

Wednesday, 24 August 2022

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Today we return to oral evidence  
4 in our foster care and boarding-out case study and the  
5 plan is that we'll have three oral witnesses today; if  
6 time, we may have some read-ins, we'll see how it goes.  
7 The first witness I think is ready; is that right,  
8 Ms Innes?

9 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. The first witness is  
10 Avril Campbell.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MS INNES: Avril Campbell and her husband Dennis Campbell  
13 were foster carers for Tayside Regional Council.  
14 An applicant, Christopher Scott, was placed in foster  
15 care with Dennis and Avril Campbell on 23 April 1976.  
16 He was removed on 27 February 1981.

17 Christopher gave evidence on Day 312, which was  
18 10 August 2022. The Campbell's daughter Emma Hann also  
19 gave evidence on that date, and Dundee City Council is  
20 the relevant successor.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

22 Avril Campbell (sworn)

23 LADY SMITH: Avril, first of all a practicality. Could  
24 I ask you to try to make sure you stay in a good  
25 position for the microphone. It will help you.

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: And it also helps -- that's great. It also  
3 helps us to hear you.

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: And particularly the stenographers to hear you  
6 through the sound system.

7 A. Okay.

8 LADY SMITH: Which is what they listen to you through.  
9 The red folder on the desk just over there has  
10 a typed version of your statement in it, the one you  
11 signed, and you'll see coming up on screen --

12 A. Oh yes.

13 LADY SMITH: -- your statement's also there.

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: You may find it helpful to use one or the other  
16 or neither, it's a matter for you.

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: But they'll be there as an aid if you need  
19 them.

20 But Avril, could I also say before we start your  
21 evidence that I do understand that what we're asking you  
22 to do today is difficult. You've come into a public  
23 forum and you're going to be asked about events that  
24 took place quite a while ago in your own family  
25 situation and some of the questions we have for you will

1 be difficult ones. I make no bones about that.

2 I know that can be stressful and sometimes doing  
3 that sort of thing can trigger emotions that take you  
4 quite by surprise. So if at any time you need a break,  
5 whether just sitting and pausing or leaving the room,  
6 you must let me know.

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Or if there's anything else I can do to assist  
9 you to give your evidence as clearly and as well as you  
10 can, that matters very much to me.

11 A. (Witness nods).

12 LADY SMITH: Finally, let me say this. In the course of  
13 your evidence you will, as I've said, be asked difficult  
14 questions, and although this is a public inquiry  
15 hearing, not a courtroom, those questions may put you on  
16 the spot, if you like, and could provoke answers that  
17 are capable of incriminating you.

18 If that is the case, I need to warn you, you don't  
19 need to answer those questions.

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 LADY SMITH: You have a choice. But you are entitled not to  
22 answer them. If you do answer them, you must answer  
23 them fully because you promised to tell the truth and it  
24 has to be the whole truth.

25 A. (Witness nods).

1 LADY SMITH: But that's what happens in a public inquiry,  
2 a bit like what happens in a court, as you may  
3 understand what would happen there.

4 Just to, as I've alluded to already, remind you,  
5 your evidence is being transcribed and recorded so  
6 there's a record of it available after today.

7 Does that all make sense?

8 A. Yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Do you have any questions at this stage?

10 A. No.

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

13 Ms Innes.

14 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

15 Questions from Ms Innes

16 MS INNES: Avril, we understand you were born in 1947; is  
17 that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can I refer first of all to your statement. We give it  
20 the reference WIT-1-000001025, and if we can look, first  
21 of all, at the last page of that statement and at  
22 paragraph 132, it says there:

23 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
24 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

25 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

1 true."

2 And I understand that you signed this statement on  
3 23 June 2022; is that right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Thank you. If I can take you back to the start of your  
6 statement, you tell us at paragraph 2 that prior to  
7 becoming a foster carer you were a nurse, and I think  
8 that when you had your own children you say you stopped  
9 nursing full time?

10 A. Yes. I went part time.

11 Q. You went part time, okay. And you say that you worked  
12 part time on and off?

13 A. Yeah, on and off, yes. Just when the babies were born  
14 I didn't work and then I worked afterwards.

15 Q. Okay. At paragraph 3 you tell us the circumstances in  
16 which you became a foster carer. You tell us that  
17 shortly prior to becoming a foster carer you lost a baby  
18 to cot death; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You then say -- if we go on to the top of the page --  
21 that after that happened the doctor had wanted to put  
22 you on antidepressants?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. But you refused that; is that right?

25 A. Yes. Yes. We didn't think it would be any good because

1 the baby would still be dead and that was the thing that  
2 was making us unhappy.

3 Q. Okay. Then you talk at paragraph 4 about your friend  
4 Rosalind Tipping.

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. And you mention that she had a 15-year-old daughter?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And she had come to live with you and your husband?

9 A. Mm.

10 Q. And when was this? Was this around the time that your  
11 baby had died?

12 A. After, yes. Yes, it was about two or three months  
13 afterwards, yeah.

14 Q. So after your baby had died and before Christopher came  
15 to live with you?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. How long did she stay with you?

18 A. We think -- I'm not sure because it was all such a long  
19 time ago, but I think it was about three months.

20 Q. Okay. So you say that you had her living in the house  
21 and you say "It wasn't as important to us as it was to  
22 her mum".

23 A. Yeah. What had happened, she was -- you know what  
24 they're like at 15, they're a wee bit out of control,  
25 you know, and she was -- she was worried about her.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And she came to stay with us and we weren't as worried  
3 about her as her mum was, and she just stayed with us  
4 and she settled down and she became happy and I was able  
5 to let her see that her mum loved her and she just came  
6 around. She was lovely.

7 Q. Then did she go back and stay with --

8 A. She went back with her mum. She was fine after that.

9 Q. You say that Rosalind worked in the social work  
10 department?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. I think we know that she was a social worker.

13 A. Yeah, yeah.

14 Q. And you say that she suggested that you and your husband  
15 start fostering?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you tell us about that?

18 A. Well, what had happened was after the baby died I --  
19 I was at a loss of what to do and I found -- I shouldn't  
20 have been struggling for something -- I've got three  
21 children and I just -- she -- it sounded like it was  
22 a good idea, you know, and I thought, well, we could  
23 maybe help. She said, "You'd be a great foster parent",  
24 so we just went along with her, I think. We hadn't  
25 really thought about it before.

1 Q. Okay. I think we know from the records that  
2 Rosalind Tipping was Christopher's social worker at the  
3 very start?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. So at the time that he came to live with you --  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. -- she was his social worker.  
8 Then you mention at paragraph 5  
9 a Morag Auchterlonie.  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. Again I think we know from the records that  
12 Morag Auchterlonie became Christopher's social worker  
13 a little later?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. A few months after he came to live with you?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. Is that your memory?  
18 A. I just remember Morag after only quite -- quite -- you  
19 know, she was a big part of it instead of Rosalind.  
20 Q. Okay. And you talk at paragraph 6 about  
21 Morag Auchterlonie being your social worker.  
22 A. Mm.  
23 Q. So you say that Christopher had a social worker of his  
24 own?  
25 A. I think so. We never saw anybody else. We just saw



1 Morag. I don't know if she did both, but I think we had  
2 her and somebody else was with Christopher. But we  
3 never saw him. Or her.

4 Q. Okay, so --

5 A. I might be wrong. I don't know.

6 Q. Our understanding from the records is that  
7 Morag Auchterlonie was Christopher's social worker and  
8 she is the one that would come and speak to you?

9 A. Yeah, yeah.

10 Q. As well.

11 A. I don't really know how it worked.

12 Q. Right, okay.

13 You say in this paragraph there were a lot of social  
14 workers coming and going?

15 A. Well, it's a long, long time ago and I don't remember if  
16 it was a lot -- but we did get a lot of social work  
17 involvement because the -- sorry, I have a problem with  
18 my short-term memory. We had a -- the person -- the  
19 other one --

20 Q. Rosalind?

21 A. Rosalind, yeah. She used to collect him every week to  
22 take him to the psychiatrist. So she was -- that's how  
23 I was thinking there was two because she was involved  
24 with him.

25 Q. I see, okay. So I think we know from the records that

1 Rosalind was his social worker at the beginning and then  
2 it became Ms Auchterlonie and then I think there might  
3 have been a Ms Ferguson later on.

4 A. I don't remember them, yeah.

5 Q. And maybe somebody else.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. So -- okay.

8 I think we've also seen in the records that  
9 Ms Auchterlonie looked after the children on occasion  
10 when you were away?

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

12 Q. You have no memory of that, okay.

13 If we move down to paragraph 7, you talk there about  
14 the financial support that you got and you say that you  
15 remember getting some money?

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What did you do with that money? Was it set aside  
20 specifically for Christopher or --

21 A. Not specifically, but I would buy him extra food and  
22 just -- just using it as it came.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Things we needed.

25 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 8 you talk about discussions

1 with Ms Auchterlonie.

2 A. Mm.

3 Q. You say at the end of this paragraph on top of page 3,  
4 you say that you did feel that you should have given  
5 Christopher back but it was nothing to do with the  
6 money.

7 A. That was when he -- when he took the drink. That was  
8 a long time afterwards, probably two years.

9 Q. Okay, we'll come back to that. So are you saying that  
10 after that happened, you thought that you should have  
11 given him back?

12 A. Yeah, that's when she said it. But up until then she  
13 didn't say anything.

14 Q. You say there that it was nothing to do with the money  
15 and I think you know that your daughter, Emma, said that  
16 you used to say the money was difficult to lose.

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did you say that?

19 A. I don't think so.

20 Q. You don't think so, okay.

21 Did you miss the extra income after Christopher  
22 left?

23 A. No. After Christopher left we said we didn't want to  
24 foster any more because we didn't want to do it and they  
25 actually persuaded us to take short term, but there was

1 a while we didn't have any children at all. We'd

2 decided against it.

3 Q. And you say at paragraph 9 that after Christopher left,  
4 you say:

5 "They asked me if I would consider short-term foster  
6 care and I said I would."

7 A. Yeah, they persuaded me.

8 Q. Okay. And did you do that for a while?

9 A. Yes. Yes, did it for quite a long -- probably -- I'm  
10 just trying to think how long it would be. Probably ...  
11 probably about two years. I don't know. I'm not sure.  
12 Because it's so long ago. But we did take it -- it was  
13 just children if the mother was going into hospital or  
14 something like that.

15 Q. If we move down the next section where you talk about  
16 the placing of Christopher with you, you talk in  
17 paragraph 10 about background information. What  
18 background information were you given about Christopher  
19 before he came to live with you?

20 A. Well, the only thing we were really told was he was on  
21 a special diet, he was on a -- a what you call them?  
22 Gluten-free diet. That was the only thing that we were  
23 really told about him.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. But we were told that she had considered putting him to

1 the psychiatric hospital because -- you know -- I don't  
2 know. We were green as grass. We just ... she thought  
3 it would be good because we were both nurses.

4 Q. And you say that you didn't know what the circumstances  
5 were that resulted in him --

6 A. No. No, I didn't know -- I -- I -- I heard something  
7 about his mother had handed him in -- that was it. His  
8 mother had handed him in because she couldn't cope.  
9 I think he was about three or four.

10 Q. Okay, so that was your understanding of --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- how he had come into care?

13 A. Yeah, we didn't get him till he was six.

14 Q. Okay. You say, I think, at the end of this  
15 paragraph that all that you knew was he didn't really  
16 get on with his mum?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. Can you explain that?

19 A. Well, that's all we knew. We didn't know very much  
20 about what went on. They didn't tell us anything really  
21 except that she had brought him in.

22 Q. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: Did you ask any questions?

24 A. No.

25 LADY SMITH: Why not?

1 A. We just thought there's a child that needed looked  
2 after. We just didn't know. We were green as grass.

3 LADY SMITH: It didn't occur to you it might have helped to  
4 find out more about his background?

5 A. I don't know. We just didn't -- you know, just didn't  
6 think anything. We just took him. They said that we  
7 would help him and we thought, well, let's see what we  
8 can do.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 MS INNES: At paragraph 11 you say that you don't know what  
11 arrangements were made for him before he came to stay  
12 with you and your husband.

13 A. Mm-hmm. No, we didn't. We didn't know about other  
14 foster parents or anything.

15 Q. And again do you think that information might have been  
16 helpful?

17 A. I don't know, because Rosalind was so sure that he would  
18 do well with our family because we had three children  
19 already and we just kind of took her word for it, you  
20 know, and -- and Christopher was very friendly and happy  
21 and just seemed to be fine.

22 Q. Did you think that there might be any differences in  
23 having a child living with you who had been separated  
24 from his parents or had been in care to bringing up your  
25 own children?

1 A. I didn't really think about it.

2 Q. Okay.

3 Now, if we can move on, please, to paragraph 13,  
4 over the page, you say there that you didn't get any  
5 training to become a foster carer.

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. So there was no training in advance?

8 A. Nothing at all.

9 Q. And during the time that Christopher lived with you,  
10 were there any training sessions?

11 A. No. Nothing.

12 Q. Okay. Do you think that it might have been helpful to  
13 have some training?

14 A. Probably. Probably. I think if we had known more about  
15 Christopher's background and, you know, what he  
16 needed -- but I think they thought just -- I don't know  
17 what they thought. There was a family they were putting  
18 him into and they thought he would be fine. And he  
19 seemed to be fine at first.

20 Q. Okay.

21 Now, you say in this paragraph, paragraph 13, that  
22 there were lots of visits from the social work, I think.

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. And you say this was to check things because Christopher  
25 "had been in so much trouble".

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. Where had he been in trouble?

3 A. Oh, I don't know what I meant by that. You know,  
4 I just -- they just were checking up on him. They came  
5 to see him regularly.

6 Q. Okay. And then at paragraph 14 you say that you got  
7 some advice now and again from Rosalind.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. We know that Rosalind was the social worker at the  
10 beginning?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. And then it was Ms Auchterlonie. So after the social  
13 worker changed and you had Ms Auchterlonie, did you  
14 still speak to your friend Rosalind?

15 A. We knew her at church, we knew her as a friend.

16 Q. So you would speak to her from time to time?

17 A. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

18 Q. Okay.

19 Now, you tell us then a little bit about the birth  
20 of your next child, so I think when Christopher came to  
21 live with you, you had three children; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And then Christopher came to live with you and then at  
24 paragraph 14 you said that you had another baby?

25 A. Yes.



1 Q. Okay. And I think that he had some difficulties after  
2 he was born?

3 A. Yes, he was very poorly. He used to -- the doctor -- it  
4 was only two weeks after he was born I was feeding him  
5 and he stopped breathing and I shook him and he came all  
6 right and I phoned the -- well, my husband phoned the  
7 doctor and he immediately started doing checks because  
8 of the other baby that had died and we got to see a man  
9 at the hospital and they did a lot of tests on him and  
10 they found out that he had a soft windpipe instead of  
11 a firm one so it would close, it used to close, and it  
12 was just a matter of if it closed I had to shake him up  
13 and get him to breathe again.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. It was quite worrying.

16 Q. Did he spend time in hospital as a result of that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Was he staying overnight in the hospital and you were --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- having to go back and forth, maybe stay overnight at  
21 the hospital with him?

22 A. No, we didn't stay overnight because we had the other  
23 children to look after. Things have changed a lot since  
24 then but it wasn't really encouraged.

25 Q. But there were times that he was in the hospital?

1 A. Mm.

2 Q. And then you've explained, I think, that there were  
3 times that he was at home that issues would arise?

4 A. Yeah, yeah.

5 Q. Okay.

6 You then talk at paragraph 15 about your sister  
7 coming to live with you and your husband?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you say that she came to stay with you for about six  
10 months?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And when was that? Was that --

13 A. That was when -- when the baby was about three or four  
14 months she came to live with us.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And she was with us all the time. So I was able to give  
17 more of my attention to the baby and she kept everything  
18 going with the rest. I was really worried about him.

19 Q. Okay.

20 And had your sister also come to stay after the baby  
21 that you had died?

22 A. Yes. She was -- I never used to have to take the baby  
23 out. She would stay with him when I had to go out.

24 Q. No, but I'm thinking earlier. So when your daughter --  
25 the baby that you had that there was a cot death and

1           then Christopher came to live with you --

2   A.   Yes.

3   Q.   -- was your sister living with you at that time or not?

4   A.   No.  No.  She came to help me with the baby.

5   Q.   Okay.

6   LADY SMITH:  How long had Christopher been with you by the

7           time that baby was born?

8   A.   The baby was born -- he'd been with us a year and a half

9           to two years.

10   LADY SMITH:  Okay, thank you.

11   A.   And we'd had no problems with him -- apart from telling

12           lies, but ...

13   MS INNES:  Okay.

14           At paragraph 16 you say that you fostered jointly

15           with your husband but it was mostly you because he was

16           working in the Mormon church, you say.

17   A.   Mm-hmm.

18   Q.   So do you mean that you were doing most of the

19           day-to-day care?

20   A.   Yeah, most of it, yeah, because he was working full time

21           and he did some more training and he was a -- in his

22           part time he was a bishop.

23   Q.   Okay.  So your husband was working full time --

24   A.   Yes.

25   Q.   -- as a nurse; is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What sort of shifts was he working? Was it day shifts  
3 or night shifts?

4 A. Shifts -- actually, trying to think. For a while he  
5 was -- he used to work a day shift. He was working in  
6 a clinic.

7 Q. Okay. So your husband had a full-time job and then he  
8 was also a bishop in the church, you said.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. How much of his time did that role take up?

11 A. Oh, it took up quite a bit of his time.

12 Q. Okay.

13 Did your involvement with the church mean that you  
14 had other people staying with you from time to time?

15 A. Mm-hmm, yes, yeah.

16 Q. Did you have meetings at your house when your husband  
17 was a bishop?

18 A. Yes, yeah, yeah.

19 Q. Okay.

20 You then go on to talk about the houses that you  
21 lived in and you talk about the first house that you  
22 lived in when Christopher came to stay with you and you  
23 say there was a Ramsay ladder up to the attic space?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you say that your son and Christopher slept up the

1 stairs?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did they always sleep up the stairs?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. From the time that Christopher came to live with you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay.

8 Were there any issues raised by the social work  
9 department --

10 A. No --

11 Q. -- about the fact that they'd have to climb up a Ramsay  
12 ladder?

13 A. No. Because he was six and he was seven. He was old  
14 enough. He coped with it no problem.

15 LADY SMITH: How did this work? Did you keep the ladder  
16 down all the time or what?

17 A. Sorry?

18 LADY SMITH: How did it work? Did you keep the Ramsay  
19 ladder down all the time?

20 A. No, no. No. We just used to bring it down and then it  
21 was down all night.

22 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

23 A. It was up during the day.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 A. No, it was away during the day and up during the night.

1 MS INNES: Now, at paragraph 18 you mentioned something you  
2 just said a moment ago in your evidence, that  
3 Christopher lied right from the start.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. What sort of things was he lying about?

6 A. It was stupid. He used to tell -- he used to just  
7 tell ... practically every day he used to tell lies but  
8 they were silly lies, you know, about -- I don't know,  
9 I can't remember exactly, I can't give you an example,  
10 but it was just a habit he was in. And it was lies you  
11 could easily tell he was telling a lie. But he was just  
12 in the habit of it. He's still doing it now.

13 Q. And if he told a lie, what would you do?

14 A. Nothing. Because there was no point. They were just  
15 silly lies, you know.

16 Q. Okay.

17 Now, if we go on to the second house that you  
18 mention, you say that you moved to outside of Dundee to  
19 Auchterhouse.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you say that was when Christopher was about seven?

22 A. Yes, yes.

23 Q. You say at paragraph 19 that when you were there, there  
24 was a friend that lived with you for a while?

25 A. Mm-hmm.

1 Q. And how long did she stay with you?

2 A. She stayed with us for a long time. In fact, she  
3 stayed -- I can't remember if she was still staying with  
4 us when we moved back into Dundee, but she came back to  
5 us in Dundee. She had problems with her husband and  
6 she -- she just moved out. And she didn't get on well  
7 with her mum and dad either so she thought -- you know,  
8 her mum and dad were really grateful to us because we  
9 were able to look after and be nice to her.

10 Q. Did you tell the social work department about the  
11 various people that came and stayed with you?

12 A. Oh yeah, they always knew.

13 Q. Did they carry out any checks on these people?

14 A. No, no.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Not that I know of anyway.

17 Q. Sorry?

18 A. Not that I know of.

19 Q. Okay.

20 Then at paragraph 20, you mention at the bottom of  
21 the page there were other people who lived with you at  
22 separate times.

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. I think when you were living in Auchterhouse, and you  
25 refer to a friend of your husband's and a girl who was

1 dying, you say?

2 A. A girl, yeah. She -- what had happened, she'd been  
3 dying for a long time and her -- she was in foster care  
4 actually, I think, and it was -- the person that was  
5 looking after her thought it would be nice for her to  
6 come out to Auchterhouse where it was really nice, but  
7 she didn't stay long. She was too ill.

8 Q. Okay. And you say there that the house always went like  
9 a fair?

10 A. Yeah, there was always people coming to our house.

11 Q. You told us that you'd had your son who was ill. Did  
12 you have any other children born while you were at  
13 Auchterhouse?

14 A. [REDACTED] was born in Auchterhouse.

15 Q. Okay, so you had a daughter. And what was -- what's the  
16 age difference between the son that you've referred to  
17 who wasn't well and then --

18 A. About 18 months.

19 Q. Sorry -- 18 months? Okay.

20 A. They were really lovely because what had happened was  
21 Auchterhouse was a very small area and there was only  
22 about 30 children in the school and when [REDACTED] was born,  
23 I put her carry cot on the coffee table and the whole  
24 school came to see her, just walked round and out again.

25 Q. Okay.



1           So you then tell us at paragraph 21 that then you  
2           and your husband moved back to Dundee?

3   A.   Yes.

4   Q.   Because your husband was finding it difficult for work  
5           and the children were getting older.

6   A.   Mm.

7   Q.   And you describe this as being a huge house and needing  
8           a lot of work done to it?

9   A.   Mm-hmm.

10  Q.   And did you move into the house and do the work as you  
11          lived there?

12  A.   Well, we did the basic work before we moved in to put in  
13          a bathroom and a kitchen. They were put in before we  
14          moved in and then it was just a matter of taking a room  
15          at a time.

16  Q.   Okay.

17                So by this stage I think you had the three children  
18                that you had before Christopher came, Christopher, and  
19                then the other two children that you've mentioned?

20  A.   Yes.

21  Q.   So that's six children?

22  A.   Yes, six children.

23  Q.   And did you have another baby then?

24  A.   Oh no, I'm just trying to think ... six children ...  
25          yeah. We had six children.

1 Q. Including Christopher?

2 A. I'm just thinking, there was Emma, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED],  
3 [REDACTED] -- and when we moved to Dundee we had a new baby.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. So that would be seven.

6 Q. Okay. So you had seven children. And what was the gap  
7 between your daughter [REDACTED] that you've mentioned and  
8 then the baby that you had?

9 A. About -- about 18 months.

10 Q. About 18 months, okay.

11 You talk again about other people coming to stay  
12 with you when you were at [REDACTED]?

13 A. Sorry?

14 Q. At paragraph 22 you also say other people came to stay  
15 with you?

16 A. Yeah, just stay the night or something.

17 Q. So by the time you moved to -- or when you were living  
18 at [REDACTED], sorry, you had seven children  
19 including Christopher?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. And some of them were very young, pre-school.

22 A. Mm.

23 Q. And your husband was still working full time?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And he was still a bishop of the church at this point?

1 A. No, no. He was just a -- he just did it until -- he did  
2 it for five years.

3 Q. He did it for five years, okay. So did he stop doing it  
4 at the time that you moved to --

5 A. Sorry?

6 Q. Did he stop doing it at the time that you moved?

7 A. No. Not when we moved back to Dundee.

8 Q. When you moved back to Dundee, okay.

9 And there was work needing done to the house as  
10 well?

11 A. Sorry?

12 Q. And you were living in this house that was requiring  
13 work done to it?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. That must have been a lot of pressure on you?

16 A. Not really because we were just so happy with the house.  
17 It was a good house and it was good for the kids and we  
18 just did it a bit by bit.

19 Q. Okay. Did you have any difficulty in coping with  
20 running the house and looking after all of these  
21 children?

22 A. No. I love children. That's what I always wanted, was  
23 to have a big family.

24 Q. Okay. If we move on to the next part of your statement,  
25 you talk about Christopher coming to live with you. At

1 paragraph 25 you say that the first day that he came he  
2 said that he was going to call you mum and dad?  
3 A. Yeah.  
4 Q. Is that right?  
5 A. We were shocked. It was the very first thing is he  
6 says, "I'll call you mum and dad", and we asked the  
7 social worker if that was all right and she says, "Oh  
8 no, just let him keep up sort of the fantasy", and he  
9 always called us mum and dad. But we were worried about  
10 it because we thought it was, you know, strange.  
11 Q. Did you try to dissuade him from calling you mum and  
12 dad?  
13 A. No, we asked the social worker and she said just let  
14 him.  
15 Q. Then you talk about you and your husband meeting with  
16 Christopher's mum and dad?  
17 A. Yes.  
18 Q. And you talk about being worried that in that meeting he  
19 would call you mum and dad?  
20 A. Yeah.  
21 Q. But you say he didn't?  
22 A. No. Went straight to Dennis and Avril.  
23 Q. And you say you were relieved by that?  
24 A. I was, because I thought she might be thinking we were  
25 trying to take over from her.

1 Q. Okay.

2 Now, if we can move down to the bottom of this page,  
3 please, paragraph 29, you say that you were given no  
4 rules or guidance regarding discipline.

5 A. Yeah. No, never really told us anything, just expected  
6 him to be the same as our own family.

7 Q. And did you speak to the social worker about what was  
8 permissible?

9 A. Not -- not -- I don't know. I can't remember, it was so  
10 long ago.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But I think I would because I was quite open with him.

13 Q. Okay. You say that you can't really remember what type  
14 of behaviour would result in the children being  
15 disciplined?

16 A. I used to smack their hands, I used to smack their  
17 bottoms and when we went to Auchterhouse, I tried the  
18 belt because I knew they were using it at school.

19 My own son had had it twice when he was only five  
20 but I would never have done it as young as that. But  
21 I just thought, well, if the school's done it, it must  
22 be all right. I came from England, they didn't do it in  
23 England, so I had no idea what it was like.

24 Q. Okay. You say that you then used the belt and what type  
25 of belt were you using?

1 A. It was just the -- just the one that held my husband's  
2 trousers up.

3 Q. Okay. And did it have a buckle on it?

4 A. Yes, but I never used the buckle.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Never used the buckle.

7 Q. Who did you hit with this belt?

8 A. The three older ones.

9 Q. The three older children, okay. And where on their body  
10 did you hit them?

11 A. On their bottom.

12 Q. On their bottom, and was that with their clothes on  
13 or --

14 A. Mm-hmm. Well, just trousers down.

15 LADY SMITH: What do you mean by older children?

16 A. That was Emma, [REDACTED] and Christopher.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS INNES: You say here that you did this four times.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Now, that's quite specific.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. How do you remember each of these times?

23 A. Because the first two times it was just rubbish.  
24 I didn't know -- I'd never done it, you know, and never  
25 seen it done. And the third time I did it and it

1           looked -- oh, it was all right.  And the fourth time  
2           I thought: no, I'm not going to do this any more.

3   Q.  And can you remember what gave rise to you using the  
4           belt on the children?

5   A.  No, it was just me.  I just thought: no, I don't like  
6           this.

7   Q.  Can you remember what they had done that meant that you  
8           disciplined them with the belt?

9   A.  No.  No, I can't remember.

10  Q.  You can't remember?

11  A.  I can't remember.

12  Q.  And was it all three of them?

13  A.  All three of them.

14  Q.  Okay.  On each occasion?

15  A.  Yes.  They'd been up to some -- we were in Auchterhouse  
16           and they were in the village, they'd been up to some  
17           sort of mischief, I don't know what they'd done.

18  Q.  How many times did you hit them?

19  A.  That --

20  Q.  On each occasion?

21  A.  Once.

22  Q.  Just once, okay.

23           Now, I think you've mentioned in your evidence there  
24           that you would also slap the children on their hands or  
25           bottom?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did you do that with all of the children?

3 A. All -- well, the older ones.

4 Q. Okay, so when you talk about the older ones, are you  
5 talking about your oldest children or --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- do you mean that when they got to a certain age you  
8 would use that punishment?

9 A. I never really thought about the age but I know  
10 I didn't -- I wouldn't do it to the young ones, I'd just  
11 do it to the older ones if they'd been naughty. The  
12 littler ones didn't really do anything naughty that  
13 deserved a smack.

14 Q. Okay. And in relation to Christopher, did you do this  
15 for the whole time that he lived with you?

16 A. Do what?

17 Q. Punish him by smacking or slapping him?

18 A. As he got older, we weren't doing it. I don't think we  
19 smacked our children much from the age of 12 or so.

20 Q. Okay. So I think Christopher was about 10 or 11 when he  
21 left you.

22 A. Yes. Yeah. He was 11.

23 Q. So were you smacking or slapping him up until he left?

24 A. Just smacking. It wasn't slap -- I mean slapping sounds  
25 like a bad thing -- I -- it would just be open hand,



1           smack on the bottom or smack on the hand.

2   Q.   Okay.  On each occasion that you did that, would you

3           smack once or would it be more than once?

4   A.   I can't remember.

5   Q.   You can't remember, okay.

6   A.   Usually I think it was just the once.

7   Q.   Okay.

8           And you know that Christopher says that sometimes

9           you would slap him across the face?

10  A.   Never.

11  Q.   Would that ever happen?

12           And I think sometimes he described that you punched

13           him?

14  A.   Never.  I was a nurse.  I was a nurse.  I was careful

15           about smacking.

16  Q.   Okay.  Now, you mentioned your husband there.  So did he

17           also slap or smack the children?

18  A.   He smacked them, yeah.

19  Q.   Okay.  Did he use the belt?

20  A.   I never saw him use the belt.  Now, he says he did, so

21           I just have to take his -- you know.  But I don't

22           remember ever seeing him use a belt.  He must have used

23           it in -- er, used it -- used it once because that's how

24           I got the idea to use it with the children, but I have

25           no memory of him hitting them.

1 Q. Okay. Is it not something that you would have discussed  
2 between you, how you were going to --

3 A. Yeah, yeah.

4 Q. -- discipline your children?

5 A. It's a long time ago and, as I said, there was only four  
6 times that I did it and my husband was very -- didn't do  
7 it very often. I can't remember seeing him doing it,  
8 you know. But he must have done it once. But it wasn't  
9 a regular thing.

10 Q. Okay. And you know that your daughter and Christopher  
11 have said that your husband used the belt regularly.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. And Emma told us in evidence that this was normally done  
14 in the living room and that you were often the one  
15 getting your husband to do it.

16 A. Not true.

17 Q. Okay.

18 Right, if we can move on to the next part of your  
19 statement, please, and here we're dealing with  
20 allegations that were made by Christopher. And if we  
21 look at paragraph 32, you say there that you can't  
22 explain why Christopher and your daughter are making the  
23 allegations that they have?

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. I don't know. I don't know. I mean, I'll tell you  
2 later on, Christopher came back to see us and  
3 everything. There was a -- there was a reasonable home.  
4 I don't know why. I don't know. I don't know. I find  
5 it very hurtful.

6 Q. Okay. If we can move on, please, to page 9 and  
7 paragraph 35, you're addressing there the issue of  
8 Christopher saying that you were keen for him to call  
9 you mum and dad and he says he never felt comfortable  
10 about it. And then he said that by the time he'd moved  
11 to [REDACTED] he had told you that he was going to  
12 call you Avril and Dennis?

13 A. Not true.

14 Q. Okay, so your position is that he called you --

15 A. Mum and dad. Even when I went to visit him in the  
16 children's home, he still called me mum.

17 Q. You say in this paragraph something about the way that  
18 Christopher pronounced your name?

19 A. Sorry?

20 Q. So you say that:

21 "If he had lived with Dennis and I and called me by  
22 my name, he would have pronounced it Avril like April.  
23 Everyone called me that. So to say he was pronouncing  
24 it Avril, like Advil, it doesn't make sense. I heard  
25 him say that at the court case."

1 A. Yeah, he called me Avril at the court but everybody knew  
2 my name was Avril.

3 Q. Okay. And you told us a moment ago that when he saw his  
4 mum and dad he called you Avril then?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay.

7 If we can move on, please, to page 12, and  
8 paragraph 47, at the top of the page there's reference  
9 to your daughter saying that she was also abused by you  
10 and your husband and that she thinks that "Chris had it  
11 worst in that age group and when he left I got it  
12 instead. He was the scapegoat for my mum and when he  
13 left I became it."

14 Is that correct, that Christopher was the scapegoat?

15 A. No. No.

16 Q. Okay. Now, at paragraph 48 you refer to again something  
17 that Christopher said in his statement and you say in  
18 your answer that you think it is money that Christopher  
19 is chasing.

20 A. (Witness nods).

21 Q. Can you explain that, please?

22 A. Well, that's the only thing I could think, that's the  
23 only thing that would be worthwhile, you know. I can't  
24 see why he would say these things.

25 Q. Okay.

1           At paragraph 49 you refer to something that Emma  
2           said in her statement, which was that:  
3           "Everything about Chris irritated my mum ..."  
4           Is that correct? Were you irritated by him?  
5   A. No. No, we thought we were going to be helping him.  
6   Q. In Christopher's evidence he described himself as always  
7           feeling on edge:  
8           "If you said the wrong thing, even once, it was back  
9           to punishment."  
10   A. No.  
11   Q. You don't recognise that as --  
12   A. No. We were -- we were a happy family.  
13   Q. Now, if we can move on, please, to page 14 and  
14           paragraph 56. Now, this refers to a part of  
15           Christopher's statement where he says that on the first  
16           night that he was with you, he had to get changed in  
17           front of everyone and you made him put a pair of your  
18           daughter's pants on. Did that happen?  
19   A. It didn't happen. I just -- I mean, it's even  
20           illogical, the very first night he stayed with us? No.  
21           He didn't. We never did that. We never did anything  
22           like that.  
23   Q. When you say it's illogical the first night he stayed  
24           with us, what do you mean?  
25   A. Well, if you were taking a foster child you wouldn't on

1           the first night he stays with you get him to do  
2           something silly.

3   Q.   So it's something that you might do on another occasion?

4   A.   No, but I certainly wouldn't do it on the first night.

5   Q.   Okay.

6   LADY SMITH:  Were there other nights that Christopher had to  
7           get changed in front of everybody else?

8   A.   No.  Never.  We let him -- the thing is I know it sounds  
9           illogical but I really love children.  I would have --  
10          I wanted a big family and I wanted to help Christopher.  
11          But we wouldn't do that.  We wouldn't do that.

12   LADY SMITH:  Did you have him wearing pants at night?

13   A.   No.

14   LADY SMITH:  Why not?

15   A.   Hm?

16   LADY SMITH:  Why not?

17   A.   Did he wear --

18   LADY SMITH:  Did you have Christopher wearing pants at  
19          night?

20   A.   At night?

21   LADY SMITH:  Yes.

22   A.   I can't remember.

23   LADY SMITH:  Okay, thank you.

24   A.   I can't remember.  He used to -- he used to have pyjamas  
25          on.

1 LADY SMITH: Pants underneath them?

2 A. Probably.

3 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

4 A. I can't remember. It was a long time ago.

5 MS INNES: Now, if we can move on on this page to

6 paragraph 57, Christopher talks there about being put in

7 isolation. So if we can just break that down a little,

8 were there times when Christopher would be sent to his

9 room?

10 A. I can't remember, but I don't think so.

11 Q. Was sending the children to their rooms a sanction that

12 you might impose?

13 A. I really don't remember.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. But certainly not the way he says it. I certainly never

16 got him to face a wall. That seems really strange.

17 Q. Okay, so you say that you didn't ask him to face a wall?

18 A. No, I definitely didn't.

19 Q. Okay. And he also says that if he was sent to his room,

20 he wouldn't be given an evening meal?

21 A. No, he never got sent to his room and he always got fed.

22 They always, always got fed.

23 Q. Okay. And he talks in his evidence about this happening

24 not only on one occasion but happening perhaps day after

25 day.

1 A. No.

2 Q. Did that happen?

3 A. No.

4 Q. At paragraph 59 over the page, there's a quote from  
5 Christopher's statement where he is talking about  
6 mealtimes and he says if he didn't like the food or  
7 couldn't eat it, he would get the same plate of food  
8 served back to him at the next meal. Did that happen?

9 A. No.

10 Q. If he didn't like the food, what would you do?

11 A. I can't remember him not liking the food. He liked  
12 eating. But I don't know. If he didn't like it, just  
13 don't eat it. But I never -- I never did what he's  
14 saying there.

15 "I would take a couple of bites and often I would be  
16 gagging and nearly sick."

17 No, it's not true.

18 Q. Okay. We've also heard evidence from Christopher that  
19 sometimes he would be extremely hungry because he  
20 couldn't eat the food and that sometimes he would steal  
21 from a store of food that was in your house?

22 A. Sorry?

23 Q. I'm not referring to the statement at the moment, but  
24 we've heard evidence from Christopher that if he was  
25 hungry, then sometimes he would steal food from a store



1 of food that was in your house?

2 A. Well, I wasn't aware of that.

3 Q. Okay. Did you have a store of food?

4 A. Yeah, I did have a store of food, but I don't -- it

5 was -- it wasn't the kind of food he would steal. It

6 was sort of like tins and -- you know, just emergency

7 food, if there were a bad time, storage food. Food you

8 could store.

9 Q. Stored food, okay.

10 And he says again that he was so hungry that on some

11 occasions he would steal from other children's packed

12 lunch boxes at school?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you know that he was doing that?

15 A. Well -- no.

16 Q. And your daughter, I think, described in her evidence

17 that they were all little scraps. The children were

18 small.

19 A. Mm. (Witness nods).

20 Q. And underfed?

21 A. Not underfed. I used to take them regularly to the

22 clinic. You know, I was a nurse and I always did the

23 best for them. And I used to take them to the clinic

24 and I kept all of their appointments, everything.

25 Q. And --

1 A. Nobody ever spoke to me and said, "Your children are  
2 underweight" or anything. They were just always quite  
3 happy with them.

4 Q. Okay. Now, if we move on over the page to the top of  
5 page 16, you're talking there about Christopher's  
6 gluten-free diet.

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. Did you have to make special meals for Christopher  
9 because of that diet?

10 A. What I used to do, he when -- back then it was really  
11 pretty bad and I felt very sorry for him. He used to  
12 get a packet of biscuits, chocolate biscuits, and  
13 a packet of plain biscuits, a sort of sweet biscuit, and  
14 special bread that came in a tin and that was to  
15 supplement what we were eating. And then I also made --  
16 I used to try and make the meal for the whole family one  
17 that he could eat, and the only thing that he didn't eat  
18 was the -- well, he didn't eat at the time, was the  
19 cakes and the biscuits. But he used to get his own.  
20 That's the way I used to do it.

21 Q. And you say in this paragraph at the end of it:  
22 "I was the one who went and saw about getting him  
23 off his gluten-free diet ..."

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. " ... and said he was stealing things but they were not

1           seeming to affect him."

2   A.   Yes, he would always steal -- say I made a cake, I would  
3       find that he'd been helping himself to some of it.

4   Q.   Okay.  And how would you react to that?

5   A.   I wouldn't react at all because I could understand it  
6       perfectly.

7   Q.   Did you punish him at all for taking --

8   A.   No.  Never.  Never.

9   Q.   And who was it that you went to see about getting him  
10      off his gluten-free diet?

11  A.   I went to -- I used to go to the hospital regularly with  
12      him when he was on the diet and I told them that he was  
13      pinching stuff and I said "Is there any possibility that  
14      we could try him on the same diet as the children are  
15      having?" and they looked at the situation and they said  
16      "Let's have a go at it" and we did and there was no harm  
17      and they said it was all right for me to put him on the  
18      normal diet with the rest of the children.

19  Q.   Okay.  Now, if we can move down to the bottom of this  
20      page, paragraph 64, you talk there about Christopher  
21      wetting the bed.

22  A.   Mm-hmm.

23  Q.   Was that something that Christopher did when he lived  
24      with you, did he wet the bed?

25  A.   He did wet the bed.

1 Q. What was your reaction to that?

2 A. That was his problem, there was no reaction, that was  
3 just it. Sometimes he used to -- sometimes he used to  
4 be -- they're going away to school and on the way out  
5 I'd catch a whiff and be oh no, he's wet the bed. So  
6 I'd take him and give him a bath and get him off to  
7 school then. But I didn't want him going to school  
8 smelling.

9 Q. Okay. Now, you say that he used to pretend that he  
10 hadn't wet the bed.

11 A. I don't remember. Oh, this one here?

12 Q. That's what you say in your statement:  
13 " ... he did used to pretend that he hadn't wet the  
14 bed ..."

15 A. Yeah, and, as I said, he was going out the door and  
16 I would smell him and I didn't want him going to school  
17 smelling so he'd get a quick bath and change his  
18 clothes.

19 Q. Why was it that he used to pretend that he hadn't done  
20 that?

21 A. Probably embarrassed.

22 Q. Is it not a concern for you that he wasn't telling you?

23 A. Well, it -- that was what we got. That's what he  
24 came -- he was like that the whole time we had him.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. The whole five years.

2 Q. And Christopher says that you would be angry about him  
3 wetting the bed.

4 A. No.

5 Q. And he, for example, says that you would rub his face in  
6 the wet sheets?

7 A. I would get annoyed at him not telling me he'd wet the  
8 bed because he was smelling and I didn't want him going  
9 to school smelling because people would make a fool of  
10 him.

11 Q. And he says that sometimes you would rub his face in the  
12 wet sheets. Did you --

13 A. Not true.

14 Q. -- do that?

15 A. Not true.

16 Q. And that you would be angry with him for wetting the  
17 bed?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Or that you would punish him?

20 A. No, no, that was just something he came with. I knew  
21 that was going to be a problem.

22 Q. And then sometimes he said that he would hide the sheets  
23 because he was afraid of telling you?

24 A. Not true.

25 LADY SMITH: You said a moment ago, Avril, that you knew the

1 bed-wetting was going to be a problem. When did you  
2 know that?

3 A. Sorry?

4 LADY SMITH: A moment ago you said that when Christopher  
5 came to you --

6 A. Yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: -- you knew that bed-wetting was going to be  
8 a problem.

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: It was just something he came with.

11 A. Yeah.

12 LADY SMITH: Which sounds as though you had been told in  
13 advance; is that right?

14 A. Yeah. Yeah, I knew that he wet the bed when he came.

15 LADY SMITH: Who told you that --

16 A. The social workers.

17 LADY SMITH: So what was your plan so far as bed-wetting was  
18 concerned?

19 A. Well, just to see how it went. I can't really remember  
20 but I knew he was a bed-wetter and it didn't really --  
21 I just expected it and --

22 LADY SMITH: Did you talk to him about it?

23 A. Yes, but there was nothing we could do.

24 LADY SMITH: What did you say?

25 A. Oh, I can't remember. But it was never -- it was

1           just -- that was just an issue we had.

2   LADY SMITH: Right, thank you.

3   A. It was a long time ago.

4   LADY SMITH: Yes.

5   MS INNES: So Christopher says that you warned him regularly

6           not to wet the bed.

7   A. (Witness shakes head).

8   Q. Is that something that you did?

9   A. No. I -- he couldn't help it.

10   Q. If we go on over the page to page 17 and paragraph 67,

11           you refer there to Christopher's statement where he says

12           that sometimes he would be taken out of his bed and put

13           into the kitchen and put on the stone floor.

14   A. (Witness shakes head). It's not true.

15   Q. And he says sometimes you did that when he had pyjamas

16           on and sometimes he was naked.

17   A. Not true.

18   Q. Okay.

19           Now, at paragraph 68, Christopher refers there to

20           you telling your husband about things that had happened

21           when he was out at work --

22   A. (Witness shakes head).

23   Q. -- and then he would get a hiding from your husband.

24   A. No.

25   Q. Is that something that you did?

1 A. No. No. If the children -- I never made them wait. If  
2 they were in trouble they were in trouble and I dealt  
3 with it.

4 Q. And did you tell your husband at all about what had  
5 happened when he came home?

6 A. I don't know. I can't remember. That's a long time  
7 ago. Probably would, but -- he wouldn't have to punish  
8 them.

9 Q. Okay. And if we move down onto page 18 and  
10 paragraph 70, you're referring there to something that  
11 Emma said and in your answer you say:  
12 " ... it was usually a group thing and they all did  
13 something wrong ..."

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. So would all of them be punished for something that they  
16 had done or --

17 A. No, no. They used to -- they used to do things together  
18 and if they got -- if they did something together,  
19 they'd get punished together. But like I say, I stopped  
20 using the belt very quickly. Didn't like it.

21 Q. But would you still smack them?

22 A. I can't remember.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. It's a long, long time ago.

25 Q. And what if somebody didn't own up, so you asked them



1           who was to blame and nobody owned up? What would you do  
2           then?

3   A. I can't remember.

4   Q. You can't remember?

5   A. No. I can't remember. Most of the time they were good.

6   Q. Okay.

7           If we can go over the page, please, to page 19 and  
8           some of the things that are mentioned at paragraph 71.  
9           Now, we've already spoken about some of the things that  
10          are in this paragraph, but Christopher mentions here  
11          that sometimes you kicked him. Did you do that?

12  A. No, never. Never. I never kicked him. Never punched  
13          him.

14  Q. Okay. So when he gave evidence to the Inquiry,  
15          Christopher said that sometimes he would fall down and  
16          sort of cradle up and you would kick him in the arms and  
17          the back.

18  A. Not true.

19  Q. Okay. And, if we go on to paragraph 72, your daughter  
20          also speaks about you kicking her.

21  A. No.

22  Q. Did you do that?

23  A. I wouldn't kick her, I never kicked her. Never kicked  
24          either of them.

25  Q. Now, if we can move on to page 20 and paragraph 76, you

1 refer there to Christopher saying that he would be made  
2 to eat soap.

3 A. Mm-hmm.

4 Q. And you then refer to what Emma says at paragraph 77.

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. And then you give your answer. You say that you think  
7 that you did give them a taste of soap?

8 A. Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

9 Q. And that was for telling lies?

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. Okay. And was that the punishment for telling lies?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Now, you've said in your evidence that  
14 Christopher was telling lies all the time.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So did he get this punishment quite a lot?

17 A. No. It was just the three of them together.

18 Q. Okay. And when you say the three of them, who do you  
19 mean?

20 A. Emma, [REDACTED] and Christopher.

21 Q. Okay. And what kind of soap did you give them?

22 A. Oh, I couldn't remember. But it was just a taste.  
23 I thought that would stop them telling lies. It was  
24 just a taste of it.

25 LADY SMITH: How was that going to stop them telling lies?

1 A. What, sorry?

2 LADY SMITH: How was that going to stop them telling lies?

3 A. I don't know. It was just a stupid thing. That --

4 I was -- I know a lot of people used to do it and I just

5 thought I'd try it.

6 LADY SMITH: Have you ever tasted soap or --

7 A. No.

8 LADY SMITH: -- had it put in your mouth forcefully.

9 A. Yeah -- sorry?

10 LADY SMITH: Had you ever tasted soap or had it put in your

11 mouth forcefully?

12 A. It wasn't forcefully. I just gave them as a now just

13 that and --

14 LADY SMITH: Avril, I don't suppose the children

15 willingly --

16 A. Oh, they did.

17 LADY SMITH: -- had the soap in their mouths.

18 A. No, it was just sort of like lick it, you know.

19 LADY SMITH: All right.

20 A. They didn't -- they didn't eat soap.

21 LADY SMITH: You said they had to have the soap in their

22 mouth, you put the soap in their mouth or what? How did

23 the children come to have --

24 A. I gave it to them.

25 LADY SMITH: You gave it to them.

1 A. Mm.

2 LADY SMITH: And then? Then what?

3 A. And then they just licked it.

4 LADY SMITH: Why?

5 A. So they'd know what it tasted like.

6 LADY SMITH: Did you tell them they had to do that?

7 A. Yeah.

8 LADY SMITH: So you were directing them they had to?

9 A. Yes, because they were telling lies.

10 LADY SMITH: As a punishment?

11 A. Yeah, it was, just to stop them telling lies.

12 LADY SMITH: What do you think it was like for the children

13 to have to have soap in their mouths for punishment?

14 A. Well, I don't think it's good for children to tell lies.

15 LADY SMITH: That's not an answer to my question, Avril.

16 A. Well, it was --

17 LADY SMITH: What do you think it's like for a child --

18 A. Well, they were quite old.

19 LADY SMITH: Hang on. For a child to have to put soap in

20 their mouth because that's the punishment their mother

21 is giving to them?

22 A. Well, we'll just have to disagree but they were a good

23 age by this time. We were in Auchterhouse.

24 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

25 A. And it was a common -- I'd heard it from other people.

1           It wasn't my idea.

2   LADY SMITH:   Okay.   Whose idea was it?

3   A.   I don't know.   But it was quite a common -- a common

4           punishment or report.   People used to -- I tried it.

5           Once.   Because I knew it happened.

6   LADY SMITH:   Where?   Where was it happening?

7   A.   Oh, everywhere.   Everywhere.   I'm surprised you've not

8           heard of it.

9   LADY SMITH:   Was it happening all over Dundee?

10   A.   I don't know.   But I know that I wouldn't have thought

11           of it myself.

12   LADY SMITH:   Oh, I see.   Thank you.

13   MS INNES:   Now, Avril, if we can move on over the page and

14           to paragraph 78, and in the answer to this paragraph you

15           talk about Christopher lying all the time.   So if we

16           scroll down a little in your answer there you say:

17                   "Christopher was lying all the time.   If he feels

18                   that he was accused of being a liar it's because he was

19                   a liar."

20                   So did you call him a liar when he was a child?

21   A.   I don't remember.   I don't remember.   But I know that

22           about the bleach, he -- I don't know.

23                   "I just know that Christopher was lying all the

24                   time.   If he feels like he was being accused of it, it's

25                   because he was a liar."

1           Yeah.

2           "He even lied in the court case."

3           Yeah.

4   Q.   We'll come onto that just in a moment.  So can you

5       remember accusing Christopher of telling lies when he

6       was a child?

7   A.   I can't remember.

8   Q.   You can't remember?

9   A.   I can't -- I can't remember.  I mean, it was a long time

10      ago, but he used to tell lies all the time.  Every day

11      he told lies.

12   Q.   Well, presumably you challenged him about that?

13   A.   No.  I was used to it.

14   Q.   Well, if we go back to the soap incident we talked about

15      a moment ago, then that must have been --

16   A.   The whole three of them were telling me a lie.

17   Q.   Okay, and so Christopher was one of the three?

18   A.   Yeah.

19   Q.   That was being told that they were telling lies?

20   A.   Mm-hmm.

21   Q.   Okay.  You then go on to talk about an issue with a blue

22      bathroom cleaner.

23   A.   Mm-hmm.

24   Q.   And you say:

25           "For years I thought he had taken something.  The

1 blue bathroom cleaner that had caused damage. I only  
2 found out he hadn't taken anything in the court case."  
3 A. Mm-hmm. That was the first I knew that he hadn't taken  
4 it.  
5 Q. Did he not tell you at the time that he hadn't taken the  
6 cleanser?  
7 A. No. He had it all around his mouth, blue stuff around  
8 his mouth. I was worried.  
9 Q. And I think you took him to the hospital?  
10 A. I took him to the hospital.  
11 Q. I think before you took him to the hospital, you'd given  
12 him water to drink?  
13 A. Yeah.  
14 Q. Is that right?  
15 A. What had happened was Dennis was away for the week and  
16 I'd had the children and -- let me just get his name --  
17 [REDACTED] was in the hospital. They'd -- we'd had  
18 a busy day. I'd cleaned the house, I'd got  
19 everything -- and they were playing in the -- they went  
20 to the park and they came back. It was just an ordinary  
21 day. And I was -- at the end of the day I just was  
22 checking on them all in their beds -- no, what had  
23 happened was I -- I'd gone in the bathroom and I found  
24 blue stuff in the bath and I thought what's that? And  
25 then I went upstairs to check on them, just to see if

1           they were all sleeping and Christopher had it all around  
2           his mouth and that worried me and I got -- I looked at  
3           the -- the bottle and it did say that it was -- it was  
4           just soap, right, so I thought, well, just to be on the  
5           safe side I'll get him to drink some water just to wash  
6           it through, then I put him back to bed. That's what  
7           happened.

8           The next day he was staggering about in the -- in  
9           the living room so I immediately got him to hospital.  
10          That was what happened.

11 Q. Okay. Now, if we move on a little in your statement to  
12          where you deal with this incident a bit more, it's on  
13          page 24 at paragraph 88. You talk about what you've  
14          just said, that he was staggering about all over the  
15          place, you got him to the hospital, then you say:

16                 "At that point Christopher appeared to be  
17          unconscious."

18 A. Unconscious. It was very frightening. They did a check  
19          for poisons, but they said that it wasn't what I'd had,  
20          it couldn't be that, that was harmless, he must have got  
21          something else. They says, "Have you got any tablets in  
22          the house?" We didn't have anything. They said, "He  
23          must have picked something up in the park", when he'd  
24          been in the park, and they treated him for that. Put  
25          him on a drip. The doctor said that I'd done the right



1 thing.

2 Q. Did the doctor suggest to you that it might have been  
3 water intoxication?

4 A. No, never. He said I'd done the right thing. He said  
5 "How did you know to give him water?" I said because  
6 I was a nurse. He says, "Well, you did the right  
7 thing".

8 Q. Okay. Now, I think you make comments in your statement  
9 about -- if we go on over the page to page 25 and  
10 paragraph 90, you say that at this paragraph:

11 "Whether he pretended he was unconscious I don't  
12 know."

13 A. Well, I don't know, but he wasn't unconscious when he  
14 got the drip. When he was supposed -- he was supposed  
15 to be unconscious when he got the drip, because they put  
16 the drip up because he was unconscious, but he was able  
17 to tell -- I just overheard him telling the other  
18 children about -- and this was the really thing about --  
19 about the needle had gone in and he said and then there  
20 was blood and then the blood went away and it was -- he  
21 gave a complete description of the -- and I thought he  
22 must have been awake and I asked him and he said --  
23 I said, "Was I there?" He said "Yes". I said "What  
24 I was I doing?" He said "You were crying". So he was  
25 perfectly awake when he got the drip off.

1 Q. Why do you mention whether he was unconscious or not?

2 A. Because I thought he was unconscious. I thought he was  
3 unconscious. Everybody thought he was unconscious.  
4 Doctors thought he was unconscious, the nurses thought  
5 he was unconscious.

6 Q. Okay.

7 Now, I'd like to look at something in Christopher's  
8 records about this, so CFS-000011320 and page 10.

9 A. I haven't seen these things.

10 Q. So if we can look at an entry 29 May 1977, it says  
11 there:

12 "Sunday-8 pm. Tel call from Mrs Campbell to my  
13 home. Chris is in hospital. On Saturday evening  
14 Mrs Campbell put all the children to their beds and went  
15 up later to see how they were. She noticed that Chris,  
16 although sleeping, had some of the blue liquid on his  
17 lips. She woke him up and he said he had taken some of  
18 the cleansing liquid for the bath. (This is a syrupy  
19 kind of mixture). Mrs Campbell therefore gave him  
20 a large amount of water to drink and he was sick."

21 And then it goes on to what you've described in your  
22 statement about him being dizzy and then taking him to  
23 the hospital.

24 Now, if we look down, please, to --

25 A. He was never sick, by the way. He was never sick.

1 LADY SMITH: Avril, can you just hang on until Ms Innes's  
2 next question?

3 A. Sorry.

4 LADY SMITH: We're trying to instruct rolling on the records  
5 at the moment. One thing at a time would be helpful.

6 MS INNES: Yes, so if we go down to the entry of 30 May  
7 1977, this is notes by the social worker at the time,  
8 I think Ms Auchterlonie, and you'll see an entry later:  
9 "Tel call to Dr Waterston."  
10 This is Ms Auchterlonie phoning the doctor.  
11 "He told me that it was thought that his condition  
12 was brought on by the amount of water he was given to  
13 drink by Mrs Campbell. He really had water  
14 intoxication. However, Dr Waterston took great pains to  
15 point out that what Mrs Campbell did, ie give Chris  
16 water, was the right thing to do in the circumstances  
17 and they could not fault her at all. However it was  
18 just one of these things that could although rarely  
19 happen. However the doctor said that Chris would  
20 probably be kept in ..."

21 So it appears from the records there that the doctor  
22 talked to the social worker about water intoxication.

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. Okay. And then if we go down to the next entry, 31 May  
25 1977, it says there:

1           "Home visit to Mrs Campbell. I explained about my  
2           telephone call to Dr Waterston and what he had told me.  
3           She said that she too had been told about the water  
4           intoxication but she had found this very hard to believe  
5           as she had never heard of this before."

6           So it looks like the doctor had spoken to you about  
7           water intoxication?

8    A. No, I don't remember any anything about that.

9    Q. Okay. And then there's reference to --

10   A. It did say I'd done the right thing.

11   Q. Yes.

12   A. (Pause).

13   Q. If you can just bear with me a moment, I just want to  
14           look at another reference, just bear with me. (Pause).

15           If we can go over the page, please, to page 11 and  
16           down to an entry 2 June 1977, it says there:

17           "Tel call from Mrs Campbell. Chris has now been  
18           discharged from hospital and Mrs Campbell has talked to  
19           him a great deal and it would seem from what he is  
20           telling her that he knows a lot more about the whole  
21           incident than he is letting on, ie he remembers things  
22           happening that he shouldn't if he had been  
23           semiconscious. He remembers the drip being put in and  
24           his ride in the ambulance."

25           So that's what you've already told us about in your

1 evidence.

2 A. Mm.

3 Q. And then it says:

4 "When Mrs Campbell asked him why he took the  
5 cleanser he said that he hadn't actually taken it, he  
6 had merely rubbed it on his lips."

7 A. That's not true.

8 Q. What's not true?

9 A. It's not true that he said that to me.

10 Q. Okay, so this is a record that the social worker took at  
11 the time.

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. Of a telephone conversation that she had with you.

14 A. With me?

15 Q. Yes. Because it says:

16 "Mrs Campbell ..."

17 A. " ... asked him why he took the cleanser, he said that  
18 he hadn't actually taken it, he had merely rubbed it on  
19 his lips ... seemed to come out then ... bottled up  
20 inside him for some time."

21 Q. So just focusing on the part where it says there:

22 "When Mrs Campbell asked him why he took the  
23 cleanser he said that he hadn't actually taken it ..."

24 A. I really thought he took it. I honestly don't know  
25 about that at all. Because right up until we were at

1 the -- at the court case, that was a surprise to me that  
2 he hadn't taken it.

3 Q. Okay. So you have no recollection of him telling you  
4 that he hadn't taken it at the time?

5 A. No. No.

6 Q. Okay. Right, we can go back to your statement now,  
7 please. And if we can look, please, at paragraph 80,  
8 which is on page 21. In essence, Christopher is saying  
9 here that there would be occasions where he would admit  
10 to things that he hadn't done just to get the punishment  
11 over with.

12 A. I don't know anything about that.

13 Q. Okay, so you don't know when he admitted to things,  
14 whether he had actually done them or not?

15 A. I can't really say anything about that. I don't know --  
16 I -- it -- that's news to me.

17 Q. Okay. Now, if we can look on to the next page, please,  
18 page 22 and paragraph 81, you refer here to a part in  
19 Christopher's statement where he says that the other  
20 children told you that he wanted to run about naked  
21 outside.

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. Did that happen?

24 A. Yes. But the thing is what had happened was the three  
25 of them came in and Emma said -- I think it was -- one

1 of them had said that Christopher wanted to go outside  
2 naked and I said to Christopher, "Is that true?" and he  
3 said, "Yes". I said, "Off you go then". And that's  
4 what happened. He was out just for a few minutes, he  
5 came in, I said, "Did you like it?" he said "Yes",  
6 that's exactly what happened.

7 Q. So first of all I think you know that Christopher's  
8 position is that he said no, he hadn't said it, and you  
9 put him outside anyway.

10 A. No, it's not true.

11 Q. Okay. Even if he said, "Yes, I want to do that", why  
12 would you put him outside naked?

13 A. Let's first -- the thing -- I didn't put him outside.  
14 He went outside himself. The -- I don't even know if he  
15 was naked because he just went into the other room to  
16 get ready and went out and came back. I never even saw  
17 him. But he used to come up with some unusual ideas.  
18 But it wasn't -- I didn't -- and the thing is, we were  
19 in a very quiet area and I thought maybe the quickest  
20 way is just rather than arguing with him -- but it turns  
21 out that the girl -- they were telling me lies.  
22 Sometimes you make mistakes as a parent.

23 Q. Okay. And I think you know that your daughter says that  
24 there was another occasion when the children told you  
25 that he wanted to dress up as a girl?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And you did that?

3 A. No, what happened, there was one time, they were  
4 going -- they were getting dressed up for some reason  
5 and he wanted to dress up as a girl and I let him.  
6 That's all. I didn't dress him up. He dressed himself  
7 up.

8 Q. Okay. And then if we can move on, please, to the bottom  
9 of page 23 and paragraph 86, you quote there from  
10 something that Christopher said when he and your son,  
11 I think, were put to their bedroom as a punishment.  
12 Your son was called down and admitted to it and went  
13 downstairs again.

14 A. (Witness shakes head).

15 Q. And then I think he talks about the other children  
16 gloating that he was in the room and they were having  
17 a good time and you and I think your sister were  
18 encouraging this.

19 A. Mm.

20 Q. Did that happen?

21 A. I don't know.

22 Q. Is it possible that it happened?

23 A. 86? Is that one time when he stole two pounds from my  
24 purse?

25 Q. Yes. It then goes on to say:



1           "When we got home Avril had realised the money was  
2           missing and she was livid. I denied it but [REDACTED]  
3           eventually admitted it. We were both told to go to the  
4           bedroom as punishment so we did. After a while, [REDACTED]  
5           was called down but I was left standing there.  
6           I smelled the food being cooked downstairs. When I was  
7           put to my room for days like this I didn't get any food.  
8           All the other children were told systematically to come  
9           to the bottom of the ladder and make sure I heard them  
10          saying how amazing and nice their food was."

11        A. No.

12        Q. Did that happen?

13        A. I don't know. I don't have any recollection of anything  
14          like that.

15        Q. Okay.

16        A. I think you'll find that Christopher's -- I don't know.  
17          He's said a lot of things and -- but I don't remember  
18          it. And I certainly wouldn't -- I wouldn't -- well, one  
19          thing I will definitely say. He wasn't put in his room  
20          for days like this and not get any food? Days without  
21          food? Not true. Completely not true.

22        Q. Okay. Would he be put to his room at all?

23        A. I don't know. But it's -- it's a long time ago. But he  
24          certainly wouldn't be put in his room for days and not  
25          get any food. That's a lie.

1 Q. If we can move on, please, to the bottom of page 27 and  
2 paragraph 99, Christopher talks there about the abuse  
3 getting worse when you moved to Auchterhouse. And he  
4 talks about you getting him up through the night and  
5 asking him if he had done something.

6 A. (Witness shakes head).

7 Q. Can you remember getting Christopher out of bed?

8 A. No. I didn't. I wouldn't get them out of bed when  
9 they're sleeping.

10 Q. Okay.

11 At paragraph 101 on page 28 Christopher talks there  
12 about a time that he was sent to a bedroom to get  
13 a nappy and some money had been left lying in the room  
14 and your husband was hiding in a cupboard. Can you tell  
15 us about that?

16 A. Well, I'll tell you what had happened. We got a bit --  
17 we did get -- he was doing this all the time, telling us  
18 a lot of lies, and I remember my -- my husband --  
19 I would never have done anything like this, but this was  
20 his idea. He was getting older and bigger and it was --  
21 it was in [REDACTED] and he would be -- 10? 10.  
22 And Dennis did try that. He sent him upstairs. He went  
23 and hid in the thing to see if he could see him taking  
24 the money. Christopher came up and he caught sight of  
25 him and he didn't do anything. But there was no -- no

1           punishment.

2   Q.   Okay, so Christopher says that he was given a hiding?

3   A.   No, he didn't. He didn't get it.

4   Q.   Okay.

5   MS INNES: Now, I don't have too much further to go but we

6           usually take a break in the middle of the morning.

7           I wonder if just now might be an appropriate time,

8           my Lady.

9   LADY SMITH: Avril, we've been questioning you for an hour

10          and a half or so now. If it would work for you for us

11          to take a break at this point, I'll do that --

12   A.   Okay.

13   LADY SMITH: -- and come back in about 15 minutes, would

14          that be okay with you?

15   A.   Am I doing all right?

16   LADY SMITH: Avril, do remember, as I said earlier, I know

17          it's difficult and we're having to press you --

18   A.   Yeah.

19   LADY SMITH: -- for I hope what you appreciate are obvious

20          reasons.

21   A.   Yeah.

22   LADY SMITH: If you want a break at any other time as well,

23          you have to say so but let's take a break now and have

24          a breather.

25   A.   Because I'll just say that we took him to try and help

1 and we tried to help but he was difficult.

2 LADY SMITH: I know, you've said that.

3 Let's have a breather and we'll come back in about  
4 quarter of an hour. Thanks.

5 (11.32 am)

6 (A short break)

7 (11.50 am)

8 LADY SMITH: Avril, are you ready for us to carry on?

9 A. Yes.

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

11 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

12 If we can go back to your statement, Avril, and  
13 page 29 and paragraph 103. You refer there to something  
14 that Christopher says, that when he moved to the  
15 children's home that:

16 " ... they found that I had scabies, ingrown  
17 toenails and something else which was redacted."

18 And you say that you don't know what he's on about  
19 there:

20 "I would like to see the records. I don't know how  
21 long he was in the children's home before that was  
22 done ..."

23 I wonder if we can look at the records, please, so  
24 it's CFS-000011320. And page 27.

25 At the top of the page we see an entry, 27 February

1 1981:

2 "Christopher was admitted to Roineach Mhor."

3 Which was the children's home he went to after he  
4 moved from you. So 27 February.

5 If we scroll down to 2 March 1981, it says:

6 "Visit to Roineach Mhor. Was informed by  
7 Mrs Jenkins that Christopher had settled in well. She  
8 also mentioned that Avril and Dennis had been up to  
9 visit Chris at the weekend with their son. At  
10 Christopher's medical exam [I think it's cut off  
11 slightly] it was discovered that Christopher had scabies  
12 on his bottom but this was being treated. His toenails  
13 were also excessively long and Mrs Jenkins was of the  
14 opinion that Chris had been somewhat neglected in the  
15 past months."

16 So that's a few days after he was moved to the  
17 children's home.

18 A. Mm-hmm.

19 Q. And that's what Mrs Jenkins, who I think it is a person  
20 that worked at the children's home, said about what had  
21 been discovered at his medical examination.

22 A. (Witness nods).

23 Q. So do you have any comment on that --

24 A. (Witness shakes head).

25 Q. -- now that you see the records?

1 A. No. No. I don't -- I don't know about that.

2 Q. Were you aware that Christopher had scabies?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And is it correct that he had been somewhat neglected by  
5 you before he went into the children's home?

6 A. Well, I wasn't in the habit of looking at his bottom,  
7 so -- you know, I wouldn't have known about any scabies  
8 or anything. And I don't know. He never -- he never  
9 complained about anything.

10 Q. And what about the more general comment that Mrs Jenkins  
11 made, that she is of the opinion that he had been  
12 somewhat neglected in the past months?

13 A. I don't know. I mean, I can't argue with her, but --  
14 I don't know.

15 LADY SMITH: What about his toenails, Avril?

16 A. I don't know. I really don't know.

17 MS INNES: Okay.

18 Now, if we can move back to your statement, please,  
19 and move on to page 32 at paragraph 113, and you refer  
20 there to Christopher talking about -- or saying that he  
21 was wanting to go back to Duncan Place.

22 A. No, he didn't. He never asked to go back.

23 Q. Okay. So he didn't ask to go back at any time that he  
24 lived with you?

25 A. Now, when would this be? He was 11. But ... because

1 I maybe spoke to him about the time about him going  
2 back. I don't know.

3 Q. He says:

4 "I had asked Avril when we were at Auchterhouse if  
5 I could go back to the children's home at Duncan Place."

6 A. He never did, no. No. But at the end of Auchterhouse  
7 I was starting to realise that I wasn't any -- I wasn't  
8 any good to him and I was worried that as he got older,  
9 a lot of teenagers have problems at school and  
10 I thought, you know, the way things are going ...

11 LADY SMITH: How old was Christopher when you left  
12 Auchterhouse?

13 A. He was five -- we had him for six years. 11.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS INNES: If we can look back, please, to the records  
16 at CFS-00001132 --

17 A. Ten. He was ten. Yeah.

18 Q. Yes, he was moved in February 1981 and at that time he  
19 would have been 10. He would have been 11 in [REDACTED].

20 If we can look, please, at page 22, and an entry  
21 18 February 1980. It says there:

22 "Phone call from Avril first thing today. Over the  
23 weekend she has had a fraught time with Chris. He has  
24 asked to be put back to Duncan Place children's home.  
25 She had a real heart to heart with him but he still

1           wanted to go despite loving the Campbells."

2           So can you not remember him saying that to you now?

3   A. I don't remember it. I don't remember it.

4   Q. Okay. So it looks like he did say to you that he wanted  
5       to go back to Duncan Place.

6   A. Yes.

7   Q. Okay.

8   A. Yeah, because he -- 11.2.80. Is that just before he  
9       went back into the --

10   Q. No, that's a year before.

11   A. Oh, no, I didn't know about anything -- I can't remember  
12       any of that.

13   Q. Okay.

14           Now, if we can go back to your statement again,  
15       please, and page 32 and paragraph 114, you're quoting  
16       from Christopher's statement there where he says in that  
17       paragraph:

18           "I would say whatever to appease the Campbells."

19           Do you think that he did that?

20   A. No.

21   Q. Did you --

22   A. I don't know.

23   Q. Did you tell him what to say when he was --

24   A. No, I never told him what to say and if he was saying  
25       things that weren't true I wouldn't know they weren't



1 true. But also he did tell a lot of lies, so it's  
2 difficult to know when Christopher was telling the  
3 truth.

4 Q. Okay. If we can move on in your statement, please, to  
5 page 34 and paragraph 120, you refer there to the fact  
6 that you don't have any criminal convictions from the  
7 court proceedings. You say:

8 "I am not aware of Emma making a complaint to the  
9 church."

10 So are you not aware of -- I think Emma told us that  
11 there had been discussions with you and her father and  
12 a Paul Clancy at the church about things that she was  
13 saying some years ago?

14 A. Sorry, could you say that again?

15 Q. So Emma's given evidence that there were meetings  
16 between you, your husband, her and a person called  
17 Paul Clancy at the church.

18 A. Yeah?

19 Q. In which she was saying that you had abused her?

20 A. No, I didn't know any --

21 Q. Did those happen?

22 A. I don't think -- no.

23 Q. Can you remember ever having any meetings or discussions  
24 with your husband and Emma and somebody from the church?

25 A. There was one time a long -- she was -- she was married,

1 a long, long time after -- and she was living -- she  
2 probably had four children at the time and she was  
3 complaining about me, but that was the only time and  
4 it -- and Paul Clancy wasn't there.

5 Q. Okay. So is it somebody else from the church that was  
6 involved?

7 A. Yeah, yeah.

8 Q. Okay. And then you go on in the next page,  
9 paragraph 121, and you say in relation to Christopher's  
10 allegations, you say:

11 " ... apparently there were allegations made a long  
12 time ago."

13 You think just against you and not your husband.

14 And you refer there to social workers looking into it.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So --

17 A. Yes, he made allegations against me but not Dennis.

18 Q. Okay. And were these allegations not ones that he made  
19 to the police?

20 A. No. No. They -- it was the police that came to see me  
21 and said that they didn't think that they were worth  
22 taking any further.

23 Q. Okay. So I think we know from Christopher that round  
24 about 1997 he went to the police and made a complaint  
25 about you.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And are you saying that the police spoke to you about --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- those at the time?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Okay. So when you mentioned social workers here, is  
7 that a mistake or was there another investigation by  
8 social work?

9 A. No. Just the court case.

10 Q. Okay. So just the police?

11 A. Yeah, just the police.

12 Q. Okay. At paragraph 123 you say that you and your  
13 husband felt that the police didn't treat you right?

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. In what way did they not treat you right?

16 A. Well, there was never a proper investigation. They --  
17 the -- there was one day they came and they said that  
18 they needed to see us because of something that had been  
19 said, and she was a bit nippy, you know, but she said  
20 that it would have to be within two days because she was  
21 going on holiday and it had to be done before she went  
22 away.

23 It was all quite -- it wasn't very nice. And when  
24 we found out what -- we went to the police station on --  
25 two days later and all this was given to us and -- and

1           they didn't -- didn't see anybody but Emma and  
2           Christopher and we didn't understand that. Maybe they'd  
3           been better speaking to some people that were around us  
4           at the time that they would have known better and we  
5           mentioned our children and our children -- said "How do  
6           you not see any of them?" and they did -- they -- the  
7           police -- I think it was the police -- arranged to see  
8           our children then but it was all already going forward.  
9    Q.    Okay. So in terms of the investigation, your concern is  
10       that the police didn't interview the other people that  
11       you've mentioned.  
12   A.    Yeah. Yes. They just interviewed people that Emma was  
13       interested in. In fact I think it was just Emma,  
14       Christopher and Emma's husband.  
15   Q.    And did they speak to you and your husband as well?  
16   A.    No. No, they just told -- straight on to the case.  
17       Never asked us anything.  
18   Q.    You can't remember being interviewed by the police?  
19   A.    They called us into the police and the -- she said that  
20       she was going to be asking me some questions but we were  
21       going to be charged anyway.  
22   Q.    Okay.  
23   A.    And the solicitor said just to say no comment.  
24   Q.    I see, I see. Okay.  
25        You then say, I think, that you gave evidence during

1 the court case; is that right?

2 A. Who?

3 Q. You gave evidence during the court case.

4 A. Sorry?

5 Q. Did you give evidence when the case --

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. -- came to court?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. If we go on over the page, please, to lessons to be  
10 learned, and you say at paragraph 126 that you think  
11 it's maybe gone too much the other way in terms of  
12 foster care because:

13 " ... they are now getting big bucks for looking  
14 after children and maybe the wrong people are being  
15 attracted to fostering."

16 A. Mm.

17 Q. Can you tell us your thoughts about that, please?

18 A. That's just what I -- I mean, the thing is we were going  
19 through all this -- all this -- it's been terrible,  
20 three years of -- it's been three years, this case has  
21 been going on. And we -- we only ever took Christopher  
22 to be kind. We didn't even expect any money. We didn't  
23 expect anything. And you just look now, they get a lot  
24 of money now and I just wonder if some people would be  
25 attracted to it that would be doing it for the money.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. You know, that's just a thought.

3 LADY SMITH: Avril, I see you use the expression "big bucks"  
4 when you say they're getting "big bucks" for looking  
5 after children now. How much are they getting?

6 A. Oh, I don't know, but I know they're getting a lot of  
7 money.

8 LADY SMITH: Well, how do you know it's a lot of money?

9 A. Sorry?

10 LADY SMITH: How do you know it's a lot of money?

11 A. Because I know foster parents. I know two foster  
12 parents.

13 LADY SMITH: Do you know how much these two people are  
14 getting?

15 A. I did know at one time, but I -- I don't remember. It's  
16 an awful lot more than we were getting.

17 LADY SMITH: Well, there's been inflation since you were --

18 A. Oh no, it's not inflation. It's a lot more. One of  
19 them gave up his job to be a foster parent.

20 LADY SMITH: But the truth is, you don't know how much  
21 money --

22 A. No, I don't know how much.

23 LADY SMITH: -- in terms of pounds per child per day or  
24 whatever?

25 A. No, no, I don't, I don't.

1 LADY SMITH: No. Thank you.

2 MS INNES: And then at paragraph 127 you say:

3 "I think if anyone was thinking about fostering now,  
4 I would tell them to be very careful."

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. What should they be careful about?

7 A. Well, find out everything they can about the child  
8 first, you know, and -- and what they can do for --  
9 Christopher -- Christopher didn't -- he wasn't in the  
10 best home for him. He needed to be maybe an individual  
11 child. I don't know. But I don't think we were the  
12 best people he could have gone to.

13 Q. Okay.

14 MS INNES: Right, Avril, I have no more questions for you  
15 and there are no applications, my Lady.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Are there any outstanding  
17 applications for questions of Avril? No.

18 Avril, that does complete all the questions we have  
19 for you this morning. I appreciate it's been a long  
20 haul but it's been very helpful to me to have you engage  
21 with us both by providing your detailed written  
22 statement, which is part of your evidence --

23 A. Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: -- and of course I've read and considered and  
25 by patiently listening to and answering our questions





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Dennis Campbell (sworn)

LADY SMITH: Is it all right if I call you Dennis?

A. Yeah, that's what I like.

LADY SMITH: You're hearing me speaking through a speaker

I think over there. I'm Lady Smith, I chair the

Inquiry. It was my voice you were hearing.

A. So I should be looking at you?

LADY SMITH: No, only when I'm speaking.

A couple of things first, Dennis.

That microphone is really important, if you can use it, it will help you and it helps us to hear you, so if you can try and stay in a good position for it, that will be really useful.

The red folder you'll be taken to in a moment, the folder that's at the end of the desk there, it has your statement in it, but we'll also bring your statement up on the screen. You might find that helpful. You don't have to use either of them but if it is helpful they're there for you.

Before I hand over to Ms Innes, though, there are a couple of other things I want to say.

First of all, I do understand that we're asking you to do something very difficult here. A public inquiry, a public forum, you're going to be asked about events that took place a long time ago and events that I know

1       you've been asked about a lot before. I'm not going to  
2       apologise for wanting to go through them again for you,  
3       because I'm sure you understand what the purpose of this  
4       entire public inquiry is and it's important that we hear  
5       from you what you can offer us to assist with our  
6       learning.

7             But I do understand it may be difficult and  
8       stressful for you. If at any time you want a break,  
9       please let me know because I do want to do anything that  
10      might help you give your evidence as comfortably as you  
11      can to give the best evidence you can, so let me know if  
12      there's anything that would help.

13            Separately, Dennis, in the course of our questions  
14      you may be asked about matters your answers to which  
15      could incriminate you. Although this is a public  
16      inquiry and not a court, you are entitled to exactly the  
17      same protections as you would be in a court, the same  
18      system, recognising that a transcript's being made of  
19      your evidence, it will be available to anybody who wants  
20      to look at your evidence later, and what that all means  
21      is that you don't have to answer a potentially  
22      incriminating question if you choose not to do so. But  
23      if you do answer, you must give a full answer, not just  
24      a partial answer.

25            Does that all make sense?

1 A. That's fine.

2 LADY SMITH: If you're in any doubt, please ask, just check.

3 A. Could you hear me okay?

4 LADY SMITH: I can hear you really well, that's very  
5 helpful.

6 A. Okay.

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

9 A. Okay.

10 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

11 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

12 Questions from Ms Innes

13 MS INNES: Dennis, we understand you were born in 1944?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. I'm going to refer to your statement, first of all. We  
16 give it the reference WIT-1-000001024, and if we can  
17 look, please, at the last page of that statement and at  
18 paragraph 94, you say there:

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

23 And I understand that you signed the statement on  
24 23 June 2022; is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. If we can go back to the beginning of the statement,  
2 please, and paragraph 2, you tell us there that you  
3 worked as a nurse and we're obviously focusing  
4 particularly on the time that Christopher Scott was  
5 living with you and your wife, so that was from about  
6 1976 to 1981. From what you say there, am I right in  
7 thinking that you were working in Ninewells at that  
8 time?

9 A. No. This is maybe going to sound a wee bit  
10 embarrassing, but I worked at a venereal disease clinic,  
11 I was a charge nurse. I'm giving it that title but  
12 nowadays it's just called special diseases.

13 Q. Was that a job that you did during the day? So was it  
14 a --

15 A. It was a day job, yes. It was a clinic.

16 Q. Okay. And you talk about working night shift, so was  
17 that at a different time when Christopher wasn't living  
18 with you?

19 A. That would be -- that was 1980 to 1995 I worked 15 years  
20 on night duty in Ninewells Hospital.

21 Q. Okay. So towards the end of Christopher's time with  
22 you, I think we know that you moved back into Dundee.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And is that when you started working in Ninewells?

25 A. That was when I started at Ninewells. We moved house,

1           we'd just had a baby and I moved job. It was three  
2           stressful things all in the one weekend.

3   Q.   Okay, right. So prior to then, when Christopher was  
4           living with you, you were working in a day job at the  
5           clinic?

6   A.   Yes. In that clinic. And then after I left there,  
7           I actually was a district nurse, so maybe I done maybe  
8           two years of that. Because I was in the clinic for  
9           three years and I was a district nurse for two years.

10   Q.   Right.

11   A.   And then that's when I went back into hospital life,  
12           Ninewells Hospital.

13   Q.   Okay. And when you were a district nurse, was that  
14           again during the day or did you have to do night shifts  
15           then?

16   A.   No, that was during the day.

17   Q.   Okay. At paragraph 3 you also say that you worked for  
18           a wee while on a part-time basis as a taxi driver?

19   A.   That's correct.

20   Q.   And when was that in the period --

21   A.   That would be ... that would be when I was in the  
22           special diseases clinic. That would be about 1976, but  
23           it was only for several months.

24   Q.   Okay.

25   A.   I was only doing that because my salary wasn't really

1           that high and I was only doing that to supplement my  
2           salary, you know.

3    Q.    Okay.

4    A.    I was doing maybe three evenings a week.  But  
5           I eventually packed that in.  It wasn't really such  
6           a good thing.

7    Q.    Okay.  So were you doing that in the evenings and  
8           weekends then?

9    A.    No, it was probably something like Monday, Wednesday and  
10           Friday.

11   Q.    I see.

12   A.    Maybe from about 6 to about 1 in the morning or  
13           something.

14   Q.    Okay.

15   A.    During the busy periods for taxis.

16   Q.    Now, if we go on over the page to page 2 and  
17           paragraph 6, you tell us that you and your wife Avril  
18           married in 1968 and then you tell us about your  
19           children.  You tell us that in 1975 your youngest child  
20           had died.

21   A.    Yes.  They called it a cot death because it's one of  
22           these things that they don't really know, it's called  
23           Sudden Death Infancy Syndrome.  She was 16 weeks, she  
24           was beautiful but it was very difficult.

25   Q.    How did your wife react after that?  Did she need some

1 support?

2 A. Well, it was difficult but I remember her sister came up  
3 from -- I think she lived in Wakefield. She came up and  
4 stayed with us for several months and that was a bit of  
5 support. But we just had to get -- you know, just get  
6 on with life again.

7 Q. Okay. And then at paragraph 7 you tell us that on  
8 23 November 1975 you were ordained as a bishop in the  
9 church.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And you tell us there that it's carried out on  
12 a rotational basis?

13 A. Yeah, well, the bishop, you're in charge of  
14 a congregation and it's -- it takes a bit of your time  
15 and that's why it's a rotational thing. I done it for  
16 five years and then what they do, they call another man  
17 to be the bishop, you know?

18 Q. Okay. Would that have been then from 1975 to 1980?

19 A. To 1980, yeah.

20 Q. So for most of the time that Christopher was living with  
21 you --

22 A. Yeah, I was bishop.

23 Q. -- you were a bishop?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Okay. You said a moment ago that that would require

1           some investment of time?

2   A. Well, yeah, I mean, as well as doing your full-time work  
3       as a nurse, then some of your spare time was taken up  
4       just trying to help people in the congregation and  
5       having meetings, administration meetings and various  
6       things. And so it consumed a wee bit of your time.

7   Q. Okay.

8   LADY SMITH: Is it a paid role?

9   A. Sorry?

10   LADY SMITH: Is it a paid role?

11   A. Oh no. It's all voluntary work in our church.

12   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13   A. It's not a paid clergy.

14   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15   MS INNES: And would it require you to be leading services  
16       in the church at the weekend, for example?

17   A. Well, it's a wee bit different in our church.  
18       There's -- we could have what you'd call a sacrament  
19       service but I didn't necessarily have to conduct it,  
20       I would just have to preside at the meeting, and there  
21       could be speakers, it could be two children that are  
22       giving talks or two of the sisters because lots of  
23       people get a chance to participate in our church. It's  
24       not just like for the one person up there, it's -- can  
25       go and spiritually, you can feel that there's lots of



1 people who have plenty to offer.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. So I could just be there just making sure things were  
4 right and -- you know.

5 Q. And then you mentioned that you would obviously have to  
6 be involved in administration --

7 A. Some administration meetings. They were usually held on  
8 a Thursday night and that would occupy maybe Thursday  
9 night and sometimes there may be firesides or other  
10 things. But some men are involved at the pub or going  
11 to the gym or doing other things. I put a wee bit of my  
12 spare time into religion.

13 Q. Okay.

14 If we can move on to the next section where you talk  
15 about how you and your wife became foster carers and you  
16 say that not long after your daughter had died you were  
17 approached by a lady in the congregation,  
18 a Rosalind Tipping?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And we know that she was a social worker and that she  
21 was Christopher's social worker at that time. What did  
22 she tell you about being a foster carer?

23 A. Well, my memory kind of fails me there, but -- so  
24 a lovely person, Rosalind. She was a member of our  
25 ward, the church. And she kind of looked at our family

1 and felt that -- you know, that we had Emma, [REDACTED] and  
2 [REDACTED], so she says, "We've got this little boy and I just  
3 think he would just fit into your family good, he's  
4 about the same age as [REDACTED] so it would be a companion  
5 for [REDACTED]", and she says, "And the very fact that you're  
6 two nurses, we kind of feel that you would be good".

7 We kind of went into it naively because we didn't  
8 really know much about fostering, it certainly wasn't  
9 for money because there wasn't really a lot of money  
10 involved in it, whereas today it's £35,000 a year.

11 Q. How do you know it's £35,000 a year?

12 A. That's what you get nowadays as a foster parent. I just  
13 made enquiries a few days ago. We were just on  
14 a stipend. We got very little. So there wasn't any  
15 money involved.

16 Q. So when you say you made enquiries a few days ago,  
17 who --

18 A. No, we've got some foster parents in our --

19 LADY SMITH: Hang on a minute, Dennis. Listen to Ms Innes's  
20 question.

21 A. Sorry.

22 LADY SMITH: Answer it. If you have any queries, do let us  
23 know, but we're going to lose track if we can't get  
24 an answer to the question you've just been asked first.

25 A. Sorry.

1 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes, maybe you could ask the question  
2 again.

3 MS INNES: Yes.

4 So you mentioned that you'd made enquiries a few  
5 days ago about how much foster parents earned.

6 A. Yes, well, that was an error with my speech.

7 Q. Right, okay, so if you can maybe go back and explain  
8 what you -- if we ask again: how do you know that foster  
9 carers are paid £35,000 a year?

10 A. Well, I'm going to explain that. I was speaking to  
11 a friend of mine in the church, right? He was asking  
12 how we're doing and all the rest. And he had fostered  
13 a little boy and it's been very successful, right? And  
14 he -- in the conversation, he said that the social work  
15 department has approached him in the last few days and  
16 they said to him that "We were quite interested in you  
17 fostering another kid", right? And that was when he  
18 told me, he said, "They've actually now offered me  
19 £35,000 as a salary", so that was how I -- I made  
20 a mistake when I said I made enquiries. He had actually  
21 gave me that information.

22 Q. I see.

23 A. So I'm sorry for that.

24 Q. It's fine.

25 Okay, so if we can go back to the time that you

1           became foster parents and you obviously spoke to this  
2           lady about fostering, she thought it would be a good  
3           idea, and were you given any information about  
4           Christopher that you can remember?

5    A. Well, as far as my memory goes, I don't think -- maybe  
6           my wife would help you, but I don't think we were really  
7           explained that he had been in several places before,  
8           although I think my wife, Avril, says that she thought  
9           he was in two or three places before, but it never  
10          really registered with me that it could have been  
11          a problem.

12                 But on hindsight now I think I would have liked to  
13                 have known why was he moved from these other foster  
14                 parents? But in naivety we just accepted it and we just  
15                 started fostering.

16   LADY SMITH: Dennis, I'm sorry to jump back a moment. This  
17                 business of a salary of £35,000 for being a foster  
18                 parent that you say you heard said by somebody at the  
19                 church.

20   A. Yes.

21   LADY SMITH: Did you tell your wife you'd been told that?

22   A. Sorry?

23   LADY SMITH: Did you tell your wife about this person --

24   A. No.

25   LADY SMITH: Listen, hang on. Did you tell your wife about

1           this person saying to you that they'd been offered  
2           £35,000 a year to be a foster parent?

3   A.   In the last few days? I can't remember if I did. Maybe  
4           I did. I don't -- I'm not sure.

5   LADY SMITH: Do you think you would have done?

6   A.   No, it didn't mean anything to me. Because I already  
7           knew that for several years now, this person,  
8           ██████████, told me that he was getting £30,000  
9           a year, but now it's moved up to 35. But the reason  
10          I brought that up, if you go back, see, I know that  
11          there were certain things that I've read where  
12          Christopher has said --

13   LADY SMITH: Dennis, I'm sorry, I have to stop you there  
14          because there's a lot of other things we want to ask you  
15          but just on this learning about the money, did you at  
16          any time talk to your wife about how much fosterers are  
17          now being paid?

18   A.   I can't remember.

19   LADY SMITH: You can't remember that?

20   A.   No.

21   LADY SMITH: All right, thank you.

22           Is it possible you discussed it?

23   A.   I didn't see -- I didn't see the point of it.

24   LADY SMITH: Is it --

25   A.   I didn't see -- what would be my motive?

1 LADY SMITH: Just a minute --

2 A. We're not even going -- I mean, we're finished with  
3 fostering so I didn't see how it would mean any --  
4 any -- I didn't see any reason for bringing it up but  
5 I could have.

6 LADY SMITH: Isn't it interesting?

7 A. Well, it was quite fascinating years ago when I found  
8 out that fostering was £30,000 a year. In my defence  
9 I was thinking that we never done it for money. I could  
10 understand why foster parents could look upon us quite  
11 a -- I mean, I never ever earned money like that as  
12 a charge nurse, so I would think it would be quite  
13 an attractive thing for money but we went into it  
14 naively on the basis of Rosalind Tipping telling us it  
15 would be a good thing and we just kind of got talked  
16 into it and we seen the logic to it. This wee boy was  
17 going to come, we were nurses and he was going to be  
18 a companion for [REDACTED] and Emma and [REDACTED] and we were kind  
19 of like talked into it --

20 LADY SMITH: Dennis, Dennis, I wasn't suggesting to you that  
21 you were doing it for the money.

22 One last question: do you talk to your wife about  
23 things that are interesting?

24 A. Sorry?

25 LADY SMITH: Do you talk to your wife about things that are

1 interesting?

2 A. Do I talk to my wife about things that are interesting?

3 LADY SMITH: Things that interest you.

4 A. I'm not sure what you mean by that.

5 LADY SMITH: All right. Ms Innes, carry on.

6 A. What does that mean?

7 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes, if you just carry on.

8 A. Talking about politics, about family?

9 LADY SMITH: If you could just listen to Ms Innes, Dennis,  
10 that would be helpful, thank you.

11 MS INNES: If we can go back to your statement, please,  
12 Dennis, and if we could look on to page 3 and  
13 paragraph 11, so you talk about the time that  
14 Christopher came to live with you and at that time you  
15 had three children of your own, as you've mentioned.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And then you say at paragraph 11:  
18 "When we were no longer working as foster parents we  
19 had four more children of our own."  
20 And I think you had some more children when  
21 Christopher was living with you; is that right?

22 A. If I said that, I made a mistake then.

23 Q. Okay, I just --

24 A. Because when Christopher was with us we had [REDACTED] and  
25 then -- and I think we had [REDACTED] -- I think we had

1       ██████████ and ██████████.

2   Q.   And ██████████.

3   A.   And ██████████. So that was just an error.

4   Q.   Okay, that's fine. I just wanted to clarify that.

5                You then talk in the next paragraph about training

6                and you refer to bringing up your own children, and

7                obviously, as you mention, you were nurses. At the end

8                of this paragraph you say you don't recall any formal

9                training being offered by social work?

10  A.   There was none.

11  Q.   None. So you didn't have training before you became

12                a foster parent?

13  A.   Sorry?

14  Q.   You didn't have any training before you became a foster

15                parent?

16  A.   What sort of training?

17  Q.   Provided by the social work department.

18  A.   No, none. And I don't say that as a criticism. I'm

19                just saying that we never had any training.

20  Q.   And did you have any training during the time that you

21                were a foster parent?

22  A.   No. No.

23  Q.   Okay. And on reflection do you think that training

24                might have been helpful?

25  A.   Well, I don't know. I mean, raising a family, does



1 people get training how to raise a family? Young  
2 couples get married and they have children and they do  
3 their best through love and there's not a manual comes  
4 with the birth. And maybe -- maybe all society should  
5 get trained in it, I don't know. But I don't know what  
6 benefit it would have been, maybe it would have been  
7 a benefit, but we never had any training and I don't say  
8 that critically.

9 Q. Okay. Where you're looking after a child who's in  
10 foster care, they've obviously been removed from their  
11 parents and they are in care. Do you think that there  
12 are any differences that might arise in looking after  
13 a child who's been removed from their parents?

14 A. Well, this is where the naivety comes in. Hindsight's  
15 the best teacher. When I look back now, obviously he  
16 was very disturbed but I never looked upon this little  
17 kid -- he just looked really nice, you know, he was  
18 a good-looking little kid and everything and I think he  
19 was disturbed. But on hindsight now, the very fact he  
20 was in several places before he came to us, he must have  
21 been really knocked about and probably disturbed.

22 Q. And do you think it would have been helpful, with the  
23 benefit of hindsight --

24 A. Yes, I think on hindsight, I think if I would have knew  
25 that maybe it could have been different.

1 Q. Do you think with the benefit of hindsight it would have  
2 been helpful to have had training in --

3 A. Maybe, yeah.

4 Q. -- dealing with a child who had been removed from their  
5 parents, perhaps?

6 A. Yeah, possibly, yeah.

7 Q. Okay. At paragraph 13 you mention, I think, that after  
8 Christopher left you carried on doing some foster care,  
9 but I think on a shorter-term basis; is that right?

10 A. Yes. Well, we -- I mean, I don't want to put it  
11 bluntly, but I think we had enough of full-time  
12 fostering. The social work department approached us and  
13 said "How would you feel about just short term?" and we  
14 thought well, okay, so we did do a kind of short term.  
15 Sometimes it was emergencies, you know, over a weekend,  
16 but we did have a little girl called [REDACTED] and her  
17 little brother [REDACTED], and they were with us for several  
18 months, which was a wee bit maybe longer than short term  
19 but we got pretty attached to them, they were really  
20 nice.

21 Q. You say there that when you were doing that, you did  
22 have a choice. You had a choice as to whether you  
23 wanted to accept a child at that point.

24 A. Yeah. It's a shame that she has to open it for me.

25 LADY SMITH: Sorry, Dennis, we seem to have a batch of

1 bottles that have very tightly screwed tops on them.

2 A. No, it's all right. [REDACTED] s stronger than me.

3 LADY SMITH: Is that okay?

4 A. Sorry, what was that last --

5 MS INNES: So you say that you would have a choice in the

6 short-term placements. You would be able to say whether

7 you would take a child or not on a short-term basis.

8 A. Honestly I just can't remember. I can't remember.

9 But -- but we had [REDACTED] -- we had [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for

10 several months and we really got on great with them.

11 Q. Okay. And then at paragraph 14 you say that you never

12 viewed the arrangement with social work as a form of

13 employment?

14 A. Oh no, definitely not.

15 Q. How did you view it?

16 A. I did -- as foster parents. It was just like substitute

17 parents for helping this little boy and do the best you

18 can with him with your family.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I certainly didn't look at it as employment but if I was

21 getting £35,000 a year I would.

22 Q. If we go over to page 4, you talk there about financial

23 support. At paragraph 17 you say that you don't

24 remember how much you were paid but any money you got

25 went into the family pot and was used as required.

1 A. Yes. I mean, I don't remember what we got but I can't  
2 even remember how it came, whether it went into your  
3 bank account. I can't remember.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. It certainly wasn't much.

6 Q. Okay. And was it you that managed the finances or your  
7 wife, the household finances?

8 A. I think the both of us did.

9 Q. Okay.

10 At paragraph 18 you talk again about the other  
11 children being there at the time that Christopher  
12 arrived and you say that you must have spoken to them  
13 about taking on fostering but you can't remember any  
14 specific discussion.

15 A. To be honest I can't remember.

16 Q. Okay. We've heard evidence from your daughter, Emma,  
17 that your family tended to be a place where children  
18 were seen and not heard. Is that fair?

19 A. Well, that's -- that's -- Emma's entitled to that  
20 opinion.

21 Q. But what's --

22 A. That's just not true.

23 Q. Okay. On page 5 at paragraph 24 you talk about  
24 Christopher calling you mum and dad. How did it come  
25 about that he called you mum and dad?

1 A. Well, let me explain that one. The first day he  
2 arrived, or maybe it could have been the second day, but  
3 he called us mum and dad. Now, I -- we felt -- we felt  
4 a wee bit uncomfortable about that. Maybe after several  
5 months if he called us -- I just felt a wee bit  
6 uncomfortable. But anyhow, we never said anything to  
7 him but we spoke with the social worker, who her name  
8 was Morag Auchterlonie, and we just bounced it off her  
9 and she says, "No, if he wants to call you mum and dad  
10 that's fine", so that was that. It was just unusual  
11 because we'd never been foster parents before and it was  
12 amazing how quick he actually started calling us mum and  
13 dad because we weren't his mum and dad, we were foster  
14 parents and we would probably have felt more comfortable  
15 getting called Dennis and Avril, which he --

16 Q. And you say that he called you Dennis and Avril when  
17 there were conversations I think or a visit with his own  
18 family?

19 A. Yeah, it was very interesting. After a while we were  
20 mum and dad, mum and dad, mum and dad, right? And we  
21 were -- the social work arranged us to meet his --  
22 I can't remember if it was just his mum -- no, it was  
23 his mum and dad and we were going to meet them and I was  
24 really nervous because I thought when we go there, he's  
25 got two mums and dads now. But I was really quite

1       amazed when we went in because he addressed his mum and  
2       dad and says, "Dennis and Avril just took us to the  
3       park", well, something like that. But it was amazing  
4       just the way how he was able to just reverse it as quick  
5       as that. And then I was glad he done that because  
6       I would have felt very embarrassed if he says "Mum and  
7       dad, mum and dad took me to the park". Do you see my  
8       dilemma?

9   Q. Okay.

10       If we can move to page 6 and look at paragraph 28,  
11       you're talking there about information that you were  
12       given about Christopher and you mentioned that you were  
13       told that he had a special diet, that he was coeliac,  
14       and he also had appointments with doctors about that and  
15       also with psychologists. I think he was maybe attending  
16       play therapy at the time.

17   A. Yes. He was -- there was lots of support. You know, he  
18       was getting regular check-ups with his coeliac disease  
19       and I think he seen the psychiatrist and whatever.  
20       There was really a lot of support from the social work  
21       department.

22   Q. Okay.

23       Then if we can move down to paragraph 31 where you  
24       talk about bed-wetting, and you say that was something  
25       that he suffered from; is that right?

1 A. Yeah. He did have some bed-wetting problems, but  
2 several years later we had another child that had  
3 bed-wetting and he was given a device, it was a kind of  
4 thing that a bell would ring and it would wake him up.  
5 That was with [REDACTED]. But, I mean, some children do  
6 bed-wet.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. But I'll tell you one thing, he was never punished for  
9 that because the last thing you want to do is punish  
10 a child with bed-wetting because you'll just get more  
11 bed-wetting.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. But --

14 Q. Was this an issue that you dealt with when he wet the  
15 bed or was it more your wife that dealt with it?

16 A. It was my wife.

17 Q. Okay. And would you be in the house when it would  
18 become apparent that Christopher had wet the bed  
19 overnight or --

20 A. Well, 40-odd years ago was I in the house? I don't  
21 know.

22 Q. Okay. You know that Christopher has said that he was  
23 punished for wetting the bed.

24 A. Oh yeah.

25 Q. Sorry?

1 A. Yeah, he said lots of things.

2 Q. And did that happen? Was he --

3 A. No, that's just a -- that's a heinous lie.

4 Q. And he has also said that sometimes your wife rubbed his  
5 face in the wet sheets?

6 A. That's another heinous lie.

7 Q. Okay. And that sometimes he was afraid to admit that  
8 he'd wet the bed because of the reaction that he got?

9 A. Lies.

10 Q. Do you remember him not telling you that he had wet the  
11 bed and it being discovered?

12 A. I can't remember that.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. That's possible that maybe -- maybe Avril discovered  
15 that he had wet the bed. I don't know. But she was  
16 very attentive to these things. Even to the point of  
17 where if she discovered he'd wet the bed, she made sure  
18 that he had got washed because she was so scared he  
19 would go to school and start getting bullied by people  
20 saying he stinks type of thing. So she was really  
21 a good -- a good mother and a good foster mother. And  
22 these are lies.

23 Q. Okay.

24 Now, if we can move on, please, to page 7 and  
25 paragraph 37, you say there:



1            "I worked a lot during the day but when we could we  
2            all ate as a family."  
3    A.    Correct.  
4    Q.    You'd all sit around the table together?  
5    A.    Yes.  
6    Q.    And it was your wife that did the cooking?  
7    A.    She always done the cooking. She would never let me  
8            cook.  
9    Q.    Okay.  
10   A.    Which I kind of regret because I would have liked to  
11            have learned, but she liked to do the cooking.  
12   Q.    Okay. And can you remember Christopher having any  
13            problems with what was served at dinner time?  
14   A.    No.  
15   Q.    Now, again you may be aware that he said that there were  
16            times that he was given things that he wasn't able to  
17            eat or didn't like and they would be served to him again  
18            at the next mealtime?  
19   A.    Pure nonsense.  
20   Q.    Okay.  
21   A.    Just lies.  
22   Q.    And that sometimes he would be served things that he  
23            would eat little bits of and it would make him sick?  
24   A.    Nonsense.  
25   Q.    And sometimes he said that he was so hungry that he

1 would steal food from a store of food that you had?

2 A. I would honestly say that's a lie. Maybe he did steal  
3 extra food but it certainly wasn't through hunger.

4 Q. And sometimes he would steal food from other children's  
5 packed lunch boxes at school because he was so hungry?

6 A. Well, I don't know what went on at school. But I do  
7 know -- I hope you don't mind me adding this, but he did  
8 say that -- I had read -- that he went to one of the  
9 neighbours and he was eating out a dog bowl. Just  
10 another lie.

11 Q. If we can move on, please, to page 9 and paragraph 43,  
12 you talk there you say about a time that Christopher had  
13 rubbed some chemical around his mouth and your wife had  
14 given him lots of water to drink and were you away at  
15 the time that that happened?

16 A. I was down in England. I was in London and I was down  
17 doing something with the church. When I came back my  
18 wife was very upset, she was in tears and really -- and  
19 she says that Christopher's in Ninewells Hospital so  
20 I got the story. But what she'd done and the medical  
21 profession says that was the right thing to do, if you  
22 suspect somebody had taken something, you give them  
23 water. I mean, I was a charge nurse in admissions in  
24 emergency. If someone came in as an overdose the first  
25 thing you done was give them water, to give them gallons

1 of water to try and wash the thing out. So she never  
2 done anything wrong there but Christopher feels he's got  
3 water poisoning now, that's what he said in the court.

4 Q. Okay. And you mention in this part of your statement  
5 that he was taken to Ninewells Hospital when he started  
6 feigning unconsciousness, is that --

7 A. No, what happened is I was in London. My wife says  
8 that -- she'd probably give you the best story of this.

9 Q. Yes -- sorry --

10 A. I think that she had -- when he got up in the morning he  
11 was kind of a bit dizzy and she just really just thought  
12 the first thing she done is I think she got somebody to  
13 look after the kids and she got an ambulance and he was  
14 taken to DRI and then he was transferred from DRI to  
15 Ninewells Hospital.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. But they never found anything that would be any harmful.  
18 They suspected it was some sort of clothing softener,  
19 right, that if he would have took that, seemingly it's  
20 harmless.

21 LADY SMITH: Dennis, you were talking about your experience  
22 as a charge nurse --

23 A. Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: -- on emergency admissions. Did I get you  
25 correctly that you said if they'd taken an overdose, the

1 first thing you do is give them gallons.of water?

2 A. Yes, it's called a gastric lavage.

3 LADY SMITH: That's fine, I just wanted to check whether I'd

4 picked you up correctly.

5 A. Yeah, you insert a tube --

6 LADY SMITH: Hang on. Gallons of water, that's what you

7 said.

8 A. Yeah, that was it, that was it. But my wife probably

9 wouldn't know that procedure, but for giving him water

10 she probably was going down the right road if she was

11 suspecting anything, she gave him plenty of water to

12 drink.

13 But Christopher has now said he's got a water --

14 I can't remember what he says, it was something crazy

15 about how he's allergic to water or something.

16 MS INNES: So you can't remember the term water intoxication

17 being used at the time?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And when you mention here that he was taken to Ninewells

20 Hospital and he started feigning unconsciousness, is

21 that -- were you there at the time?

22 A. No, I was in London.

23 Q. Is that something that your wife told you?

24 A. Yes. No, no, she never -- I don't think she said he was

25 feigning unconsciousness, but when I got back from

1 London, me and a friend of mine went up to the hospital  
2 and I've been in nursing for a long time so I've got  
3 a bit of experience and I just was -- I mean, I just  
4 wasn't convinced he was unconscious.

5 Q. Okay. So when you say in your statement there "He was  
6 taken to Ninewells Hospital when he started feigning  
7 unconsciousness --"

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- that's not something your wife told you? That's your  
10 own observation?

11 A. I can't remember how I got that information.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. Did I get it when I came back from London? We're  
14 talking about 1977.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I couldn't say exactly how I found out.

17 Q. Okay.

18 If we can move on, please, to page 10 and  
19 paragraph 50, you talk there about discipline. And you  
20 say:

21 "In the house I did regress to school tactics."

22 What do you mean by that?

23 A. Yeah, well, I have a -- I mean, hindsight's the greatest  
24 teacher. In round about -- in the 1970s, I regressed  
25 and I remember saying to the kids, "If you do that again

1       you're going to get the belt" and I took the belt and  
2       I gave them a belt across the bottom, right? I regret  
3       that, but at the time it wasn't against the law.  
4       There's 20,000 teachers in Scotland doing the same. Not  
5       against the bottom but when I was at school I used to  
6       get the belt and it was a kind of regular thing.

7             It became law in about 1987 that the belt was  
8       thingied, but when I look back -- as I say, I regret  
9       ever using it and I can only think it was once or twice  
10       but I can honestly say we were smackers and now smacking  
11       is now illegal as well.

12    Q. I'll come back to that in a moment but just staying with  
13       the belt, what kind of belt was it?

14    A. I can't remember exactly. It was a belt.

15    Q. Was it a waist belt that you would have on trousers or  
16       was it a tawse that you would have in school, like the  
17       belt they would use in school?

18    A. No, it was a trouser belt. I mean, I couldn't tell you  
19       the description. I mean, belts today are a lot bigger  
20       and -- I couldn't tell you how thick it was and all the  
21       rest.

22    Q. Was it a belt that you had?

23    A. Well, I must have had it, yeah.

24    Q. And you say that you would hit them on the bottom with  
25       this and would that be with their clothes on or would

1           they have to take their trousers down?

2    A.   That was trousers down and smacked across the bum.

3    Q.   Okay.  And when you hit them with the belt, how many

4           times did you hit them?

5    A.   I couldn't tell you how many times but it wasn't

6           excessive and there wasn't any bleeding, which I've been

7           accused of.

8    Q.   Okay.

9    A.   Just more lies.

10   Q.   And is this something that you used regularly?

11   A.   No.

12   Q.   The belt?

13   A.   I could only remember once but I could push it to twice.

14   Q.   Okay.

15   A.   And it was -- we were smackers.  And I know that that's

16           wrong.

17   Q.   And did you have any discussion with the social work

18           department about whether it was permissible to --

19   A.   No.

20   Q.   -- smack Christopher as he was in foster care?

21   A.   No.  Never had any -- no.  We weren't just smack

22           something Christopher, it was Emma, Christopher, ██████,

23   ██████.  You know, it wasn't an issue with the -- maybe

24           on hindsight now maybe there should have been

25           discussions about that then but it wasn't.  It was

1 a different world we lived in then.

2 Q. Okay. Now, you talked about smacking, so can you tell  
3 us about that? Where would you smack the children?

4 A. Probably across the -- the leg. Or maybe their hand or  
5 something. I can't -- I can't totally remember. But we  
6 were smackers.

7 Q. And would that be on their bottom as well, trousers  
8 down --

9 A. No, it was mostly -- it was just like a quick thingy to  
10 the leg or the hand. I can't remember.

11 Q. And I think we've heard evidence from your daughter Emma  
12 that she has a recollection of you hitting her in the  
13 face. Did that happen?

14 A. There was once -- there was a once isolated incident  
15 when she was a teenager. We had a real problem with  
16 Emma stealing and even the police were involved with  
17 stealing in the shop that -- it was a newspaper -- and  
18 I really -- it really annoyed me this day and I just  
19 lost it. My wife was on holiday in Scarborough and Emma  
20 ran past me -- she's a teenager now, she's about 13 or  
21 14, right? She ran past me and I just suspected that  
22 she was hiding something from me and I came up and went  
23 like that to her jersey and all these sweeties and stuff  
24 fell out and I lost it like that. And I slapped her  
25 across the face. It was a slap and I'll always regret



1           that.  It's the only time I've ever hit a kiddie across  
2           the face.  It was an isolated incident and that's what  
3           I done.

4   Q.  Okay.  So other than that time that you lost it with  
5           Emma, as you say, can you remember losing it with  
6           Christopher?

7   A.  No.  I've never slapped a child across the face.  That  
8           was an isolated incident and I was provoked -- probably  
9           I shouldn't have, but it was just the continuous lies  
10          and the stealing.  And I just snapped momentarily and  
11          I slapped her across the face.

12  Q.  Okay.

13  A.  And I regret it and I wept.  She'd probably even seen me  
14          weeping.

15  Q.  We've heard evidence from your wife that Christopher  
16          told lies all the time when he lived with you.

17  A.  Oh, he's still telling lies.

18  Q.  Would you agree with that, that he was somebody who  
19          told --

20  A.  He was a compulsive liar, yes.

21  Q.  And how did that make you feel?

22  A.  Oh, it doesn't -- you can't get close to people that  
23          lie.  There's a barrier.  And it's just -- it's just --  
24          it's hard.

25  Q.  Did it make you angry?

1 A. Well, I wouldn't say angry, but it's disappointing.

2 Q. And how would you discipline him?

3 A. Oh, I wouldn't, he wouldn't get smacked for that.

4 Q. Now, if we can move on a little in your statement,  
5 please, and if we can move to paragraph 58, which is on  
6 page 12. And you're talking there about social work  
7 visits and I think you say that most of the time when  
8 the social worker was coming to the house you would be  
9 out at work?

10 A. Again, I can't remember.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But I think my wife had more contact with the social  
13 work because if they came during the day there was  
14 a good chance I was at my work and that.

15 Q. You say at paragraph 58 that if you were the social  
16 worker and were looking to check on the foster parents  
17 then you would want to speak to the child on their own  
18 so you think that that's something important?

19 A. Well, as I've said already, hindsight's a great teacher  
20 and when I look at this whole thing now I think wait  
21 a minute, if I was a social worker I would definitely  
22 want to spend some time with Christopher and really find  
23 out how's the Campbells, how are they treating you and  
24 really get into his head. Now, I don't know if Morag  
25 done that, but she was a lovely social worker, and

1 I don't know if she done that but I would have thought  
2 that would be a good thing for a social -- maybe that's  
3 the training that social work should get, really try and  
4 get close to the foster kid.

5 Q. Okay.

6 If we can move on to page 13 and paragraph 63, you  
7 talk there about -- you begin to say there you have no  
8 issues with the social work department. The only issue  
9 is how you were dealt with by the police in the recent  
10 court case. I wonder if you can tell us what issues you  
11 have with the police.

12 A. Okay. This is going to be good.

13 I'm totally disgusted with the way we were treated  
14 by the police. We had two police ladies and I wish  
15 I could meet them now, not in anger but just to teach  
16 them something. They need a wee bit of more training.  
17 They interviewed Emma and Emma told them all these  
18 things and Emma would be very convincing. They told  
19 these two police ladies about everything and these  
20 police ladies bought it. They were -- the ball starting  
21 rolling to the Procurator Fiscal, right?

22 My son, who's a lawyer and he's very bright, he was  
23 disgusted and he put a complaint in to the police and  
24 it's very difficult to take the judicial system on, but  
25 they kind of -- kind of half agreed that he was right

1 and he says "Why didn't you not interview [REDACTED]? [REDACTED]?  
2 [REDACTED]? [REDACTED]? [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?"

3 Now, if you think, these policemen should maybe say,  
4 "Wait a minute, okay, we've listened to Emma, it was  
5 very convincing but I think we should see the other six  
6 children to see if we can get a sort of balanced  
7 situation about the parents". But they never done that.

8 But when my son put in a complaint, oh ho this is  
9 good now, then the police had to realise: oh wait  
10 a minute. So then they started interviewing, they  
11 interviewed my daughter by Zoom in Arizona, then they  
12 interviewed my daughter in Inverness by Zoom. They  
13 interviewed [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] -- no, so they had to do  
14 that because this was -- this was a powerful thing we  
15 had against the police force, right?

16 And I'll tell you something, that never went to  
17 court, it never would went to court if they had  
18 interviewed the rest of the kids because they would have  
19 found out from the rest of the children that we were  
20 actually not perfect parents but we were good parents  
21 and we never done the terrible lies that Emma and  
22 Christopher's got said.

23 So I am disgusted with the -- I'm happy with the  
24 social work department, we got treated like kings and  
25 queens but the police treated us disgustingly, right?

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So have I went too long there?

3 Q. I'm going to --

4 A. In fact I'm not finished with them yet because I'm going  
5 to really go and see them and I really would like to  
6 meet these two police ladies and see if there could be  
7 a learning curve for them, that when they do see  
8 somebody, maybe you should see the rest of the family  
9 just to see and get a balanced view, because I tell you  
10 something, that never would have gone to the Procurator  
11 Fiscal if they would have seen our other children.

12 Q. I think you say towards the end of your statement,  
13 Dennis, that you think the police need to be better  
14 trained in carrying out this sort of investigation?

15 A. That's what I've said just now.

16 Q. Okay.

17 If we can move on, please, to page 14 and  
18 paragraph 68, you start telling us there about some  
19 discussions with members of your family and I think  
20 first of all a discussion with Emma where you said to  
21 her:

22 "I told her if there was anything that she felt that  
23 I did wrong as a parent then I was sorry for that."

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. And then you say at paragraph 69 that you decided that

1       you would say the same thing to your other children.

2    A.  Yeah.  What happened was over the years we were always  
3       doing sackcloth and ashes, if you understand that  
4       statement, with Emma.  You were always apologising, you  
5       didn't even know what you were apologising for, just to  
6       try and get the relationship good.  Even when she was  
7       married I would have meetings with her.  And there was  
8       one point where the relationship broke down with her and  
9       her husband and ██████ had suggested that I meet with  
10      Emma, we met in a restaurant and my other -- ██████ was  
11      there and ██████ was there and I just says, "Look, Emma,  
12      if there's anything I've done" -- most of her things she  
13      was against her mother actually but I says, "If there's  
14      anything I've done, could you please accept an apology",  
15      this was me doing the sackcloth and ashes again.

16             Actually she was really quite nice.  I got a wee bit  
17      emotional and she got a wee bit emotional and I thought  
18      this is good and we had cuddles and it all went away.

19             At that point I started thinking, I thought wait  
20      a minute, I'm going to do the same with all the kids  
21      now.  So I phoned ██████ up in Inverness, she didn't  
22      have a clue what I was talking about.  I says, "██████,  
23      I --" and she says "What you talking about, dad?"  And  
24      I done it with the whole lot of my kids but they were  
25      just -- they didn't know what I was even talking --

1 I said I just feel I had to do that to just see if  
2 there's anything I've done, so if there's anything --  
3 I didn't want any grievances, like. And then a few  
4 weeks later [REDACTED] says -- suggested that I do the same  
5 with Christopher Scott -- am I going too far?

6 Q. No. So you then --

7 A. And I says well, that's a good -- okay, I'll do that.  
8 So it was quite interesting. I phoned -- I phoned  
9 Christopher, I can't remember exactly what, but  
10 I managed to make an arrangement with him and [REDACTED]  
11 asked me to take Emma with us because Emma knew where  
12 Christopher Scott's photography place was because Emma  
13 spends a lot of time down there, that's another point.

14 So I goes there and there's me, Emma,  
15 Christopher Scott and my son [REDACTED], right. So I'm going  
16 down there to do the sackcloth and ashes to apologise  
17 and Christopher done a very unusual thing. He puts his  
18 hand up and says, "Dennis, I've got nothing against you,  
19 you're a good guy, it's your wife Avril."

20 Now, this is like the mum and dad situation, right?  
21 See, if my wife had been there, I could put my life on  
22 it that he would have says to my wife, "Avril, you're  
23 the good guy, it was Dennis that was the bad person".

24 He just twisted the whole thing around on my wife.  
25 I didn't even know why I was there.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And I thought and I said "Well, what did she do?" and he  
3 started mentioning some of the things and I tell you  
4 something, they were very watered down versions of what  
5 went to the court in Bell Street and I says "What do you  
6 mean?" And he was just making out that she didn't keep  
7 her appointments and things like that and didn't follow  
8 his diet and all the rest, but there was never anything  
9 about the sexual things he said or the putting him out  
10 naked in the snow or telling him he would never see his  
11 birth mother and putting him without food for three  
12 days. These were all the things that came to the court.

13 Q. Okay. So just in terms of this sackcloth and ashes, as  
14 you describe it, were you in that context accepting that  
15 you'd done anything wrong or were you saying "If you  
16 think I've done anything wrong, well, I'm sorry"?

17 A. What I was doing was if there's anything -- if you've  
18 got some issues we me, Christopher, please let me ask  
19 forgiveness. That's what you do as a Christian. You  
20 say I'm sorry if I done anything and he said I was at  
21 good guy. He says Avril's the witch type of thing.

22 Q. Okay. Right, it's now just after 1 o'clock and  
23 I wonder -- I do have further to go.

24 LADY SMITH: Further to go.

25 MS INNES: So it might be a good time to take the lunch



1 break.

2 LADY SMITH: We could take the lunch break now and then sit  
3 again a little before 2 perhaps.

4 Dennis, we usually take the lunch break about now  
5 and if it's going to work for you I'll do that and we'll  
6 have a pause and sit again at about quarter to 2 to  
7 carry on with the rest of your evidence if that's okay?

8 A. Can I just say something just now?

9 LADY SMITH: Let's leave it until quarter to 2 because the  
10 system is, Dennis, you're here to answer questions.

11 A. Yeah, okay.

12 LADY SMITH: I'm sure at the end of your evidence Ms Innes  
13 will give you the opportunity to add any particular  
14 statement you'd wish to make and perhaps we can leave  
15 that till then because we're trying to keep a particular  
16 thread in the way we're going through matters with you  
17 at the moment. Is that all right?

18 A. Yeah, that's fine.

19 LADY SMITH: Very well. We'll stop now for the lunch break.

20 (1.05 pm)

21 (The luncheon adjournment)

22 (1.45 pm)

23 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Dennis, are you ready for us  
24 to carry on?

25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Innes.

2 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

3 Now, Dennis, if we can go back to your statement and  
4 page 15 and paragraph 73. You're talking there about  
5 the charges that you faced and you say there:

6 "I think the only reason that Christopher brought  
7 the charges were that he was suing the council for  
8 compensation and if he managed to get a guilty verdict  
9 against either [you or your wife] he would get more  
10 money from the council."

11 A. That's what I thought and that's what an advocate that  
12 was on my side thought as well.

13 Q. Okay. So you mention at paragraph 74 that there was  
14 an earlier time about 20 years ago that the police came  
15 to the house and raised allegations I think at that  
16 point, so we know that Christopher went to the police  
17 I think in 1997 and what happened with these  
18 allegations, do you know?

19 A. The two police ladies -- I remember that, they came in  
20 our living room and they said that there was allegations  
21 made but they never -- they wouldn't let us know. And  
22 it seems to just disappear because at that point he  
23 didn't have Emma. You need two. To go into a court you  
24 need two. It was only when Emma came on the scene that  
25 it made it more powerful because there was two witnesses

1           then.

2   Q. Do you know if Christopher had made any claim against  
3       the Local Authority at that time?

4   A. I couldn't tell you, no.

5   Q. Okay. If we can look on to the next page, please, and  
6       the specific allegations, you've given your response to  
7       the various allegations in your statement and I'm just  
8       going to refer to some of these.

9           At paragraph 76 you refer there to what Christopher  
10       says about the first night that he arrived and he says  
11       there that he essentially was made to get changed in  
12       front of everyone and your wife made him put a pair of  
13       your daughter's pants on. So were you there the first  
14       night that Christopher came?

15  A. I was there but I can't remember anything like that.

16  Q. Okay.

17  A. In fact I shouldn't really say that because that didn't  
18       happen.

19  Q. So your position is it didn't happen. Did it happen on  
20       any other occasion?

21  A. That would never happen.

22  Q. Okay.

23           At paragraph 77 you again quote from Christopher's  
24       statement and he talks there about various things and  
25       you say those are all lies and I'm just going to break

1           it down a little. Would Christopher ever be sent to his  
2           room as a punishment?

3   A. No.

4   Q. Would he ever be told to face the wall?

5   A. No.

6   Q. Would he ever have to miss his evening meal?

7   A. Never.

8   Q. Now, if we move on to the next paragraph you again quote  
9           from Christopher's statement there and this is about  
10          Christopher wetting the bed and he talks there that  
11          sometimes he was made to sleep on the stone floor in the  
12          kitchen. Did that happen?

13   A. Just nonsense. We did have a porch with a stone floor  
14          but we'd never put any child in there to sleep there.

15   Q. Okay.

16                Now, at paragraph 79 again you quote from  
17          Christopher's statement and he says there that when you  
18          came home from work your wife would tell you that, for  
19          example, he hadn't eaten his tea or that he'd done  
20          something wrong and then you would give him a hiding?

21   A. Lies.

22   Q. So did your wife tell you if he'd misbehaved during the  
23          day?

24   A. Just lies.

25   Q. So she didn't tell you at all if he'd misbehaved?

1 A. Well, we're going back 40 years and that. I mean,  
2 I can't remember what she told me but it certainly  
3 didn't measure up to telling me things and I went away  
4 and punished them. Just pure lies.

5 Q. Okay.

6 You've already talked about using the belt and  
7 you've given us your evidence in relation to that. But  
8 here you say in the middle of your answer:

9 "When I used the belt I can't remember how many  
10 times I would have struck them, it was more symbolic."

11 What do you mean by that?

12 A. Well, the thing is when I -- when they was misbehaving  
13 I says, "If you do that again you'll get the belt", that  
14 was more or less symbolic in the fact that you know this  
15 is more serious -- I'm meaning something serious here  
16 and I gave them the belt across the bum. I admit to  
17 that. I regret that. But as far as how many times and  
18 that, I mean, it wasn't excessive, it wasn't by the  
19 buckle and there weren't any bleeding or welts or  
20 anything or blood on the wall, which I've read in some  
21 of these other articles.

22 Q. Okay.

23 At paragraph 80, again you quote there from  
24 something that Christopher says and again he says at the  
25 end of that paragraph:

1 "Dennis sometimes lined us up and gave us the belt  
2 one after the other."

3 Did that happen?

4 A. No.

5 Q. So --

6 A. We're back to this belt thing again. It was a limited  
7 thing probably once or twice and it was in 1977/78,  
8 round about there. I don't know what he's talking about  
9 with lining them up and all that.

10 Q. So when you used it, was it just on one child or on more  
11 than one child?

12 A. Oh no, it was usually -- there was a -- I mean, there  
13 were -- there was -- there was Christopher, Emma and  
14 [REDACTED] and I think they were probably the main problem  
15 that I maybe gave them the belt but that was it. That  
16 was a very isolated incident.

17 Q. Okay. And would that be because they'd all got into  
18 trouble together or because --

19 A. Yeah, there was something that -- you know, they'd done  
20 something, I can't remember what it was, that I says,  
21 "If you do that again you'll get the belt".

22 Q. Did you ever have occasions where something might have  
23 happened and you might try to find out from the children  
24 who was to blame? Did that sort of thing happen?

25 A. I can't remember doing that. Maybe Avril would maybe

1           put a filler in that gap.

2   Q.   Okay.

3   A.   Because obviously she spent more time with them because

4           I was working.

5   Q.   Mm-hmm.   Okay.

6   A.   But it's just family life, innit?  If somebody says

7           something, maybe you try to get to the bottom of it.

8   Q.   I was just wondering what would happen if they refused

9           to admit to anything, what would happen then?

10  A.   Well, I don't know.

11  Q.   Would they all be punished, for example, or not?

12  A.   No, I don't think so.  No.

13  Q.   And I think you're saying that when you were using the

14           belt it was -- which house were you living in, can you

15           remember?

16  A.   I'm sure it was [REDACTED].

17  Q.   The first house that we've talked about?

18  A.   Yeah.

19  Q.   Okay.  And if we've heard evidence from Emma that you

20           used the belt right up until she was about 15, 16?

21  A.   Just -- that's just a lie.  You think I'm going to take

22           a teenager, girl teenager and take their pants down and

23           give them the belt?  I don't do that.

24  LADY SMITH:  Dennis, can you remind me when you left

25           [REDACTED]?

1 A. When I left? What date?

2 LADY SMITH: Mm.

3 A. [REDACTED].

4 LADY SMITH: What year?

5 A. Which year? Wait a minute now. We left Auchterhouse in  
6 1980. We must have left -- we must have left  
7 [REDACTED] maybe about 1978, I think, but I'm only  
8 guessing.

9 LADY SMITH: Right. Thank you.

10 A. Was that important?

11 LADY SMITH: I was just trying to get clear in my own mind  
12 what the timing of each of the moves and the time in  
13 each house was. It seemed to matter to you but you  
14 can't remember exactly.

15 A. Christopher came to us in 1976, so we were probably two  
16 years with Christopher in [REDACTED] and I think we  
17 always fancied the country and we got this -- managed to  
18 get this cottage in Auchterhouse and that was when we  
19 moved there.

20 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

21 A. But we left there in 1980 because I remember when  
22 I started at Ninewells Hospital it was 1980 and we moved  
23 back to Dundee.

24 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

25 A. Yeah.



1 MS INNES: Now, if we go on over the page to paragraph 82,  
2 again you're quoting from something that Christopher  
3 says there and he talks about one of the other children  
4 doing something and then Avril trying to find out who  
5 did it and he says:

6 "I would usually get the blame. After a while the  
7 other children used to gang up and blame me. Avril and  
8 Dennis always believed them and it didn't matter what  
9 I said."

10 And your answer to that is:

11 "It's a load of nonsense."

12 Did the other children gang up on Christopher?

13 A. No. No. I mean, family life, sometimes children have  
14 something against each other but that's just family life  
15 but there was never any ganging up on Christopher.  
16 Christopher was just sort of like one of the family now.

17 Q. Okay. And did you believe your own children over  
18 Christopher?

19 A. No, that's -- no. I'd never do that.

20 Q. At paragraph 83 and 84 I think again you're quoting  
21 there from what Christopher has said about Avril telling  
22 you that something had happened and then he describes  
23 you as the physical enforcer of punishment. As far as  
24 you're concerned, is that a fair description?

25 A. Let me read this. He says Avril was an evil person.

1           That would just give you an idea how he feels about my  
2           wife. He says she's an evil person. She's a witch.  
3           I just don't believe anything he says.

4   Q.   Okay. So can I ask you about the first sentence there,  
5           which says:

6                 "Dennis was more the physical enforcer of  
7           punishment."

8   A.   Yeah, we were smackers, and I would smack. Avril  
9           sometimes smacked as well. If you're wanting to know  
10          who done it the most, well, I don't know. I mean,  
11          you're getting into the stages -- who knows.

12   Q.   Okay.

13   A.   But we were smackers. And there were probably another  
14          40 million people in Britain were smackers, but we know  
15          it's all wrong now.

16   Q.   Okay. At paragraph 85 at the bottom of the page you  
17          quote there from Christopher's statement and this was  
18          an occasion when he says he was sent through to the  
19          bedroom to get a nappy and he says that you and your  
20          wife had left some money lying in the room and that you  
21          were hiding in a cupboard. Can you remember --

22   A.   Well, there is a certain amount of truth in that.

23   Q.   Okay.

24   A.   We did do a wee bit of a test there and it does sound  
25          a bit bizarre but he was stealing and Avril sent him up

1 the stair and I was hiding, I was in the cupboard, I was  
2 hiding, and there was some money that he -- he's really  
3 quite amazing. When he came into the room he just  
4 sensed that I was there and he walked out. I know that  
5 sounds a bit unfair but we just wanted to try and catch  
6 him. Sometimes parents do things like that.

7 Q. When you say he sensed that you were there, what do you  
8 mean by that?

9 A. Well, I -- I just sensed -- Christopher is an unusual  
10 child. He could reverse mum and dad like that. He  
11 could give the impression he took an overdose, right?  
12 He did unusual things. He's in Ninewells pretending to  
13 be unconscious but he wasn't. Never found anything that  
14 he took that was abnormal. And that incident when  
15 I felt he sensed -- I could be wrong, but I felt like he  
16 sensed that he knew that we were setting him up.

17 Q. And he says that he got a hiding after that.

18 A. Nonsense. Just another lie.

19 Q. Okay. If we go on over the page --

20 LADY SMITH: Sorry, so on that occasion your wife didn't  
21 actually need Christopher to go and get the nappy for  
22 her; is that right?

23 A. Say that again?

24 LADY SMITH: On that occasion, your wife didn't actually  
25 need Christopher to go and get the nappy for her?

1 A. I can't remember.

2 LADY SMITH: Well, you remember that this was a set-up to  
3 see if you could catch Christopher out.

4 A. Yeah, but I can't remember what she was -- what he was  
5 sent to get, a nappy or whatever. I don't know who the  
6 nappy would be for.

7 LADY SMITH: But you do remember that the set-up was that --

8 A. (Overspeaking).

9 LADY SMITH: Hang on, Dennis. If you speak the same time as  
10 I'm speaking --

11 A. Sorry, I apologise.

12 LADY SMITH: -- my stenographers cannot transcribe it.

13 A. I'm sorry.

14 LADY SMITH: So wait until I've finished.

15 You've told me that what you do know is that you and  
16 your wife had agreed to set up this scene to see if you  
17 could catch Christopher out taking money that wasn't  
18 his; is that right?

19 A. I vaguely remember that there was something like that.

20 LADY SMITH: Well, you said it was a set-up.

21 A. Yeah, I think we were setting him up, but I can't tell  
22 you the details of that. We just thought, well, you  
23 know, if he comes in the room and takes that money,  
24 we're just going to catch him. Because he was lying and  
25 stealing.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS INNES: And what --

3 A. So maybe that sounds a bit strange, but ...

4 Q. And what did you have in mind to do if he did take the  
5 money?

6 A. He would never -- he would get a telling off, but we  
7 never -- we never punished for that.

8 Q. If we can go on over the page, please, to page 19 and at  
9 paragraph 86 there's reference there again to  
10 Christopher's statement and he says:

11 "I think we still got the belt."

12 And he's referring there to the last house that you  
13 lived in in [REDACTED] but he says:

14 "It was more getting hit on the face and body with  
15 their hands."

16 And then he says that he saw the other children,  
17 [REDACTED], Emma and [REDACTED], getting hit by you.

18 And you say:

19 "I never hit any of the kids on the face."

20 A. I never ever hit a child on the face. One incident,  
21 which I've said in the last session, when Emma was  
22 stealing on a persistent basis and I -- I did -- I did  
23 lose it and I slapped her across the face because she  
24 was stealing again. She was about 13 or 14 then. She  
25 worked in a paper shop and she was stealing from, you

1 know, Mohammed who owned the place, a lovely man, and  
2 she was stealing on a regular basis and I was just  
3 really, really annoyed and I shouldn't have slapped her  
4 across the face but it was one incident, the only time  
5 in my whole life I've ever slapped anybody on the face.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. But for anything else, lies.

8 Q. Okay. And then at paragraph 87, again you quote from  
9 Christopher's statement and he says:

10 "According to my records, when I moved from the  
11 Campbells' they found that I had scabies, ingrown  
12 toenails and something else which has been redacted. It  
13 also said there were signs of neglect and my clothes  
14 were ripped and falling apart."

15 And you say:

16 "It's all lies."

17 A. Well, I would like to know -- my wife -- we were good  
18 parents and we were nurses and we were clean and we  
19 wouldn't have long toenails and there wouldn't be  
20 scabies or anything, right? Now, where that came from  
21 I don't know, but there's something -- there's something  
22 not right about that paragraph.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Now, I'm not necessarily saying it's Christopher that  
25 said that, but whoever's said that, there's something

1 not right because when we left our house he didn't have  
2 scabies, he didn't have toenails and there wasn't  
3 neglect. He was just clean like the rest of our  
4 children.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. So I don't know where this that came from but I can only  
7 say it's a lie and I don't know if the lie came from  
8 Christopher or somebody else at -- I don't know.

9 Q. Okay. Right, I'll show you a page in the records about  
10 this for your comment. So CFS-000011320 and page 27,  
11 please.

12 So this is from Christopher's social work records  
13 and I think you'll see that the first entry on that  
14 page is 27 February 1981 and it begins:

15 "Christopher was admitted to Roineach Mhor ..."

16 Which was the home he went to after he moved from  
17 you. Is that right?

18 A. I can't remember where he went when he left us, to be  
19 honest with you. If I was taking a guess I thought it  
20 was Duncan Place, but I don't know. I didn't even know  
21 what this Roineach Mhor is, but it must have been  
22 a place for children.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. But I don't know.

25 Q. I think Christopher had been in Duncan Place perhaps

1 before he went to you --

2 A. Yeah, he'd been there before, yeah.

3 Q. He went to this home afterwards. And if we just read  
4 down a bit just to help you see the context:

5 "Before taking him to RM [Roineach Mhor] explained  
6 to him that he would only be going to Roineach Mhor for  
7 a short time until we could find somewhere suitable for  
8 him. Christopher however did not appear to be  
9 interested in what I had to say and made for the car  
10 with his suitcase. Avril and two of the children  
11 accompanied us to Roineach Mhor to see Christopher  
12 settled in."

13 So that looks like -- it's just to help you set it  
14 in context. So we take from that that he moved from  
15 your house to Roineach Mhor.

16 A. I can't remember. Maybe my wife could help you on that  
17 one. I can't remember.

18 Q. That's 27 February 1981.

19 Then if we go down to the next entry, please,  
20 2 March 1981, so this is a few days later, the social  
21 worker says:

22 "Visit to Roineach Mhor. Was informed by  
23 Mrs Jenkins [who we understand to be a person who works  
24 in or worked in Roineach Mhor] that Christopher had  
25 settled in well. She also mentioned that Avril and



1 Dennis had been up to see Chris at the weekend with  
2 their son. At Christopher's medical exam [it's cut off]  
3 was discovered that Christopher had scabies on his  
4 bottom but this was being treated. His toenails were  
5 also excessively long and Mrs Jenkins was of the opinion  
6 that Chris had been somewhat neglected in the past  
7 months."

8 So I think that may be the source of the issue to do  
9 with scabies and neglect and long toenails. Do you have  
10 any comment now that you've seen the records?

11 A. I don't know what to say to that but I just know that  
12 our children were clean, they were bathed, they always  
13 had shining hair, their toenails would be seen to, and  
14 I can't answer that one. How he had scabies when he  
15 arrived in that home, it's beyond me.

16 Q. Okay.

17 Now, Dennis, I'm coming to the end of my questions  
18 for you but you mentioned just before lunch that you  
19 wanted to say something in addition to your oral  
20 evidence and your statement, I think.

21 A. Is it all right if I say that now?

22 Q. Do you want to tell us now? Yes.

23 A. Okay. What I'd like to say, I really appreciate the way  
24 I was treated with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Everybody's been  
25 really good, and I have no problem with today, and

1 even -- what's actually happened is over the last three  
2 and a half years, me and my wife have been through hell.  
3 We've -- we're pensioners, it cost us £9,000 to go  
4 through the courts. The money's nothing. My wife had  
5 a stroke a few days after we were arrested. Luckily  
6 enough it never left her with any speech impediment or  
7 any limb involvement but it's actually done something to  
8 her confidence and her short-term memory.

9 We went through hell for three and a half years.  
10 We've actually been acquitted by 15 jurors, right, that  
11 actually seen us, they seen through the lies, we were  
12 acquitted unanimously, not majority, unanimously, on all  
13 the counts.

14 The advocate seen through the liars.

15 I know I've been coming across -- I know I've been  
16 coming across a wee bit agitated and maybe a wee bit  
17 aggressive but it's no -- it's not directed to anything  
18 here. It's because these questions are now touching  
19 a nerve on me bringing up the past and just reminding me  
20 of the rotten stinking lies that's been told about me  
21 and my wife and that's why I've come across a wee bit  
22 agitated and maybe a wee bit aggressive but it's nothing  
23 to do with anybody here because you've all been very  
24 nice.

25 MS INNES: Thank you very much, Dennis. I don't have any

1 more questions for you and there are no applications.

2 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
3 questions of Dennis?

4 Dennis, that does complete all the questions we have  
5 for you. It just remains for me to thank you very much  
6 for engaging with us as you have done, both by providing  
7 your statement and I'm grateful to you for recognising  
8 the assistance and support you've had during that, but  
9 also by coming here today and being prepared to answer  
10 our questions, which I acknowledge were difficult ones,  
11 but as I've said before, I hope you appreciate why we  
12 have to ask them and the essential that lies at the  
13 heart of what we're doing here, which is to work out  
14 what the best is to do, particularly in the future, for  
15 all children who need extra help, such as those who are  
16 going into foster care and other types of care.

17 You'll be exhausted after today I'm sure, both you  
18 and your wife, and I'm glad now to be able to let you go  
19 and try to relax and move on.

20 Thank you very much.

21 A. Thank you.

22 (The witness withdrew)

23 LADY SMITH: It would probably be easier if I just rose for  
24 a few minutes for us to get organised for the next  
25 witness, yes?

1 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. And although I have met the next  
2 witness, I've not spoken to him since he came into the  
3 building so it might be slightly longer just to check.

4 LADY SMITH: That's fine, you just do that. Thank you.  
5 I'll rise now.

6 (2.14 pm)

7 (A short break)

8 (2.25 pm)

9 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

10 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady. The next witness remains  
11 anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Tommy'. 'Tommy'  
12 was a foster carer for Central Regional Council.  
13 An applicant using the pseudonym 'Patrick', who gave  
14 evidence on Day 312, 10 August 2022, was placed in  
15 foster care with 'Tommy' and his then wife from [REDACTED]  
16 1979 to [REDACTED] 1980.

17 Central Regional Council were responsible both for  
18 'Patrick's' care and for the foster carers. It's  
19 understood that Falkirk Council is the relevant  
20 successor in respect of 'Patrick's' care, they hold his  
21 records. There is evidence in the files that the  
22 Stirling area fostering team also had involvement with  
23 the foster carers, so both Falkirk and Stirling could  
24 have an interest in relation to 'Tommy'.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

1 'Tommy' (affirmed)

2 LADY SMITH: 'Tommy', that microphone's really important.

3 It'll help you to make yourself heard and it'll help us  
4 to hear you, including our stenographers who listen to  
5 you through the sound system. I think you're in a good  
6 position there, and if you can keep within that range of  
7 the microphone, that would be really helpful.

8 The red folder on the desk is there because it has  
9 the typed version of your statement in it that you  
10 signed and we'll also bring the statement up on the  
11 screen there in front of you. You might find that  
12 helpful.

13 But 'Tommy', before we turn to your evidence,  
14 a couple of things. First of all, thank you for  
15 engaging with us as you have. We've got a statement  
16 from you and you're here today to talk a little bit more  
17 about the evidence you can help us with and I'm grateful  
18 to you for doing that.

19 I know it's not easy to come into a public forum  
20 like this and talk about things that happened such  
21 a long time ago, particularly when they're to do with  
22 your own home life and your personal life, and  
23 particularly when some of the questions we have for you  
24 are going to be difficult ones, and you're well aware of  
25 that. I know that it may be stressful and that at some

1 point you may want a break or just a breather sitting  
2 where you are, so you must let me know if that would  
3 help, or if there's anything else I can do to assist you  
4 to give your evidence as clearly and carefully as you  
5 can, really to give the best evidence that you're able  
6 to give us.

7 So do let me know if there's anything that would  
8 help that I haven't thought of.

9 Separately, 'Tommy', it's possible that you're going  
10 to be asked questions the answers to which could  
11 potentially incriminate you. Now, though this is  
12 a public inquiry and not a courtroom, you have exactly  
13 the same protections as you would have in a courtroom  
14 and that means you don't have to answer any questions  
15 that come into that category, but if you do choose to  
16 answer them, you must answer fully.

17 If you have any worries or doubts about that at any  
18 time, you must let me know and we can go through it  
19 again.

20 If you don't have any questions at the moment,  
21 'Tommy', I'll hand over to Ms Innes and she'll take it  
22 from there, but do speak up if there's anything worrying  
23 you at any time, will you?

24 A. (Witness nods).

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Innes.

1 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

2 Questions from Ms Innes

3 MS INNES: Now, 'Tommy', we understand you were born in  
4 1950; is that right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I'm going to refer to the statement that you've given to  
7 the Inquiry. We give it the reference WIT-1-000000921.  
8 If we go to the last page of that statement,  
9 paragraph 156, it says there -- I think you'll be given  
10 the hard copy as well. It might be easier to look at.

11 A. (Overspeaking). Thank you.

12 Q. Okay, so at paragraph 156 it says:

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

17 And I think you signed the statement on 25 February  
18 of this year, 2022; is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Yes. Okay.

21 If we can go back to the beginning of your statement  
22 and you tell us a little bit about yourself. At  
23 paragraph 3 you say that you got a shepherd's job at  
24 a sheep farm near Stirling in 1972?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And you worked there until about 2000?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And then you did some other things after that.

4 At the bottom of the page at paragraph 4 you talk

5 about when you first became involved in foster care,

6 when you were married to your first wife. Can you tell

7 us why it was that you and your wife became involved in

8 being foster carers?

9 A. We had a big house, plenty of room, and we wanted to do

10 some good, basically.

11 Q. Okay. If we just go over the page to paragraph 5, you

12 tell us that you had two sons and a daughter at that

13 point?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Okay. What sort of ages were they at the time that you

16 started being foster carers?

17 A. I think my daughter would be about two or three.

18 Q. Okay. And is she the youngest?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay. And then two sons who were older?

21 A. Two sons, yeah. Same age as the foster children we're

22 talking about.

23 Q. Okay, we'll come to them in a moment. You say at

24 paragraph 6 that in terms of the application to become

25 foster parents, it was really your wife that dealt with



1           that?

2    A.   Yes.

3    Q.   And you talk about your job. Did you work quite long

4           hours?

5    A.   They were long hours but they your own hours. You

6           weren't set the times. The job had to be done and if

7           you didn't build a dyke then the sheep go out and you

8           had to go chasing after them so it was in your own

9           interests to keep up with your job.

10   Q.   Okay. And I imagine that there might be certain times

11           of year that you'd be busier than others, maybe?

12   A.   Lambing time, really busy.

13   Q.   Okay. Did that mean that your wife then was the main

14           carer for the children?

15   A.   Yeah, I would say so.

16   LADY SMITH: In your part of Scotland, was what usually

17           lambing time of year and how long did it last?

18   A.   19 to 22 April it would start. About three weeks.

19   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20   MS INNES: And then you tell us at paragraph 7 that you

21           think that there was maybe a meeting at the house about

22           you and your wife becoming foster carers?

23   A.   Yeah, I think so. I'm not sure. I mean, I honestly

24           don't remember, but I mean there was comings and goings

25           and most of the time I'd try and be -- I'd try and be

1           there but most of the time my wife dealt with it.

2   Q.   Okay.  And you also say at paragraph 8 that you would be  
3           working on the farm but you also worked away from home.

4   A.   Yeah, we had sheep being farmed all over Scotland and on  
5           an average, maybe one or two days a week.  Obviously at  
6           lambing time we were at home and other busy times, but  
7           on average, if you took it over the year, you'd be away  
8           one, two days a week to bring the lambs in and getting  
9           the fat ones out and taking them to market.

10  Q.   Okay.  You say at paragraph 9 that you think that  
11           references were obtained, and was that something that  
12           your wife organised as well?

13  A.   Yeah.

14  Q.   Did she approach people to --

15  A.   Yeah.

16  Q.   -- give their names to the Local Authority for  
17           references?

18  A.   Yeah.

19  Q.   Okay.

20  A.   I think her sister was one of them.

21  Q.   Okay.  And then you say at paragraph 10 that you didn't  
22           get any training at all?

23  A.   No.

24  Q.   So before you had the first foster child placed with  
25           you, you didn't have any training?

1 A. No.

2 Q. And while you were foster parents did you have any  
3 training --

4 A. No.

5 Q. -- during the time?

6 A. No, I just reckoned that being a parent already with  
7 three kids, you had experience to bring them up, but  
8 that was all, there was nothing, there was no meetings  
9 or that, the fact -- there was no training. Definitely  
10 not.

11 Q. And you say that on reflection that's something that you  
12 should have had, you think.

13 A. On reflection, yeah. At the time I didn't think  
14 anything of it. But I think if you're bringing up your  
15 own children who you've known from birth, but the foster  
16 children, you don't know their needs, but really what  
17 they're needing is a stable home and if you've got that  
18 in the first place, that should be all right, you know.

19 Q. Okay. So do you think it would be helpful to have had  
20 some training on maybe the different needs that children  
21 in foster care had to, you know, your own children?

22 A. Yes. I think to be honest if I thought I had to bring  
23 up the foster children different to my own children,  
24 I had a question doing it because they all lived in the  
25 same house and really should be under the same ways of

1           the house.  If that makes any sense.

2   LADY SMITH:  You said something very interesting a moment  
3           ago, 'Tommy', about bringing up your own children who  
4           you have known from birth.  And of course that's not  
5           just a matter of you having known those children from  
6           birth.  Those children have known you from birth.

7   A.  Yeah.

8   LADY SMITH:  Different with foster children, isn't that  
9           right?

10  A.  Yeah.  Totally different.

11  LADY SMITH:  Not only would you not have known them from  
12           birth but they've had a whole host of other experiences  
13           before they come to you --

14  A.  Yeah.

15  LADY SMITH:  -- that you know nothing about and they may not  
16           be in a very good position to explain to you.

17  A.  I mean, I think -- I mean, the way I would see it, they  
18           should be put into a situation where they've got  
19           counselling type people around them all the time.  They  
20           need a home, they need a house, sit and watch the telly  
21           and that, but people that are in the house with them  
22           should know what to do with their psychological needs.

23  LADY SMITH:  Ms Innes.

24  MS INNES:  Thank you, 'Tommy'.  So you think that people in  
25           the house would need to perhaps have some kind of

1 training to help them meet the children's psychological  
2 and emotional needs?

3 A. Yeah. I mean, it's difficult enough to get people to do  
4 foster care as it is, but having to pass exams to be  
5 able to do it, you know, which is really what you're  
6 saying, isn't it?

7 Q. If we can just look at paragraph 11, you mention about  
8 qualifications there and you say that obviously you  
9 don't need qualifications to bring up your own children.  
10 You refer there to having common sense, you don't need  
11 a degree.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay. But as you've been saying, you might need some  
14 additional training --

15 A. Well, sitting here now, you know, looking back at it,  
16 I don't know how you can do that.

17 Q. Okay. Thank you, 'Tommy'.

18 At paragraph 12 on page 3 of your statement you say  
19 that you can't remember whether there was any particular  
20 arrangement, but I think that you had some children on  
21 a short-term basis?

22 A. Yeah, two girls for around three or four nights,  
23 I think.

24 Q. Okay. And then you say that you had 'Patrick' and his  
25 sister for a longer-term placement?

1 A. Yeah. I don't remember it being for an amount of time  
2 when they came. As far as I can remember it was  
3 open-ended, but I don't know.

4 Q. When they came, did you think they were coming to stay  
5 with you indefinitely or --

6 A. I think so. I think so.

7 Q. Right, okay. Can you remember why it was that you and  
8 your wife had decided to take children on a longer-term  
9 basis?

10 A. Oh, I would imagine they were looking for somebody to  
11 take them and we had the room. I really don't know.

12 Q. Okay. So at that point that 'Patrick' and his sister  
13 came to stay you and your wife, your own three children  
14 were still quite young, as you've mentioned.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. So you had your younger daughter and then the older boys  
17 were about the same ages as 'Patrick' and his sister?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Okay. And so that was five quite young children in the  
20 house at the one time?

21 A. Six, weren't there?

22 Q. Six?

23 A. A wee girl. A wee girl the same age as my daughter, so  
24 there was six altogether.

25 Q. So there was another child that you were fostering?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And she was the same age as your youngest daughter?

3 A. Yeah.

4 LADY SMITH: So was that three foster children and your own  
5 three birth children?

6 A. Yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS INNES: How did you manage that? Did you feel that was  
9 quite a lot of children in the house or not?

10 A. Yeah, it was a lot of children, but it -- I suppose it  
11 did seem like a -- a lot of children, but I never  
12 really -- you know, I sit here now and see we had six  
13 children, it seems jeez, but at the time it just kind of  
14 happened.

15 Q. Okay.

16 At paragraph 13 you talk about your view of being  
17 a foster carer and you would say that you would say that  
18 you were self-employed as a couple, as foster parents,  
19 and that foster caring was a vocation.

20 A. I think so, yeah.

21 Q. So was it something that you did for the income?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay. You say in the same paragraph that you didn't get  
24 much of a say in the foster care arrangements, you'd  
25 just get a phone call?

1 A. Yeah. I think -- the way I seen it, they were looking  
2 for a place to put even a baby, and if you had taken one  
3 baby and it had been all right, then you'd get another  
4 baby and so on. I didn't see that there was any ... or  
5 from where I was standing, it didn't seem there was any  
6 great thought put into six children in the one house,  
7 you know. The house was big enough, got enough beds,  
8 but -- in saying that, I mean, I wouldn't have had  
9 that job, you know, trying to deal with kids that were  
10 in care and then try to place them somewhere.

11 Q. Okay, so you're saying that you've got some -- or you  
12 understand the difficulties for the social work  
13 department --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- in trying to place children in families?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Okay. And you say that sometimes you wouldn't get much  
18 notice. Sometimes it could be that night that children  
19 arrived and other times you would get a few days'  
20 notice?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Is that the sort of thing that happened?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay.

25 At paragraph 15, if we just go down a little, you



1           say that you never knew the circumstances of the  
2           children fostered.

3   A.   No.

4   Q.   So were you not given any information by the social  
5           workers about them?

6   A.   Not to my knowledge, not that I can remember now.  But  
7           obviously we were told that in some cases the mother was  
8           in jail, perhaps, or ill.  The two girls that we had for  
9           three or four days, their mother had to go into hospital  
10          and she had nobody to look after them and they came to  
11          us for I think it was three nights.  I took them to  
12          school.  I think it was only three nights they were  
13          there.

14  Q.   Okay.  So sometimes you might be told why they were in  
15          care?

16  A.   Yeah.

17  Q.   But beyond that were you given much information?

18  A.   No.

19  Q.   Okay.  And you say that you think that knowing the  
20          circumstances, so perhaps knowing a bit more than you've  
21          just mentioned, would have made a difference?

22  A.   I think probably it wouldn't have made a difference, but  
23          if I go back to what I say, I think the children are  
24          looking for a home, you know, not necessarily ...  
25          I think -- I don't know that one.  If you knew the

1           circumstances you'd make allowances, but then making  
2           allowances isn't treating them the same as everybody  
3           else in the house, if that makes sense.

4   Q.   Okay.  At paragraph 16 you talk about social workers and  
5           you say that you think that there was -- well, you talk  
6           about Jim Roberts, who I think was maybe 'Patrick's'  
7           social worker?

8   A.   Yeah.

9   Q.   And you say he stuck out.  Why did he stick out?

10  A.   He was a nice guy.  Very open.

11  Q.   Okay.

12  A.   Tried giving you -- he brought the mother up a few  
13           times.

14  Q.   And you say that you got to know him?

15  A.   Yeah.  Yeah.

16  Q.   And you say that he was there for the kids and for you?

17  A.   Yeah.

18  Q.   Okay.  So your understanding was that he was a person  
19           that was maybe helping you and also helping the  
20           children?

21  A.   Yeah.

22  Q.   Okay.  Can you remember having a separate social worker  
23           yourself for yourselves, you and your wife?

24  A.   No.

25  Q.   At paragraph 17, again you say:

1           "Thinking back I would say we definitely needed some  
2           help but at the time I thought I was a good father and  
3           could bring up kids."

4           So again you're suggesting on reflection you've  
5           maybe got a different view to the one that you had at  
6           the time about the level of support that you were given  
7           from the social work department. Can you tell us your  
8           thoughts on that?

9    A.   Definitely need more support. And at the time, yeah,  
10       I thought if we could bring up our own children, we  
11       could bring up other children but I really don't think  
12       that's the case. But I don't know how you give support  
13       to two children in a house when there's another four  
14       because as soon as you take time with one of your sons,  
15       the other one wants -- you know, if you took him out and  
16       did this with him then the other one's moaning because  
17       you took him. So how you do that in a foster home with  
18       your own children? When really ideally they should all  
19       be foster children in the home so they're all on the  
20       same foot. But how you do that, and give them a normal  
21       home, I really don't know. Somewhere in the middle  
22       would be -- would be right, but ...

23   Q.   Okay. And then I think you go on over the page to talk  
24       a little bit more about that and I think we've already  
25       talked to you about that in your evidence. So, for

1           example, you say it shouldn't just be about filling in  
2           a form, having somebody to come to look at your house  
3           and you become a foster parent. There should be a bit  
4           more to it than that.

5    A. Yeah. The house was a farmhouse and it was -- there  
6           was -- it wasn't fancy, but to me it was a home. So  
7           that's what the idea was, to -- to supply a home  
8           situation.

9    Q. Okay. Now, in terms of financial support, at  
10           paragraph 20, you say that you think you got  
11           an allowance per child from the council but you wouldn't  
12           have known how much that was, it was your wife that  
13           dealt with --

14   A. At the time I would know, you know, but I mean like I've  
15           not got a clue how much it was now. She dealt with all  
16           of that.

17   Q. Okay. You say as far as you remember, everything was  
18           put into a household pot?

19   A. Yeah.

20   Q. As sort of household income and used for the expenses?

21   A. Yeah.

22   Q. Okay.

23           If we go over the page to page 5 and paragraph 26,  
24           you say that there was no preparation given to your own  
25           children for the foster kids coming to live in your

1 home.

2 A. Probably sat them down and explained to them what was  
3 going on, you know, the older two, but there was  
4 nothing -- there wasn't a guidebook or a social worker  
5 came up and said -- I feel like I'm putting all the  
6 blame on social workers, but it's not the case. It's  
7 just the way things were and they were doing their job,  
8 you know, and they've all got their own lives to deal  
9 with as well, you know. But, you know, there was --  
10 children would be told that there was two other children  
11 coming or whatever, a baby was coming, things like that,  
12 but that was it.

13 Q. And how did your own children get on with the foster  
14 children?

15 A. Well, I thought they all got on well, but obviously  
16 there were -- there were four nine/ten-year-olds in the  
17 one house. There was always going to be fall-outs and  
18 arguments and things. But I don't remember it being  
19 horrendous or anything like that.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I mean, my own two could fall out without the foster  
22 children being there, you know I mean at that age any  
23 sort of other differences, but to me it was just normal.

24 Q. Okay. Now, at paragraph 30, so you're referring there  
25 to 'Patrick' and his sister coming to live with you, and

1       you again say that you weren't given background  
2       information about the children you fostered, not  
3       officially. You say:

4               "Looking back now I feel we weren't given sufficient  
5       information about any children we fostered."

6               And you say that you learnt more about 'Patrick'  
7       reading the documents the Inquiry sent to you than you  
8       ever knew before.

9   A. Yeah.

10 Q. And you mention there that you didn't know that he'd  
11     been abused by his father and stepfather.

12 A. (Witness shakes head). No, I didn't.

13 Q. And do you think that would have been important  
14     information for you to have been aware of?

15 A. You're trying to get to this bit where you're trying to  
16     treat -- make things normal. That's the whole idea,  
17     I thought. Then you see -- I mean, I see now that -- in  
18     things that had happened before he came should be dealt  
19     with in a different way, but if you don't know you can't  
20     do anything. But I don't see how it would have worked  
21     either because then if you get treated different to  
22     everybody else in the house ...

23 Q. Okay. Okay. So we'll come back to that in another  
24     context in a moment.

25               If we can look down, please, to paragraph 33, you

1           say there that you don't remember getting any written  
2           guidance or handbooks?

3   A.   None, no.

4   Q.   And do you think getting anything in writing would have  
5           made any difference to you? Do you think it would have  
6           been a good thing or not?

7   A.   Yeah, there would be more guidance. As I say, I see  
8           that now, I've seen that in later years, but at the time  
9           I was quite confident everything was going -- going  
10          good.

11   Q.   Okay. And you mention there, as you've said already,  
12          that children might have needs after what they've been  
13          through, they might have psychological needs, as you've  
14          mentioned already.

15   A.   Yeah. Obviously they do, but I'm not qualified to deal  
16          with the psychological needs.

17   Q.   Okay. At paragraph 34 you say that you think that  
18          'Patrick' and his sister were matched with your children  
19          because they were of similar age.

20   A.   Well, I assume that.

21   Q.   Okay. So that was your assumption of why the social  
22          work department had put them with you?

23   A.   They went to the same school, the Catholic school.

24   Q.   Okay. And you say that you felt that they settled in  
25          quite quickly to life with you?

1 A. I thought so, yeah.

2 Q. At paragraph 35 on the top of page 7 you say there that  
3 you can't remember them -- 'Patrick' and his sister --  
4 visiting before they came to stay with you and I think  
5 from the records they did come and stay for maybe one  
6 weekend or one overnight before they came to live with  
7 you.

8 A. Okay. I don't have any --

9 Q. You can't remember that, okay.

10 Now, if we can move on a little in your statement,  
11 please, to page 9, and at the top of this page at  
12 paragraph 49 you say that when 'Patrick' and his sister  
13 came to stay with you, they only had a couple of carrier  
14 bags each with them. Is that --

15 A. Yeah, they had next to nothing, just a couple of -- four  
16 carrier bags.

17 Q. Okay. So you remember them coming with carrier bags?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Okay. You say that they went away with lots of things  
20 and did they go away with things in a suitcase or was it  
21 bags that were used again?

22 A. Boxes, cardboard boxes.

23 Q. And after they left, can you remember the social work  
24 department asking you for some things that they'd left  
25 behind?



1 A. No.

2 Q. No, you can't remember that, okay.

3 If we can move on, please, to paragraph 62 at the  
4 top of page 11, and you're talking here about  
5 discipline. How was it that you would discipline the  
6 children? If they misbehaved?

7 A. Well, at the time the behaviour, possibly a clip around  
8 the ear or something like that. But as for punishment,  
9 it was withdrawal of games and things like that. One  
10 son was -- one of my own sons was a computer guy, he was  
11 inside, and my other son, he was always outside. So to  
12 punish them you'd bring the one who liked being outside  
13 in and make him wash the dishes and the other one would  
14 have to go out and feed the dogs. So that was basically  
15 just -- and other children, they were the same.  
16 Everybody had their chores to do.

17 Q. Okay. So you talked there about some sanctions that you  
18 might have given to your own children. And you talk  
19 about a clip around the ear. Can you describe what  
20 a clip around the ear is?

21 A. Not really. Just a clip -- just do something bad and  
22 get a skelp and that was it. That was the punishment  
23 done with and over with. There wasn't -- whether it was  
24 something that was thought about before they did it, in  
25 other words if they think about doing a thing, then the

1 punishment would be -- it would leave them to think  
2 whilst they feed the dogs or whatever. But if it was  
3 a snap thing like -- I don't know, swearing, a clip  
4 around the ear and that was it. But it wasn't a slipper  
5 or anything like that or a belt. It was just a quick  
6 clip around the ear.

7 Q. So was it a single hit?

8 A. Yeah, yeah.

9 Q. And was this something that happened frequently or not?

10 A. I'd say not, no.

11 Q. And thinking particularly in relation to 'Patrick', did  
12 you give him a clip around the ear?

13 A. I couldn't tell you.

14 Q. You couldn't really tell, okay.

15 A. I couldn't tell you how many times I gave my own boys  
16 a clip around the ear. I just know that they tell me  
17 now that they got it. I don't know whether that's just  
18 to make me feel bad or they really got it.

19 Q. Okay. Did you use smacking as a punishment?

20 A. No.

21 Q. If we've heard evidence from 'Patrick' that a clip  
22 around the ear meant a full-blown whack to the point you  
23 thought that your eyeballs were going to pop out of the  
24 front of your head --

25 A. That's very good with words, that's what that is.

1           That's written down in such a way. No way he got hit in  
2           the head that his eyes were popping out. If he got hit  
3           on the head. I honest to God can't remember.

4   Q. You can't remember --

5   A. Ever -- I mean -- maybe a clip around the ear, but that  
6           would be it.

7   Q. Okay. And I think you say at paragraph 62 that if you  
8           had known the way that 'Patrick's' father and stepfather  
9           had treated him, the last thing that you would have done  
10           is to give him a skelp around the ear. Can you tell us  
11           your thoughts about that?

12   A. I go back to what I said before. Really -- I don't know  
13           the psychological side of it, but to me if he didn't get  
14           the same punishment, whatever it was and whatever it was  
15           for, as the rest of the children, then that's treating  
16           him different and singling him out for -- not to be one  
17           of the family, to be different. I don't know the right  
18           way to go about dealing with that because I've never had  
19           any learning or experience at dealing with a child  
20           that's been hit by their father.

21   Q. But are you saying that you think on reflection, if  
22           a child had been hit by their father or stepfather --

23   A. The last thing they wanted was to be hit by their  
24           foster.

25   Q. Okay. At paragraph 63 you talk about other things, like

1           you've just mentioned, keeping the kids inside when they  
2           wanted to go outside. Were they ever or was 'Patrick'  
3           ever sent to his room, can you remember?

4   A. I can't remember, no.

5   Q. Is that possibly something that happened?

6   A. It's possible, yeah.

7   Q. And for what length of time would you send a child to  
8           their room?

9   A. Oh, I don't know. I can't remember doing it. I'm not  
10          saying I never did it.

11   Q. Is it possible that they might his their tea --

12   A. No.

13   Q. -- if they were in their room?

14   A. No. Television. Favourite programme, maybe something  
15          like that.

16   Q. Okay. If we can move on to the next page, please, and  
17          paragraph 70, as I think you've already said in your  
18          evidence, your children always seemed to get on well  
19          with the foster children?

20   A. Yeah.

21   Q. I think that you felt that 'Patrick' and his sister got  
22          on well with your children?

23   A. Yeah.

24   Q. Although they were fall-outs from time to time?

25   A. Obviously there was fall-outs but in general I thought

1           they all got on well. I didn't think a great idea  
2           sending two kids from wherever it was to a farm when  
3           they're used to being in the town.

4   Q. Right.

5   A. But then there was an awful lot of pluses for being  
6           where they were. You know, so it can't just be perfect.  
7           But 'Patrick' was like a duck out of water when he came  
8           outside. Could have ended up going on to be a shepherd,  
9           couldn't he, if he enjoyed it and had a taste for it.

10 Q. So they had lived in the town before so this was --

11 A. I believe so, yeah. It was quite a shock to be moved  
12           from the town to the country. But I mean they had --  
13           I don't remember his sister being outside much at all.  
14           'Patrick' was out all weather.

15 Q. Okay.

16           Then you go on to talk about the contact that  
17           'Patrick' and his sister had with their mother and  
18           you've mentioned that she came to the house sometimes  
19           and I think there was also a time that they maybe went  
20           to a children's home, Cultenhove, to see her or to  
21           see --

22 A. I don't -- I don't remember. I remember the mother  
23           coming two or three times and the social worker being  
24           there. But I didn't realise or remember or whatever  
25           when I read the statement that they were seeing their

1 mother and social workers at school. I'd forgotten all  
2 about that. I take it it happened, but ...

3 Q. Okay. So you can't remember them going elsewhere to see  
4 their mother?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You can just remember her coming to the house --

7 A. I think possibly they finished school and went there.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. Or met her at the school or something, and then the  
10 social worker brought them back, but I only remembered  
11 that since reading the social worker saying that he  
12 brought them up the road.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. It was a wee while ago, yeah?

15 Q. Were there any problems with their mother coming to the  
16 house or phoning, can you remember?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did you not have any --

19 A. I can't remember her phoning, to be honest.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. But she came to the -- I couldn't say how many times she  
22 came to the house. I have recollections of her there on  
23 three occasions but, I mean, she could have been there  
24 a lot more than that but I don't remember her, or  
25 I wasn't there.

1 Q. How did you feel about her coming to see the children or  
2 being in touch with them?

3 A. I didn't feel it did the kids much good, to be honest.  
4 It seemed to upset them in all the wrong ways.

5 Q. Okay. And did you speak to the social worker, can you  
6 remember, about the contact with the mother and say that  
7 there were issues with it?

8 A. I can't remember.

9 Q. Can't remember, okay. So 'Patrick' in his evidence said  
10 that sometimes his mum would phone and they wouldn't be  
11 allowed to take the phone.

12 A. No, no. I never answered the phone to his mother and  
13 refused them to speak to her. I never did that ever, so  
14 I don't know. I never answered the phone and if it was  
15 whoever, they would say -- but I never said, "You can't  
16 speak to the children". But she could have phoned and  
17 got my wife, but I don't think that would happen either.

18 Q. Okay. So you can't remember saying to the mum that she  
19 couldn't speak to 'Patrick' and his sister?

20 A. No.

21 Q. She might have phoned when you weren't there and your  
22 wife's taken the phone --

23 A. Highly unlikely, but it's possible.

24 Q. Okay. If we can look on, please, to page 13 and  
25 paragraph 80, you're talking there about listening to

1 children's views and you say that children's views  
2 should be listened to, whether they're in foster care or  
3 not.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. And that's your view. Did you think that 'Patrick' and  
6 his sister could speak to the social worker? Were you  
7 ever there when the social worker was around?

8 A. No. I -- 'Patrick' was very quiet. When he smiled his  
9 face smiled -- I just remember him being well-behaved  
10 and quiet.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. I never had conversations with him about his previous  
13 experiences or anything. It just wasn't mentioned.

14 Q. Okay. When it came to 'Patrick' and his sister leaving  
15 your care, if we move on, please, to page 14 and  
16 paragraph 86, can you remember how it came about that  
17 'Patrick' and his sister left your care?

18 A. Well, my version of it is, from memory, is that his  
19 sister had been caught stealing, not by me, by my then  
20 wife, and she had to be punished and we spoke to  
21 Mr Roberts about it and it was to be a withdrawal of  
22 privileges and she was going on a school trip and we  
23 decided, my wife and I, that she wasn't to go on the  
24 trip. And we phoned the school and told the school she  
25 wasn't allowed to go. And then the school bus came home



1           that night minus his sister. And we phoned the school  
2           and they said it's been allowed by the social workers or  
3           the social work department to go on the trip. And  
4           I just said that's it. That's finished. And then we  
5           told them just to leave her where she was.

6   Q. And --

7   A. That's how I remember it.

8   Q. Okay. And why did you say that's it, we're finished?

9   A. Because we had no way of disciplining somebody who was  
10          stealing.

11   Q. Okay. If we look on to page 15 and paragraph 88, you  
12          say that 'Patrick' and his sister never came back after  
13          that. So where had 'Patrick' gone at that point?

14   A. I don't know. I can't remember.

15   Q. Right, okay. And you say that you decided that you  
16          would stop being foster carers?

17   A. Yeah.

18   Q. Is that what you did?

19   A. Yeah.

20   Q. You stopped at that point? Okay.

21   A. There was something about a letter that was sent to the  
22          social workers. I wouldn't be writing a letter because  
23          I still don't write letters. Somebody else always does  
24          it for me. I can write.

25   Q. I think maybe did your wife write a letter complaining

1 to the social work department?

2 A. I think so. I think so. Explaining why we had done  
3 what we had done.

4 Q. And you mention that at paragraph 93 on this page, okay.

5 A. That's just the way I remember it.

6 Q. Okay.

7 You then go on, if we look at page 17, and you talk  
8 there about reporting of abuse. You say at  
9 paragraph 103 that you don't understand 'Patrick' and  
10 his sister to have raised any concerns about possible  
11 abuse.

12 A. No.

13 Q. You talk about an issue raised, that 'Patrick' and your  
14 son fell out, one of your sons stabbed him with a tent  
15 peg and 'Patrick' punched him back. After that, did  
16 'Patrick' run away, can you remember?

17 A. I do remember him running away. The farm was half  
18 a mile off the road, which was a C-registered road,  
19 single track, nearly, and that was ■ miles from  
20 Stirling. So he had nowhere to run to. I think he just  
21 hid somewhere on the farm. I honestly don't remember,  
22 but I remember he ran away that day.

23 Q. Okay. Can you remember the police being contacted that  
24 day?

25 A. Never ever.

1 Q. Can you remember a social worker bringing 'Patrick'  
2 back?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Is it possible that that happened?

5 A. Could have happened, yeah.

6 Q. Okay. At paragraph 104 you say that if concerns were  
7 raised with you, the only person that you would have  
8 been able to speak to would have been the social worker,  
9 and you say that you had more experience in dealing with  
10 children than the social worker did?

11 A. Well, probably a bit harsh but he was -- I believe he  
12 was unmarried with no family. I didn't see how he could  
13 really have any experience of bringing up kids, but then  
14 that was me being a bit -- I don't know what the word  
15 is. Probably not very nice. But the only reason  
16 I reckoned I could deal with foster children was because  
17 I had my own family, but ...

18 Q. Okay. Then if we go on to page 18 and paragraph 108,  
19 you refer there to the only allegations that have been  
20 made against you are the ones that you're speaking to  
21 the Inquiry about. And you refer to them being the same  
22 as the ones that you were arrested for in 2017, which  
23 were all dropped at court.

24 I think the police also spoke to you earlier in  
25 2005?

1 A. Yeah, the police were looking for me from Falkirk and  
2 I got a phone number to phone and I phoned the station  
3 and made arrangements to go down and see them. And  
4 I went down and they interviewed me with a tape on  
5 and ... in the end I just stood up and said I'd heard  
6 enough and they seemed to agree that -- whether they  
7 were finished or not. I think I signed the tape but  
8 I didn't make a statement like what this is.

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. And then heard nothing more and I don't know how many  
11 years later it is that the other charges came.

12 Q. Okay. So I think the police had spoken to you in  
13 about -- I think we know it was in about 2005 and you  
14 went to the station and you spoke to the police  
15 voluntarily, and then in 2017 I think you were arrested  
16 and spoken to by the police, and then there were court  
17 proceedings?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. But these were, I think, dismissed by the court?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay.

22 MS INNES: Now, I don't have too much longer to go, but I am  
23 conscious that you've been giving evidence probably for  
24 about an hour now and I wonder if we might have a brief  
25 break.

1 LADY SMITH: I think we should. 'Tommy', you've been very  
2 patient and you haven't asked for a break, but I would  
3 normally have taken a break in the afternoon before now.  
4 We need a little bit longer to finish your evidence, so  
5 I think it would be helpful to everybody if we have  
6 a short break just now. Would that be all right with  
7 you?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 LADY SMITH: Let's do that and we'll resume as soon as we  
10 can. Thank you.

11 (3.19 pm)

12 (A short break)

13 (3.32 pm)

14 LADY SMITH: 'Tommy', is it all right if we carry on just  
15 now?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Ms Innes.

18 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

19 Going back to your statement, please, and to page 19  
20 and paragraph 110, you quote there something that  
21 'Patrick' has told the Inquiry and he talks about  
22 a child in the household not being able to eat  
23 a Brussels sprout and he says that you hit her with the  
24 back of your hand and knocked her off her stool. Did  
25 that happen?

1 A. No.

2 Q. He's described that in evidence to the Inquiry as being  
3 you hitting her with the back of your hand across her  
4 face when she was sitting at the table.

5 A. No, she choked and I shot from my side of the table  
6 round and hit her on the back to unchoke her.

7 Q. Okay. So you hit her on the back of her body or the  
8 back of her head?

9 A. I was holding her arm and I hit her on the back, on her  
10 back to unchoke her and the sprout or whatever it was  
11 came out and she was brand new. I don't remember her  
12 sitting on a stool. I don't know where that comes from.

13 Q. Did you have chairs at the table or stools?

14 A. We did have chairs. I think if anybody's going to be on  
15 a stool, it wouldn't have been a three or four-year-old.

16 Q. Okay. Now, if we can move on to the next page, please,  
17 and to paragraph 120 where he talks about the children  
18 walking up the road and swearing and then your children,  
19 I think, reporting that 'Patrick' and his sister had  
20 been doing that. Can you remember that happening?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Is swearing the sort of thing that the children would be  
23 punished for?

24 A. I would say so, yeah.

25 Q. And what would be the normal punishment for that?

1 A. At the time, as I said before, if one of them swore and  
2 I was there, I'd just clip them round the ear.  
3 Punishment -- to my recollection, punishment didn't have  
4 to be dealt with that much at all. I mean, four kids  
5 coming up the road, they were nine, ten-year-old, and --  
6 I don't remember anything about it. Obviously if it  
7 happened, I mean, it happened, it's what kids do, is it  
8 not? You know, that's just part of them growing up, but  
9 I don't see why it would happen.

10 Q. Okay. If we go on to the next page, please, at  
11 paragraph 124 you quote from 'Patrick's' statement there  
12 and this is something that he says that happened after  
13 a film and that you and your wife came up to the room  
14 that he and his sister were sharing and set about him  
15 and his sister, hitting them all over their bodies, he  
16 says. Can you remember that happening?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. And you say at paragraph 125 that your  
19 recollection of 'Patrick' at that time was that he was  
20 quite small for his age, maybe?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And you yourself were much stronger at that time?

23 A. Mm.

24 Q. And if you'd hit him, would that have hurt him?

25 A. Well, what I've got ... what I remember from the -- the

1           2017, whatever it's called, when I got charged, it was  
2           punching and kicking. That's how I remember it.

3   LADY SMITH: Ms Innes is asking you about what happened at  
4           the time when 'Patrick' was living with you, not what  
5           you remember being put in a charge by the prosecuting  
6           authorities.

7   A. Sorry.

8   LADY SMITH: Can you think back to then?

9   A. No. The reason I was referring to that was what was  
10          said. If I'd punched and kicked 'Patrick' as it says in  
11          the charge, I'd run the risk of killing him. He  
12          certainly wouldn't be fit to go to school in the  
13          morning. And certainly my two sons that were in the  
14          house at the same time would have seen him in the  
15          morning having been punched and kicked to the degree  
16          that he says, would have seen him bruised or sore or  
17          something. Then when he went on the school bus or he  
18          went to his social worker or to see his mother, surely  
19          that would have been seen. And why didn't he report it  
20          to his social worker?

21   MS INNES: Okay.

22   A. The point that I made at the time, if I'd punched and  
23          kicked him as it says in the charge -- and that's why  
24          I said, because at the time I was a -- I stood the  
25          chance of killing him.



1 Q. Did you punch him?

2 A. No.

3 Q. When he lived with you?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did you ever kick him?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. If we go to the bottom of the page at

8 paragraph 128, you refer there to something that

9 'Patrick' said about cutting off the head of a lamb.

10 Are you okay to go on, 'Tommy'? Are you feeling

11 a bit uncomfortable or are you okay?

12 A. No, I'm fine. I'm just angry. I lambed 600 sheep for

13 24 years. Every year I had 600 sheep in my charge. You

14 didn't have to handle every one of them but you had to

15 help some of them. And I lambed a lot after that when

16 I left the farm but that's by the by. Thousands of

17 sheep.

18 And I can remember I would say a handful of times

19 you get presented with two heads out, one that's been

20 trying to come and gave up and then the other one tries

21 to come. Nine times out of ten if you have two heads

22 out, one's still alive, one's dead. So you take the

23 head off the one that's dead and put it back in so that

24 you can get the live one out. It's a gruesome thing.

25 And I would -- I can't guarantee to you the person

1           hasn't seen that. I wouldn't know. But the chances of  
2           him seeing that are -- so many thousand to one. Chances  
3           are my son told him the story.

4           And as for making him watch something like that,  
5           that's a load of -- why would you?

6   Q. So when you're describing this scenario, I think you  
7           said one of the lambs would already be dead and the  
8           other one would be alive?

9   A. Ones I've had to do -- took the head off, one was alive.

10   Q. So they would both be alive but their heads are coming  
11           out first --

12   A. Nine times out of ten one would be dead. Two heads out  
13           but one dead.

14   Q. I see.

15   A. I've only dealt with it a handful of times.

16   Q. And then would there be some occasions -- well, in the  
17           one out of ten times, would both be alive?

18   A. Only once I can remember having to decide which lamb to  
19           keep alive.

20   Q. And can you remember 'Patrick' being there on that  
21           occasion?

22   A. No, no.

23   Q. Could he have been there?

24   A. Highly unlikely, but nevertheless possible.

25   LADY SMITH: Was 'Patrick' ever out lambing with you?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS INNES: Is it possible that you asked him to choose which  
4 lamb should live or die?

5 A. No, no, no, no. No.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. You don't just choose. You would choose the healthiest  
8 looking one, the one that had the best chance -- I only  
9 did it once.

10 Q. And on the other occasions, as you say, one of the lambs  
11 would already be dead?

12 A. The easiest way to get the living one out is to put the  
13 dead one back in.

14 Q. Yeah.

15 A. I can't believe I'm discussing this in this environment.

16 Q. Okay. If we can go on to page 22 and paragraph 131,  
17 there's an incident that 'Patrick' describes there where  
18 he was thrown into a snow drift outside the house when  
19 he was wearing a pair of shorts and a polo neck sweater.  
20 Can you remember that happening?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Is it possible that something like that happened?

23 A. It's possibly he was thrown into a snow drift when we  
24 were all outside, it's like you throw a bairn into  
25 a swimming pool, you know, into a snow drift. That's

1 possible.

2 Q. Do you think it's possible that he could have been  
3 thrown from inside the house or inside the house  
4 straight into a snow drift?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Okay. And he also talked about a bucket of water being  
7 thrown over him. Did that ever happen?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Is it possible that it happened and you've forgotten  
10 about it?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. The way he describes it, it almost seems like you  
13 and your son thought it was a joke? So is it possible  
14 that something like this happened as a joke?

15 A. I wouldn't think so.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. If I'm allowed to refer back to my statement, in the  
18 statement it's my wife and me that threw him out into  
19 the snow and then in his statement to you, it's my son  
20 throws him out.

21 Q. Okay, so I think you say at paragraph 132, if we can  
22 just scroll down a little please, you say there  
23 depending on what you read, it's either you and your  
24 wife or you and your son.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And I think you're saying that in the criminal charges  
2 it was you and your wife that were supposed to have done  
3 this?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay. But here in 'Patrick's' statement to the Inquiry  
6 he refers to you and your son?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay. Okay, if we can move on over the page, please,  
9 page 23 and paragraph 134. This is an incident where  
10 'Patrick' says essentially he was not allowed to eat his  
11 dinner at the table and had to eat it in the toilet.  
12 Can you remember that happening?

13 A. No. No.

14 Q. Is it possible that it did happen?

15 A. Well, the toilet he referred to was a virtual outside  
16 toilet which was used when you were outside in your  
17 boots and things and instead of going upstairs you would  
18 go and use that toilet. It would be lucky to have  
19 an actual seat on it, let alone a lid to put a plate on.  
20 In fact it didn't have a lid any time I remember. And  
21 it didn't have a seat a lot of the time, so.

22 Q. Is it possible that a plate could have been put on the  
23 rim of the toilet?

24 A. I wouldn't think so.

25 Q. Okay.

1           If we go on to the next page, please, at  
2           paragraph 139 you refer there to 'Patrick' saying  
3           something about chocolate mousse that was made on one  
4           occasion. At paragraph 140 you say that 'Patrick' was  
5           somebody that was supposedly frightened to talk up, yet  
6           he walked into the kitchen and asked your wife what was  
7           for pudding, and I wonder if you can explain, first of  
8           all, where did your understanding come from that  
9           'Patrick' was frightened to talk up?  
10          A. From his statement.  
11          Q. Okay. And I suppose one might say that there might be  
12           a difference in asking what's for dinner and perhaps  
13           talking about things that are going wrong at home?  
14          A. Mm.  
15          Q. Do you accept that or not?  
16          A. I don't really understand what you're saying.  
17          Q. Okay. Well, he might be frightened to tell the social  
18           work department how he felt about living at your house,  
19           that might be different to asking what's for dinner.  
20          A. I don't see the -- I mean, speaking to the social  
21           worker, it would be on his own with the social worker or  
22           his mother would be there. Surely it would be easier to  
23           talk to a social worker then.  
24          Q. Okay. Okay.  
25           Then the next paragraph, paragraph 141, this is

1       where 'Patrick' says that he had to call you uncle and  
2       auntie. Can you remember what he called you when he  
3       lived with you?

4   A. Honestly, no. The honest answer is no. But it wouldn't  
5       have been mum and dad and it wouldn't have been uncle  
6       and auntie. It would be FKG and FKA.

7   Q. Okay.

8   A. But I don't remember -- and I certainly -- he says "We  
9       had to call them auntie and uncle", that's -- I don't  
10      remember -- I'm sitting here saying I don't remember  
11      what they called me yet I'm saying it's rubbish -- they  
12      wouldn't get a row for not calling me uncle or -- you  
13      know, I wasn't his uncle and I certainly wasn't his dad,  
14      so that only leaves FKG, doesn't it?

15  Q. Okay.

16             If we look on to paragraph 143, you see that  
17      'Patrick' says that both you and your wife used to tell  
18      him to lower his eyes and he didn't understand what was  
19      meant by this. And in his evidence he told us that this  
20      involved having to stand and bow with your eyes looking  
21      at the floor. If you looked up, then you would be told  
22      to lower your eyes again. Is that something that you  
23      and your wife did?

24  A. No.

25  Q. Okay. Then if we look at paragraph -- just bear with me

1 a moment -- sorry, paragraph 146, on page 25, 'Patrick'  
2 talks there about being punished in his bedroom and then  
3 I think he's told to take his trousers down and you  
4 would hit him across the buttocks. So smacking him.

5 A. (Witness shakes head).

6 Q. Is that something that happened?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay.

9 At the end of your evidence on page 26 and  
10 paragraph 155 you say there:

11 "This is all quite ridiculous when I think about it.  
12 I've been asked so many questions about fostering  
13 children and there is so much that I feel we should have  
14 been told that we were never told."

15 So can you explain what you mean when you say, "This  
16 is all quite ridiculous"?

17 A. Well, sitting here right now is ridiculous, as far as  
18 I'm concerned.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. I don't -- if I'm doing some good in what I've said,  
21 from what my experience is, well, that's one thing. But  
22 the reason I'm here is another.

23 Q. Okay. Can I ask you, please, to look at one page in the  
24 records, please. It's at FAC-000000104 and it's at  
25 page 16. If we can just go up a little, please, so we



1 can see what this letter is. This is a letter dated 16  
2 May 1980 and I think it's from Mr Roberts, the social  
3 worker, to a Miss Fox, the psychologist.

4 If we scroll down a little, please, and there's  
5 a paragraph "Regarding [blank]", and I'm going to miss  
6 out the first sentence, that's not about 'Patrick', and  
7 then it goes on to say:

8 "Concerning 'Patrick' and his sister, they were  
9 quite talkative and also a bit upset on the return car  
10 journey to the farm on Wednesday, mainly about you and  
11 your wife's management of them which they seem to view  
12 as harsh. For example, they feel that they are 'always  
13 getting rows', even more so than at home."

14 Now, just pausing there, I think 'Tommy', this is  
15 perhaps an excerpt from -- you've perhaps seen  
16 an excerpt from these records recently when you've given  
17 a statement to solicitors acting for Falkirk Council; is  
18 that right?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay.

21 In terms of this sentence which says that 'Patrick'  
22 and his sister view your management of them as harsh,  
23 what is your comment in relation to that?

24 A. Well, I think the word "harsh" -- you know, what -- the  
25 date that I've got for it is the 5th -- sorry, in the

1 5th month he's saying that his treatment's been harsh,  
2 whereas in the time he was at the farm, what happened to  
3 him that winter was that he was thrown outside, a bucket  
4 of water put over him, made to sit on his own for two  
5 months or something or 60-odd days, et cetera,  
6 et cetera. And to refer to his treatment -- if that all  
7 happened to him, to refer to his treatment as "harsh",  
8 that's an -- I don't know the word.

9 Q. An understatement?

10 A. An understatement.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. It seems a funny word, "harsh", when this has supposedly  
13 all being done to him.

14 LADY SMITH: Well, of course, that word is not reported as  
15 the children's language but it's the language used by  
16 the author of this letter. You see what I mean?

17 A. Yeah, but when I read it in the -- when I seen it and  
18 I read it again and I took -- you know, it says the  
19 children's -- children's opinion was that the treatment  
20 was harsh.

21 LADY SMITH: Where the author of this letter is quoting  
22 exactly what the children said, it's put in quotation  
23 marks. If it's the author of the letter summarising the  
24 impression they had, it's the author's language. So  
25 I don't think you should take that word "harsh" as

1 a word used by either of the children. Do you see what  
2 I mean, 'Tommy'? If you look at it, there's no  
3 quotation marks around the word "harsh".

4 Ms Innes?

5 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

6 If we can just look on to some of the other things  
7 that are said here for your comments, at this time it's  
8 reported that they stated that your two sons also got  
9 them into trouble or blamed them if anything went wrong  
10 and they were playing out together.

11 Did that sort of thing happen?

12 A. Not on a regular basis that I remember, but there's four  
13 ten-year-old or three ten-year-old boys playing  
14 together.

15 Q. Okay. And then it says:

16 "The children also felt that you and your wife were  
17 inconsistent with them [and this is in quotes and they  
18 said] 'they fall in with us and fall out with us' ..."

19 Is that something you and your wife did?

20 A. No. Not that I'm aware of.

21 Q. And then they say that this was usually when they were  
22 due to see their mother.

23 A. (Witness shakes head).

24 Q. And then it goes on to say:

25 "Further, 'Patrick' stated that he was [and then in

1 quotes] 'frightened to say the wrong thing' in the  
2 foster home, for example call you by your first name,  
3 which you dislike, instead of uncle."

4 And then your first name?

5 A. I have no -- no recollection of that at all.

6 Q. Okay.

7 MS INNES: Right, okay. Thank you, 'Tommy', I don't have  
8 any more questions for you and there are no  
9 applications, my Lady.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you. Are there any applications for  
11 questions for 'Tommy'?

12 'Tommy', it just remains for me to thank you again  
13 for engaging with us as you have done, both by providing  
14 your written statement with the detail in it which  
15 I have read and considered but also by coming along  
16 today to answer our questions and elaborate on the  
17 evidence where it's been helpful to us for you to do so.

18 Thank you very much for doing that. It's assisted  
19 my learning and, as you recognise, part of that learning  
20 is an understanding of what was and wasn't working about  
21 the fostering system at the time you were fostering. So  
22 I'm grateful to you.

23 I'm sure you'll be glad to get away and get back  
24 home and I'm now able to do that, let you go off home.

25 Thank you.

1 A. Thank you.

2 (The witness withdrew)

3 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

4 MS INNES: My Lady, I think we'll perhaps stop there for  
5 today.

6 LADY SMITH: We have to, yes. And we rise now until  
7 10 o'clock tomorrow morning when we have more oral  
8 witnesses, I think three scheduled for tomorrow, and we  
9 may or may not manage any read-ins, we'll see how it  
10 goes.

11 Very well, until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. Thank  
12 you.

13 (4.00 pm)

14 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am  
15 on Thursday, 25 August 2022)

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