, nothing was said, and that was the first thing
6 that he'd ever done to me.

7 The second thing was he come into my room one night
8 out of the bath and dropped his towel and he was
9 completely naked.

10 Q. What was your reaction to that?

11 A. I didn't ken what to do. I had never seen a naked man's
12 body. I had never seen a full nude. I didn't ken what
13 to say or do. And then I can't really remember how it
14 got to where it got to. Just like I'm -- he tried to
15 kiss me in the car one day. There was a Celine Dion
16 song at the time, Think Twice it was called, and
17 I really liked it and he bought it on cassette tape for
18 me to play in the car and he just started kissing me one
19 day on the way to school, and that was it really.

20 Q. What did you think when that happened?

21 A. He was telling me he loved me. I just thought -- I just
22 thought that ... I thought I was -- I thought I was
23 getting into a relationship.

24 Q. Okay. If we can go on to the next page, to page 20 and
25 paragraph 99, you talk about that sort of thing

1 happening in the car. You say that some of the children
2 in your class started picking up on that?

3 A. Aye, because he was like when I was -- before I was
4 getting out the car he was asking for a kiss and that
5 and sometimes he would kiss me on the lips and you're
6 talking about where he was dropping me off was right at
7 the main door, the entrance to the school.

8 Q. Did some of the children notice that as they were
9 passing the car?

10 A. Mm. Asked me if he was my boyfriend and all that.
11 People clocked on straight away. Even my best pal
12 before I told her what was going on, she knew.
13 It must have been obvious to certain people.
14 I don't know.

15 Q. Did anyone at school talk to you about that?

16 A. (Witness shakes head)

17 Q. The guidance teacher that you mentioned earlier,
18 Ms Thompson --

19 A. I wasn't wanting to tell anybody, because he was telling
20 me that he would get in trouble if anybody found out --

21 Q. I see --

22 A. -- and we could only start telling people when I was 16.

23 Q. -- so he was telling you it had to be kept a secret?

24 A. Mm.

25 LADY SMITH: 'Susan', did your friends have boyfriends?

1 A. My friend [REDACTED] did. My best friend that I was talking
2 about there? Yeah. Yeah, she had a boyfriend.
3 LADY SMITH: Did it make you feel flattered and reassured
4 that you had this older man showing an interest in
5 you --
6 A. Mm-hmm.
7 LADY SMITH: -- telling you that he loved you and kissing
8 you?
9 A. (Witness nods)
10 I mean, not just that. This might sound stupid, but
11 he was also doing things like buying me packets of
12 cigarettes. He wouldn't tell [REDACTED] GKN if I truanted the
13 school and things like that.
14 LADY SMITH: He was being good to you?
15 A. Yeah.
16 LADY SMITH: Made you feel good?
17 A. Mm-hmm.
18 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.
19 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.
20 You mentioned there in your evidence that sometimes
21 you were playing truant from school.
22 A. Yeah.
23 Q. Why did you start doing that?
24 A. Just because people were saying things at school and
25 I just couldn't deal with it, because I knew inside what

1 was going on and I was starting to feel like ... a dirty
2 old man. Kind of that's what it was starting to feel
3 like. But then he was convincing me at the other end
4 that what we had was true love and he was going to leave
5 GKN and we were going to get married and all this
6 sort of stuff. I don't ken if he believed that, I dinna
7 ken to this day if he was actually sexually abusing me
8 or if he was ... I dinna ken if he was doing that for
9 the gratification or if he really did love me.
10 I just ... I dinna ken and I didna ken.
11 Q. Okay.
12 When you were not going to school, playing truant,
13 where would you go?
14 A. Sometimes I'd go to the dam, sometimes I'd meet up with
15 him. Just anywhere. Anywhere where somebody at the
16 school couldn't see you.
17 Q. How would he know if you weren't at school?
18 A. Well, he'd get a phone call from the school saying
19 that --
20 Q. Would he come and look for you?
21 A. Well, no, he'd be there -- he'd ken. He'd ken I'd be
22 there to get picked back up to go with him. I knew
23 I wasn't going to get in trouble, so ...
24 Q. You say as you just mentioned that he knew about these
25 things so he might get the phone call and he might know

1 that you were off school?

2 A. (Witness nods)

3 Q. But he didn't tell GKN ?

4 A. No. I probably would have got grounded and then

5 I wouldn't have been able to go to his work with him.

6 Q. Okay. If we just move on, please, to page 21. At

7 paragraph 105 you talk about your birthday and

8 Christmas --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- and you talk about Mr Forbes buying you an underwear

11 set.

12 A. Mm, quite a -- one that you would get for maybe somebody

13 in their 20s or something, ken. It was all lacy and --

14 lacy see-through pants and that. It wasn't like what

15 you would buy a 13-year-old, kind of like a crop top and

16 a pair of normal -- these were something that I would

17 definitely not let a 13-year-old lassie wear.

18 LADY SMITH: 'Susan', you might say a 50-year-old man

19 wouldn't buy underwear for a 13-year-old girl at all,

20 whatever the underwear was like.

21 A. Yeah, but that was a Christmas present and I opened that

22 in front of his wife, I opened that in front of

23 everybody, so why did she think that was all right?

24 I didn't even have a chest at that time. Hadn't started

25 developing at that time, so ...

1 MS INNES: Was it clear that the present was from him and
2 not from --

3 A. Aye, he told me he had picked it. It was from them, all
4 my Christmas was from them, but he said he had picked
5 that one. And then the jammies that I had on was like
6 a onesie but it was see through, kind of really thin
7 material.

8 Q. You say at paragraph 106 that he took photographs --

9 A. Took photographs of me, aye, and I wasn't until after he
10 had took the photographs that he told me you can see
11 through your onesie. You know the night onesie that you
12 went to bed. He says you can see your -- you can see
13 your underwear through that -- because obviously I had
14 on my new stuff on for Christmas. I wasn't used to
15 getting a lot of stuff at Christmas. From my dad you
16 got like one big thing and maybe a selection box and
17 a couple of wee things, but I was never used to a whole
18 two-seater full of presents and so I couldn't wait to
19 get up and try all my new stuff on.

20 Q. Yeah, so he'd taken photographs on the day and then --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- did he tell you later that --

23 A. Christmas night the photographs were took and it would
24 have been a couple of days developing them I suppose,
25 maybe within a week.

1 Q. Then he told you afterwards that the reason he took them
2 was because he could see through to your underwear?
3 A. Well, I don't know whether that's the reason why he took
4 them, but he took the photographs and then told me that,
5 "Ken, you look sexy, you can see your sexy underwear
6 under", that kind of thing, that kind of thing.
7 Q. At paragraph 108 you say that you can't remember anyone
8 visiting you when you were at PF - GKN house?
9 A. No, I can't. I used to see my social worker Dave Deaton
10 mostly at the school.
11 Q. Okay.
12 A. I would see him mostly there. I can't really remember
13 him -- he picked me up a couple of times from the
14 [REDACTED] that I could remember, but I can't really
15 remember him coming up to PF - GKN other than the
16 time that I had absconded, the couple of times that
17 I had absconded from there, he obviously had to come out
18 and see me.
19 Q. If we go to the top of page 22, paragraph 110, you talk,
20 as you've already mentioned, about your view of the
21 social worker. You were apprehensive telling him
22 because you thought he would tell your dad?
23 A. Mm, and I'd get a battering for it the minute he left.
24 Q. Did you feel that -- you know, as you said you started
25 feeling that what was going on with Mr Forbes wasn't

1 appropriate and did you think that you should speak to
2 Mr Deaton about it?

3 A. I knew what -- I knew what was happening was wrong, but
4 because he was telling me that he loved me and he was
5 going to leave when I was old enough -- and I mean at
6 that -- at that time I thought I was going to be there
7 till I was 16 sort of thing, so I was just waiting for
8 that to happen. It made me feel good. He told me he
9 loved me. He made me feel secure. But I didn't --
10 obviously I knew at the time I was under 16 that what
11 was happening was wrong, because obviously he'd be
12 saying to me, "You can't tell anybody, I'll get in
13 trouble", but I didn't want to get him in trouble
14 because I loved him.

15 Q. In those circumstances, I think what you're saying is
16 you wouldn't have told your social worker or the
17 guidance teacher at school that you've mentioned?

18 A. No.

19 Q. At paragraph 112 you tell us about a couple of times
20 that you ran away.

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. Why was it that you ran away from their house?

23 A. Because of the things that he was wanting me to do. He
24 was -- he was wanting me to have full sex with him and
25 we'd already tried that before and it was -- I didn't

1 like it. And I think just at that point I was just not
2 wanting to do that -- do anything with him anyway.

3 I started to feel in the end it was all geared
4 around sex, because once he'd had his way with me at
5 work that was it, I'd get took back home. So after
6 a while I started to feel like it's all just a bit what
7 somebody can get off you.

8 Q. You say that when you ran away you went back to either
9 your mum or your dad's?

10 A. Mm-hmm, yeah.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. I think it was my mum's I ran away to.

13 Q. What would happen then? Would she let the social work
14 know where you were or --

15 A. Yeah, she had to phone the social workers to tell them
16 and then just come and got me and took me back.

17 Q. Did anyone ask you why you had run away?

18 A. No. I think it was just -- I think at that time they
19 just thought you were running away because you wanted to
20 do your own thing or whatever. I don't know. I wasn't
21 asked anyway. I probably wouldn't have told him, to be
22 fair, because I was getting groomed at that time, so ...

23 Q. Then you go on in the next section to tell us about some
24 things that happened with Mr Forbes and you've already
25 mentioned some of them, so if we can go on, please, to

1 page 23. At paragraph 117, for example, you mention
2 being abused by him at his place of work.

3 A. Mm.

4 Q. So you've talked up going up to the Glenrothes Ice
5 Rink --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- and you say that that's where he worked, I think
8 maybe to begin with?

9 A. Yeah, there was three places that I remember where he
10 worked, where we used to go.

11 Q. Did he take you to each of these places?

12 A. Yeah, mm-hmm.

13 Q. I think you said he was working as a security guard?

14 A. Yeah, so there was always a changeover. So when we
15 turned up, there would be a guy there and then -- kind
16 of I would be -- I would be with Pete. I dinna ken how
17 they never questioned anything or phoned the police or
18 whatever. I was just -- it's bizarre when I think about
19 it now, because I'd be right on the phone to social work
20 if I thought anything untoward was going on. I really
21 would.

22 Q. You mention that at paragraph 118 and you talk about
23 that shift change and seeing the people that -- or the
24 person, there was maybe a consistent person --

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. -- that Mr Forbes swapped with?

2 A. Yeah, and they're bound to have known what was going on

3 because of the -- just because -- they're bound to have

4 knew.

5 Q. You say that the first couple of times that you saw the

6 guy he was swapping with, you felt embarrassed?

7 A. Mm. Felt embarrassed because of the age gap.

8 Q. Okay. At paragraph 117 you mentioned that he would

9 abuse you and do it in a way that you got to do things

10 that you liked. So, for example, you were allowed to

11 drive his car around the car park?

12 A. Yeah, he used to let me drive his car in the ice rink

13 car park. He taught me how to drive.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Used to let me go around the whole rink and that as

16 well, and look about, because it's -- I've got a thing

17 about derelict buildings, I'm nosey, so he would just

18 let me go and wander and look around the place as well.

19 He would give me cigarettes and money.

20 Q. At paragraph 119 you talk about what you've already

21 mentioned, that you tried sexual intercourse once but it

22 was too painful.

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. But you talk about that he did oral sex to you and you

25 did the same back to him.

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 Q. That was how it developed --

3 A. (Witness nods)

4 Q. -- from this initial sort of kissing and things you said

5 in the car --

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. -- and that's what it developed to. Is that right?

8 A. Yeah. There's -- I'm not too sure if it happened after

9 or before, but there was an incident as well in his room

10 where he pulled out a box and it had all sorts of sex

11 toys in it as well.

12 Q. Did he want you to use them?

13 A. Aye -- well, I can't remember what the circumstances

14 were, if he wanted me to use them or he was just showing

15 me that that's what him and GKN do kind of thing.

16 I can't remember. But I remember him showing me a bit

17 of polystyrene with a condom over it, but I never --

18 I never let him put it anywhere near me.

19 Q. No, okay. At paragraph 120 you say that GKN had

20 no suspicions as far as you were aware?

21 A. No she -- as far as I was aware, she never ever -- no.

22 She couldn't have had because when it come out in the

23 end, I mean she was absolutely furious. So I think if

24 she'd known before then she would have -- she would have

25 said something.

1 Q. Okay. At the top of page 24 you talk about Mr Forbes
2 putting Temazepam in her coffee?

3 A. Yeah, he was getting them from the guy across the road,
4 [REDACTED] his name was, the guy, and they were like
5 wee like egg-shaped things and he would pierce them and
6 put the liquid in her coffee and then she would sleep
7 for about an hour and a half and we would be able to do
8 whatever in the house.

9 Q. Did you see him doing that?

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. Did he explain to you what he was doing?

12 A. Aye, because I was scared to do anything in the house
13 and he was like, "She'll not be awake, they'll keep her
14 sleeping", and it did. And then when she woke -- surely
15 you would know when you woke up, but she never ever said
16 anything. And he done that to her three or four times.
17 And she never ever said anything when she woke up. I've
18 had experience with sleeping tablets and you definitely
19 feel the next -- when you wake up, you definitely feel
20 more drowsy, so I don't know how she didna ken that that
21 was getting done to her.

22 Q. When he was doing this, was he then abusing you in the
23 house as well?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. You tell us that that continued until you went on

1 a holiday to Spain, is that right?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You went there with PF-GKN, the daughter that you've

4 mentioned, maybe?

5 A. yeah, and her kids and her husband.

6 Q. Okay. And you say that you and PF-GKN were in one

7 hotel and --

8 A. We were in the Oasis Sahara and they were in the -- we

9 were in the Oasis Sahara and they were in the Oasis

10 Hawaii, they were like brother and sister hotels, but

11 they were just literally across the road from each

12 other. I don't know why that happened, why they were

13 not in the same hotel as us, but they were in the --

14 two-minute walk.

15 Q. Were you PF-GKN all in one room together --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- or did you have an adjoining room?

18 A. There was a living room with a bed in it and then there

19 was a separate room with a double bed in it. So they

20 slept in the separate room and I slept on the bed

21 that -- the couch that pulled into a bed in the sitting

22 room, and there was a wee kitchen.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. It was like an apartment kind of thing.

25 Q. You say that GKN left the hotel room --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- and then she came back and what was happening when
3 she came back into the room?

4 A. I was just blowing up the lilo to go down to the pool
5 and he was at the back of me and canoodling me and
6 feeling my boobs and that and she walked in the hotel
7 while he was doing that and she went for me.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. She went to grab me.

10 Q. Can you remember what she was saying?

11 A. She was calling me a wee cow and you've ruined [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED] and just all stuff like that and I felt like
13 she was going to hit me, so I got a knife out the drawer
14 and I ... oh. I got a knife out the drawer and
15 I ushered her out on the balcony and I locked her out on
16 the balcony and then I ran out the hotel to find the
17 police.

18 Q. You say that you found a police officer but he couldn't
19 help you?

20 A. He couldn't -- he didn't speak hardly any English,
21 a word of English. He obviously knew when I said the
22 hotel name, he's knew -- he's understood that and he
23 took me back to the hotel.

24 Q. Okay. Then what happened?

25 A. I got took over to the daughter's room, she took the

1 handles off the inside of the door, she opened the
2 fridge and made me lie on a tiled floor in front of the
3 fridge for a day and a half until two social workers
4 flew to Spain to get me and I was still lying there when
5 they talked in.

6 Q. And --

7 A. She told me if it wasn't for her having two daughters
8 she would kill me and do a life sentence. She came
9 right in my face and said that. And I was getting the
10 blame.

11 Q. Okay. And then you -- who was this that put you into
12 this room? Was it GKN

13 A. GKN

14 Q. Okay, it was GKN?

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. Then two social workers arrived and I think one of them
17 was Mr Deaton --

18 A. Dave Deaton and Kate Cameron, she was the head of social
19 work at the time, a blonde-haired lady, about my height.

20 Q. Did you go back with them to Scotland?

21 A. Yes. Yeah, we got a flight within a couple of hours,
22 I think. I think it was two different flights we had to
23 get back.

24 Q. Then what happened when you got back to Scotland?

25 A. An emergency panel and with the almost

1 instantly.

2 Q. Okay. Were the [REDACTED] foster carers?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. If we just go over the page to page 25, you say at

5 paragraph 126 that the child protection unit was

6 involved?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you think that the police spoke to you straight

9 away?

10 A. Yeah. I was interviewed straight away, but at that

11 point I was still protecting Mr Forbes, so I only really

12 told them what they knew from what GKN had seen, what

13 had been said and -- et cetera.

14 Q. Okay. So you were interviewed as soon as you got back.

15 Were you interviewed again, can you remember?

16 A. Not that I remember. I was given a -- a counsellor to

17 speak to. I think what they were trying to do, what

18 I think, anyway, was to get a statement, to get me to

19 talk to the counsellor so they could get information

20 that way, but she was -- she had a really thick French

21 accent and I couldn't understand and so she got me

22 crayons and a bit of paper and asked me to draw what had

23 happened to me. And I just -- I just couldn't deal so

24 I just said I wanted to go home and then that was it.

25 Q. You remember having sessions with somebody you thought

1 was a counsellor --

2 A. One session.

3 Q. You remember one session?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. You remember that she was a French lady?

6 A. French lady, yeah.

7 Q. You think that she was trying to get you to speak about

8 things that had happened?

9 A. Yeah, she was trying to get me to tell her what had been

10 going on basically with Mr Forbes.

11 Q. And you said -- sorry, did you ever tell the police at

12 that time everything that had happened with Mr Forbes?

13 A. I don't think I told them everything, no.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I could remember feeling confused because they were

16 telling me that when he had done to me was wrong, but

17 I didn't feel that in my head. Kind of felt like --

18 like he was my partner. And what he was doing to me

19 wasn't because -- for sexual gratification, it was

20 because he was in love with me. So I didn't want him to

21 get in trouble.

22 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph -- sorry, just before we

23 come to paragraph 127, so you were interviewed by the

24 police, you're living with the [REDACTED]. Do you know if

25 Mr Forbes was arrested when he came back?

1 A. I think so, because I was given a slip of paper with the
2 name of six lawyers on it.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. There was only one female lawyer on it and that's who
5 I picked. It was a lawyer in Glenrothes, I can't
6 remember the name of the place. She was a nice lady.
7 And that's when I knew that it had went to court and
8 I basically got told that I was getting money to pick
9 this lawyer, that they were going for criminal injuries,
10 which I didn't ken what it was at the time and I got
11 awarded I think it was just under £7,000 and it got put
12 into a savings account with the social work department
13 until I was 18. They shouldn't have done that. She
14 should have gave me it when I was a lot older.

15 Q. So did you get it when you were 18?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Why do you say they should have kept it until you were
18 older?

19 A. Because I'd developed a drug habit by the time I was 15.

20 Q. So did you use the money for drugs?

21 A. (Witness nods)

22 Aye, I got used for quite a lot of it off other
23 people, but I had spent a lot of it on drugs, probably
24 most of it.

25 Q. You can remember being referred to a lawyer who --

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. -- her job was to help you get some criminal injury
3 compensation?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay. So after you'd spoken to the police and when you
6 were living with the [REDACTED], did you carry on having
7 any contact with Mr Forbes?

8 A. Yes. Aye, he was meeting me up at the school.

9 Q. Did you know if that was allowed, if he was allowed to
10 do that?

11 A. No, he wasn't allowed to, no, no, because I wasn't
12 allowed to tell anybody. It was all kept hush hush. My
13 friend -- the best friend that I talked about, [REDACTED],
14 that I was at school with, she was the only one that
15 knew at the time, because when I told her what was going
16 on she says she already knew that something was going
17 on, so he knew that she knew, so he was comfy with her
18 being there.

19 Q. Did the same things continue that had happened before?

20 A. Not as often because there wasn't places to go, because
21 obviously he was on bail so it was only really meeting
22 him up at the school, just kissing and canoodling and
23 that sort of stuff.

24 Q. We know from what Mr Forbes was ultimately charged with
25 and what he pled guilt to --

1 A. Lewd and libidinous behaviour, was it?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. That's what my dad told me.

4 Q. But there was also a breach of the peace and a breach of

5 his bail conditions?

6 A. Oh, so he must have been caught coming to meet me then

7 one of the times.

8 Q. Can you remember anything about that?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I had a seizure about four year ago now, a tonic-clonic

12 seizure and it's really mucked with my memories, so

13 I don't know whether it's because of that, but I dinna

14 remember him getting done or anything like that. He was

15 still writing to my mum when he was on bail and when he

16 was inside the jail.

17 Q. You tell us about that at paragraph 129, you say that he

18 kept on writing to your mum's address?

19 A. I didna ken about them until a couple of years ago. My

20 mum handed me the letters and the police have them now.

21 I don't know if I will be able to get them back or if

22 they have destroyed them or not.

23 Q. He had carried on after maybe he was in prison or --

24 A. (Witness nods)

25 Even when he come out, because there was

1 a stamped-addressed envelope in it with a Glenrothes
2 address on it for me to write back to him.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So he must have -- obviously it was when he was out and
5 he'd got wherever he was living, that's where I was to
6 write back to, but obviously my mum didn't give me the
7 letters. But she didn't report it either. Or not that
8 I'm aware of, not that I'm aware of.

9 Q. You say that when you found out about these letters you
10 went back to the police with them?

11 A. Mm, I was actually -- I had relapsed again because of it
12 all and I had a really lovely addictions worker at the
13 time and she asked me why I had relapsed and I told her
14 about the letters and she asked if she could read them
15 and I said "aye" and she says to me, "You go to the
16 police because there's been a crime committed here", she
17 went, "Whether it's 20 years later, 30 years later, he's
18 still ..."

19 So that's what I done, I took them to the police,
20 but he had died in 2007 so nothing could be done about
21 it.

22 Q. Okay. If we can move on from there and talk maybe about
23 the [REDACTED] now.

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. So page 27, you tell us that you'd gone to live with

1 this couple and what were they like?

2 A. They were amazing, they really were amazing. From the
3 first moment I went there, they actually sat me down and
4 told me that, "You're part of this family, you're not
5 going to be treated any different", and that is how it
6 was. She was just so nurturing and lovely and she was
7 a childminder, so she was caring anyway, do you know,
8 but she was so lovely but I treated them like total
9 crap.

10 Q. You talk about you having your own room there at
11 paragraph 134.

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. You say it was "kitted out like a proper kid's room" and
14 you couldn't believe it?

15 A. It had a coffee machine in it and cable TV. I had
16 a cabin bed with drawers and a desk and everything under
17 that. I was amazed. I was amazed. I couldn't believe
18 that. I was over the moon.

19 Q. You say they had younger children?

20 A. Yeah, they had four children.

21 Q. Did you get on well with the children as well?

22 A. We bickered like any siblings do really. One of the
23 sons I didn't get on with, but just normal kids, sibling
24 rivalry stuff.

25 Q. You say at the end of paragraph 134 that you felt valued

1 and loved?

2 A. Definitely. By them, aye. A lot of my life skills that
3 I have now and parent skills come from being with that
4 family, but that's the only time I felt part of
5 an actual real proper family, because they were just --
6 I mean he was a social worker so they were obviously
7 clued up in child protection and caring for kids and all
8 that. They were just the best foster carers ever.
9 I mean if they were all like that, it would just be
10 amazing.

11 Q. You say at paragraph 135 that the house was kept nicely?

12 A. Yep.

13 Q. You say that she was always asking you if you were
14 okay --

15 A. Mm.

16 Q. -- always speaking to you and checking in with you?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You say that she had a lot of patience?

19 A. Yeah, she did. I mean I even got my own house key and
20 everything for that house. I mean I had never been
21 given that sort of responsibility before and they were
22 trusting. I had never had that either.

23 Q. How did that make you feel?

24 A. Oh. I remember asking them within the first month of
25 staying there, "When I'm 16, can I still stay here?"

1 And they said, "Aye, of course you can". That's how
2 secure I felt when I stayed there. But I -- my head was
3 mucked up, so I was really not very nice to them.

4 Q. You talk about some of the things you did when you were
5 there and if we can go on to the bottom of page 28,
6 paragraph 142, you say that you ran away sometimes when
7 you were there as well?

8 A. Aye. I was hanging about with a guy who wasn't really
9 a good influence and I wasn't running away because
10 anything bad was happening, it was just really I was
11 being a rebel, a rebel teenager. I mean they never done
12 anything, anything bad to me or that. They were just
13 focused on trying to build me up and that sort of stuff.
14 I obviously just wasn't ready for that, because of what
15 had just happened to me.

16 Q. Apart from seeing that counsellor that you mentioned, at
17 this point when you were living with the [REDACTED] can you
18 remember seeing a psychologist, a therapist or
19 a counsellor?

20 A. I can't. I'm not saying it didn't happen, but I just
21 can't remember.

22 Q. Okay. If we can go on to page 30 you say that you had
23 to leave there --

24 A. Yeah, I was getting too problematic for them. I had
25 never been given the responsibilities and trust before

1 and I just took it -- I just took it for granted.
2 I just ... oh, I knew they couldn't hit me, ground me,
3 the kind of stuff that my dad used to do, so I really
4 wasn't scared about doing anything bad up there, if you
5 know what I mean, because they never lifted their hands,
6 they never -- they weren't cruel with punishments or
7 that, and I think that's why I was out of control when
8 I lived there.

9 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 151 on page 30 that you
10 remained in contact -- even although you moved from
11 them --

12 A. Yeah, I do. I just messaged them the other day actually
13 to tell them that I was coming here and I would be
14 speaking about them and I got a lovely, a lovely message
15 back off them. So I do keep in contact, I have them on
16 Facebook, all the siblings and that, and they all have
17 their own kids now. They all -- oh, it is weird.

18 Q. If we can just go on then finally, please, in your
19 statement to page 38 and talk about some of the lessons
20 that you say that we can learn from your experience. At
21 paragraph 193 you say:

22 "Always listen to what kids tell you because it may
23 not be 100 per cent the truth but there is going to be
24 a bit of truth in there somewhere."

25 Can you explain what you mean?

1 A. Just because I mean when kids are young they can fill in
2 gaps and maybe over-exaggerate things, but I always find
3 that there's always just that wee bit of truth in there.
4 Something going on. I just feel that kids -- I feel
5 that parents are listened to more than -- more than kids
6 and I think you should always listen to what the kids
7 have got to say.

8 Q. You talk about that in the next sentence, where you say
9 kids should always be listened to over adults because
10 adults are good manipulators and liars.

11 A. Yes, very much so. My dad used to -- kind of used to --
12 when I got a battering, "I'll just tell them you fell".
13 He knew Pat Callander, I don't know how he knew her, but
14 he knew her from before they were on panels, or that's
15 what he used to tell me, "I ken Pat and she'll not
16 believe that I've battered you", so I think definitely
17 kids should be listened to.

18 Q. Okay.

19 You talk at paragraph 195 about there maybe being
20 patterns in your behaviour, like running away or missing
21 school like you've described when you were at the
22 PF - GKN

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- that you started truanting but nobody was asking.

25 A. Nobody was asking why all that. They just thought

1 that -- I mean I was being a rebel, but there was a lot
2 of stuff going on in my head that was making me act like
3 that, so ...

4 Q. You say at paragraph 196 that you never -- as you
5 mentioned already -- got to meet your foster carers
6 before you went to stay with them?

7 A. No. Always just took there, aye. I've never had that
8 experience of going -- not that I could remember. Not
9 that I could remember.

10 Q. You think it would be a good idea if children --

11 A. Definitely. Definitely. It's horrible, you just feel
12 that you're getting dumped at somebody's house, somebody
13 that you dinna ken. It would be good to meet the family
14 first, the siblings if they have any.

15 Q. So that you know where you are going to.

16 A. Yeah, so you have a wee bit of bond, even if it's just
17 a half-hour visit or whatever, just to get to know each
18 other before you go because it is horrible. You feel
19 like you're just getting abandoned and nobody wants you.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. People used to say to me you've been put to pillar to
22 post and I never ken what they were talking about when
23 they used to say that. It's not nice. It would be much
24 better if you were able to meet the family first and
25 even maybe see where you're going to be living, see your

1 room.

2 Q. You talk at paragraph 197 about there being more
3 unplanned visits.

4 A. Aye. I think that's a --I really think that's a good
5 idea because I've seen my mum and dad do it before
6 social work come, they get all the house clean and make
7 sure your -- and you don't say this and don't -- it's
8 like if you're doing unplanned visitors then you don't
9 know when they're coming do you've not got the advantage
10 of trying to get everything sorted before they come so
11 everything looks okay.

12 Q. Then if we go over the page at paragraph 198 you mention
13 there about the high number of placements that you were
14 put in.

15 A. (Witness nods)

16 Q. As you mentioned, you know, you were going from pillar
17 to post.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Do you have any reflections on that?

20 A. I suppose I just felt it was normal at the time. I mean
21 they tell you you've got to live with a family, so you
22 ken where you're going I suppose and you just have to
23 make the most of it when you get there.

24 Q. You say at the end of this paragraph you never felt
25 settled, you never felt like you were going somewhere to

1 stay for good?

2 A. Only when I went to the [REDACTED] and when I asked them
3 that question and they said, "Of course you can", that
4 was the only time I really felt settled, but then
5 I mucked that up because they needed a respite for me
6 and when I went to the respite, which was Rimbleton
7 House, my behaviour didn't get any better so they
8 couldn't take me back.

9 They had their own four kids to -- and I was really
10 being problematic at the time, so I totally understand
11 why they done it. But I was really upset, though.

12 Q. Yes. Okay.

13 A. I thought I was going -- I was told I was only going to
14 be moved for three weeks, that's what I was told by
15 social workers, only got to be for three weeks and then
16 you'll be going back.

17 Q. And you didn't go back, you stayed there?

18 A. No, I stayed in Rimbleton for two and a bit years.

19 Q. Then at paragraph 199, at the end of -- you're talking
20 there where there's a cause of concern and what you say
21 is that when a cause for concern is raised, they should
22 look under every stone until there are no more stones to
23 look under?

24 A. Mm-hmm, yeah. Definitely. I've seen it first hand that
25 a cause for concern's raised and parents are very good

1 at -- adults are very good at manipulating and all the
2 rest of it and I think sometimes social workers don't
3 dig deep enough.

4 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 200 you say:

5 "Being in care isn't necessarily a bad thing ..."

6 A. Yeah. If you're in the right setting, it could be good
7 for you. I mean I hated Rimbleton House at the time,
8 but I mean they taught me so many skills. I done
9 independent living there for six months before I left so
10 they prepared me. But I did feel that when I was
11 discharged from care at the age of 16 and a half that
12 that was it. That I was just to go out on my own kind
13 of thing.

14 Q. Okay, I see.

15 A. I was discharged from the social work department
16 altogether, so I really couldn't ask them for help if
17 I needed it. And then my life was just so chaotic, I'd
18 started using drugs at the age of 15 so -- I mean when
19 I got that money, I probably -- I mean I'm saying keep
20 it until I was 21, but I might have done the same when
21 I was 21, I don't know.

22 MS INNES: Okay. Well, 'Susan', I've finished all the
23 questions I have for you.

24 There are no applications, my Lady.

25 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for

1 questions of 'Susan'?

2 'Susan', that is it, we have no more questions for

3 you.

4 A. (Witness nods)

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

6 engaging with us as you have done, both by providing

7 your detailed written statement covering, according to

8 my count, nine different places that you were living in

9 as a child --

10 A. Yeah.

11 LADY SMITH: -- including back and forth to --

12 A. Mum and dad.

13 LADY SMITH: -- your family. That's quite a tough gig.

14 A. (Witness nods)

15 LADY SMITH: But also by coming along today and talking

16 about your experiences, giving evidence here in the

17 hearing room, you've added incredible value to what

18 you'd already given us in writing. I'm really grateful

19 to you for doing that.

20 A. Thank you.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you for getting through it as robustly as

22 you have done.

23 A. Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: I'm sure when you leave here you'll find it's

25 drained you, so I hope you have some rest and

1 recuperation planned for the rest of today.

2 A. We're going to go to the Fringe.

3 LADY SMITH: I hope you go to something that makes you

4 laugh, that's what you need.

5 A. Yeah, yeah.

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

7 A. Thank you very much.

8 LADY SMITH: Foster families were mentioned there who are

9 entirely covered by my general restriction order, that's

10 the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED]. GKN [REDACTED] is covered by

11 my general restriction offered as well, but only

12 GKN [REDACTED].

13 That's all we have now, I think, for the morning, so

14 if we take the lunch break and sit again around

15 2 o'clock, would that work?

16 MS INNES: Yes, around 2 o'clock, my Lady, thank you.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 (1.10 pm)

19 (The luncheon adjournment)

20 (2.00 pm)

21 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon.

22 Ms Rattray.

23 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this afternoon we have a read-in and

24 that is a statement of an applicant who wishes to remain

25 anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Anne'.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 'Anne' (read)

3 MS RATTRAY: Her statement is at WIT-1-000000811.

4 'Anne' was in the care of Lothian Regional Council.

5 She was in two foster placements.

6 The first was with EHW-EHX [REDACTED] in

7 Clarkston in Glasgow from [REDACTED] 1980 until

8 [REDACTED] 1982.

9 The second was with EHY-EHZ [REDACTED] in

10 Ayr from [REDACTED] 1982 to [REDACTED] 1986.

11 'Anne' also recalls shorter periods being in more

12 foster placements. The records indicated that they may

13 have been trial foster placements or placements with

14 foster befrienders rather than longer-term foster

15 placements.

16 The foster carers for the two placements that I've

17 referred to were sourced from Barnardo's New Families

18 Project and the successor authority is the City of

19 Edinburgh Council.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Anne'. I was born in 1969. My

22 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

23 I have no memories of my life before I went into

24 care. I know now that my parents were drug abusers. My

25 dad was a well-known drug dealer and he murdered someone

1 after I was born. My birth certificate indicates that
2 I was born in Leith.

3 I had an older brother and three years ago I found
4 out that I have two other siblings, a girl and a boy,
5 born after my dad was put in jail and after I was put
6 into care. I didn't know they existed. I also had
7 another sister and a half-sister. She was much older
8 and she apparently looked after us when my mum wasn't
9 able to because of the drugs.

10 My dad was put in prison when he was convicted of
11 murder and my mum put us into care because she didn't
12 want us. I am not aware if there was any social work
13 involvement with the family before that. My older
14 brother came into care with me. I was nearly three
15 years old."

16 From paragraphs 5 to 32, 'Anne' speaks of her
17 experiences in Clerwood Children's Home, Edinburgh.
18 There she suffered physical, emotional and sexual abuse
19 by a staff member, Gordon Knott, who was convicted many
20 years later. 'Anne' gave evidence at the trial.

21 From paragraphs 33 to 68, 'Anne' speaks of her
22 experiences at Glasclune Children's Home in North
23 Berwick, where she experienced sexual abuse involving
24 older residents.

25 Moving now to paragraph 69 on page 17, where 'Anne'

1 describes a short period in foster care before being
2 sent back to Glasclune:

3 "After we'd been at Glasclune around a year, my
4 brother and I went to foster parents who lived somewhere
5 in Glasgow. I remember very little about this couple
6 because we were there such a short time. I only
7 remember snippets. I don't know their names, but they
8 had an Alsatian dog and lived in quite a posh house. He
9 was in the police. They didn't have any other children.
10 My brother and I shared a bedroom. I went to school and
11 wore a blue uniform but can't remember the name of the
12 school. As far as I recall we were treated quite well
13 when we were there and apart from getting smacked it was
14 okay.

15 We were too rowdy for them and apparently did things
16 they didn't like. We got a row for shaking the dog's
17 chain because the dog used to go mental. Because we
18 weren't supposed to do it we did it more often. We
19 thought it was funny but they obviously didn't. She
20 didn't smack us but threatened us that her husband would
21 when he got home. He smacked us but I can't really
22 remember how or where he hit us. If we had been shaking
23 the dog chain he would hit us with that. It probably
24 left marks but we never needed any medical treatment.
25 I have a memory of sitting with my brother on a bed

1 cuddling him because we were upset that we'd got into
2 trouble. Not long after that we were sent back to
3 Glasclune. We were only with them a couple of months."

4 Moving now to paragraph 72 on page 18:

5 "In the summer, after a big fire at Glasclune,
6 I went to foster carers in East Kilbride. I would have
7 been 11. My brother and I had met a couple at Glasclune
8 who had come in to visit us. We had been told that they
9 were coming to us with a view to fostering us.
10 I thought it was going to be both my brother and I but
11 I subsequently found out they didn't want a boy and only
12 wanted a girl. Afterwards the staff and the social
13 worker sat with me and asked how I felt about this
14 couple and I said I would be keen to go but I didn't
15 know it was for good. I saw this couple about four
16 times. One time they took me out and I had a shot in
17 their pink Cadillac.

18 One day the staff told us that I was going to stay
19 with this couple and that my brother and I were getting
20 split up. I was really upset. My brother was
21 distraught and when I was being driven away he was
22 jumping all over the social worker's car and had to get
23 dragged away. Nobody at any point told me if this was
24 a temporary move or if it was their intention to adopt
25 me permanently.

1 Their last name was EHW-EHX . She was Polish, in
2 her 30s and had long blonde hair. I know she had
3 plastic surgery on her chest at some point and had
4 another operation but I can't remember what it was.
5 I can't remember her first name but I think it started
6 with the letter EHW His name was EHX or EHX and was
7 around the same age as her and he was a taxi driver.
8 I called them mum and dad. I hated calling them this
9 because I always thought my mum and dad would come back
10 at some point to get me. I told them I didn't want to
11 call them mum and dad but she just battered me.

12 It was a house and not a flat. I had my own room
13 which was right next door to their bedroom.

14 When I got up I would have my breakfast then get
15 ready for school. I would walk to the bus stop and go
16 to school. When I got home from school I would have my
17 tea.

18 Some of the food I was given was completely new to
19 me. It was Polish food and sometimes I didn't like it.
20 If I couldn't eat it, I would get it reserved to me at
21 the next meal. If I didn't eat it then I got it again
22 at the next meal. This happened until the food was
23 going off. I didn't get anything else to eat. One time
24 there was a cow's tongue on the worktop waiting to be
25 cooked. That put me off meat for life.

1 They gave me most of my clothes. They thought the
2 clothes were okay but I thought they were dreadful.
3 I didn't get a choice.

4 I had a lot of friends around the area and I was
5 allowed to play with them more or less when I wanted.
6 They always wanted to know where I was and what I was up
7 to. I had toys to play with and books for me to read if
8 I had wanted.

9 They used to take me to Gullane and other places
10 like that for the day. We used to go on holiday to
11 a caravan park somewhere but I can't remember where it
12 was. I remember I was fishing and caught a fish.
13 I thought it was brilliant.

14 I was in a special school when I was there.
15 I couldn't read and my writing was probably worse than
16 a two-year-old. I didn't find learning any easier at
17 the special school. I once caught other children having
18 sex in the toilets. I am not sure how old they were.
19 The teacher asked if anyone had seen them and I told the
20 teacher that they were having sex in the toilets.
21 I don't know if anything happened to these children.
22 I was still happier being at school than being with the
23 foster carers in East Kilbride.

24 I never went to the hospital and I can't remember if
25 I had to see a doctor at any point. I don't think I had

1 to do any chores when I was there.

2 I remember on my 12th birthday I was given a 'speak
3 and spell' device. It was supposed to help me spell.
4 I got a birthday cake and Christmas was celebrated in
5 their house. There was a tree and decorations. She
6 made a big thing about Christmas but she called Santa by
7 a different name. I got presents too.

8 I didn't get any visitors from any of my family, not
9 even my social worker. I asked my foster carers why my
10 brother couldn't be there and if I could speak to him on
11 the phone. They just said no. They said it didn't fit
12 in with their plan. I didn't really question this
13 because they were adults. I never asked to see him
14 again.

15 If I had done something that they thought needed
16 punished they would sometimes take my toys from me.
17 I did that to my own children later in life. There was
18 one time I stole a Mars bar from the local shop. When
19 she found out she went mental and half dragged me back
20 down to the shop and made me hand it back and apologise.

21 One time not long after I had been there he was in
22 the bath and was naked. She wasn't in the house at the
23 time. He shouted me to go in the bathroom then asked if
24 I wanted to get in the bath with him. I just turned
25 about and went into my bedroom. That was the only

1 incident that ever happened with him. I would still
2 have been 11.

3 I wet the bed and when she found out she went
4 ballistic and slapped me. There was one time when I was
5 desperate to go to the toilet but the bathroom was busy.
6 I couldn't think what to do so I had a pee in the
7 teapot. I got hammered for that. She picked up some
8 sort of toy and whacked me across the back with it.

9 He was a taxi driver and quite often did night
10 shifts and wasn't there. When he wasn't there she would
11 invite me into her bed. She told me that he wasn't
12 there and she was lonely. They had a strange curtain
13 which hung all around the bed. She sexually abused me.
14 When it was going on she said it was okay and
15 I remembered I'd heard that before. It was similar to
16 what I'd experienced before so I thought it was all
17 normal but it felt strange that it was a female. I had
18 never been touched by a female before. She touched me
19 and made me kiss her. She then made me go down and kiss
20 her private parts. She didn't want me to touch her with
21 my fingers. This happened many times.

22 She always told me that nobody else would understand
23 but what we were doing was mother's love. She explained
24 that this is what mums did. She made out that it was
25 all normal behaviour. I had never experienced time with

1 my mum so I didn't know it was wrong.

2 She always made sure that I was back in my own bed
3 before her husband got home. There was one time he
4 nearly caught us. He got home and he was suspicious
5 because my pyjamas were inside out. I made an excuse
6 that it was because I had put them on really quickly
7 when he was coming in the house. He never said any more
8 about it.

9 There was one time when we were at a party possibly
10 at her husband's mum and dad's house in the Gorbals. We
11 were in bed together and I told her to stop. She just
12 told me that I was being stupid and this was the normal
13 routine and I was to get on with it.

14 When I was in the bath she would often come into the
15 bathroom and make sure I was washing my private parts
16 properly. She would then examine me to make sure I was
17 clean. She told me that at the age of 11 I should know
18 how to clean myself properly.

19 Sometimes when they were both in the living room she
20 would ask me if I had washed my private parts properly.
21 She would insist that I undress, spread my legs and show
22 her. He would just be sitting there and never said
23 anything. She would then examine me.

24 When he wasn't there she would often get angry and
25 smack me. She never did it when he was there. It was

1 usually with her hand and she would hit me anywhere she
2 could reach. He was a very placid man and was never
3 violent to me.

4 I was supposed to polish my shoes but apparently
5 I couldn't do it properly one day. Because of that they
6 made me wear two different shoes. I missed the bus that
7 day because I was running late and I had to walk about
8 six miles to get to school. The teachers noticed and
9 asked me why I was wearing odd shoes so I told them.
10 I don't know if they did anything about it. I took my
11 shoes off at school and walked about in my bare feet.

12 It wasn't all bad with the foster carers in East
13 Kilbride. I had some good times but what she did to me
14 definitely wasn't right.

15 I never told anyone about the abuse with these
16 foster carers. I thought what she did to me must have
17 been normal behaviour because I didn't know any better.

18 I was an angry child when I was at East Kilbride.
19 They couldn't cope with my outbursts. I think I was
20 their first foster child and they didn't know how to
21 deal with me. I was 13, very nearly 14 when I left.
22 I went from there to live with the EHY-EHZ in Ayr. I'm
23 not sure why my time came to an end at East Kilbride.
24 I suspect the couple were heading for a divorce so I was
25 very quickly removed.

1 I don't remember having met the EHY-EHZ before, but
2 it is possibly that I had. My first recollection of
3 them was within their house in Ayr. The aim of me going
4 to live with them was that it would be long term and
5 I would be adopted by them. I was told this by the
6 family and the social worker about two months after
7 I had been living with them.

8 The foster parents were EHY-EHZ
9 EHY-EHZ. She was a music teacher and he had
10 something to do with typing. They both worked at
11 a school. They had their own son and three other
12 adopted children, a daughter and two sons. The daughter
13 was a month younger than me. Two of the sons were a few
14 years younger than me and were still at primary school.
15 The other son may have been about a year older than me.

16 The EHY-EHZ had two dogs. One was a white Scottie
17 dog and the other was a brown long-haired Irish setter.

18 The house was a detached house with a big garden.
19 It had two reception rooms, one on either side of the
20 front door. One had a television and was the lounge.
21 The other had a piano. There were two bedrooms
22 downstairs and three upstairs. I was in a small attic
23 room. The older son was in a room on one side of me and
24 the EHY-EHZ were in a room on the other side. The
25 daughter had one of the rooms downstairs. The younger

1 sons shared the other room. Also downstairs was the
2 kitchen, bathroom and a toilet under the stairs.

3 I started using the name EHY-EHZ almost as soon as
4 I arrived there. I am not aware of them pressuring me
5 into using it. I think I just did it automatically
6 because I did it with the foster parents before them.
7 For me it was probably just to feel like part of the
8 family. I used the name EHY-EHZ at school. I don't
9 think I liked using EHY-EHZ at first but eventually
10 I gave in. My name wasn't changed legally.

11 I don't really remember my journey to the EHY-EHZ
12 and my first memory is getting introduced to the family
13 and some of their friends.

14 Usually I would get woken up about 8 am unless we
15 were going to church and it would be earlier. I got
16 dressed, went down for breakfast then got ready for
17 school.

18 Breakfast was served to us in the dining room and
19 I had lunch at school. Food in general was okay. There
20 was one time early on when I was hungry so I went to the
21 kitchen and took a biscuit. This was what I did where
22 I had been previously. EHZ wasn't happy with me
23 and she shouted at me for doing it. She said what I had
24 done was stealing. I didn't understand how it could be
25 called stealing but she told me it was being selfish and

1 that in future I had to ask.

2 I was able to bath more or less when I wanted.

3 There was a lock on the door so I was on my own and got
4 privacy.

5 When I needed new clothes they took me to the shops
6 and I was allowed to choose what they bought for me. At
7 other times they would just buy clothes for me. I was
8 never given hand-me-down clothes. I had a school
9 uniform too which they got for me.

10 After I had done my homework I would sit and watch
11 TV or go to my room. I was allowed to go out and play
12 with a couple of girls who lived at the end of the road.
13 The **EHY-EHZ** generally knew where I was as they always
14 wanted to know where I was going or what I wanted to do.
15 I had to be home by 9 o'clock but this was a problem for
16 me as I couldn't tell the time. I had to judge it by
17 how dark it was. Mrs **EHZ** tried to teach me how to
18 tell the time but I just got really confused. Often
19 they had to come out looking for me because I was late.
20 They bought me a watch but that was a waste because
21 I couldn't tell the time.

22 I had to keep my bedroom tidy and had to take my
23 washing downstairs when it needed done. This was all
24 new to me as it had all been done for me before.

25 Birthdays and Christmas was good because I had lots

1 of presents. Often it would be new clothes. I wasn't
2 deprived or forced to go out wearing second-hand or
3 ill-fitting clothes. I was happy with the clothes
4 I wore. Once they bought me a jacket which I didn't
5 like. I just didn't wear it.

6 Towards its end of my time there I started wetting
7 the bed. I tried to hide it but when they found out
8 I had they battered me with a belt.

9 I had a female social worker when I was in Ayr. She
10 visited me regularly and we spoke alone, away from
11 everyone else. She explained to me why my behaviour was
12 wrong. My brother visited me once. The EHY-EHZ and the
13 social work arranged that. I think they were supposed
14 to make sure we had regular contact but that never
15 happened. Our behaviour was so bad when we were
16 together that we didn't get to see each other more
17 often. I am not sure if this was the EHY-EHZ decision
18 or the social worker's.

19 Initially the whole family were nice to me and
20 I thought it was going to be good living there. After
21 a short while it changed and I didn't get on
22 particularly well with the other children. It is
23 recorded in my notes about incidents between the
24 daughter and myself where apparently I didn't handle
25 myself the way that I should have.

1 I had previously been at a special school and when
2 I moved to Ayr I started at primary school, which was
3 a mainstream school. I was held back for a few years
4 because I was not at the same level as everyone else.
5 I didn't move up to high school until I was 16. Being
6 in mainstream school was a real shock to me. I was in
7 a class of children who could all read and write.
8 I found it very difficult but I didn't get any support.
9 The school probably sat down and tried to teach me how
10 to read and write but I think by that stage I was too
11 far gone and wasn't interested in learning.

12 In class the teachers would get the pupils to stand
13 up and read out things. I couldn't and the other
14 children were really horrible to me about it. Some of
15 them were quite evil especially when they found out
16 I had a weakness. I got bullied by them. When the
17 teachers saw that I couldn't read they didn't make me do
18 it again. It wasn't that I didn't want to, I just
19 couldn't. This made me feel really out of place at
20 school. After that they gave me other stuff to do at
21 home to try and help me. It was probably aimed at
22 children of primary school age but it didn't help me.

23 When I was at primary school the school day finished
24 at 3 pm. At high school it was 4.30 pm. We either
25 waited for one of the EHY-EHZ to finish work at school

1 then went home with them or just came home ourselves.
2 We could have got the bus but usually just chose to
3 walk.

4 The EHY-EHZ were Catholic and they were keen for me
5 to become a Catholic too. They said it wouldn't be
6 right if everyone else in the house was a Catholic and
7 I wasn't. I regularly went to church with them and
8 I decided it would be a good idea. I had been there
9 about a year by this point and I was still 13. I was
10 baptised in the church and had a small party. All of
11 this made me feel like I was part of the family so it
12 was a good feeling. By that time I had asked the
13 EHY-EHZ if I could call them mum and dad. All the other
14 children already called them that.

15 Their idea of punishing me if I was late home or had
16 done something was to belt me. It was like one of these
17 straps used to sharpen old open razors. It was split at
18 one end. At the other end was a hole where it could be
19 hung up. Both of them would hit me with it at different
20 times across my bare backside.

21 I ran away once from the EHY-EHZ house. That was
22 after a time I had been sexually abused. I didn't get
23 very far because I didn't know how to get out of Ayr.
24 It was around midnight that the male social worker
25 caught me and took me back. On the way back he told me

1 that I shouldn't have done it and that the EHY-EHZ were
2 worried about me and had contacted the police. They
3 might have asked me why I was running away but I never
4 said anything.

5 The EHY-EHZ couldn't understand why I couldn't read.
6 They said they taught their son to read. If I couldn't
7 read something or if I spelt a word wrong they would
8 skelp me on the back of my head with their open hand.
9 Both of the EHY-EHZ did this. They often told me I was
10 stupid and other names. Because of this I couldn't
11 concentrate on learning to read because I was frightened
12 I was going to get hit. They didn't sit down with me
13 and try to teach me, they just expected that I could
14 read. It felt like I got hit every night by one or both
15 of them.

16 My first memory of being hit with the belt was
17 horrific. I can't remember what I had done to deserve
18 it but I was marched upstairs to their room. One of
19 them opened the wardrobe and took the belt out. They
20 were both there and I can't remember who did what.
21 I was whacked with this belt I am not sure how many
22 times then I was sent to my room. I had red welts
23 across my legs.

24 I got belted for silly things. Sometimes it was if
25 one of the other children said I had done something.

1 The other children were treated like their own children.
2 I wasn't. The EHY-EHZ believed anything the other
3 children said and didn't believe me. If I was bad or
4 had a tantrum I got belted and it always happened in
5 their bedroom.

6 At some point the EHY-EHZ were going to Lourdes. My
7 real dad, who apparently still had a say in what was
8 happening to me, refused to allow me to go. This meant
9 I was sent to temporary foster carers in Lanark for
10 about a month. The social worker arranged this.
11 I can't remember much about this couple other than they
12 were quite an artistic couple and did different arts and
13 crafts. He was a prison officer. They had two of their
14 own sons. When I was with them I met another couple of
15 older girls and through them I got introduced to
16 a couple of boys and I ended up having sex with these
17 boys. I was still only 13. They were found out and
18 were charged with having underage sex with me. They
19 were quite a bit older than me. There was nothing else
20 that happened when I was with these temporary foster
21 parents which could be classed as abuse.

22 When I had been back at the EHY-EHZ for a while
23 after being with these temporary foster carers,
24 Mr EHY took me shopping with him. There was
25 a routine that on a Friday one of the children would

1 help either Mr or Mrs EHY-EHZ shopping. It was my turn
2 so I went with Mr EHY in the car. We were driving
3 along and all of a sudden he pulled into a car park. He
4 said to me that he wanted a bit of what the boys had
5 when I had been with the temporary foster carers.
6 I knew straight away he wanted sex. Not long after that
7 Mrs EHZ fell outside the church and was admitted to
8 hospital with a broken back. She was in hospital for
9 weeks. Mr EHY regularly had sex with me when she was
10 in hospital. I was probably 15 by that time. He was
11 nearly 50.

12 When she came out of hospital there was a strange
13 atmosphere in the house. I even spoke to Mr EHY and
14 asked him what would happen if I told anyone about what
15 he was doing to me. He just said that nobody would
16 believe me as he was an upstanding member of the
17 community. The sexual abuse by Mr EHY continued.
18 Apparently I had athletes foot and he used to take me
19 into the bathroom to wash my feet in their bidet.
20 I think he would lock the bathroom door, then when we
21 were in there he would have his hands up my shirt and
22 down my pants.

23 Mrs EHZ was nice to begin with but she changed.
24 For a while I had spots on my chin. Mrs EHZ took
25 great joy in scrubbing my chin with a scrubbing brush.

1 It was really sore and my chin ended up red raw. I had
2 to go to school looking like that.

3 The EHY-EHZ took great joy in telling me when my dad
4 died. I was mucking about on the piano in the house
5 when they both came into the room. I'm not sure which
6 one said it but it was something like, 'Oh by the way
7 your dad's dead', that was all they said. They didn't
8 try and comfort me or explain anything to me. I was
9 shocked. My social worker told me again, in a more
10 compassionate way, that he had died.

11 When my brother visited me I'm not sure what we did
12 but I remember having a food carry out. He was allowed
13 to stay the night and we slept in the dining room
14 together on a mattress. We were allowed to sleep side
15 by side probably because they knew we were brother and
16 sister and thought there was no issue with this. He
17 forced himself upon me that night and we had sex.

18 One of the younger sons got the belt a couple of
19 times but I don't remember any of the others getting
20 hit. Mrs EHZ told me that they taught him to read by
21 slapping his head but I never saw that. Another son was
22 heading for the priesthood and one time he hadn't
23 learned something he should have. They punished him by
24 making him kneel in the garden and put his arms out in
25 the crucifix position. He had to stay like that for

1 hours.

2 The EHY-EHZ definitely treated the other children
3 better than me. They tried to integrate me with the
4 other children but in many ways I felt different. Even
5 the other children teased me about not being their
6 sister. I tried to get on with the daughter but we just
7 didn't have a connection. One of the sons once told me
8 that I didn't deserve to call them mum and dad. There
9 wasn't any physical abuse from the other children but
10 I felt like an outsider in that house because I hadn't
11 been adopted. I don't recall the EHY-EHZ saying
12 anything in particular to make me feel I wasn't part of
13 the family.

14 There was one time the PE teacher at school asked me
15 about the marks on my legs. They were welts from where
16 I had been hit with the belt. I just told her that
17 I fell and that was the end of the matter. I can't
18 remember if the EHY-EHZ had told me not to say anything
19 to anybody. I didn't say anything because I was
20 petrified that if I said anything I would get taken away
21 again.

22 Although the female social worker visited me
23 regularly and we had one-to-one time I didn't feel that
24 I could trust her enough to tell her anything. I never
25 told her or anybody else about the time my brother

1 forced himself upon me.

2 I left the EHY-EHZ when I was 16. The social worker
3 came and had a chat with me and told me it was time for
4 me to leave. I think I had told them a few times that
5 I wanted to leave. I had also started wetting the bed
6 by then and I was trying to hide it. I think my
7 behaviour deteriorated. At this meeting I was told that
8 I was going to a temporary foster family as a stopover.
9 I was there a further two weeks until I moved. I was
10 quite happy to be leaving the EHY-EHZ The social
11 worker came and picked me up and we had conversations
12 about what was going to happen after this temporary move
13 and how long it would take. I was told it could take
14 a couple of months to find someone who wanted to take
15 me.

16 I was with this family for a very short period,
17 possibly a month, until they found somewhere else
18 permanent for me to go to. I can't remember their
19 names. They were a nice family and there was no abuse.
20 They had another fostered girl who was around the same
21 age as me. I shared a room with her which had bunk
22 beds. I had never seen bunk beds before. We got on
23 quite well. I didn't go to school as I had chosen to
24 leave by then. I was given a lot of freedom in this
25 house but I don't really think my behaviour improved

1 much when I was there. They were nice, genuine, honest
2 people and I got on well with them.

3 I was taken to Pilton social work department in
4 Edinburgh where I met [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. As soon
5 as I saw them I knew that I liked them and we got on
6 like a house on fire. I met them one other time in
7 North Berwick. When I was there I visited Glasclune but
8 there was nothing left of the building. I was excited
9 about seeing it and was disappointed that it had gone.
10 I had a feeling that North Berwick was my home.

11 I was asked by the social worker how I felt about
12 going to live with the [REDACTED] and of course I said
13 yes. Anywhere would have been better than going back to
14 the [REDACTED] in Ayr.

15 The social worker, who may have been called
16 Margaret, took me from South Queensferry to North
17 Berwick. At some point she left and a man took over as
18 my social worker.

19 The couple I moved in with were [REDACTED] and
20 [REDACTED]. They already had two boys living with
21 them. One was their own son and the other was fostered.
22 Their son was a bit older than me, maybe 17. The foster
23 boy was around the same age as me. They also had
24 a girl. She'd been fostered but was back living with
25 them. She was in her 20s and I shared a bedroom with

1 her.

2 I decided to go back to school and went to North
3 Berwick High School. I started missing classes and
4 spent a lot of the time just sitting in the library.
5 I was really embarrassed that I couldn't even spell my
6 name. The librarian sat with me and taught me how to
7 write my name. She was lovely and often even gave me
8 money to go down to the shops to buy something for
9 myself.

10 [REDACTED] took me to the Catholic church and
11 told me it was my choice as to whether I went or not.
12 They told me that if I wanted to go they wouldn't stop
13 me. I think I went once and stopped going. They took
14 me lots of places. [REDACTED] taught me about gardening and
15 how to plant plants.

16 The social worker brought me a newspaper cutting
17 about my dad. This was the first time I knew why he was
18 in prison. It explained what he had done and the
19 sentence he had received. That was the first time I got
20 to know anything about it. I never saw my mum because
21 she never wanted anything to do with us. The social
22 worker probably visited me once every second week, then
23 it became every other month.

24 I was comfortable living with them and they were
25 fair to me. They gave me pocket money to buy clothes

1 and shoes. I didn't have to do any work in the house to
2 earn the money. I was able to phone my brother, but
3 I never got any visits from him.

4 Sometimes if I had done something wrong the
5 [REDACTED] would ground me and I would climb out the
6 bedroom window. She would catch me and give me a row
7 but nothing more. They didn't discipline me in any
8 other way. I didn't wet the bed when I lived with the
9 [REDACTED]

10 The [REDACTED] were very good to me. I couldn't
11 understand why they were being nice to me. I always
12 thought he would want sex but he didn't. They were
13 totally different to anything I had experienced before.
14 It was just a shame that they came so late in my
15 childhood. There was absolutely no abuse when I was at
16 the [REDACTED]. They were nice genuine people.

17 When I was back at North Berwick when I was with the
18 [REDACTED] the other children gave me a hard time. They
19 used to take the mickey out of me because I couldn't
20 read and write as well as they could.

21 I fell pregnant when I was 16. I don't really know
22 who the father would have been. It could have been one
23 of many boys at the time. [REDACTED] somehow worked out that
24 I was pregnant and she told me that I was. She took me
25 to the doctor's and it was confirmed. [REDACTED] was quite

1 mellow about it. She tried to encourage me to keep the
2 baby but I didn't really understand what was going on
3 and I didn't think I would be able to cope with a very
4 small baby. I decided I was too young for the
5 responsibility and I terminated the pregnancy. [REDACTED] and
6 I fell out about it and she was really disappointed with
7 me. After that my relationship with [REDACTED] went downhill
8 and just wasn't quite the same.

9 There was another family in North Berwick and I was
10 a childhood friend of the girl who had also been in
11 care. We became best friends and I moved in with her.
12 I often stayed with her overnight, which the [REDACTED]
13 were fine with. I had met my boyfriend by this time.

14 At some point I had a major argument with [REDACTED]
15 I decided I didn't want to stay with them any more so
16 I packed my bags and walked out. I stayed with my
17 friend for a few weeks. The social worker came to see
18 me a few times to make sure I was okay."

19 From paragraph 149, 'Anne' speaks of her life after
20 care, impact and reporting abuse. As the impact on
21 'Anne' has to be understood in the context of her
22 overall care experiences and most of the remaining parts
23 of her statement relate to other care settings, I will
24 move to paragraph 180 on page 42, where 'Anne' speaks of
25 lessons to be learned:

1 "I shouldn't have been forced to go to so many
2 different families and then made to call the foster
3 parents mum and dad. This was really confusing because
4 I already had my own mum and dad. They may not have
5 been the best parents in the world but they were my mum
6 and dad. I didn't have the identity of belonging to
7 a family. I didn't even have a photograph of my mum.
8 We were also moved from pillar to post so often that
9 I didn't know what was happening. I was very unsettled.
10 There is no wonder that I ended up in front of
11 a psychologist.

12 Someone should have explained to me why I was in
13 care, even from someone who had been in care, like
14 myself, and experienced what I was going through. They
15 would be more aware of how the child was feeling and
16 what they were going through. Nobody ever explained to
17 me that my behaviour was wrong and I was never given any
18 lessons on life.

19 If by coming forward saves one child from what
20 happened to me then it will have been worth it. There
21 needs to be someone who is trained to identify the signs
22 of abuse and trained to speak to the children about it.
23 This would need to be someone that the children can
24 trust and who is independent, not a social worker.
25 Consistency is important so this person can't change

1 because the child will feel like they are being passed
2 from pillar to post.

3 People, including foster parents, should receive
4 better training in identifying the signs of abuse. If
5 children are slow at learning things then perhaps they
6 should be asking why. I also think that foster parents
7 should have their own child so they know exactly what
8 having a child is all about. They must have some
9 previous experience. Teachers in school should also
10 receive training in identifying the signs of abuse.
11 They should have seen the signs from my behaviour or
12 even the changes in my behaviour.

13 Children should be treated with respect. I don't
14 believe that newly qualified carers should be put in
15 charge of older children. They may only be a few years
16 older than the children they are caring for and they
17 just don't have the experience of how to deal with
18 children who invariably have problems. Children must
19 also have someone they are able to trust to have
20 a one-to-one conversation with or even a cuddle when
21 required. Children need one-to-one attention sometimes
22 even if just to make them feel wanted.

23 Society is so wrong because once it is known that
24 you are in care, everyone automatically assumes you are
25 poor. It is so wrong that people generalise like that."

1 Now to paragraph 189 on page 44:

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 And 'Anne' signed her statement on
7 16 September 2021.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Rattray.

9 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes the read-ins and
10 evidence for today.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 I'll rise now until tomorrow morning and then we'll
13 resume with oral evidence, I think?

14 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Oral evidence at 10 o'clock. We have hopefully
16 three oral witnesses planned for tomorrow?

17 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

18 LADY SMITH: Very well.

19 Just before I leave for the day, we've mentioned the
20 EHW-EHX, the EHY-EHZ and the [REDACTED] and their
21 identities are all protected by my general restriction
22 order, so they can't be revealed outside this room.

23 Thank you very much for that and until tomorrow
24 morning.

25 (2.55 pm)

1 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on
2 Friday, 19 August 2022)
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