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Friday, 26 August 2022

(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome to the last day of this section of our oral hearings in relation to our foster care and boarding-out case study.

Ms Innes.

MS INNES: My Lady, the first witness this morning is William Quigg. William Quigg was a foster carer for Strathclyde Regional Council. An applicant with the pseudonym 'Derek' was in the care of Strathclyde Regional Council. 'Derek' was in foster care with William Quigg and his wife from [REDACTED] 1983 to [REDACTED] 1988 when 'Derek' moved out of the placement but then returned on [REDACTED] 1988 until the placement was terminated on his 18th birthday later that year.

'Derek's' statement was read in on Day 319, 23 August 2022.

On 13 February 2019, William Quigg was convicted of sexual offences against 'Derek' and another boy. He was sentenced to a period of imprisonment of ten years. The reference for that in the bundle is at JUS-000000080.

Another applicant with the cypher ECW, whose statement is at WIT-000001221, also alleges that he was abused by Mr Quigg, albeit not in a foster care setting. His statement is in the bundle.

1 It appears that both Glasgow City Council and
2 Renfrewshire Council have an interest in relation to
3 these applicants and this foster carer.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

5 Mr Quigg.

6 A. Hello.

7 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Would you like me to call you
8 Mr Quigg or William or Bill, which?

9 A. Bill.

10 LADY SMITH: Well, Bill, I'm the chair of the Scottish Child
11 Abuse Inquiry, Lady Smith. We're sitting here in
12 Edinburgh. Thank you for joining us over the link this
13 morning.

14 I'd like to begin, please, by you swearing to tell
15 the truth.

16 William Quigg (sworn)

17 LADY SMITH: Now, Bill, we'll start your evidence in
18 a moment, but before we get to that, can I just check
19 you have got access to your own statement if you want to
20 refresh your memory with that? Good.

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: I thought it was in front of you.

23 The other things I want to mention, first of all,
24 are that I know it's going to take a little while to get
25 through your evidence and I'm conscious of the strain

1 and stress that may put on you. If you want to break,
2 you must let me know and we'll see if we can arrange
3 that. Or if you're not hearing clearly over the link or
4 if there's anything else we can do to assist you give
5 your evidence as clearly as you can and assist you tell
6 me exactly what you want to tell me, please do let me
7 know.

8 Also, Bill, although obviously we're going to talk
9 about matters of which you have been convicted, but if
10 there are any questions put to you regarding matters of
11 which you have not been convicted, the protections that
12 would apply to you in a court also apply to you within
13 this environment. Although we're a public inquiry, not
14 a court, if you're asked about anything of which you
15 have not been convicted and the answer could incriminate
16 you, you have a choice as to whether or not to answer
17 that.

18 I think you'll understand that, given your previous
19 experience, but if you have any doubts at any time, do
20 let me know.

21 Also, Bill, if you have any questions about anything
22 to do with giving your evidence, don't hesitate to say
23 so that, as I indicated earlier, we can enable you so
24 far as we can to give your evidence as clearly as
25 possible. All right?

1 A. Okay.

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

4 A. (Witness nods).

5 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

6 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

7 Questions from Ms Innes

8 MS INNES: Now, Bill, we understand that you were born in
9 1941; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. If we can look at your statement, we give it the
12 reference WIT-1-000000964, and if we can look at the
13 last page of that, please, and paragraph 212, it says
14 there:

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

19 And I think we can see that you signed your
20 statement on 21 April 2022; is that right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay, thank you. Can I take you back, please, to page 5
23 of your statement and paragraph 20. You talk there
24 about a child who you knew and there was a consideration
25 I think possibly of fostering that child, and if we go

1 to the top of page 6, at the end of paragraph 20 you say
2 that somebody from the social work department came to
3 see you and he said that you couldn't foster but you
4 could adopt, and you thought that was strange.

5 A. Yes, that's right.

6 Q. Do you know why it was that you couldn't foster but you
7 could adopt at that stage?

8 A. No. Nobody ever explained that. I just assumed it
9 would be because once you adopted, you're off of their
10 hands and had no further interest. I don't know.

11 I haven't a clue.

12 Q. Okay.

13 LADY SMITH: Bill, I'm sorry to interrupt but when you lean
14 back it's very difficult for us to hear you. The
15 microphones are picking you up better if you stay in
16 a forward position. Could I ask you to do that, please?

17 A. Okay.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you, that's better.

19 MS INNES: Thank you, Bill.

20 So did you understand that it was anything to do
21 with the fact that you weren't married at the time?

22 A. Well, I did understand, that is why the little that
23 I did hear that single people could not foster at that
24 time, but they could adopt.

25 Q. Okay. If we move on to page 7 of your statement and at

1 paragraph 27 --

2 A. Right.

3 Q. -- you talk about the time that you started then to
4 consider adopting and you refer to your sister having
5 been a long-term foster parent and you mention
6 a Frances Hamilton who was, I think, a senior social
7 worker in the Renfrewshire office.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And you say that around 1979 she was looking to have the
10 first single male adopt a child in Scotland.

11 A. As far as I know, that was the situation, yeah.

12 Q. Why was it that she was aiming to do that, do you know?

13 A. I was told that she just wanted to break through into
14 a new source of fostering or adoption and that was
15 single people or single males.

16 Q. Okay. And then you say that through her and your
17 sister, a proposal was made that you would adopt a child
18 and at paragraph 29 you tell us that you adopted a boy
19 in 1981 when he was 13. Is that right?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And you say in that paragraph at that time you wanted to
24 foster but you couldn't do it because you weren't
25 married. Why was it that you wanted to foster rather

1 than adopt?

2 A. Because at that point I hadn't a clue that you could
3 adopt and I thought because my sister was a foster
4 parent and somebody I could get a lot of advice from,
5 that I would try fostering. But then they said you
6 couldn't foster, so I said let's adopt if that's the
7 case.

8 Q. You say at the top of page 8 that one of the reasons
9 that you wanted to foster was that you could hand the
10 child back if things went wrong.

11 A. Actually I don't even remember saying that but ...

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. That would not have been the reason.

14 Q. So at paragraph 30 you talk about the boy that you
15 adopted and you say:

16 "It was a case of getting him out of a children's
17 home?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that? How were you
20 matched with him?

21 A. I was -- I don't know what match there was. It was --
22 I keep forgetting that.

23 It was a case of when I met him, it was obvious he
24 was quite a mature character and I didn't feel that
25 I was going to be a daddy figure, if you know what

1 I mean, it was more a case of, well, if we could be good
2 friends I could hopefully be a bit of guidance to him
3 and that was good enough for me.

4 I wasn't married, I didn't see it as that important
5 that he looked on it as a great father figure. That was
6 really it. No other reason.

7 Q. Okay. And I think around this time you were about 38 or
8 so, you say?

9 A. Yeah. Must have been about that, yeah.

10 Q. Okay. You then move on in your statement to tell us
11 about your marriage and at paragraph 30 you say that you
12 had been living with your parents and that's where you
13 lived with the boy that you adopted, but then you moved
14 out and in as lodgers with your future wife.

15 A. That's right, yeah.

16 Q. And was she somebody that you knew before you moved in
17 with her?

18 A. We'd been the best of pals for about 20 years.

19 Q. Okay. And at the time that you moved in with her, were
20 you in a relationship with her or were you just friends?

21 A. Friends.

22 Q. You then move on at paragraph 32 where you say that your
23 wife, as she later became, started saying that the boy
24 that you had adopted is yours, "I want one for me".

25 A. It kind of sounded like that at the time that she looked

1 on him as my responsibility because it was me who had
2 adopted him. She started talking about fostering.
3 I went along with it.

4 Q. Okay. And you say that you and she agreed that it would
5 be something worth trying, so although it was her that
6 wanted to do it, there seems to be a suggestion that you
7 were going to do it together?

8 A. Oh yeah, yeah. Had to be.

9 Q. So how did it have to be that you were going to do it
10 together?

11 A. Because we were living in the same house. At that point
12 we were not getting married and therefore it had to be
13 something we did as a joint decision.

14 Q. You say that initially when you moved in with your
15 adopted son to your wife's house, you were just friends
16 with her, you'd been friends for a long time.

17 A. That's right, it was for economic(?) reasons.

18 Q. So did there come a point that you formed a relationship
19 with her and got engaged?

20 A. Yeah. I had been engaged before but broke it off.
21 I always considered myself not really the marrying type,
22 and it's something I just sort of grew into, we might as
23 well get married. Let's not be dishonest about it, that
24 was basically how that all came about. If we were
25 living in the same house, I'd been friends with her for

1 20 years, it's worth a try.

2 Q. You say that you talked to your adopted son about the
3 potential of fostering at paragraph 32 and he said no
4 bother, so he had no issue with that?

5 A. No, not at all.

6 Q. Okay. And then you talk about your relationship with
7 your wife at paragraph 33 and you say it was just one of
8 those things that you moved into, and then you say it
9 was really your adopted son who pushed things?

10 A. Yeah. He kept on at us about, "Why don't you just get
11 married? You're living in her house, you live in the
12 same place, you get on well together", all that kind of
13 stuff and it got me thinking, rightly or wrongly, that,
14 yeah, we might as well.

15 Q. And you say that all that your wife wanted out of
16 married life was a ring on her finger and a change of
17 title. Can you explain that?

18 A. That was my later impression, I began to get a feeling
19 that we weren't a very romantic couple and it would suit
20 her fine just to be as we were. She could call herself
21 Mrs Something. She never ever talked like that. She
22 never ever mentioned anything like that. It was just
23 a feeling I had.

24 Q. Okay. Then if we go on to the top of page 9 and at
25 paragraph 34 you say there that you and your wife needed

1 to be married to allow you to foster.

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. And you don't know whether she could have fostered as
4 a single woman on her own?

5 A. Well, I really didn't know anything about that.
6 I didn't even consider it. As far as I was concerned at
7 the time [REDACTED] and I were living there it came onto us
8 this would be the thing to do, get married, and
9 everything that goes with it.

10 I never really thought whether she could foster or
11 not. I don't think I ever thought it was ever --
12 I don't think the situation ever arose, put it that way.

13 Q. Okay. Now, you mentioned there that during the trial
14 you were accused of only getting married so you could
15 foster.

16 A. One of the boys said that, yeah.

17 Q. And what's your response to that? Did you only get
18 married so that you could foster?

19 A. No. It was all part of the package. As far as I was
20 concerned I'd have never got married in the first place
21 but I thought it was time I did, and it fitted in fine
22 with what kind of plans I had.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. (unclear).

25 Q. When you say it was all part of the package, what do you

1 mean by that?

2 A. Well, by the time [REDACTED] was living with us I was
3 beginning to feel it would be much better if we lived in
4 what I would say a proper formal situation rather than
5 being lodgers in my friend's house and I just thought it
6 would be the right time to make that move. We thought
7 about it for years, but until we moved away from the
8 parents and she moved away from her parents, it wasn't
9 something I really gave a great deal of consideration
10 to.

11 Q. Then you move on to talk about the process of becoming
12 a foster carer and at paragraph 35 you say the lead-up
13 didn't take very long at all. Can you --

14 A. I don't remember it taking any time at all. We when --
15 we had applied to -- I think it was still Renfrewshire
16 -- saying that we want to consider fostering. This
17 young guy was brought out to us to meet him. We met him
18 and basically a couple of weeks later he was living with
19 us. So I don't remember any run-up to -- or any lead-up
20 to it.

21 Q. Okay. We'll look at the social work record in a moment
22 about what happened at the time. Can you remember going
23 on holiday with him to Aviemore shortly after you'd met
24 him?

25 A. Yeah. The four of us we went up to Aviemore, yeah.

1 Q. Was that before he came -- I think that was before you
2 got married and before he came to live with you
3 permanently?

4 A. I couldn't be sure about that.

5 Q. Okay, we'll have a --

6 A. (Overspeaking) --

7 Q. Okay, we'll have a look at that in a moment.

8 At paragraph 38 you say you don't know why he was
9 selected for you.

10 "In hindsight it seems to me that Renfrewshire
11 Council picked the worst one and sent them over:"

12 A. I got that feeling, yeah. Through time, not at the
13 time, but as time went on I began to have that kind of
14 feeling that they were under the impression that because
15 my wife at the time and myself had worked with young
16 people for so long we'd be able to cope with just about
17 anything we were asked to cope with. But at the time
18 I never thought anything of it, I just thought -- I felt
19 then, listening to them, that he could be a difficult
20 young lad to take on but that was about it.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Sorry.

23 Q. If we move down to page 10 and paragraph 41, you talk
24 about him coming to visit you and then you say that he
25 was at your wedding and then --

1 A. (Witness nods).

2 Q. -- I think he moved in with you very shortly after that.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. I wonder if we can have a look at some documents,
5 so the first reference is CFS-000011322, and I want to
6 look at pages 4 to 5.

7 I think you'll be given a hard copy of these.
8 I just need to get them up myself on my screen, just
9 bear with me a moment.

10 A. Got it.

11 Q. Do you have a document there headed "Additional
12 information, current situation"?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Yes, okay. Now, the boy that we're referring to, we're
15 using a pseudonym for him, 'Derek', so I'm going to use
16 a pseudonym when I read this out, okay?

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. It says:

19 "'Derek' was placed with short-term foster parents."
20 And these are other foster parents that he went to
21 before he came to you, so the first paragraph is talking
22 about that.

23 And then in the second paragraph it says:
24 "'Derek' settled very well with them, making very
25 great efforts to be accepted."

1 And then it says:

2 "Gradually he found his own level within the family.
3 Although there was a distance between him and the family
4 in general they related quite well. This situation
5 continued during most of his period with them and did
6 not obviously deteriorate until ██████ of this year."

7 And then the writer goes on to say:

8 "In June I was given details of [you and your wife]
9 who had expressed an interest in fostering an older
10 child. And he [so that's you] subsequently showed
11 a great interest in 'Derek's' description."

12 So can you remember being told about 'Derek' before
13 he came to visit you?

14 A. I don't remember being told much about him, but although
15 I had a feeling at the time that he could be quite
16 a troublesome young boy, I also had the feeling that
17 there was something about him that was quite likeable.
18 And I can't say more than that, remember, yeah, it was
19 40-odd years ago.

20 Q. Okay. Then it says:

21 "Similarly he showed great enthusiasm when told that
22 there was someone who might be interested in fostering
23 him."

24 Then it says an arrangement was made for him to meet
25 you and your wife on 22 June 1983 and this meeting was

1 quite successful. Now, although the document refers to
2 you and your wife, I think at that point you weren't in
3 fact married. I think you got married in [REDACTED] of
4 1983.

5 A. That sounds right.

6 Q. So it talks about this meeting and it says this meeting
7 was quite successful and then it says:

8 "At this time, Mr Quigg offered to take 'Derek' on
9 a week's holiday to Aviemore and after discussions with
10 fostering and adoption, the Renfrew team senior as well
11 as 'Derek' and his then foster parents, it was agreed
12 that he should go from [REDACTED]."

13 So that's the holiday that we've already mentioned
14 and you say that all four of you went on that holiday.

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. And then it says:

17 "When 'Derek' returned from what was by all accounts
18 a very successful holiday, his foster parent felt that
19 there had been a very radical change in 'Derek's'
20 attitude towards them, basically that the family now had
21 nothing to offer him, therefore he did not require to do
22 anything to fit into the family. That family then felt
23 the situation had developed to a point that they could
24 no longer keep 'Derek', despite lengthy discussion of
25 the situation with myself and also with the DASU support

1 worker."

2 Then it goes on to say:

3 "A departmental review meeting was held on [REDACTED]
4 1983, which decided that the best alternative for
5 'Derek' was to go to the WQ-FHE temporary pending
6 a decision from the case committee. Subsequently
7 'Derek' was moved."

8 And it's [REDACTED] 1983, and I think you were
9 married maybe on [REDACTED] so just a few days after you
10 got married.

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. Does that sound right?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. So it looks as though you'd gone on this holiday, you'd
15 visited with him, you'd gone on holiday, and then he was
16 moved to you, it says on a temporary basis, but this was
17 before a sort of formal decision about you fostering
18 him.

19 And then there's reference to the placement and such
20 like.

21 Now, I wonder if we can look at another document
22 now, please, so you can put that one away and this one
23 is CFS-000011325 and page 19.

24 This should be headed "Adoption panel 22 August
25 1983", do you have that?

1 A. Yeah. Yes.

2 Q. Then it refers to you and your wife and it says:

3 "First discussion on the placement of 'Derek'."

4 And there's various people at the meeting. The

5 presenting social worker is a Mr J Duffy, who I think is

6 mentioned in your statement, and it says the area

7 officer was present, as were you and your wife for part

8 of the meeting. And it says:

9 "Mrs Hamilton reminded the panel ..."

10 So I think that would be Frances Hamilton, who

11 you've already mentioned?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. "Mrs Hamilton reminded the panel that Mr Quigg had been

14 approved as an adoptive parent before marrying his wife

15 and had in fact adopted a teenage boy."

16 Then it talks about Mr Duffy speaks about the

17 situation with 'Derek' and him being placed with this

18 other family and it says:

19 "After hearing about WQ-FHE [REDACTED] from

20 Mrs Hamilton, [he had] visited the family to discuss

21 'Derek' with [you]. [You] were enthusiastic about

22 having him and 'Derek' after he heard about them seemed

23 keen to have them as his foster parents. When the

24 family went on holiday to Aviemore for a week in [REDACTED]

25 'Derek' accompanied them."

1 Then it goes on to talk about his return to the
2 foster family that he was with.

3 "He seemed to begin cutting himself off from that
4 family as he had a new family to go to. They didn't
5 feel they could keep him long enough to allow Mr Duffy
6 to complete a full fostering assessment on WQ-FHE
7 WQ-FHE and as their daughter seemed miserable at the
8 thought of 'Derek' still being within her family when
9 she returned from holiday, they requested his early
10 removal."

11 So what it's saying there is that the social worker
12 hadn't completed a full fostering assessment of you and
13 your wife prior to 'Derek' coming to live with you,
14 okay?

15 A. Can I make a comment on this?

16 Q. Mm-hmm.

17 A. I don't remember this meeting at all. I have no
18 recollection of it. The only thing we were told about
19 him was -- sorry, he had caused the breakup of his
20 previous foster parents and he had to be moved quickly
21 and that was all we were ever told.

22 LADY SMITH: Bill, the note says that you were only there
23 for part of the meeting, so some of what's recorded in
24 that minute may be a record of matters that were
25 discussed when you weren't there. Do you see that? At

1 the top it says after "also present" "as were WQ-FHE
2 WQ-FHE for part of the meeting".

3 A. I see that but I don't recall any of it at all. It may
4 have happened but it's a long time ago, but I don't
5 recall any of it.

6 LADY SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS INNES: Thank you, Bill, that's fine. It's
8 understandable you don't recall. I'm just looking at
9 these notes so that we can see the chronology of what
10 was happening at the time.

11 If we look down to the bottom of page 19, I think we
12 see a paragraph there which says:

13 "After [you and your wife] had left the meeting, the
14 adoption panel agreed to approve the action taken by
15 social workers in placing 'Derek' with [you and your
16 wife]."

17 So 'Derek' had already been placed with you and the
18 adoption panel are essentially approving that after it's
19 happened.

20 And then it says:

21 "It was agreed the final decision would be taken at
22 the next meeting on 10 October 1983 when Mr Duffy would
23 present full reports."

24 And if we can have a look now, please, at page 20 of
25 this same document, so CFS-000011325, and that should be

1 headed, "Adoption panel 24 October 1983", do you have
2 that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And again this is referring to you and your wife and
5 there's reference under the various people that were
6 there to you and your wife being present, and then just
7 below the dots it says:

8 "WQ-FHE [REDACTED] references were positive and
9 there were no convictions recorded on the police check.
10 Dr Mathers felt able to approve the couple on medical
11 grounds."

12 And then there's a question about how 'Derek' is
13 getting on in the placement. If we just look at
14 "Decision", it says that:

15 "Mr Leinster, as the chairman of the meeting, felt
16 able to say to WQ-FHE [REDACTED] without there being any
17 necessity for them to leave the meeting that the
18 adoption panel was glad to approve them as long-term
19 foster parents and on that basis to approve 'Derek's'
20 placement with them. The agreement was unanimous."

21 So we will be finished with this document now, but
22 it looks as though 'Derek' came to stay with you, the
23 social worker then carried out an assessment of you and
24 your wife after 'Derek' had started living with you, and
25 then on [REDACTED] you were approved as his long-term

1 foster parents. So it appears that that's what happened
2 at the time that he came to live with you.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. I think that broadly accords with your recollection,
5 Bill, that it was very quick and you said there was
6 almost no process before 'Derek' came to live with you.

7 A. That's my recollection now. I don't remember very much
8 at all about anything happening. It's just he appeared
9 sort of thing, yeah. We met him, a short time later he
10 was living with us. That will be it. It may well be
11 that we had these meetings, I just don't remember them.

12 Q. That's fine.

13 I want to move on and look at some other things in
14 your statement now, please. If we can move to page 11
15 of your statement and paragraph 45, you say there that
16 you don't believe that there was anyone in the social
17 work department that you could speak to for help.

18 A. No, that's what I felt at the time.

19 Q. So during the time that 'Derek' was living with you, did
20 you have much contact with social workers?

21 A. No. Initially we didn't really find anything we needed
22 a lot of help with. It was going all right at the
23 start. And I know Dave McAleer came on the scene but
24 I don't really remember exactly when, yeah.

25 Q. I think if we go on over the page at paragraph 48 you

1 say there that you can't remember anything cropping up
2 when you needed to ask anyone anything, you just got on
3 with it. And that you and your wife -- sorry, at page
4 12 at paragraph 48.

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. That looking back at you and your wife, your vanity and
7 egos made you feel that you were as good as anyone was
8 going to get.

9 A. Yes, that was the case.

10 Q. And you felt that because you'd worked with children
11 before?

12 A. Well, I worked -- we'd worked with Cubs and Scouts for
13 many years and that was the extent of that. That and
14 some involvement in my sister's crowd, she was always
15 fostering and we were always very involved and had a lot
16 of close contact here.

17 Q. Okay.

18 I just want to go back slightly and ask you about
19 something that you say in paragraph 46, which is at the
20 bottom of page 11 and on to the top of page 12.

21 You say that there wasn't really any kind of support
22 for you and your wife. Your sister was never away from
23 Renfrewshire Council social work department and she kept
24 notes. You never heard about any of that kind of stuff.
25 You had the two boys and were left to get on with it.

1 Then you say:

2 "I remember 'Derek' was always good at saying he
3 didn't like this or that to people, but there was never
4 any official contact with us from Renfrewshire Council.
5 I would only hear about the things he was saying via
6 hearsay or innuendo."

7 I wonder if you can explain that to us, please?

8 A. The main point I take from that is that we really didn't
9 have very much contact with the council at all and
10 I only remember one actual visit from John Duffy, who
11 visited to talk to 'Derek'. I don't remember any other
12 contacts. Where I said about [FZZ] making comment, he was
13 basically saying things, he talked to anybody and tell
14 them right (unclear), whether it was right or wrong.
15 I really don't know much more than that. But he did say
16 a lot of innuendo, especially latterly when he was
17 making accusations. He would say things like, "You
18 don't know what was going on" and things like that,
19 yeah? Never ever made any actual accusations.

20 Q. Okay. So when you say innuendo, you're meaning he would
21 say things like, "You don't know what's going on"?

22 A. Yeah, to [FHE]. He would say that to [FHE].

23 Q. Okay, to your wife. Do you know if she asked him what
24 he meant by that?

25 A. According to her she did, but he never ever answered.

1 Q. Right. If we can move on to look at the places that you
2 lived in when you were fostering, on page 13 and
3 paragraph 51 you tell us that when you first fostered
4 'Derek', you were living in a house in Clydebank.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And you say it was a two-bedroomed house and did the
7 boys share a room?

8 A. It was basically a two-bedroomed house but it had
9 a large attic in it and I converted that into bedrooms
10 for the boys. It started off I think they had their own
11 place but it ended up the two of them sleeping in
12 separate bunks in the attic because that was their
13 place, their den, away up there.

14 Q. Okay. And then you moved from there to -- you say at
15 paragraph 52 to Blackwood, near Lanark.

16 A. That's right, yeah.

17 Q. And you say that you didn't stay there for very long.

18 A. No.

19 Q. And I think I'm not going to take you to the records but
20 from records that we have at the time, it looks like you
21 moved to Blackwood in about June 1984 and then you
22 returned to your mother's house maybe in about October
23 or November of the same year?

24 A. Could be. It's very difficult to remember exact dates.

25 Q. Okay. And then you tell us that you moved back to your

1 mother's house and you say at paragraph 52 that you
2 built a ground floor extension for your mother and did
3 up the kitchen?

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. Okay. So was your mother sort of living separately in
6 the house in this extension?

7 A. She was eventually, once it was built she moved into the
8 extension, yeah. That was the whole idea. It was next
9 door to the bathroom and it saved her going upstairs.
10 By that time she was something like 79, I think, so it
11 suited her fine.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And then we had all the bedrooms to ourselves.

14 Q. Okay. And then if we move on to page 14 and
15 paragraph 54, you tell us there that your wife moved out
16 of that house and moved over to her own mother's house,
17 which was on the same street?

18 A. Just across the street from us, yeah.

19 Q. Okay. And why was it that your wife moved out?

20 A. Because I started knocking walls down and started
21 building extensions, ripping wires out. The house was
22 unsuitable for any of us to live in. But she was
23 getting a bit fed up. At that time she and my mother
24 were at loggerheads all the time and that was almost the
25 start of World War 3 when they got together. FZZ didn't

1 like my mother, my mother didn't like FZZ FHE
2 didn't like my mother, my mother didn't like FHE .
3 I was stuck in the middle. So she decided the best way
4 was to wait for it to get all finished, my mother moved
5 into a granny flat, the rest of the house finished, and
6 she would stay at her mother's.

7 Q. Why did you not move with your wife into her mother's
8 house when all of this work was going on in your own
9 house?

10 A. Because FZZ and my mother were still in the house. They
11 were able to (unclear), but also the fact that as far as
12 I was concerned we still had to get on with the work, we
13 would quite often work until all hours in the morning
14 and night to get the job finished a bit quicker. So she
15 was -- mainly again because she was away from my mother,
16 I must be honest, it was easier for her just to cope
17 with her own mother, and we got together as often as we
18 could, but she lived in a different house.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. (Overspeaking) didn't want to move.

21 Q. Sorry?

22 A. FZZ didn't want to move over. There was another bedroom
23 there but he wouldn't move over. He wanted to stay
24 where he was.

25 Q. Okay. And did your wife want 'Derek' to move over to

1 the other house with her?

2 A. I really don't know. It's him that spoke to her about
3 that because I had to find out whether he would like to
4 move or not, but he wanted to stay where he was.

5 Q. Okay. Now, again, we'll come to some records in
6 a moment, but I think from that it looks like she moved
7 out to her own mother's house in the spring of 1985 and
8 you say at paragraph 55 that she moved back in maybe in
9 about 1987 or 1988.

10 A. Yeah, I'm not sure of the dates but she moved in
11 after -- basically once the place was cleaned up a bit.

12 Q. Did you speak to the social work department, can you
13 remember, about these changes in your living
14 arrangements?

15 A. No, I don't think so.

16 Q. Okay. Well, we'll have a look at some records to help
17 you with that because I think there were some
18 discussions, so if we can have a look, please, at
19 CFS-000011322, and I think page 26.

20 So starting at page 26. So this should be headed,
21 "Review report part 2"?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. And it then says:

24 "Introduction.

25 "Before writing about 'Derek's' present situation,

1 it is necessary to detail the events that have occurred
2 since the last review."

3 It says:

4 "WQ-FHE moved from Clydebank to a new house in
5 Blackwood in June 1984. This move proved to be too
6 costly in terms of mortgage and travelling and they
7 decided to move back to Glasgow. As they were unable to
8 sell the house on the open market but can sell it back
9 to the builders in June 1986, they decided to move to
10 Blairdardie to live with Bill's mother. This move took
11 place in October 1984 and has led to a number of
12 different problems."

13 So it then goes on to talk in the next paragraph
14 about some of the issues that you've mentioned. So
15 there's limited accommodation in the house, overcrowding
16 has attributed to relationship problems, problems
17 between your wife and your mother, 'Derek' and your
18 mother, and between you and your wife, and it says that
19 your wife and your mother have not been able to cope
20 with each other's presence in the same house and it
21 continues to talk about the various problems.

22 And then it says:

23 "In March of this year ..."

24 A. Got it.

25 Q. "In March of this year, Bill and [your wife] reached the

1 decision that for a temporary period [your wife] would
2 sleep across the road at her mother's house but would
3 otherwise maintain normal involvement with the
4 household."

5 So was that the plan?

6 A. That's right, yeah.

7 Q. Do you know what it's meaning by "normal involvement in
8 the household"?

9 A. Oh, we got the -- the actual household, to put it
10 politely, sticking her nose into what we were doing to
11 make sure everything was going the way she wanted it.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And making any kind of -- we talked about moving doors
14 and things like that and why we would do that, one room
15 into another, just basically -- we used to if we were
16 going anywhere we went together. We tried to have as
17 normal a situation as possible, even though we weren't
18 living in the same house.

19 Q. Okay. And then it says in the next paragraph:

20 "This decision was taken to (a) ease the
21 overcrowding and allow Bill time and space to carry out
22 alterations to the house, (b) ease the pressure caused
23 by the poor relationship between [your mother and your
24 wife], and (c) allow [you and your wife] the opportunity
25 to sort out your difficulties in a less stressful

1 situation."

2 Then it says:

3 "Unfortunately matters did not work out quite as
4 smoothly as planned. 'Derek' construed the move as
5 a permanent separation between [you and your wife] and
6 they themselves had not really worked things through
7 properly and for a few days neither was sure of the
8 other's intentions."

9 Do you have any recollection about him being
10 concerned about the relationship between you and your
11 wife?

12 A. Not at all, no.

13 Q. Okay. And then it says:

14 "Around this time, 'Derek' had been contacted again
15 by his sister and had just arranged to go and visit her.
16 The combination of his sister pressurising him to come
17 and stay with her and [you and your wife's] 'separation'
18 [in quotes] caused 'Derek' to demand that he was moved
19 immediately to live with his sister."

20 Do you remember --

21 A. That's news to me.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. No doubt he would be at Stopover. He moved away to stay
24 at Stopover, which is a hostel in Glasgow for gay young
25 men and women. And then FHE met up with him there

1 and decided if that was his problem, come back to the
2 house and we'll talk it over. I didn't even know he had
3 a sister.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. So I don't know.

6 Q. Okay. I think it was maybe a bit later that 'Derek'
7 went to Stopover, but if we just carry on at the moment,
8 so you don't remember him having a sister, you don't
9 remember him saying that he wanted to live with his
10 sister.

11 And then at the end of this page it says:

12 "After much discussion between 'Derek', Bill, [your
13 wife] and the social worker, an uneasy compromise was
14 reached whereby 'Derek' dropped his demands to move on
15 the understanding that he was allowed to visit his
16 sister at weekends with a view to moving around July."

17 A. (Witness shakes head). Haven't a clue what he's on
18 about.

19 Q. Okay.

20 And then if we look on over the page at the top of
21 the next page, page 27, it starts:

22 "Bill [and your wife] resolved [your] differences to
23 the extent that [you] stuck by [your] decision of [your
24 wife] living at her mother's but agreed that they would
25 all return to Blackwood as soon as possible."

1 Could you remember --

2 A. I can remember that did not happen.

3 Q. Yeah, okay.

4 A. This is about moving to Blackwood again.

5 Q. Okay. And then it says in the next paragraph:

6 "However, the move hadn't taken place."

7 And then the next paragraph says:

8 "The last few weeks have seen 'Derek' giving up
9 visiting his sister and he has now apparently lost all
10 interest in going to stay with her."

11 And then in the next paragraph it also refers to
12 a further change and it says:

13 "Since the beginning of [REDACTED] a 16-year-old boy
14 returned looking for accommodation. He was previously
15 in care and was the first boy that Bill had intended
16 adopting."

17 I think that's the boy that we mentioned earlier on
18 in your evidence where you were maybe talking about
19 fostering. I think you talk about fostering him. Okay?

20 A. This is out of sequence. He came when we were living in
21 Blackwood.

22 Q. Right.

23 A. And because it was only a two-bedroom house, we got him
24 a very small caravan he could park in the drive. And he
25 was hardly there because his brother appeared on the

1 scene and took him away again.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. That's how that happened.

4 Q. Okay. So you don't remember him coming to the house in
5 Glasgow?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay.

8 And just for completeness, if we can look at the
9 final page of this document, so it's page 28.

10 A. Sorry, this is all nonsense.

11 Q. And if we look down there's a heading number 4, "Summary
12 of needs of child".

13 A. Right.

14 Q. And it says:

15 "Despite the difficulties 'Derek' has experienced in
16 this placement over the past few months, it's apparent
17 that in many respects he has coped well and grown as
18 a result of the problems."

19 And then it goes on to say:

20 "The present situation with respect to accommodation
21 and [you and your wife] living apart is far from ideal
22 and a review would need to consider the solutions to the
23 problem."

24 It says that:

25 "'Derek' obviously want to remain with [you and your

1 wife] and he certainly needs the continued support of
2 foster parents. [You and your wife] feel that 'Derek'
3 uses [you] as hotel keepers and only lodges with the
4 family rather than being part of it."

5 Is that correct? Is that what you and your wife
6 felt?

7 A. I don't recognise any of that at all.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. In fact, I don't recognise very much from this document.

10 Q. Okay. And then it says:

11 "To some extent this is true."

12 But the social worker who wrote this says that he
13 believes:

14 "'Derek' is now after his experience with his sister
15 more appreciative of all he receives from being part of
16 their family."

17 And at 5:

18 "Proposals for the future. 'Derek' should remain in
19 his present placement subject to [you and your wife]
20 resolving [your] living arrangements in the near
21 future."

22 And it says:

23 "All parties, [you, your wife] and 'Derek', are all
24 in agreement with the recommendation."

25 And the document, I think, is from 13 August 1985

1 and it's a DC McAleer?

2 A. That would be Dave McAleer.

3 Q. Okay, do you remember him?

4 A. Oh, I remember Dave, yeah. I don't remember writing

5 that but I remember Dave.

6 Q. Was he somebody then that you can remember being the

7 social worker when 'Derek' was living with you?

8 A. I was -- my recollection was that there was a lot of

9 visits -- there was a guy called John Duffy, who's been

10 mentioned in this.

11 Q. Mm-hmm.

12 A. I think Dave McAleer by that time might have been

13 a senior or something, but we didn't really -- the only

14 time I remember meeting up with Dave McAleer was at

15 a later stage when everything else had moved away and

16 (unclear).

17 I don't remember him being involved with **FZZ** at all.

18 He may have been. I just don't remember.

19 LADY SMITH: So at that stage, August 1985, Ms Innes,

20 'Derek' would have been just over 14 and a half years

21 old, would that be right?

22 MS INNES: Yes, I think that's right.

23 LADY SMITH: He still had quite a while to go in foster

24 care?

25 MS INNES: Yes, and we know that he remained there initially

1 until [REDACTED] 1988, which I think is when he then
2 went to the Stopover that Bill's already referred to.

3 LADY SMITH: Of course, yes. Thank you very much.

4 MS INNES: Now, if I can move back to your statement,
5 please, Bill.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can I look on, please, to page 20 and you talk on that
8 page about 'Derek's' schooling and at paragraph 78 you
9 say that you can't criticise too much because you don't
10 really know what happened at school:

11 "I was never told about anything."

12 You say you never heard anything from 'Derek' about
13 it. You didn't go to parents' nights and weren't told
14 about any parents' nights. You didn't contact school to
15 ask about that or ask how he was getting on at school.

16 If we go down to paragraph 80 at the bottom of the
17 page, you say you didn't know he'd left school, it just
18 happened. You don't know how he got on in his exams.

19 "I really knew nothing about him at school.

20 I didn't even know whether he attended."

21 Now, I wonder if you can explain to us how it was
22 that you had absolutely no idea whether he was even
23 going to school when you were --

24 A. I was just -- he always acted as if he was going to
25 school, but he wouldn't discuss homework or anything

1 like that. There's no mention of what he was doing
2 there and a lot of the time he just stayed back in
3 Clydebank with friends and then came home at bedtime so
4 I didn't know much about what went on there at all.

5 Q. Did you not have any contact with the school yourself?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did your wife?

8 A. That I couldn't tell you.

9 Q. Okay. And do you know if the social work department
10 were speaking to the school about how he was getting on?

11 A. No, no word of that whatsoever.

12 Q. Okay. Did you see, you know, keeping an eye on his
13 schooling as being part of your role and responsibility
14 as his foster parent?

15 A. It would have been quite nice, but he had no intention
16 of talking to us about school.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And quite -- to be honest, once he was getting up to
19 that kind of age was when he really started his nonsense
20 and I was just trying to cope with what was going on
21 with him and school was the last thing that came into my
22 mind.

23 Q. Okay. Now, if we can move on, please, to page 22 of
24 your statement and paragraph 88.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. You talk there about the time that 'Derek' had run away
2 and had gone to the Stopover and then had a conversation
3 with your wife.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You say that in that conversation he told her that he
6 was gay?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Is that conversation not when 'Derek' told her that you
9 had been abusing him?

10 A. Might have been, but I wasn't told that.

11 Q. Okay. So she didn't tell you that at the time?

12 A. Never mentioned it at any time.

13 Q. Okay. Did she say at any point later on that she was
14 told by 'Derek' that he said that you were abusing him?

15 A. Not to me, but in court she said that she had -- that's
16 where the innuendo thing comes in. When they asked her
17 in court if she knew anything about that, she said, "All
18 he ever said was 'You don't know what he's like'" or
19 something in that vein. She never mentioned anything to
20 me whatsoever.

21 Q. Now, if we can move on, please, to page 25 and to
22 paragraph 100, which touches on something you've already
23 mentioned in your evidence in relation to your adopted
24 son, at paragraph 100 you say:

25 "I am not sure that I was even a father to either of

1 the boys. I was more of an older friend."

2 So you've already mentioned that in relation to your
3 adopted son and did you feel the same in relation to
4 'Derek', that you were more of an older friend?

5 A. Through time, yes. It began to be fairly obvious that
6 in many ways I was sure that all FZZ wanted was a safe
7 place to live and it really didn't matter who was in
8 charge -- responsible for him. So we just took it as --
9 both of us really took it as let's just get on together.
10 When I say both of us, I mean me and FHE would
11 basically just said that if they want to live here,
12 let's do what we can.

13 Q. Okay. Now, if we move on to page 27 and paragraph 104,
14 you talk there about yourself and then your wife and her
15 job, and then you say that you don't think your wife was
16 really suited to be a mother figure "any more than I was
17 suitable to be a father figure".

18 So if neither of you were suited to be parental
19 figures, why was it that you applied to foster?

20 A. I think as I've said so often that we worked because we
21 got on well with kids, we knew they normally liked being
22 with us, we liked doing things together and at the end
23 of the day I thought that was better than being in
24 a children's home. I'd have liked to have been a father
25 figure to them. I just felt that they didn't accept it

1 that way.

2 Q. So what did you see as your role as a foster care?

3 A. I saw my role as being a foster carer, not necessarily
4 a father figure.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. All four of us seen it as some kind of father figure but
7 not your daddy.

8 Q. Okay.

9 If we move on, please, to page 32 and paragraph 126.

10 You say there that:

11 "'Derek' told neighbours or whoever else quite
12 openly what he thought was happening. He told them that
13 I was touching him and I was this, that and the other."

14 Was that going on when 'Derek' was living with you
15 in foster care?

16 A. I never heard anything like that at all until basically
17 in court and then talking to FHE -- not talking,
18 as she was giving evidence in court, she said that FZZ
19 had been talking to neighbours. That's the first I knew
20 of it.

21 Q. Okay. And so she gave evidence that he had been talking
22 to neighbours about what was happening and did she say
23 that they were coming to her with those concerns at that
24 time?

25 A. Any time I spoke to her just before the trial, she

1 mentioned to me before the trial that he had been
2 talking to one particular neighbour who lived directly
3 opposite and she couldn't stand him and basically she
4 was saying what we've said, he talks a lot of nonsense,
5 he was an attention-seeker. He always wanted everybody
6 to feel sorry for him. And that's as far as I ever knew
7 about anything like that going on.

8 Q. Okay. So are you saying that the neighbour was of the
9 view that he was an attention-seeker --

10 A. Oh, absolutely, yeah, yeah. She couldn't stand him
11 either.

12 Q. Okay. So if he told a neighbour what was happening, you
13 think that the neighbour didn't believe him?

14 A. I am sure the neighbour didn't believe him.

15 Q. Okay. If we can go on, please, to page 35 of your
16 statement, you talk there about becoming involved in
17 something called contract fostering.

18 A. Yeah. What paragraph is that?

19 Q. So paragraph 139 on page 35.

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. First of all, can you explain to us what your
22 understanding of a contract foster carer is?

23 A. Right. This was really the first time I'd
24 communicate -- well, the main thing of communication to
25 the social work department is they had spoke to us about

1 why don't you consider contract fostering: it was mainly
2 talking about fostering the more difficult children,
3 although I couldn't imagine that being the case, but
4 that was the way they put it to us. I think it was
5 mainly children that they couldn't really find anybody
6 for. There was an extra payment paid and it would start
7 off it was younger people, young children. So we
8 thought that would be quite a good thing. And if it was
9 younger people, we could get them going through school,
10 everything as you'd expect with normal youngsters.

11 Other than that, we didn't know a great deal about it.

12 Q. Okay. Do you know if you were going to get some
13 specific training to undertake this work or not?

14 A. I don't remember that being mentioned but I thought at
15 the time it was something that would be interesting or
16 important, but I don't remember. We never actually did
17 any of it. Again it started off with him introducing
18 the two young boys to us and they stayed there for the
19 one night and that was when everything erupted but we
20 were -- they didn't stay long.

21 Q. Okay. And you tell us about that as you go on in your
22 statement, "But before we come to that, at the bottom of
23 this page, paragraph 140, you say that you were to be
24 the one that was going to be in the house.

25 And you say you were going to be paid a proper

1 allowance by the council and would be the one who would
2 be looking after the children in the house, and because
3 of the allowance, if we go on over the page, you were
4 able to give up your job to solely do the caring.

5 A. Yeah. FHE [REDACTED] was a high earner and I was not, I was
6 the very opposite, so it made sense that I would do the
7 day-to-day stuff and she would carry on in her own job.

8 Q. Okay. Can you remember if you specified the ages or
9 gender of children that you wished to take?

10 A. No. They told us.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. I don't know if it was a general thing, but the
13 impression I got was that it would be young kids. You
14 know, young schoolkids.

15 Q. Okay. And then on page 36 at paragraph 141, you say
16 that there was a lot more communication at this time, as
17 you've mentioned. You were visited and then you talk
18 about a get-together with social workers and other
19 foster carers.

20 A. Yeah. I don't actually remember going to one but there
21 was talk of a communal meeting where foster parents
22 could get together to discuss their problems.

23 Q. Okay, and is that something that you'd done before when
24 you were a foster carer or not?

25 A. No. Never.

1 Q. At paragraph 144 at the bottom of this page you say
2 that:

3 "Looking back at the lead-up to being approved as
4 a contract foster carer, it did seem like a fait
5 accompli that we would be accepted."

6 Can you explain that, please?

7 A. It was just the impressions we had, they were set to
8 stay with us overnight and basically they were told that
9 they'd be coming to live with us. How much truth there
10 was I couldn't tell you, but that was the impression we
11 got, that we were accepted.

12 But bear in mind, no accusations had been made by
13 **FZZ** at that time as far as we knew. It all happened at
14 that time, that he made accusations.

15 Q. Okay. You tell us about that over the page, page 37 at
16 paragraph 136. You say that they were with you for one
17 night. You took the children to school the following
18 day and they didn't stay any longer because it all blew
19 up. And you say during the following week someone from
20 the council came to your door and said that they had
21 received complaints or accusations. And I think those
22 were allegations of sexually abusing 'Derek'; is that
23 right?

24 A. The accusation that was actually made was that I had
25 touched him inappropriately. Or that's what it says

1 there. That's all I was told at that time.

2 Q. Okay. If we go on to the next page, to page 38 and
3 paragraph 150, you say that you initially thought the
4 allegation was about the two wee boys that you'd had
5 over. You say:

6 "I had gone nowhere near the boys during their visit
7 because they were shy."

8 And you say:

9 "I remember my wife making sure I wasn't in the
10 bathroom when they were getting bathed."

11 Why did she do that?

12 A. You'll have to ask -- that's not what I said. What
13 I said was they were very young, one was five, one was
14 seven, I think, so when they were having a bath, took
15 the two of them in together. The older one went in the
16 bath and they left the bathroom door open so she was
17 always about the place because of the accusations --
18 I thought it was them that they were getting at that I'd
19 inappropriately touched them. Which I couldn't quite
20 understand because they hadn't stayed with us, but that
21 was what was in my mind. And -- sorry, it was before he
22 made the accusation. But just to be sure of anything,
23 just made sure nobody could witness anything, nothing
24 went on. The boys felt more comfortable they weren't
25 locked up in the bathroom with this old man. I feel

1 that that was the right thing to do.

2 Q. Okay, so this was before the accusations were made, as
3 you say, and is it correct that your wife was making
4 sure that you weren't in the bathroom?

5 A. She didn't have -- she didn't have any say in it, to be
6 honest with you. I told her to come up the stairs and
7 hang about the bedroom, make sure you are there because
8 I've always been careful when I'm working with kids that
9 there wasn't a situation where things could be said.
10 Because I worked with the scout movement, for instance,
11 I always made sure there was somebody else there,
12 because you hear so much about it. People were quite
13 happy to talk about, "Oh, you were in that room with
14 a wee boy yourself", and I always tried to avoid that.

15 Q. Okay. So are you saying that it was you that asked her
16 to do that to make sure that you weren't on your own
17 and --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- you did that because of --

20 A. (Overspeaking) -- sorry, carry on.

21 Q. And you did that because of your experience and work
22 with the Scouts?

23 A. Yeah. 20 years of working with young boys, you keep
24 yourself out of any situation where you could be accused
25 of anything. It's just habit that -- that's the way it

1 goes. Just make sure there's nobody -- nothing untoward
2 happening.

3 Q. And had you done the same when 'Derek' was living with
4 you?

5 A. I didn't need to do the same. They were too old for me
6 to make sure they had a bath. They had a bath, maybe
7 a shower when they wanted to have a shower and I never
8 ever at any time saw them in the shower or in the bath.

9 Q. Okay. So as you say, you initially thought that the
10 allegations were about the two wee boys. You then move
11 on at paragraph 151 to refer to Dave McAleer, so was it
12 him that was dealing with you at that time?

13 A. Oh, excuse me. I think there was he and some woman who
14 introduced the two youngsters, the two wee boys to us.
15 So I think Dave was a kind of bridge social worker.

16 I certainly -- I don't know what I knew, but I had
17 more connection with Dave McAleer than I did with
18 anybody else so he must have been more frank at that
19 time.

20 Q. Okay. And then you say that your understanding was that
21 I think your former boss had made an allegation?

22 A. Yeah, it just came to me when we were talking about it
23 that somebody had phoned the social worker and who had
24 phoned -- because she used to be a social worker. And
25 I had told her that I wasn't working for her any longer

1 and I used to typeset for a newspaper so she was after
2 a typesetter and the staff was this was all about
3 revenge, if you like. And then right after she had
4 offered me her father's house to live in rent-free and
5 I could get my job back and it all started to look like
6 was this some kind of ploy to get me back again?
7 Because it worked. I did go back and work with her for
8 a short time (overspeaking) --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Nobody ever told me, I just had the feeling it was her.

11 Q. Okay. Were you spoken to by the police at that time?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. And I think you say that perhaps the social
14 workers told you that you weren't going on carry on
15 doing contract fostering? Or did you make that
16 decision?

17 A. Well, they said it initially.

18 Q. Mm-hmm.

19 A. And through time, when the police had tried to contact
20 **FZZ** and so we heard from a relation and they couldn't
21 get hold of him, he was down in London and had basically
22 disappeared off the scene and he wouldn't talk to them,
23 so they just said that's the way it goes.

24 When we heard that we thought if there's nothing
25 been said and if there's nothing been proved, why are we

1 hiding? And we decided maybe to pursue it. So I wrote
2 to the social work department and asked them where we
3 were at that point, but eventually I thought I'd had
4 enough of this and we both decided it's not worth our
5 while and I started working back with my old job again.
6 I had a house that I could live in. FHE [REDACTED] was
7 living at her mother's. Back to square one.

8 Q. Okay. You then go on on page 39 at paragraph 155 to
9 mention that you heard from the police about ten years
10 after that and at that time you provided a statement to
11 the police in relation to allegations made by 'Derek';
12 is that right?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. And then after that interview, you say you weren't
15 charged with anything at that point?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. And then at paragraph 156 you tell us that your adopted
18 son then approached the police and made a complaint and
19 then that ultimately led to the trial in 2019; is that
20 right?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. If we go on over the page to page 40, you tell us at
25 paragraph 158 that you accept that you abused your

1 adopted son, you accepted the charges to some extent in
2 respect of him; is that right?

3 A. Yeah, to my shame, yes.

4 Q. Okay. And you tell us about that. And if we go on,
5 please, to page 42 and paragraph 169.

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. You talk there, I think, about why it was that you
8 abused your adopted son and why was it that that
9 happened?

10 A. Stupidity. We were basically fooling around and he was
11 quite happy saying he wanted some money for cigarettes,
12 so it just happened. I couldn't really explain it.

13 Q. Okay. You talk there about him wanting money and then
14 at paragraph 171 you say:

15 "All I'm saying is that he was in a sense innocent
16 but he did provoke it."

17 A. I shouldn't say "in a sense innocent" because he was
18 innocent. I was -- it was almost like a couple of
19 stupid teenagers carrying on. The difference was
20 I wasn't a teenager and he should never have been
21 involved. I know all that, I accept all that, but ...
22 I can only say it happened. I can't excuse it.

23 Q. Okay. Looking at the timing of the charges that you
24 offered to plead guilty to, and we know obviously that
25 your adopted son was in the house when 'Derek' came to

1 live with you, so this kind of behaviour was going on
2 with your adopted son at the time that 'Derek' was going
3 to be fostered by you?

4 A. There was an occasional bit of stupidity. Not very
5 often, but yeah, it had happened.

6 Q. Did you not think there was a risk that the same thing
7 might happen again?

8 A. The trouble was I didn't think.

9 Q. Okay. Did you not think that there was a risk that the
10 same thing might happen again with 'Derek'? Another
11 teenage boy?

12 A. I didn't -- I wasn't -- I didn't consider that at all
13 because I -- it wasn't a case of having a bit of -- for
14 the young boys. It had happened with the other one for
15 whatever reason, but I wasn't in the business of trying
16 to get hold of young boys.

17 Q. Okay. So you --

18 A. I didn't -- I just didn't give it a thought, it's as
19 simple as that. And it didn't happen.

20 Q. Okay. So you're saying that you weren't deliberately
21 fostering in order to pursue your sexual desires?

22 A. I can't get through to people what happened to [REDACTED]
23 was stupid. Nothing happened to the other one. This is
24 all about money, this, it's what he's made up.

25 Q. Okay.

1 Now, you talk about the charges that you were
2 convicted of in respect of 'Derek', and as you'll
3 understand, we can't look behind the fact of your
4 conviction, but we do note that you maintain your
5 position, as you say in paragraph 177, that your view is
6 that it's total fabrication.

7 A. It's not just my view. It is total fabrication.

8 Q. Okay.

9 If we go on to page 180, you say to both these
10 charges -- so charges that relate to sexual abuse of
11 'Derek' during the time that you were his foster carer,
12 you say again that it's lies, total fabrication:

13 "When we first heard those charges, when I was
14 talking about it with my wife, we said it was wishful
15 thinking on 'Derek's' part."

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. It was wishful thinking to be sexually abused by you
18 from the age of 13?

19 A. Yeah. I didn't really mean sexually abused, but to have
20 anything to do with sex, he'd have been quite happy. He
21 told us he had been gay since the age of 8 and
22 everything he's done, he quite enjoyed it.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And no matter how much that's difficult to believe,
25 that's what he told us. I could give examples of how

1 much it was lies, this whole report thing, but at this
2 stage I'll merely say it's lies.

3 Q. Okay. And then just finally, Bill, if we go on to
4 page 48 of your statement and paragraph 192, you start
5 there to refer to some allegations that you were
6 informed about by the Inquiry made by another boy,
7 I think this was the boy that we've talked about
8 earlier, who you originally thought about either
9 fostering or adopting.

10 A. (Witness nods).

11 Q. If we go on to page 49 and paragraph 197, you'll see
12 that he says that you used to make him masturbate you
13 and perform oral sex. Did that happen?

14 A. He was nine years old. There is no way that anything
15 like that would have happened. So no, it didn't happen.

16 Q. Okay. When you're saying there's no way that would have
17 happened, are you relying on his age as the basis for
18 that?

19 A. No -- nobody has ever performed oral sex on me.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Including my wife.

22 Q. Sorry, including?

23 A. My wife.

24 Q. Okay.

25 LADY SMITH: Sorry, Bill, did I pick you up as saying

1 there's no way anything like that would have happened in
2 the hut?

3 A. In what hut?

4 LADY SMITH: Is that what you said? You said something like
5 that, something after "happened", and I couldn't hear
6 what you said.

7 A. I don't know about what I said.

8 LADY SMITH: All right, okay.

9 A. There is no way that I would have allowed anybody to do
10 that to me, in particular a young boy of that age. Not
11 even of that -- in fact nobody, end of.

12 What I did to the other one was wrong, but I never
13 wanted him to do anything to me.

14 MS INNES: Okay. And in relation to your adopted son,
15 I think you say what you've just said, that he never
16 touched you, but I think you were convicted of that at
17 trial?

18 A. I told them at court that that did not happen. How
19 could anybody do that.

20 MS INNES: Okay. Thank you, Bill, I have no more questions
21 for you and there are no applications, my Lady.

22 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
23 questions?

24 Bill, that completes all the questions we have for
25 you. Thank you very much for engaging with us as you

1 have done, for your detailed written statement and for
2 answering our questions in the course of your oral
3 evidence this morning. It certainly helps to increase
4 my understanding of the part of our investigations that
5 you as a foster carer and your wife help me to see.

6 So thank you very much and I'm now able to let you
7 go and the link can be switched off.

8 A. (Witness nods).

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 LADY SMITH: And I think we'll take the morning break,
11 Ms Innes?

12 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady, we have another oral witness --

13 LADY SMITH: Yes, and perhaps it's probably been noticed,
14 but at one point Bill Quigg was using 'Derek's' actual
15 name. It is, of course, protected by my general
16 restriction order and can't be repeated outside this
17 room.

18 We'll stop now for the morning break.

19 (11.29 am)

20 (A short break)

21 (11.45 am)

22 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

23 MS INNES: My Lady, the next witness wishes to remain

24 anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Angela'.

25 'Angela' was a foster carer for Strathclyde Regional

1 Council and then Glasgow City Council. On Day 316,
2 17 August 2022, parts of the statement of an applicant
3 using the pseudonym 'Mary' were read in. 'Mary's'
4 statement has the reference WIT-1-000000469. 'Mary' was
5 in the care of Strathclyde Regional Council. One of
6 those placements was with 'Angela'. She lived with
7 'Angela' from [REDACTED] 1984 until [REDACTED] 1984.
8 Glasgow City Council is believed to be the relevant
9 successor in respect of 'Mary'.

10 Records have been obtained from East Dunbartonshire
11 Council relative to 'Angela's' time as a foster carer
12 with Strathclyde. She lives in what is now East
13 Dunbartonshire. However, our understanding is that she
14 did not become an East Dunbartonshire carer in 1996 at
15 the time of the introduction of the unitary authorities
16 but remained with Glasgow City Council and Your Ladyship
17 may recall that at the beginning of this case study when
18 we heard evidence from East Dunbartonshire Council, at
19 that time none of the Strathclyde foster carers
20 transferred over to the new authority.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes.

22 MS INNES: So this particular foster carer remained with
23 Glasgow City Council at that time. But given where
24 we've obtained records from, it would appear that both
25 Glasgow City Council and East Dunbartonshire have

1 an interest.

2 LADY SMITH: Okay.

3 'Angela' (affirmed)

4 LADY SMITH: 'Angela', that sounds as though you're in
5 a good position for the microphone. If I can ask you to
6 carry on using the microphone, it will be really helpful
7 to you and to us, including the stenographers who listen
8 to you through the sound system.

9 The red folder on the desk is there because it has
10 a typed version of your statement in it, the one you
11 signed, but we'll also bring the statement up on the
12 screen. You might find that helpful. It'll be there
13 for you if you want to use it.

14 But before I hand over to Ms Innes, 'Angela',
15 a couple of things I want to say.

16 First, I do appreciate that what we're asking you to
17 do and what we have asked you to do in giving your
18 statement isn't easy. It's difficult to take you back
19 to events so long ago and events where in relation to
20 which you've had to answer some difficult questions that
21 I'm sure you feel we've pressed you on, and we may have
22 to press you on some of them today as well.

23 Can I remind you that we do that because of the
24 purpose of this Inquiry, and it's a wider purpose than
25 your individual experience and the individual experience

1 of anyone you fostered, although of course we want to
2 gather the evidence about that. Overall, it's to do
3 with the interests of children in the past, present and
4 the future. That's why. If you're finding it tough and
5 we're putting you under pressure, that's why we're doing
6 it.

7 But if you need a break at any time or if it just
8 feels upsetting and distressing and you want to pause
9 where you are, that's absolutely fine. Just let me know
10 if there's anything I can do to assist. Ultimately
11 I want you to go away feeling you've been able to give
12 your evidence as clearly and fully as you can so that
13 we've heard from you everything you want to tell us.

14 Separately 'Angela', it could be that you're asked
15 questions the answers to which might incriminate you,
16 and although this is not a courtroom, it's a public
17 inquiry, you have exactly the same protections that you
18 would have in a courtroom. So you don't have to answer
19 any such questions, it's your choice, but of course if
20 you do answer them you must answer them fully. Does
21 that make sense?

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: If you have any doubts about anything I've said
24 or, as I've indicated, if there's anything I can do to
25 make this as smooth a passage between now and you

1 finishing your evidence as I can, you must let me know.

2 A. Thank you.

3 LADY SMITH: I'll hand over to Ms Innes and she'll take it
4 from there. Thank you.

5 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

6 Questions from Ms Innes

7 MS INNES: Now, Angela, we understand that you were born in
8 1949; is that right?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. If we could look first of all at your statement, we give
11 it the reference WIT-1-000000966. If we go to the final
12 page of your statement, page 25, paragraph 118, it says
13 there:

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

18 And I believe you signed the statement on 25 April
19 2022?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Is that right? And I think you had a read over your
22 statement yesterday maybe before coming to give evidence
23 today?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. If I can take you back to the beginning of your

1 statement at paragraph 2 you tell us that you got
2 married when you were 18 and you had three children by
3 the time you were 22.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is that right? And you did some jobs and then you
6 became a foster carer?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. If we go down to paragraph 3, you say you and your
9 husband became foster carers in 1978?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And are you still a registered foster carer?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And is that now with Glasgow City Council?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. Why was it that you decided to become a foster
16 carer?

17 A. I think coming from a large family and being the
18 oldest -- well, second oldest, I'm the oldest girl of
19 a family of eight, and always being around younger
20 siblings and cousins and lots of family round about me,
21 it's just what I like doing, working with children.

22 Q. Okay. You say that at the beginning you were open to
23 taking children of all ages?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But then after a few years you changed your mind about

1 that?

2 A. Yes, it didn't suit with my own children.

3 Q. Okay, and what didn't suit with your own children?

4 A. My own children didn't like the sharing of mum and dad,
5 the sharing of toys, everything, just everything, my
6 kids didn't like it. Sharing the room. Some of their
7 toys would get broken. They just didn't like any of it.
8 And they always felt the foster children got treated
9 slightly different from them because I would make
10 allowances for the foster children because they hadn't
11 had the same upbringing as my children had had.

12 Q. Okay. So you then changed from saying that you would
13 take children of any age to taking babies up to two
14 years old?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And for how long then have you been doing that?

17 A. About 40 years.

18 Q. Okay. In this paragraph you say you're still fostering
19 now but there are very few babies needing fostered?

20 A. Yes. I actually spoke to my worker last week. I'm
21 thinking of resigning now because you're waiting so long
22 for placements and it's just not -- not what I want to
23 do. I'd love to carry on fostering, but I don't want to
24 wait ten months at a time for a placement.

25 Q. Okay. We'll come on to a bit more about those things in

1 due course.

2 You talk about how you --

3 LADY SMITH: Sorry, just going back to what you were saying

4 there, to clarify it, when you say you don't want to

5 wait ten months at a time for a placement, are you

6 telling me you don't want a child to be left with you

7 for as long as ten months --

8 A. No.

9 LADY SMITH: -- before they're placed elsewhere?

10 A. Sorry, no, I don't want to be waiting in my house for

11 a phone call saying, "We have a child, would you take

12 it?" I waited ten months for the last child I had,

13 without having anybody --

14 LADY SMITH: So you don't want long gaps between

15 placements --

16 A. No, no.

17 LADY SMITH: -- with you?

18 A. Yes, I want one tomorrow.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 A. Sorry.

21 MS INNES: And when you're waiting, do you feel that your

22 life is sort of on hold in some way?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And what does it stop you doing?

25 A. It doesn't really stop me from doing anything, but I'm

1 just that type of person. I used to wait for the phone
2 before mobile phones, I'd be scared to leave my house.
3 I'd put my answer machine on and I'd be rushing back to
4 see if there was a message.

5 Q. Okay. If we can go back to the time that you began to
6 be a foster parent and if we look at page 2 and
7 paragraph 4, you say that you can remember going to the
8 social work office in Milngavie and you were giving
9 forms to fill in; is that right?

10 A. Mm-hmm, yes.

11 Q. And you say that you went to quite a few classes and met
12 other people who were carers and "they explained to us
13 the reality of what fostering actually meant".

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So is that training or was that an information type of
16 meeting?

17 A. Bit of both. There would have been some training. You
18 would do wee exercises, you know, you were put into wee
19 groups of four or six or whatever and you were given
20 a story and you were to then figure out how you would
21 sort this. You know, it would be a child coming into
22 care and you would have to say what you would have done.

23 Q. Okay.

24 And who ran that or organised it?

25 A. Social work.

1 Q. And was that before you were actually approved as
2 a foster parent?

3 A. Yes, yes.

4 Q. Was that part of the assessment process, do you think?
5 Were the social workers watching what you would say --

6 A. Yes, yes.

7 Q. -- in response to these case studies?

8 A. Yes, uh-huh.

9 Q. Okay. And did people who were already foster carers
10 speak at those meetings, can you remember?

11 A. Some of them would, but a lot of them would just talk to
12 you in general. You know, if you were having a cup of
13 coffee they would ask you why you want to do this, about
14 your own family background, and they would try and
15 explain rather nicely how it could affect your life.

16 Q. Okay. And in retrospect, do you feel like you were
17 given a realistic --

18 A. Oh no.

19 Q. -- picture?

20 A. Oh no, no. But it would be like anybody. It would be
21 like having your first child and everybody tries to
22 warn. Nobody believes it. I would say the same.

23 Q. You then say you were asked about the age of children
24 you wanted to foster and perhaps your house was looked
25 at as well?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Okay. And you think that the process took about a year?

3 A. Yes, it did.

4 Q. From the first application until a child was placed with
5 you?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. You then say at paragraph 6 that when you were
8 given your first foster child, you were visited
9 regularly by your allocated social worker from the
10 Milngavie social work office.

11 A. (Witness nods).

12 Q. So did you always have your own social worker?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. As opposed to the child's social worker?

15 A. The child would have one, but I've always had my own.

16 Q. Okay. And has that been a person that's been consistent
17 throughout the whole period or have those changed?

18 A. No, consistent.

19 Q. Okay. Have you had different social workers, though,
20 over that period?

21 A. Yeah, I've had three main ones.

22 Q. Okay. And those people would then be consistently with
23 you for a while?

24 A. (Witness nods).

25 Q. Until maybe they moved on --

1 A. Yes, the last one retired and I got a new one but I've
2 had her for over ten years.

3 Q. Okay. At paragraph 7 you say that you remember being
4 given paperwork on the legislation and being told what
5 you could and couldn't do. Was that at the start?

6 A. Yes, that would be at the start.

7 Q. And can you remember anything about the form of that?
8 Was it a sort of handbook or anything like that?

9 A. There was handbooks about, but they were hard to get, to
10 be quite honest. A lot of it was verbally done. Your
11 worker would verbally tell you things.

12 Q. Okay. And you say that you don't recall being given any
13 other specific training --

14 A. No, not at the start, no.

15 Q. Okay. Beyond what you've mentioned. And you talk about
16 some specific areas and you say you definitely didn't
17 get training in dealing with children who'd been
18 neglected?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Abused?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Anything like that?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. But then can I interrupt and remind you, I then went to

1 babies so it wasn't relevant to me. My babies came
2 straight from the hospital, usually.

3 Q. Okay. So we'll come onto that in a moment.

4 So at the time that you became a foster carer, you
5 told us there was this assessment process. You were
6 given some information, some of it was written down,
7 a lot of it was verbal, but you weren't given any other
8 kind of training on --

9 A. No.

10 Q. -- child protection or how children might behave or --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- anything like that.

13 After that, after you became a foster carer and when
14 you were taking the older children, during that period
15 can you remember having any training?

16 A. No.

17 Q. I asked if you could remember, so is it possible that
18 there was training and you've forgotten --

19 A. No, I don't think there was. I don't think there was.

20 Q. You don't think there was, okay.

21 And if we move on then beyond that to the time that
22 you were taking babies, was there a time that training
23 started being offered?

24 A. There was training but most of it was relevant to older
25 children. There was the thing. There was a lot of it.

1 There was things maybe because years ago it was a lot of
2 drinks -- you know, before you got alcohol problems,
3 before drugs came. You could have got some training for
4 that because you had to know how to handle a baby from
5 the hospital that had withdrawals, to be quite honest.
6 But it would have only been like going to a social
7 work's -- you know, an evening meeting.

8 Q. Okay. So an evening meeting and then perhaps something
9 like foetal alcohol syndrome or something like that --

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. -- might be considered, okay. And did there come a time
12 where training became mandatory?

13 A. Yes, it is now.

14 Q. Okay. And what sort of things are included in the
15 mandatory training?

16 A. Probably all these things that you're saying about the
17 abuse and all these things and how to interact with the
18 children, but again I didn't do any of them because
19 I only had babies and I wasn't -- I wasn't -- not that
20 you'd be forced, but I wasn't really pushed into doing
21 any of it.

22 Q. Okay. Are you given sort of details from the social
23 work department about training events coming up?

24 A. Yes. Regularly.

25 Q. And how do they alert you? Is it email or --

1 A. Email. Email.

2 Q. Okay. And at the beginning of your time as a foster
3 carer, did you have annual reviews?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. So throughout your time as a foster carer, you've
6 always had annual reviews?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. At the annual review, would there be discussion
9 about training?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And would you be expected, maybe in more recent years,
12 to have undertaken a certain amount of training, or
13 certain topics?

14 A. Yes, you would.

15 Q. Would you do that, or if you're saying it's not relevant
16 to you --

17 A. I don't do it.

18 Q. You don't do it. And what then happens at the review?

19 A. They would ask me why I haven't done it and you'd have
20 to have a reason. It was okay when there was a creche
21 on, but they don't do creches any more. I live alone.
22 My mother doesn't stay beside me. I don't really have
23 a support group to watch a child for me.

24 Q. So you're saying that if you had a child with you, it
25 would be difficult for you to attend training?

1 A. Very.

2 Q. Okay. And you say there used to be a creche?

3 A. Some meetings they would provide a creche.

4 Q. I see. But if they don't provide that, then you would
5 say it's difficult for you to attend?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And is that the sort of reason that you would give to
8 the annual review for not having done the training?

9 A. Yes, but sometimes they would then offer you for the
10 child to go to another carer. They would do respite for
11 you to let you go if you didn't have anybody to babysit.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. But most of the training I got off with because it
14 wasn't relevant.

15 Q. Okay. So is there any sanction, as far as you're aware,
16 for not doing the training?

17 A. No, so far I've not had anything but my knuckles rapped.

18 Q. When you say your knuckles rapped, what does that looked
19 like? Is it just talked about at the meeting or --

20 A. Yes. You're asked why you haven't gone.

21 Q. And are you sent follow-up letter or anything?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay. And does your social worker talk to you about
24 going to training events and --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And would you give the sort of same responses --

2 A. Yes, said the same to her. I have a great health

3 visitor and I've always had great health visitors, and

4 if there was any new things like changing the feed or

5 changing the way you would lie a baby down, et cetera,

6 she would be the one that would come up to me.

7 Q. Okay. So if we go on, please, to page 3 and

8 paragraph 9, you mention handbooks and guidance there,

9 and you said that there weren't any at the start but

10 over the years they were introduced and occasionally

11 updated.

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. And you say that you found them fairly basic?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And was it because of the type of fostering that you

16 were undertaking or was it just generally that you felt

17 they were basic?

18 A. Bit of both, to be quite honest with you, because back

19 to my only doing babies, a lot of it wasn't relevant to

20 me.

21 Q. You said a moment ago in your evidence that it was quite

22 hard to get hold of a handbook?

23 A. Very hard.

24 Q. Who would supply them? The social work department?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. And why was it hard to get hold of them?

2 A. They probably only had so many and if your worker didn't
3 visit you that month, they might all be away from the
4 office or they've forgotten to give it out to you or it
5 wasn't relevant to me.

6 Q. So any time it was updated, who would tell you about
7 that?

8 A. Probably through the grapevine of another foster carer.

9 Q. Okay.

10 Do you have a physical handbook --

11 A. Just now the only one I have is kinship.

12 Q. So why do you have a handbook about kinship care?

13 A. Because this is how it's all going now. They're trying
14 to cut back on the foster carers and go to kinship.
15 I was given one because I was asking what kinship
16 entailed and I was given a handbook so that I could look
17 at that.

18 Q. Okay, and is the handbook maybe online now, do you know?

19 A. I don't know.

20 Q. You mention there that there's been a move to kinship
21 care and over what sort of period have you become aware
22 of that move?

23 A. I would probably say about the last three, four years.

24 Q. Okay. And how is it that you've become aware of that?

25 A. Well, we're not getting the placements. There's a lot

1 of foster carers that I know haven't had a placement
2 because they're going into kinship.

3 Q. Okay. And is that particularly happening with the
4 younger children that you look after or --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- is it happening generally?

7 A. I think it's happening generally but they're not -- most
8 of them don't -- the older ones don't -- they aren't
9 inclined to go into kinship. It is usually just the
10 younger ones.

11 Q. Okay. If we can move down, please, on page 3 to
12 paragraph 11, you say there that from the very start of
13 fostering, you considered yourself employed by the
14 council.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Why was it that you considered yourself employed?

17 A. Because they're the ones that paid me.

18 Q. In terms of your view of fostering, do you see it as
19 a job or a vocation?

20 A. Oh no, a vocation.

21 Q. Why do you say that?

22 A. I would do it for nothing. I absolutely love it.

23 Q. Okay.

24 You say at this same paragraph 11, you say that in
25 the early stages your preference was for short-term

1 placements as opposed to emergency and long-term
2 placements.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Can you explain why that was your preference?

5 A. I worked, I was a childminder as well.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. So to phone me at 2 o'clock in the morning wasn't really
8 good for me.

9 Q. Okay. So that would be an emergency placement?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And what about long-term placements? Why didn't you --

12 A. You get very emotionally attached. If you've got a baby
13 straight from the hospital and you keep that child for
14 over two years, it's pretty hard giving the child up.

15 Q. And you say that although you asked for short-term
16 foster placements, it often didn't work out that way and
17 you had foster children longer than you should have had?

18 A. Always, not sometimes, nearly always, to be honest.

19 Q. Okay. And in terms of the length of time, what length
20 of time should a short-term foster placement be in your
21 view?

22 A. Oh, it's supposed to be six months.

23 Q. Okay. And so it would always be longer than six months?

24 A. Oh yes.

25 Q. Okay. And can you give us an idea of the sort of

1 longest placements that you've had?

2 A. Nearly three years.

3 Q. Nearly three years?

4 A. The girl I adopted, I had her for nearly five years
5 before she was up for adoption, but that was years ago.

6 Q. Okay.

7 Do you know why it was that the children were
8 staying with you for longer than the six months?

9 A. I think probably legal stuff. You know, parents have
10 all their rights so they'd be fighting -- you know, they
11 didn't want to free them for adoption so you have to get
12 all the legal side fixed before you can legally put them
13 up for adoption. It was more that.

14 Q. And when the children moved on from you, did they tend
15 to go back to their parents, did they go to adoptive
16 placements or did they go on to other foster carers?

17 A. No, the babies nearly always are adoptive.

18 Q. Okay. And would some go back to their parents or --

19 A. Very few.

20 Q. And would some go on to long-term foster care?

21 A. Not usually.

22 Q. Not usually.

23 You talk at paragraph 12 about your change from
24 taking older children to younger children and you say
25 that you made that change after less than 10 years as

1 a foster carer.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You've already explained to us the reasons for that.

4 If we go on to page 13, you say:

5 "Occasionally the --

6 LADY SMITH: Paragraph 13 or page 13?

7 MS INNES: Paragraph 13, sorry.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS INNES: Paragraph 13 you say that:

10 "Occasionally the social work department have asked

11 [you] to take other older children and they have used

12 emotional blackmail to try and push me into taking

13 them."

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you explain --

16 A. I would get the phone call, quite recently as well,

17 maybe, "'Angela' could you take a 15-year-old that's

18 just had a baby?" and I've had no training for any of

19 that and you're asked if you would take a teenager with

20 a child. I've also had a 17-year-old with a child as

21 well, been asked to do that. I mean, I don't do that.

22 I live alone. I only do babies, straightforward babies.

23 Usually from the hospital, if not very young children,

24 and you're asked if you would take a teenager.

25 Q. And when you say that emotional blackmail is used, what

1 do you mean?

2 A. Well, they know I want a baby, so they'll throw the
3 child's parent in for good measure but they know
4 I really want the baby, so I think they think you're
5 willing to do anything.

6 Q. Okay. And you say that you've had to be strong to
7 refuse them?

8 A. Yes. My family are moaning at me for being silly
9 sometimes.

10 Q. And you say that now you really need to think about your
11 own needs?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And would that have an impact on the number of children
14 that you would take, for example?

15 A. Meaning more than one?

16 Q. Mm-hmm.

17 A. Yeah, I'd rather just stick to the one because it's easy
18 for me.

19 Q. Okay. And then you talk about the social workers that
20 you've had over the years and you say that you've never
21 been offered any other support by the Local Authority
22 beyond that, and if they had, you would have probably
23 refused. Is that because you feel that you have had
24 adequate support from your various social workers?

25 A. Yes, my own workers, yes.

1 Q. Okay.

2 Yes, so you go on at paragraph 16 to talk about how
3 you view fostering. You say you love fostering and it's
4 been your life. You say:

5 "A lot of people don't realise the practicalities of
6 fostering and how difficult it can be."

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can you tell us a bit more about that? What are the
9 things that people don't realise?

10 A. First of all, they don't realise it's a 24-hour job.
11 You know, I think they think it's like childminding, you
12 have them 9 to 5 and then the children go back. They
13 don't realise they've got contact. Nowadays you're
14 asked if you'll transport them as well. So you're asked
15 to take children back. Parents don't like the clothes
16 you put on them, they don't suit that colour. Lots of
17 silly things. Please don't feed them this, please don't
18 give them that.

19 The parents have their rights, I totally appreciate
20 that, but when you're watching the child 24/7, I feel
21 they should be a wee bit more flexi with us sometimes.

22 Q. So some of the difficulties that you would experience in
23 more recent years when looking after young children, are
24 they to do with the interaction with parents and
25 contact?

1 A. Usually. Usually.

2 Q. So no difficulties with the child themselves?

3 A. Not usually, no.

4 Q. And I guess difficulties that might arise, you would
5 speak to maybe your health visitor about?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Or your social worker?

8 A. Yes, if I was unsure about something, yes.

9 Q. Okay.

10 You say at paragraph 17 that you don't believe that
11 foster carers necessarily need to have childcare
12 qualifications but they must have proven experience and
13 show understanding.

14 A. Yes. Totally.

15 Q. I wonder if you have any thoughts about how someone
16 might get relevant experience?

17 A. Well, I think people that don't have children don't
18 realise what it's like to have a child, and although
19 you're looking at somebody doing it and you can form
20 your opinion and think the person is doing it wrongly,
21 if you've not got that experience, if you've not tried
22 that, you don't know what it's like. It's hard to get
23 the experience. How do you get experience unless you've
24 done the thing? That's what I'm meaning.

25 Q. And do you think that there are differences between

1 bringing up your own children, as you had done, and then
2 bringing up children who are and have been in care and
3 have been removed from their parents?

4 A. Oh yes.

5 Q. What sort of differences?

6 A. Well, your own children have got the stability of the
7 parent there. You know, they've got a regular go to
8 school, you know, they've got this nice routine.
9 A child coming into care nine out of ten times doesn't
10 have any routine.

11 Q. Okay. And I suppose -- well, your own child, they've
12 grown up with you, whereas a foster child, maybe
13 an older child coming into care, hasn't had that?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. You say in this paragraph that you think it should
16 definitely be recognised as a profession as it is more
17 than just a job?

18 A. Definitely.

19 Q. What do you mean by that?

20 A. I just think people don't give credit to people that
21 watch children 24/7, to be quite honest with you. As
22 I say, it's not like childminding where the child goes
23 away. You've got it there all the time. If they're
24 sick or anything, you're the one that has to worry about
25 the doctors or the hospital or things like that.

1 Whereas if you were childminding you'd phone up the
2 parent and say, "Your child's not well, what would you
3 like me to do?"

4 Q. So it's about the responsibility?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And when you're saying you don't get credit, do you mean
7 in monetary terms?

8 A. Oh, that as well, definitely.

9 Q. So that's part of it?

10 A. Yeah, yeah.

11 Q. It's not all that you mean.

12 Right, if we move on to financial support, it's over
13 the page on page 5. You say that you don't know how
14 much you got when you first started but you know it
15 wasn't a lot?

16 A. No, it wasn't much.

17 Q. And you say it was almost like a voluntary service?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And what were you to use the money for?

20 A. For the children's upkeep. Part of it would be to help
21 with your electricity bill and clothing for the
22 children.

23 Q. Did you keep that money separate or did it just go into
24 your family budget?

25 A. Just went into the family budget.

1 Q. Okay. And you talk about some additional, I think,
2 discretionary payments that you might have got? If, for
3 example, a baby comes to you and they don't have any
4 clothes or --

5 A. Yeah, you can get a £100 discretionary payment usually
6 straight away.

7 Q. And you say at paragraph 20 that nowadays you get £500
8 every two weeks?

9 A. It's just over that now, sorry.

10 Q. And is that all that you get or could you claim for
11 other things on top of that?

12 A. No. You could claim for mileage on your car. That's
13 it.

14 Q. And so mileage on your car to go where?

15 A. If you were doing the transport, taking the child to
16 nursery or something like that.

17 Q. Okay. But beyond that it's the £500?

18 A. That's it.

19 Q. Okay. And you say that you understand that half of that
20 is for the child's upkeep and the other half is your
21 pay?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can you explain that?

24 A. Well, half of the child is for the clothing, the feeding
25 and just the general upkeep of the child, and the

1 other half is your salary, basically.

2 Q. Okay. And do you think that's enough?

3 A. No. Definitely not. But as I say, I would honestly do

4 it for nothing. Which isn't feasible if you have

5 a family. It's okay now, I'm in a different position.

6 Q. And why do you say it's not enough?

7 A. Anybody trying to live on £250, it isn't enough for

8 anybody, I would say.

9 Q. So are you saying there you couldn't stop working and

10 rely on that as your main source of income?

11 A. No, I couldn't at the time, no.

12 Q. And you say that if you don't have a foster child, you

13 used to be given a retaining fee of about £25 per

14 fortnight?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Has that gone?

17 A. That's gone years ago.

18 Q. Okay. And that was so that they didn't lose you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So in the circumstances that you described earlier where

21 you've been waiting 10 months for a child and then

22 a placement is made, I assume you would say that

23 a person who's relying on being a foster carer can't

24 wait about for that length of time?

25 A. No, I've heard a few of the carers have gone back to

1 work. Some of them that had retired -- well, stopped
2 working and started fostering, have now given up the
3 fostering because of this. If you were a young person
4 and you were relying on your income, whether it was for
5 your own children or towards your mortgage or whatever,
6 and you've stopped your job for this, you're not getting
7 any income -- not a regular income, let me rephrase
8 that.

9 Q. Okay. Do you know if that's meant that foster carers
10 have stopped being foster carers because they've gone
11 back to work?

12 A. Yes, a few of them have, yes.

13 Q. Now, you say at paragraph 21 that:

14 "I don't think it's fair that a parent gets given
15 a new pram for a baby yet a foster carer who has
16 children all the time gets nothing because we are given
17 a wage."

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Can you explain that, please?

20 A. Well, if a child left me and went back to the parent,
21 most of the parents don't have equipment, so they would
22 get a new cot, a new pram, and anyone else, high chairs,
23 anything else that were required.

24 Q. And who would supply that?

25 A. Social work.

1 Q. Okay. But yet you're saying that you don't get those
2 sorts of supplies, you're expected --

3 A. I wouldn't get a new pram. I would have had one at the
4 start and I've never had another one since.

5 Q. So you would have to supply that for yourself?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. If we can move on to page 6, please, and
8 paragraph 23, you talk about the house that you lived
9 in. Was it always the same house that you've lived in?

10 A. I've been in the same house for over 50 years.

11 Q. Okay. And you say that it had five bedrooms?

12 A. Well, it initially only had three.

13 Q. Okay. And then you say:

14 "When we started fostering, we had our loft
15 converted ..."

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you get any financial assistance from the Local
18 Authority to help you with that?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Is that something that you had done before you were
21 fostering?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Or that you decided to do because you were fostering?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Because I was fostering.

2 Q. Okay. Okay, that's fine.

3 If we look at paragraph 24, you say you're not sure

4 how many children you've looked after altogether over

5 the years?

6 A. No, sorry.

7 Q. You say it was a lot, but possibly not as many as you

8 think because you had children for up to two or perhaps

9 three years?

10 A. Yes, absolutely.

11 Q. Would you only have one child at a time?

12 A. No, I used to do two.

13 Q. Two, and more recently you say one?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Would the children be related when you had two or would

16 they be unrelated?

17 A. Unrelated.

18 Q. Okay. In terms of their comparative ages, was there any

19 pattern in relation to that? Would you have

20 a relatively newborn almost and a two-year-old or could

21 you have two one-year-olds, for example?

22 A. Yes, that could happen.

23 Q. So it varied?

24 A. It varied, yes.

25 Q. Okay. Then you talk at paragraph 25 about only having

1 eight children over the age of five?

2 A. I think it was only six, to be honest.

3 Q. Right, okay. So you remember having three children --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- from one family?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And that was the only family of three?

8 A. Of three, yes.

9 Q. And then you talk about two girls aged five and nine?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And then a brother and sister?

12 A. No, I don't remember the brother and sister part. Just

13 a single boy then.

14 Q. So when you looked at your statement, you thought

15 maybe --

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. -- that was incorrect, okay. So the three, the two

18 girls, and then a boy on his own?

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. So six in total?

21 A. Yes, I think so.

22 Q. Okay.

23 Can you tell us what you remember about the three

24 children coming to live with you?

25 A. I remember three because I'd never done three before and

1 I remember the oldest child not being happy and not
2 wanting to be there. I remember that quite -- quite
3 sad-looking girl, to be quite honest with you. The
4 other two settled in very quickly and were absolutely
5 fine.

6 Q. Okay. And that's the only time that you took three
7 children?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you have enough accommodation, did you have the five
10 bedrooms at that stage?

11 A. Well, I had the five bedrooms at that time but I think
12 I borrowed a bed from my mum because I wouldn't have had
13 enough beds to be honest with you and that's where my
14 emotional blackmail comes into, but I'll stop.

15 Q. That's because they had phoned you up and said --

16 A. I had three children of my own, a girl that I fostered
17 and I was a full-time childminder. So there's already
18 four children in the house, I'm working full time as
19 a childminder and I'm asked to take a family of three.
20 Quite a lot for anybody.

21 Q. And did you feel that you had an option to say no?

22 A. Probably. Probably you could say no, but it's put
23 across to you in such a way, "These poor kids, blah,
24 blah", and you just feel okay I'll do it. You're told
25 it'll probably only be short term, and you just do it.

1 Q. Okay. You say it was always Glasgow --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- Local Authority that the children came from, so

4 Strathclyde when it was Strathclyde, I suppose?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. At paragraph 28 you say that you rarely get much

7 notice?

8 A. That's true.

9 Q. And you say with a baby you might get a call if the

10 baby's just been born?

11 A. Yes, usually.

12 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 29, if you couldn't take the

13 child then they would have to put the child elsewhere

14 and you say that you're not aware that they matched

15 children with suitable foster carers?

16 A. (Witness shakes head).

17 Q. You think that they just had a list and went through it?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So it's if you've got space?

20 A. You take it.

21 Q. Okay. At paragraph 30 you talk about the child coming

22 to you. Would you ever meet the child in advance of the

23 child moving to you or would the social worker just turn

24 up with the child or children at the door?

25 A. Well, if you're talking babies or you're talking older?

1 Q. Well --

2 A. Anything? Anything. Usually they would just appear.

3 Q. And what about the older children?

4 A. You'd maybe get a phone call telling you a bit about

5 them before they would arrive, but very seldom a social

6 worker would come to your house to tell you the story.

7 Q. Okay. And you say that having your own children

8 sometimes helped with settling in?

9 A. Well, I thought so, you know, playing games with them,

10 cards, toys, football out the back garden. I would have

11 thought that helped.

12 Q. Okay. You say that the only bad point was the feeling

13 of resentment from your children?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you tell us about that?

16 A. My children at the end -- it all started off nice and my

17 children thought this was really nice, as if they had

18 a new sibling in the family, but when things started

19 going like their toys, disrupting their room, ripping

20 the wallpaper, you know, things that kids do, my kids

21 had probably not done that and they just resented the

22 whole thing then.

23 Q. I think you're also saying here that there was also

24 a feeling of resentment from the foster children?

25 A. The foster kids didn't want to be in care, basically

1 that was it. It didn't matter how good you were to
2 them. I mean, foster children got taxi drivers outings,
3 foster children got to go to see the Concord. Your own
4 children didn't get any of that. Foster kids got extras
5 and your kids didn't get it. So that's why my kids
6 resented it and the foster kids didn't maybe get what
7 your kids got like the stability of going to school so
8 there was resentment on either side, to be honest with
9 you.

10 Q. And were those the sorts of things that made you and
11 your husband decide --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- to stop taking older children?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Were your children better able to cope with a younger
16 child, a baby?

17 A. Oh yeah, a baby was in my room, it didn't affect
18 anybody, they all had their own rooms then.

19 Q. Okay. At paragraph 32 you mention about a time that you
20 had a child, a long time ago now, about 30 years ago,
21 who you think wasn't suited for you?

22 A. (Witness nods).

23 Q. Can you tell us about that? Why was there a difficulty?

24 A. I'd been given a phone call and asked to take
25 a placement and it was a little girl, quite -- well, not

1 local but not far away, and you knew there was going to
2 be a lot of contact and had said yes to it. But when
3 she came, she was very ... mm ... she had a lot of
4 problems. Couldn't walk properly. Very disabled with
5 a lot of things, and I was never told any of that.

6 Q. And did you feel that you were equipped or able --

7 A. No, definitely wasn't equipped and not able in any way.

8 Q. And did you raise that issue with your social worker?

9 A. Yes, and the child's social worker.

10 Q. And was she moved as a result of your --

11 A. Not straight away.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. It took a wee while.

14 Q. And did you have any concerns about the fact that she
15 wasn't moved straight away?

16 A. Wasn't happy. Wasn't happy, because I was doing no
17 good. I couldn't help her in any way.

18 Q. Okay. Now, you've mentioned already that you would be
19 given basic information about the child and at
20 paragraph 35 you would say that you never got to see or
21 read any of the social work records that were kept for
22 the child.

23 A. (Witness shakes head).

24 Q. You would often be given a care plan after it had been
25 discussed.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Is that something that came in over the time that you've
3 been fostering?

4 A. It was supposed to be right from the start. There was
5 a care plan for any child. You would have a meeting
6 within the first couple of weeks and then the care plan
7 was put into place.

8 Q. And what input did you have into the care plan?

9 A. You would just sit there and get told what you were
10 going to be doing, basically, to be quite honest.

11 Q. And you say that the care plan would be looking --

12 A. The future.

13 Q. -- at what they were going to achieve so it would be
14 about the future?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. At paragraph 36 you talk about -- this is about
17 preparation, we've already touched on some of this.

18 A. (Witness nods).

19 Q. Did you ever meet the parents or previous carers of
20 children before they came to you?

21 A. Never met the parents previous to coming to me. Maybe
22 met a foster carer who'd had a child that for whatever
23 reasons was coming to me.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. But not before it. It would have been done on the

1 telephone.

2 Q. Okay. And what about meeting the parents? Did you then
3 meet them later on when --

4 A. I would meet them at the planning meeting.

5 Q. Okay. And how did you find that?

6 A. Most parents hate you initially.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Because in black and white, you sound as if you're
9 Mother Theresa who can do all of this. And then when
10 they meet you, they realise you're just a down-to-earth
11 normal person who's quite happy looking after children
12 and touch wood, I've always got on with every one of my
13 parents.

14 Q. Okay. At paragraph 38 on page 9 you say that when
15 a child is being removed, you're given a fair bit of
16 notice of that?

17 A. Usually. Not always, but usually you're given a bit of
18 notice. But again most of my children are adoptive so
19 they have to tell me in advance.

20 Q. Yeah. So would there then be visits with prospective
21 adoptive parents?

22 A. There'd be a meeting and they would tell me at the
23 meeting that the child was up for adoption and they
24 would probably tell me when they're going to start the
25 introductions.

1 Q. Okay. And would you ever have any input into decisions
2 about where the child goes to or the prospective
3 adopters?

4 A. Years ago you would have been given -- I would have been
5 given information about three couples and I would have
6 been asked my opinion which I thought would be best for
7 the child. The opinion was not taken, but you were
8 asked for it, to be quite honest, and you were asked why
9 you thought that couple was any better than the other
10 two. But not lately and not for years now, to be
11 honest.

12 Q. Do you think it's a good idea for you to have input or
13 not?

14 A. Yes. I think it's a good idea. I think a carer should
15 be asked for their input because we are the ones that's
16 kept the child the 24/7.

17 Q. Okay.

18 If we can go on, please, to page 11 and
19 paragraph 45, you talk there about bed-wetting and you
20 say that that was a common issue. I think this is
21 talking about older children?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you say that that was common amongst the children
24 that you looked after?

25 A. All the older ones that I had, most of them wet the bed.

1 Q. Okay. How would you have dealt with that?

2 A. I would have probably went in and drawn a look and then
3 I would probably have said, "Oh for goodness sake", and
4 I would probably have shouted, but I would have just got
5 on with it.

6 Q. Why would you have shouted?

7 A. Because you're trying to get kids ready to go out to
8 school and get organised and you've gone in and you've
9 bathed that child the night before and they're now wet
10 and smelly, to be quite honest, and I'm trying to get my
11 own children organised to go out to school.

12 Q. Okay. And how do you think that the child who's wet the
13 bed might feel about you shouting and --

14 A. I'm a shouter. I talk very loud. I shout continually.
15 It's just what I do. I don't -- I think they just got
16 used to it as in, 'FWA [REDACTED] shouting at us again" --
17 "'Angela's' shouting at us again". I think that's the
18 way it would have gone.

19 They didn't cry, let's put it like that.

20 Q. Okay. And you say that you also had two girls who
21 soiled --

22 A. Yeah, they were travellers. They actually hadn't ever
23 lived in a house.

24 Q. Right, and they smeared on the walls as well?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. And how did you cope with that?

2 A. Again I probably shouted and then just washed it. You
3 know, and tried to explain to them that's not good.
4 Bed-wetting you can't help. Soiling a bed you really
5 could.

6 Q. Okay. And were you given any training or assistance or
7 advice as to how to deal with bed-wetting or soiling?

8 A. I think just talking to other carers who'd gone through
9 the same thing. It would have been try and talk to them
10 about it, I think that's what it would have been.

11 Q. Okay. And you say it was almost like the children who
12 wet the beds were too scared to get up through the night
13 to go to the toilet?

14 A. Yeah, definitely.

15 Q. And how did you try to overcome that?

16 A. I would say to them things like, "I'll leave the hall
17 light on for you, I'll leave the door open for you,
18 don't worry, there's nothing nobody in the toilet, it's
19 fine".

20 Q. Did these sorts of things help?

21 A. Not always, to be quite honest. You know, children are
22 quite wary, aren't they, about changes.

23 Q. Okay. At paragraph 47 you say:

24 "Sometimes children came with clothes but that would
25 have been unusual."

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you've already mentioned the discretionary payment
3 that you would get.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay.

6 Right, I am going to move on a little to page 12 and
7 paragraph 51. You talk about the older children, the
8 three children that you had, going on holiday with you
9 and your family.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. That's the only time that you took the older children --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- away with you. At paragraph 52 you say:

14 "Holidays when I first started were discouraged."

15 A. They still are, actually. They don't really want you to
16 put children into respite.

17 Q. Right. So one option if you're going on holiday is that
18 the children could go into respite?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Another option would be that the children could go with
21 you?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And is that encouraged or discouraged?

24 A. Discouraged with the wee ones, usually. We did do it,
25 I have taken quite a few children abroad, to be quite

1 honest, but now they're not happy for you to do it.

2 Q. Why is that?

3 A. I don't know. I -- there is a bit later on about

4 a senior wouldn't let me take the child even though both

5 parents had agreed to it. People see things

6 differently. Somebody said the social work department

7 are responsible for that child and if anything happened

8 it would be them that would get sued. So there is that

9 way of looking at it.

10 Q. Okay. Yes, I think you tell us in your statement that

11 there was a time that the parents were happy --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- for you to take a child away. Was it abroad or was

14 it in the UK?

15 A. It was abroad.

16 Q. But the social worker said --

17 A. No.

18 Q. -- you couldn't, okay. So you're not sure why that is,

19 but it might be because the social work department's

20 concerned --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- about their own exposure or liability?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. At paragraph 53 you say when you get the initial

25 call from the social worker the second question will be

1 if you have holidays booked?

2 A. Yes, and, "Can you drive?" is probably the first.

3 Q. And if you have a holiday booked, is there then

4 a discussion about whether you take the child at all?

5 A. If you're going abroad? No, there's no discussion.

6 Q. So if you're going in the UK, you might be able to take

7 them with you?

8 A. Yeah, there'll be a discussion about that, yeah.

9 Q. And if you're going abroad, is the solution to that to

10 put them into respite?

11 A. You just wouldn't get the placement.

12 Q. Place them somewhere else?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. If we move on to page 13 and paragraph 58, you

15 talk about medicals. I think there would be medicals at

16 the start and end of a --

17 A. Yes, placement.

18 Q. And you talk about a blue book and I think maybe a red

19 book as well?

20 A. That's nowadays, yes.

21 Q. So what's the blue book?

22 A. The blue book would be for my personal records, if

23 I took the child to the doctor, for injections or

24 anything, then it would be my book to keep. The red one

25 would be for the parent.

1 Q. Okay. And are these records to do with healthcare only?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Or other things?

4 A. Healthcare only but there is parts of it that you could

5 write your own notes on the back. I would write things

6 like -- remembering most of my babies are for adoption,

7 I would write things like cut first tooth at, first sat

8 up on, because they go on to be adopted and I cannot

9 remember when a child sat from one child to another.

10 Q. So information that might help --

11 A. Somebody, yes.

12 Q. -- in future, okay. So you keep this blue book and then

13 the red book you say it's for the parents.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So does it go back and forward -- are you talking about

16 birth parents or adoptive parents?

17 A. Adoptive parents.

18 Q. Okay. So the red book, is that with you for as long as

19 the child is with you?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then it moves with the child?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. And the blue book you keep?

24 A. I could keep.

25 Q. And does your social worker look at that blue book?

1 A. Sometimes if there was anything relevant in it.

2 Q. Okay. Other than these two books, do you have to keep
3 a diary or any other kind of records now?

4 A. We haven't been given diaries for the last couple of
5 years, but you do have -- we always were given a diary.

6 Q. And what sort of things were you supposed to put in the
7 diary?

8 A. Meetings or anything that happened during the day. You
9 know, if somebody fell and had you to take them to
10 a doctor or a cut knee or whatever, things like that.

11 Q. Were you supposed to complete it every day or not?

12 A. It's up to yourself, basically.

13 Q. And again is that something that the social worker would
14 look at?

15 A. Not usually unless there was something that she needed
16 to look at but not usually.

17 Q. Okay. Now if we move on to page 14, please, and
18 paragraph 61, you talk there about your way of
19 disciplining children. How would you discipline
20 children?

21 A. Usually shout, I'm afraid.

22 Q. Okay. And would you ever smack children?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did you smack your own children?

25 A. Yes, at the time when they were younger, yes.

1 Q. So why did you use that method of punishment with them
2 and not with foster children?

3 A. They're not my children.

4 Q. Is that something that you thought of yourself or is
5 that something that the social work department told you?

6 A. Bit of both probably.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. But I wouldn't have smacked them anyway.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Can I also just say, I spoke to my own children, who are
11 grown up, and I said to them -- they don't know about
12 this, but I said to them, "Did I actually smack foster
13 kids and I just can't remember?" and all of my children
14 said no. That was a part of the -- that was another
15 part of it why they didn't like the kids being there,
16 because my kids would get smacked and they wouldn't get
17 smacked for doing the same thing.

18 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 62 that you were never given
19 any guidance or advice about disciplining the foster
20 children.

21 A. No, not that I remember, no.

22 Q. So you would shout at them and then you say that the
23 worst you would do is maybe deny them a cake after tea?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. But you can't remember --

1 A. No.

2 Q. -- that happening?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay. And you remember an incident where a boy stole
5 money from you?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And what did you do about that?

8 A. He denied it all and the funny thing was I was hanging
9 the washing up so I could see through the window and he
10 denied it all and when I came any questioned him he
11 denied it and I got it off him. Basically I just said
12 don't "Do it again, this is my house, if there was
13 something you really needed ..." -- I mean, it was
14 probably just to buy sweets or something as a child
15 would do, but that was about it, what else could do you?

16 Q. Okay. Over the page, page 15 and paragraph 65, talking
17 there about showing affection to the foster children.

18 A. Yeah. We're talking the older children?

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. Most of them didn't want it. Some of them quite liked
21 it, reluctant at first to be quite honest with you, then
22 they would quite like it, sitting beside you. If they
23 saw maybe one of my children sit beside me they'd maybe
24 quite like it, but most of them weren't the type to want
25 to sit on your knee, to be quite honest.

1 Q. Would you wait for them to approach you rather than you
2 approaching them?

3 A. Oh yes, oh yes. Definitely.

4 Q. Okay. And you say at paragraph 67 that your husband was
5 working so he wasn't at the house all the time. You
6 describe him as being more relaxed than you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And he never shouted?

9 A. Not like me.

10 Q. Okay.

11 At paragraph 68 you talk about contact with families
12 and you say if there was contact with their families, it
13 was usually very regular?

14 A. Yes, for the older children.

15 Q. And how would that work? Would the social worker take
16 them to see their parents or would you do that?

17 A. Most times the social worker would collect them and take
18 them to see their parents. An odd time if a social
19 worker was maybe had a meeting on, I might be asked to
20 take the children and meet her somewhere, or him
21 somewhere.

22 Q. I think you say very rarely did you have anyone visit
23 their child at your own house?

24 A. Very rarely. I don't ever remember any parent -- once
25 or twice -- that's a lie, once or twice a parent.

1 Q. And you say it was discouraged?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. By the social work department?

4 A. Yeah. They didn't really want a lot of the parents to
5 know the foster carers' home address.

6 Q. And how did you feel about that?

7 A. After you met the parents you were all right, but some
8 of them, I will remind you we're talking drinks and
9 drugs, most of the parents then, to be quite honest with
10 you, you didn't want them in your house with your own
11 children there.

12 Q. You say that you can't remember, at paragraph 69, the
13 older foster children phoning their parents?

14 A. No. I don't remember any of that. You wouldn't have --
15 I'm ex-directory, I'm withheld, so they wouldn't have
16 been given my phone number to be quite honest with you.

17 Q. Can you remember any direct interaction with parents of
18 foster children?

19 A. As in the older children?

20 Q. Either.

21 A. Oh, I've had a lot of contact with the babies' birth
22 parents, yes, but not with the older ones.

23 Q. Okay. So with the parents of babies, would they have
24 direct contact with you? Would they be able to --

25 A. Nowadays with mobile phones, et cetera, yes, yes.

1 Q. And would they come to your house for contact or --

2 A. I've had a couple in my house, to be honest.

3 Q. And then on other occasions you would maybe go to --

4 A. Drop the wee one off at an office. But some children's

5 parents I've actually met outwith the social work

6 department and met for lunch, et cetera. But I had to

7 tell somebody. I'm not allowed to just do that by

8 myself. I would have to say to my worker, "I was

9 thinking of doing such-and-such", and you have to ask

10 for permission.

11 Q. And why would you think of doing something like that?

12 A. There was a wee girl that I'd had for over two years and

13 my daughter was actually thinking of adopting her, my

14 daughter can't have children, so she was thinking of

15 adopting her and I was very friendly with the mother.

16 So to get the mother to meet my daughter, we all

17 metaphor lunch a couple of times.

18 Q. At paragraph 70, you say if it was a baby, there would

19 be a book that would go between you and the parents in

20 relation to thing like what they're fed, changing or

21 anything like that.

22 A. Most carers do it. If you take photographs or things

23 you would put it in a bag, change of nappies and bottles

24 et cetera and most of us all do a notebook and we put

25 what the wee one's been up to that day, their routine

1 that day and when they were due their next feed,
2 et cetera.

3 Q. Okay. And then at paragraph 72, you talk there about
4 the foster child's social workers and you say they would
5 listen to your views but you're not sure if anyone
6 actually took cognisance of what you were saying?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So would you tend to have the children's social workers
9 coming to the house quite a lot or not?

10 A. They're supposed to visit regularly but I suppose it
11 depends. If they're picking them up for contact, you
12 know, it depends how regular contact was. Sometimes
13 they would go into a Cordia car so the social worker
14 wouldn't need to be there. She would probably meet them
15 at the other end and do the contact with them. So
16 I didn't always get a chance to speak to them unless
17 I telephoned to say maybe the child had come back upset
18 or something like that.

19 Q. And if a child came back upset, would you contact your
20 own worker to tell them that or would you contact the
21 child's social worker directly?

22 A. Probably both.

23 Q. Okay. So do you have a sense of the sort of interaction
24 and communication between your own worker and the
25 child's social worker?

1 A. Hardly any.

2 Q. Okay. Why do you say hardly any?

3 A. Well, my most recent one, a little boy after I waited
4 ten months, I got quite an emergency -- I was asked and
5 I said yes, then it all fell through and then I was
6 asked and then I got a phone call they're on their way.
7 So social worker dropped the child off in my house,
8 I had him for ten days and not once did she call me.
9 I spoke to my own worker. She called I think the next
10 day to see how the wee one had settled that evening and
11 to make sure I got the discretionary payment because
12 I didn't have clothes for his size and she then informed
13 me there was a meeting on the Friday and the plans would
14 be made on the Friday. The child's social worker didn't
15 call. Not even once. Not even after the child left my
16 house and went back to the mother, I didn't even get
17 a phone call to say "yes" or "no" or whatever happened.
18 Nothing. And that was my most recent one recently.

19 Q. And do you know if the child's social worker was
20 communicating with your worker then?

21 A. Well, I asked my worker and I think she said there's
22 stuff online.

23 Q. So they may be looking at notes on an online system?

24 A. Yes, yes.

25 Q. Okay. If we go to paragraph 76 at the top of page 17,

1 you say that you think that there should be a visit from
2 the child's social worker or make contact by telephone
3 at least once a week?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you say that when their social worker visited, you
6 would try to leave the room to give them peace. Would
7 that be with older children?

8 A. Yes, just with the older ones.

9 Q. Okay.

10 At paragraph 78, you talk, I think, about having
11 weekly contact with your own social worker?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And is that by telephone or --

14 A. A lot of it's by telephone, yes.

15 Q. How often would she come to see your house?

16 A. At least once a month.

17 Q. Okay. And do you know that she's coming or not?

18 A. No, they do spot checks.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Sometimes she visits, she would telephone to say she's
21 coming to visit, and other times it was the spot checks.

22 Q. Would she just be doing that when you have a child
23 placed with you?

24 A. No, she would come without even a child being there.

25 Q. Okay. But maybe she wouldn't be phoning you every week?

1 A. No, she wouldn't phone every week then, no.

2 Q. But she might still come and visit?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And see the house?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And you say, I think, that she doesn't bother
7 going upstairs now?

8 A. No.

9 Q. But she has a good check?

10 A. She stopped doing all the safety checks.

11 Q. Is that because you don't use the upstairs for the
12 foster child?

13 A. Usually I don't use it, no.

14 Q. At paragraph 79 you say you think there should be more
15 unannounced visits?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What are your thoughts on that?

18 A. I think twice a year to do an unannounced visit isn't
19 enough for anybody.

20 Q. Is that the current rule?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you think it should be more than that?

23 A. More, yes, a lot more.

24 Q. Okay. And do they always tend to come at the same time
25 of the day or does it vary?

1 A. No, it could vary.

2 Q. Would they come in the evening or at weekends?

3 A. No.

4 Q. So it would be during --

5 A. During working hours.

6 Q. Okay. Do you think that it would be a good idea for
7 an unannounced visit to take place in the evening or
8 weekends?

9 A. Yes, yes.

10 Q. Why is that?

11 A. Because people don't expect them to come on a weekend,
12 so if you were going to do anything like drink, for
13 example, you can get away with it at a weekend because
14 you know nobody will come and check.

15 Q. Okay.

16 If we move on to the next page, please, page 18 and
17 paragraph 81, you talk about going so some Children's
18 Hearings with a foster child?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What's your experience of them?

21 A. Children's panels and hearings?

22 Q. Mm-hmm.

23 A. They were quite good. Everybody would get a chance to
24 speak. I don't think foster carers' opinions went for
25 anything even there.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Because the social worker would have her plans and the
3 parents had made up their mind what was happening, to be
4 quite honest.

5 Q. And you say that you were restricted in what you were
6 allowed to say?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In what way?

9 A. Well, I couldn't sit with a parent at my side saying,
10 "No way should that child go back to that parent because
11 there's a lot of issues still there", but social workers
12 are restricted as well, to be fair. They're not going
13 to sit -- they would do it very diplomatically, but I'm
14 not diplomatic, I'm afraid.

15 Q. Okay. And you say at the end of this paragraph that
16 children weren't usually present. You don't think
17 children were given the full update from these hearings
18 and they were given a watered down version?

19 A. Yeah, a lot of -- we're back to the older children, not
20 the wee younger ones. They were just told, "It won't be
21 long now, mummy and daddy are getting better", when you
22 knew mummy and daddy weren't getting better and there
23 was already talk of maybe adoption or something.

24 Q. And you say at paragraph 83 that children should be told
25 honestly what is happening to them?

1 A. Again, age relevant. To me, they should be told. Most
2 kids can handle being told, if they're being honest.

3 Q. Okay. If we can look on, please, to paragraph 92 on
4 page 20. You talk about a child leaving and you would
5 prepare an album of photographs. Would that be with the
6 younger children?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That you'd had for a longer time. Would you give that
9 to their social worker?

10 A. No. I would give it to the new parents.

11 Q. Okay. And you talk about packing at paragraph 93. You
12 say -- I think this may be older children -- you'd help
13 them pack their toys and stuff.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. What did you put that you are belongings in? Did they
16 have suitcases or --

17 A. Not really. You would maybe try and get a nice bag, but
18 you didn't really get a lot of nice bags. Nowadays
19 obviously you do but you didn't get a lot of nice bags
20 so you would maybe just try and get a bag that was a bit
21 nicer. It wasn't even plastic bags, it would have been
22 paper bags to be quite honest or it would be a plastic
23 bag.

24 Q. We've heard some evidence about children moving from
25 place to place with their things in --

1 A. Black bags.

2 Q. Black bags.

3 A. Yeah, I've heard that as well. I would try to do boxes
4 and maybe let them colour in the box sometimes.

5 Q. Okay. If we go on over the page to page 21 and
6 paragraph 96, you say that if you had any complaints,
7 you would speak to your own social worker.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you've never complained?

10 A. Not really.

11 Q. Have you ever had reason to complain?

12 A. I've had a moan rather than a complaint, to be quite
13 honest with you.

14 Q. Okay. And was that about -- you mention this issue
15 about the girl on holiday.

16 A. Yeah, that was a moan.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I was asked if I wanted to take it further and I said
19 no.

20 Q. Okay. And you say in the next paragraph:
21 "I am not sure if anyone would have listened if
22 I had complained."

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. "And in any case it could cause an atmosphere if I have
25 to continue working with this person."

1 A. Yes, and if you have to work with them again when that
2 child went away, if you maybe get another child from
3 that same area team, you could cut the atmosphere with
4 a knife.

5 Q. Okay.

6 At paragraph 100, you talk about if a child had
7 an issue, so if a child disclosed abuse to you, what
8 would you do about that?

9 A. I would contact my worker initially.

10 Q. Okay. And at paragraph 104 on page 22, you say that the
11 only time you've ever had the police in your house was
12 in relation to a cot death?

13 A. Cot death, yes.

14 Q. Was there an investigation?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. After that? Okay. And you say this was one of twins?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And did the other twin remain with you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you talk about the remaining twin being on monitors.
21 Do you mean monitors in the house or was the other --

22 A. No, monitors in the house.

23 Q. Were they taken to the hospital to be checked?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You go on to refer to the specific allegations that were

1 put to you in respect of an applicant using the
2 pseudonym 'Mary', who I think was the oldest of the
3 three children that were placed with you.

4 If we look at paragraph 109, you refer there to
5 something in her statement about you smacking her
6 younger siblings in respect of wetting the bed?

7 A. Yeah. I don't remember doing it at all.

8 Q. Okay. And she says that she challenged you about this
9 and you said that her father had given permission.

10 A. No way at all ever, ever, would a carer do that.

11 A parent -- I mean, the child's just been removed from
12 a parent for a reason. So no way would any carer listen
13 to a parent.

14 Q. Okay. Who would they listen to in respect of --

15 A. Oh, you wouldn't listen to any parent telling you to
16 smack a child.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Or punish them in any way, to be honest.

19 Q. Okay.

20 And then at paragraph 112 I think you say again --
21 well, you mention what you've already said in your
22 evidence, that you've spoken to your own children, just
23 in general terms, not about --

24 A. No, not this case, no, just generally.

25 Q. And they couldn't recollect you having smacked --

1 A. Honestly, no.

2 Q. -- the children in your care, okay.

3 If we go on over the page, please, to paragraph 116,
4 you say there, I think, that it's important to listen to
5 the carer of the child and I think you describe carers
6 as being at the bottom of the pile.

7 A. Yes, definitely. They really don't listen to us.

8 Honestly. Nobody listens to you. You try to say the
9 things to help everybody, you're trying to help the
10 social workers, you're trying to help the child, you're
11 trying to help the parent, and honestly, you're the
12 carer of a child for 24/7, so to me you end up knowing
13 them the best and it just goes over everybody's house.

14 Q. And when you say everybody, does that include social
15 workers?

16 A. Yes. Yes.

17 Q. And then you say here that you also think there should
18 be independent people checking on children and workers
19 to make sure that things are being done correctly and
20 any issues identified at the earliest stage.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So you talk there about them checking on children and --

23 A. And workers. There should be somebody independent
24 checking the children, older children, with foster
25 carers, with social work departments and any other

1 department that's involved in it. There should be.

2 Q. And is that some kind of inspection service or something
3 else?

4 A. Talk. Just talk to people and ask what they feel and
5 ask their opinion, and inspections as well.

6 Q. Okay. And these people would check on children, as you
7 say, check on social workers?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Also check on foster carers?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And you think that might help identify any issues
12 at the earliest stage?

13 A. Definitely, definitely.

14 Q. And I think you mentioned a few other things during the
15 course of your evidence about more unannounced visits,
16 more contact?

17 A. Yeah, definitely.

18 MS INNES: Okay. Right, 'Angela', I don't have any more
19 questions for you and there's no applications, my Lady.

20 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
21 questions of 'Angela'?

22 'Angela', that does complete all the questions we
23 have for you. Thank you so much for engaging with us as
24 you have done and telling us so much about what it's
25 like to be a foster carer and to have been a foster

1 carer over decades that you've told us about. That
2 really is very helpful to have heard that from you.

3 I said at the outset that I knew that this would be
4 potentially challenging and we'd have to press you and
5 we have done. I thank you for bearing with us.

6 A. Thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: And you may be glad that I can now say you're
8 free to go away and try and enjoy the rest of your
9 Friday.

10 A. Thank you very much.

11 LADY SMITH: I'm not suggesting being here has been
12 enjoyable but go away and relax now.

13 A. Thank you very much.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

15 A. Can I just say that I honestly do love my job.

16 (The witness withdrew)

17 LADY SMITH: Well, I think we should take the lunch break
18 now, Ms Innes.

19 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. We have another oral witness at 2.

20 LADY SMITH: At 2 o'clock, very well.

21 (1.09 pm)

22 (The luncheon adjournment)

23 (2.00 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Ms Innes.

25 MS INNES: My Lady, the next witness remains anonymous and

1 is using the pseudonym 'David'. 'David's' parents were
2 foster carers for Strathclyde Regional Council.
3 An applicant using the pseudonym 'Lauren' was placed in
4 the care of 'David's' parents in Beith from
5 [REDACTED] 1985 to [REDACTED] 1991.

6 The successor authority is North Ayrshire Council.
7 'Lauren's' statement is at WIT-001-002-6126 and was
8 read in on Day 316, 17 August 202.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

10 'David' (affirmed)

11 LADY SMITH: 'David', it sounds as though you're in a good
12 position in relation to the microphone. It's important
13 that you stay in a good position for that. It'll help
14 you and it helps us --

15 A. Okay.

16 LADY SMITH: -- if you use it. That's great, thank you.

17 That red folder you might be wondering about, it has
18 the typed copy of your statement in that you signed and
19 you'll be taken to that in a moment, but we'll also
20 bring your statement up on the screen. You'll see it's
21 coming up now, and we can go to the different parts of
22 it that we want to discuss with you --

23 A. Okay.

24 LADY SMITH: -- as we go through your evidence.

25 But, 'David', before I hand you over to Ms Innes,

1 a couple of things I want to say. First of all, apart
2 from thanking you for engaging with us as you have done
3 and providing your statement and coming here today, to
4 say I know we're asking you to do something difficult,
5 to come into a public forum and talk about things that
6 happened quite a long time ago and things that might be
7 upsetting for us to ask you to discuss and you might
8 feel at times that you're under pressure and I promise
9 you it won't be undue pressure, and if we're having to
10 press you at all in our questioning, it really is for
11 the wider benefit of children, that's what this Inquiry
12 is all about, and to enable you to give your evidence as
13 clearly and fully as you can.

14 If at any time you're finding it so difficult that
15 you want a break or just a breather sitting where you
16 are, let me know.

17 A. Okay.

18 LADY SMITH: That's perfectly okay. Or anything else that
19 you think I could do to help you give your evidence as
20 well as you can, to give the best evidence you can, let
21 me know about that.

22 A. Right.

23 LADY SMITH: Finally, 'David', it's possible you may be
24 asked questions your answers to which could incriminate
25 you. Although this is a public inquiry and not

1 a courtroom, you have exactly the same protections that
2 you would have in court.

3 A. Okay.

4 LADY SMITH: So if that does occur, you don't have to answer
5 any such questions. It's your choice.

6 A. Okay.

7 LADY SMITH: But if you choose to answer, of course you must
8 answer it fully. If you're in any doubt about that at
9 any time or you want me to go through that again at any
10 point, do let me know, or if indeed you have any other
11 questions at any time, we want to hear them.

12 A. Okay.

13 LADY SMITH: All right?

14 A. (Witness nods).

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

17 A. Yeah.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 Questions from Ms Innes

20 MS INNES: 'David', we understand you were born in 1973; is
21 that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. If we can look, first of all, at your statement, we give
24 it the reference WIT-1-000001052, and if we look on to
25 the last page of that, paragraph 48, we see there that

1 it says:

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

6 And I understand that you signed the statement on
7 10 August 2022?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Is that right? Okay.

10 If I can just go back to the start of your
11 statement, you talk about living at two addresses in the
12 same street, I think, in Beith --

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. -- with your parents when they fostered children. And
15 you say these were three-bedroomed houses that they had?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Was there any reason why they moved from one house in
18 the street to another?

19 A. The neighbour when we stayed in [REDACTED] was a bit ...

20 Q. You had difficulties with the neighbour?

21 A. Yeah, he hit my dad with an axe years ago, so we ended
22 up moving down the road.

23 Q. So it's in the same street but it was a bit further
24 away?

25 A. Mm.

1 Q. But basically the same kind of house then?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. It wasn't like they were moving to a bigger house?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Okay. And you say that you stayed there at both
6 addresses with your parents?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And your brother. Is your brother older than you or
9 younger than you?

10 A. Older.

11 Q. How much older?

12 A. A year and a half.

13 Q. Okay. And then you mention your half-brother.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Is he older --

16 A. Older.

17 Q. And how much older?

18 A. Don't know. Maybe about ... seven? Seven years maybe?
19 Seven, eight years? I don't ...

20 Q. Okay. When you say half-brother, is he your mum's son
21 or your dad's son?

22 A. My mum's son.

23 Q. So was there a time that he was living in the house with
24 you and your brother and your mum and dad?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Did there come a point that he moved away?

2 A. He moved to my nana. She stayed about ten doors down
3 from us. Because back in the day you used to have the
4 50 pence meters and he'd rigged that up so he could take
5 the money out it and my mum found it so she basically --
6 I don't know if she chucked him out, but he ended up
7 staying with my nana.

8 Q. Okay, so was that when he was still a teenager or when
9 he was older?

10 A. I think a wee bit older maybe.

11 Q. So he went to stay with your nana who lived down the
12 road?

13 A. Mm.

14 Q. Just while we're talking about people that were in the
15 household, did your mum and dad have a niece staying
16 with them for a while?

17 A. My dad's side, there was [REDACTED] but I don't know how
18 long she stayed with us for.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. It could have been months, it could have been -- I'd be
21 telling lies if I gave you a certain time limit, but she
22 stayed with us and I think she moved into Largs after
23 that.

24 Q. Was she a teenager or an adult at the time, do you know?

25 A. She was older than us, but I think she was a bit younger

1 than [REDACTED]

2 Q. That's your half-brother?

3 A. Half-brother, sorry.

4 Q. Were you at primary school at the time that [REDACTED] stayed

5 with you?

6 A. Probably.

7 Q. Do you think?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Or was it older?

10 A. No, I was -- I was probably primary school.

11 Q. Okay. Right, then you go on to talk about your parents

12 fostering children.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And you say that your parents started to foster children

15 about 40 years ago, so maybe when you were about eight?

16 A. Aye, probably.

17 Q. Okay. And you say that you found out about that because

18 they told you you were going to do that?

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. Can you remember them asking you how you would feel

21 about that?

22 A. No, I don't think so. I think we were too young.

23 Q. And can you remember social workers talking to you about

24 it at all?

25 A. I don't think the social workers ever spoke to us. They

1 used to come to speak to my mum and dad but I think when
2 they came even we went up the stairs to play because
3 basically it was nothing to do with us, so I'd take it
4 they just spoke to my mum and dad. I don't think they
5 ever spoke to us.

6 Q. Okay. And you say:

7 "I never thought much about it as we were helping
8 other children in need."

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Is that how you regarded the foster children?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay. Did your parents have a number of foster children
13 staying with them over the years?

14 A. What, as in --

15 Q. As in lots? Or was it just a few?

16 A. No, there was lots.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Sometimes we'd get a family, I think one of the first
19 families we fostered was -- there was four of them.

20 Q. Right. And did you have enough room for them in the
21 house?

22 A. I can't remember where they -- actually, I don't know if
23 that was when [REDACTED] went -- my dad's niece, I don't know
24 if it was after she'd left so there was a spare bedroom
25 after that. I honestly can't remember.

1 Q. Okay. Did you ever have to share a room with any of the
2 foster children?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did you share a room?

5 A. I shared a room with my brother.

6 Q. With your brother, okay. So the foster children were
7 always in another room in the house?

8 A. Mm. (Witness nods).

9 Q. Okay. If we move on a little and you say that you don't
10 know, you know, the specific arrangements that your
11 parents made because obviously you were young at the
12 time?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. And then you say at paragraph 7:

15 "We fostered quite a lot of kids over a 40-year
16 period ..."

17 So you said that your parents started fostering
18 40 years ago and did they carry on fostering for the
19 whole of the 40 years?

20 A. No, they stopped first in ... I'm just -- I'm just going
21 on what age my wee sister is. She'd be 25. And she was
22 the last one -- I think she was the last one we
23 fostered. And we ended up adopting her. I'm just going
24 by that time period, from what age she is.
25 I couldn't -- I can't remember exactly when she stopped

1 fostering.

2 Q. Okay, that's fine.

3 LADY SMITH: Were you going by with the age of your sister

4 or your wife's sister?

5 A. Sorry?

6 LADY SMITH: You said you were going by the age of was it

7 your sister or your wife's sister?

8 A. My wee sister.

9 LADY SMITH: Your wee sister?

10 A. Aye, sorry.

11 LADY SMITH: I didn't pick it up, that's fine.

12 A. No, we ended up adopting her, that's why I call her my

13 wee sister because she basically is.

14 MS INNES: Okay. And she was the last child that came to

15 live with you --

16 A. I think -- aye, I think so. I think after that, that

17 was -- because we had -- we had adopted her and we'd

18 adopted my wee brother ██████████, and ██████████'s in

19 his mid 30s, so my wee sister was the last one probably

20 they fostered.

21 Q. Okay. So as well as foster children coming and going

22 there was your brother ██████████ that you've mentioned

23 that was adopted?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. And did he come to your parents on a fostering basis to

1 begin with?

2 A. He came foster first. I think he came in when he was
3 maybe two, two or three.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. But he's got learning difficulties so -- aye, he must
6 have been. He was two or three, I'm sure.

7 Q. So he was two or three when he came to live with you,
8 and then your wee sister, she was fostered first and
9 then adopted as you said --

10 A. Aye, yeah.

11 Q. Okay. And you say that the other foster children, you
12 say it varied how many children there were, over what
13 periods, their ages and whether they were girls or boys?

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. And you mentioned a family of four coming.

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. Was that the most that you had in one family?

18 A. Yeah. Something's telling me that was the first ever
19 children we fostered. I might be wrong, but I'm pretty
20 sure that was the first ones that we fostered.

21 Q. Okay. And once the foster children arrived, how did you
22 feel about it?

23 A. Didn't bother me. It was great. It was just -- it was
24 like another wee brother and sister. They just were
25 there. The only bad thing was you never knew how long

1 they were going to be there for. It could be two
2 months, could be six months, could be a year, two year,
3 and obviously you get attached to them and then when
4 they leave it's a bit hard, then another -- then maybe
5 a month later you get another kid come in, so you're
6 basically starting again all the time. You know, that
7 was probably the hardest thing, obviously because you
8 get attached to them because obviously they're basically
9 like a wee brother and sister to you until they go away.

10 Q. Okay. And how did you feel that you were treated in
11 comparison with the foster children?

12 A. (Witness shakes head).

13 Q. Do you think they were all treated the same? Do you
14 think you had a better deal then them or they had
15 a better deal than you?

16 A. No, we all got treated the same. Sometimes I did think
17 a wee bit -- because my mum had three boys, like
18 actual -- like us, as in her real children. Sometimes
19 maybe the females got a wee bit more attention because
20 sometimes I always think my mum maybe wanted a girl, but
21 she had three boys and then she stopped having kids
22 after that, so -- but nothing drastic, kind of like
23 treating us totally different. But they maybe just got
24 a wee bit more attention -- and I'm not being sexist or
25 anything, but I'm just saying because they were females,

1 I thought maybe they got a wee bit more attention than
2 what we did.

3 Q. From your mum?

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. Okay. And then if we look at paragraph 9 of your
6 statement, you say you never got involved in how much
7 notice your parents got, but you say that your parents
8 would tell you -- you thought they would tell you maybe
9 a few weeks before they arrived?

10 A. Aye.

11 Q. That you would know a wee about it in advance that they
12 were coming?

13 A. Aye. They wouldn't just come to the door and: there's
14 two kids. They obviously let my mum and that know and
15 then they'd probably let us know somebody's coming to
16 stay with us.

17 Q. Can you remember if you met any of the foster children
18 before they actually then came to live?

19 A. Don't think so, no.

20 Q. Did they come for visits or anything?

21 A. (Witness shakes head). I don't -- I don't think so.

22 Q. Okay. You say here you never got told anything about
23 their background?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Your parents wouldn't tell you anything?

1 A. No.

2 Q. When they arrived, would you maybe chat to the children
3 about where they came from, where they went to school,
4 anything like that?

5 A. We would never asked them that because -- I don't know.
6 To be honest, it wasn't any of our business, but we just
7 never spoke -- never, like, asked them because they were
8 obviously -- most of the kids that were there were
9 obviously younger than us and -- I don't know.
10 Personally, me, I never asked them who their parents
11 were or what kind of background they had or if anything
12 happened. I never asked anything.

13 Q. So did your parents always foster children who were
14 younger than you and your brother?

15 A. Yip.

16 Q. Can you remember them ever having any children that were
17 sort of the same age as you or not?

18 A. No. No.

19 Q. Always younger?

20 A. I think they were always younger.

21 Q. Okay. And then at paragraph 11 you say that your house
22 was always tidy, it was a normal household. Who sort of
23 ran the household?

24 A. Sorry?

25 Q. Who ran the household?

1 A. My mum -- mum was obviously full time in the house. My
2 dad worked in the airport. And he worked shifts, so it
3 was basically my mum that kind of ran the house.

4 Q. And you say that you didn't do chores?

5 A. No.

6 Q. So did your mum do all the housework?

7 A. Mm. (Witness nods). I know, I feel guilty.

8 Q. Can you remember the foster children having to do any
9 chores?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. And then you talk about the bathroom at
12 paragraph 12 and you say there that there was one
13 bathroom and you mention that there was a lock on the
14 door.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. I'm just going to ask you about a couple of things in
17 relation to that that have come up in 'Lauren's'
18 statement.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. So she says that she wasn't allowed to lock the door in
21 the bathroom? Is that right?

22 A. (Witness shakes head). No.

23 Q. Okay. So you say there there was a lock on the door?

24 A. Yeah. So a wee slip bolt thing, a wee slip bolt thing.

25 Q. Okay. And then she also says in her statement, and

1 I think you comment on this later on, that sometimes you
2 were put in the bath with her.

3 A. (Witness shakes head).

4 Q. Or she was put in the bath with you?

5 A. No. If they would have been put in the bath, it would
6 be 'Lauren' and her sister would be in the bath.
7 Because obviously with that many kids -- you couldn't
8 run a bath for each kid.

9 Q. Okay. So would your mum organise the bath time?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay. And I think 'Lauren' says in her statement that
12 the boys were sometimes put into the bath with her and
13 her sister with swimming trunks on? Can you remember
14 that?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Is that something that you can ever remember happening?

17 A. Guaranteed not.

18 Q. Another thing I wanted to ask you about was that in her
19 statement 'Lauren' says that she had an issue with
20 wetting the bed. Can you remember that being an issue
21 for her?

22 A. Don't know.

23 Q. Okay. Can you remember any of the other foster children
24 having issues with wetting the bed?

25 A. (Witness shakes head). I don't think so, no.

1 Q. Who would have dealt with that if that was an issue?

2 A. My mum. My mum.

3 Q. Your mum, okay. If we move on to the next page, you

4 talk about clothes and things and your mum did the

5 washing and ironing?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. And she also did the cooking?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. Is that right? And did everyone get the same thing?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Did you sit down and have meals together or did you eat

12 at different times, can you remember?

13 A. If we were having dinner it would be at the same time

14 because my mum would cook the dinner and it would be

15 ready for everybody. She wouldn't cook a meal for

16 somebody at a certain time and then another one. My mum

17 and dad were quite old school. At the end of the day

18 they make one meal and that's it.

19 Q. Okay. At paragraph 15 you say that you spent time

20 outside. Did you have a garden or a park nearby to --

21 A. We had a garden and a park just down the road. Then the

22 public park's two or three streets away from where we

23 stayed as well.

24 Q. Did you go out there with the foster children sometimes?

25 A. I don't think they were allowed to go to the public park

1 because obviously they were younger than us, but outside
2 and maybe about 10 doors up the street there was a wee
3 path and there was a wee swing park there. Maybe they
4 went there.

5 Q. At paragraph 17 you mention that you were older than the
6 kids that were fostered so you never went to the same
7 school as them at the same time?

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. Okay. At paragraph 19 you talk about Christmas and
10 birthdays.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Can you remember the foster children being around when
13 it was their birthday or Christmas?

14 A. I can't remember, honestly.

15 Q. No? Okay.

16 At the end of this page you talk about discipline
17 and, you know, if you were misbehaving, what would your
18 parents do?

19 A. I'd get grounded. You weren't allowed out. Or else
20 just send you up to your bedroom.

21 Q. Would they shout at you?

22 A. No, not really.

23 Q. Okay. And when you say you'd be grounded, could that
24 mean that you weren't allowed to go out for a number of
25 nights in a row, for example?

1 A. Yeah, aye. Could be a couple of days, could be a week.

2 Q. Okay. And did they impose any other kind of sanctions

3 like maybe taking away your pocket money or taking away

4 treats or anything like that?

5 A. Maybe -- maybe taking pocket money off you, maybe.

6 Q. Okay. I'm going to refer to something that is in the

7 records and it mentions I think either 'Lauren' or her

8 sister being hauled over the coals by your mum.

9 A. Sorry, was it?

10 Q. Being hauled over the coals by your mum and having to

11 wait for your dad to come home.

12 A. (Witness shakes head).

13 Q. Did your mum maybe get angry and say, "Well, wait until

14 your father comes home and he'll see you or speak to

15 you"?

16 A. I don't know.

17 Q. You remember that happening?

18 A. I don't know.

19 Q. Okay. Can you remember if the foster children were ever

20 threatened with being returned to a children's home?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. You can't remember hearing your mum ever saying

23 that to --

24 A. No, I've never heard her saying anything like that.

25 Q. Okay. Were you ever hit by your parents? Smacked or

1 anything like that?

2 A. (Witness shakes head).

3 Q. Can you remember them ever using physical discipline

4 with the foster children?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Is it that you can't remember that or did they not do

7 that?

8 A. Well, I never seen anything like that, so ... (Witness

9 shakes head).

10 Q. Okay. Again, 'Lauren' tells us that she was slapped by

11 your mum quite a lot. Did that happen?

12 A. (Witness shakes head). Never seen anything like that.

13 Q. Okay. Now, from the social work records we know that

14 there was an incident when your mother told the social

15 work department that she'd hit 'Lauren's' sister across

16 the buttocks with a shoe. Can you remember that

17 happening?

18 A. It must have happened when I wasn't there, but I never

19 knew anything about it.

20 Q. Okay, that's fine. Do you think that the foster

21 children were punished for things that you and your

22 brother got away with?

23 A. No, we all got treated the same.

24 Q. Now, your brother, we know from the records that he

25 spent some time in an assessment centre?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Can you remember that happening?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. And what happened that meant that he went to
5 an assessment centre?

6 A. we used to have a List D School in the town we stayed,
7 obviously it was for bad boys, bad boys and girls in
8 Glasgow and Paisley and all that and there was quite
9 a lot of tension back then because they would come into
10 Beith and were stealing stuff. So it all kicked off one
11 day up at the List D School I think over a game of
12 football and they ended up all fighting and █████ got put
13 into a place in Johnstone. I don't know how long for.
14 It could have been weeks. I don't think it was months.
15 But that's all I really about ...

16 Q. So you remember that he was fighting with these people
17 from the List D School?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. As a result of that, your understanding is that he went
20 into this assessment centre in Johnstone?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And you think it was a few weeks he was there for?

23 A. Aye.

24 Q. Okay. In the social work records it talks about this
25 incident, your brother going to the assessment centre,

1 as causing considerable distress and the family
2 requiring support and counselling at the time.

3 A. Right.

4 Q. Can you remember getting counselling yourself at that
5 time?

6 A. (Witness shakes head). I never got any counselling.
7 Whether my mum and dad did I do not know, but as I says,
8 where [REDACTED] was put in Johnstone and it's basically ten
9 minutes up the road. It's not as if he'd been put in
10 somewhere like Edinburgh and we couldn't get to see him.
11 We were allowed to visit him. And there was phone calls
12 and all that. It's not as if we never seen him for
13 weeks or months.

14 Q. It's possible that your parents maybe got support but
15 you can't remember --

16 A. They might have, but personally I didn't get support.

17 Q. Okay. If we go on in your statement to page 4 and
18 paragraph 22, you talk about social workers visiting.
19 I think you mentioned that you always went out. Did you
20 know if social workers were coming in advance or did you
21 just arrive at the house and they would be there?

22 A. Maybe -- obviously they'd speak to my mum and dad but we
23 were never told so when we used to come in we used to go
24 out and play or else if it was nighttime we would go up
25 the stairs.

1 Q. Okay. And do you know if they were there to speak to
2 your parents or the foster children or was it both?

3 A. Oh, I don't know.

4 Q. You don't know, okay.

5 And then at paragraph 24, you say that you still
6 keep in contact with some of the kids that were
7 fostered?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Obviously you've mentioned your brother and your wee
10 sister.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Did you keep in touch with other foster children that
13 you had?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Okay. And in terms of any complaints from any of the
16 other foster children, do you know if any of them, apart
17 from 'Lauren' and her sister, made any complaints about
18 the time that they spent in your house?

19 A. No. Never.

20 Q. Okay.

21 You then go on at paragraph 26 to say you don't have
22 any convictions in relation to child abuse.

23 A. (Witness shakes head).

24 Q. 

25

1

2

3 A.

4 Q.

5

6

7 A.

8 Q.

9

10 A.

11 Q. And how did you feel that the police dealt with you?

12 A. At the end of the day they were doing their jobs

13 obviously. If there was an allegation made, then

14 they've got to proceed with the allegation so they were

15 only doing their job.

16 Q.

17

18 A.

19 Q.

20 A.

21

22

23 Q.

24

25 A.

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6 Q.

7

8

9 A.

10 Q.

11

12 A.

13 Q.

14 Now, if we look to page 5 at paragraph 29, you say
15 there that:

16 "'Lauren' had made the allegations straight after
17 she got chucked out of the house as she wanted my mum to
18 pay off her debt of over £20,000."

19 We know that 'Lauren' was in foster care in your
20 parents' home and then there came a time that she moved,
21 I think she went to Dalrymple Children's Home, and are
22 you talking about that time or was there another time
23 that she came back and lived with you later on?

24 A. Oh aye, she ended up getting a flat in Beith where we
25 stayed. Then she moved back down to Irvine in a flat

1 but she still always came to us, her and her daughter.

2 Q. Okay. So even after she stopped living with you full
3 time, she came back to the house?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And can you explain how it came about that she
6 got chucked out of the house? What's that about?


7 A. Because she wanted my mum to pay off her debts and
8 I heard them -- I heard them arguing, I was down the
9 stairs and they were shouting at each other and I just
10 told her to get out the house and not to come back
11 again, and I chucked her out the house. I didn't chuck
12 her out the house. I sort of -- I didn't chuck her.
13 I told her to get out the house and never come back
14 again.

15 Q. And they were arguing about, I think you said 'Lauren'
16 wanting your mum to pay off a debt?

17 A. Aye.

18 Q. And do you know why it was that she was wanting your mum
19 to pay off a debt?

20 A. Because it was quite a lot of money and I think it was
21 something to do with -- from what I can remember, it was
22 something to do with catalogues and all that, she used
23 to buy stuff out of catalogues all the time and just
24 racked up money and money and money and she wanted my
25 mum to pay it and my mum refused to pay it.

1 Q. Okay. After that, so you said there was a time when
2 'Lauren' was coming back to your family home?
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. Seeing your mum and such like. And after this argument,
5 did your family ever have any contact with 'Lauren'
6 again?
7 A. I don't think so. I'm not speaking for my mum and dad,
8 but I never had any contact with her.
9 Q. Okay, so that's the last time that you saw her?
10 A. Aye.
11 Q. If we just look at the specific allegations, and you've
12 been given a copy of the statement that 'Lauren' made to
13 the Inquiry and you refer to some of the allegations
14 that were made and she says -- and you quote at
15 paragraph 31 that she was sexually abused by you and
16 also by your brother after her sister left.
17 
18
19 A. Yeah, yeah.
20 Q. Okay. And did you sexually abuse 'Lauren'?
21 A. No.
22 Q. Do you think that your brother sexually abused her or
23 not?
24 A. No. No, he wouldn't have.
25 Q. Is it possible that he did and you didn't know about it?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. If we just look at the bottom of the page, so
3 she's talked about a time when she and her sister were
4 abused at the same time and then she says that after her
5 sister left -- so she stayed in the house and her sister
6 had gone -- that she was abused by both you and your
7 brother after her sister had left.

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. And then if we look at paragraph 35, she says
10 there that essentially there was a progression, I think
11 from touching to "full sex", as she puts it. Did that
12 happen?

13 A. Sorry, I was reading that. Sorry?

14 Q. Paragraph 35 she says essentially there that there was
15 a progression in the abuse that she suffered, that it
16 started with touching and then when she got older it was
17 "full sex".

18 A. No.

19 Q. Did that happen?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Was there any kind of sexual contact between you and
22 'Lauren'?

23 A. No.

24 Q. At paragraph 37 she talks about being sexually abused on
25 holiday and she mentions that this was in London when

1 you had gone to visit a relative there.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Can you remember going to visit --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- a relative in London?

6 And then she says that I think she and her sister

7 went out with you and your brother and went round to

8 an industrial estate?

9 A. I wasn't -- I lived in the middle of London. We weren't

10 allowed out. I don't even know what age we were, but we

11 weren't allowed out without mum and dad.

12 Q. Okay. Can you remember any other place where you might

13 have wandered around an industrial estate with the two

14 girls?

15 A. No.

16 Q. She then also says that it happened another time in

17 Scarborough "when I was around ten". Can you remember

18 going to Scarborough with 'Lauren'?

19 A. (Witness shakes head). I think we've been to

20 Scarborough, but I can't remember. We used to go to

21 a caravan quite a bit, whether it was Scarborough and

22 then Whitley Bay, there were a couple of places, so ...

23 Q. And she says that you were constantly touching her

24 inappropriately "when we were in the swimming pool", did

25 that happen?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay.

3 And then at paragraph 39 she talks about being
4 abused by you on the stairs in the house at a time that
5 your parents were out at a wedding during the day on
6 a Friday. Did that happen?

7 A. If my mum and dad were away at a wedding, we -- my
8 auntie [REDACTED] which is my mum's best pal as well, she
9 stayed about six or seven doors away from us, so if we
10 were ever left -- if my mum and dad were actually going
11 out, which they didn't go out very often, my aunt [REDACTED]
12 would be looking after us because she always looked
13 after us if my mum had to go somewhere or my dad had to
14 go somewhere.

15 Q. Okay. So I think over the time that 'Lauren' stayed
16 with you, so she came when she was eight and I think you
17 were about 12 and she left when she was 13 and you were
18 17.

19 A. Right.

20 Q. So by the time you were 17 and she was 13, would you
21 have been left in the house on your own then?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Would you have stayed in the house to look after
24 'Lauren'?

25 A. No. (Witness shakes head).

1 Q. Would your mum --

2 A. I was 17-year-old, I wasn't in the house. I was away
3 out. I had a girlfriend at the time. So I wouldn't
4 even be in the house.

5 Q. Would your mum have looked for somebody else other than
6 you to babysit or look after the girls?

7 A. My mum and dad aren't -- I won't say are unsociable, but
8 my mum doesn't drink, she does not -- I don't think
9 she's been in a pub since she was a teenager. My mum
10 never went out at all.

11 Q. Okay. So you talked about the wedding. I think it was
12 as though you remembered there was a -- you remember
13 a wedding that they went to.

14 A. No, I'm just saying --

15 Q. If they went to a wedding.

16 A. -- if my mum and dad went to a wedding, my aunt [REDACTED]
17 would have looked after us because she only stayed down
18 the road from us.

19 Q. I see. Sorry, I misunderstood.

20 A. No, no, that's all right.

21 Q. At paragraph 43, 'Lauren' says in her statement that
22 while she was staying in a children's home, she started
23 staying overnight again at your house at the weekend and
24 I think she talks about sleeping in the living room on
25 a fold-down bed or sofa.

1 A. (Witness shakes head).

2 Q. Can you remember her coming and staying at the weekend?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Can you remember her sleeping in the living room?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Can you remember anybody sleeping in the living room?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Was there a fold-down bed in the living room?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. Was there a sofa bed?

11 A. No. We when -- it's still the same as it is just now.

12 When you walk in the living room you've got a one-seater

13 chair, a three-seater and then a two-seater, that's it.

14 Q. So they were just sofas?

15 A. Aye, just a normal sofa, not a folding sofa or anything.

16 Q. Can you remember her sleeping on the sofa?

17 A. No.

18 Q. I think what she's saying here, that you would come in,

19 having been out drinking, and then you would sexually

20 abuse her then?

21 A. No. When I used to go out when I was 17, 18-year-old,

22 I wouldn't go back home. I would stay out all night

23 with one of my pals, because one of them would always

24 drive. I also stayed with my girlfriend.

25 Q. So you can't remember coming back to the house after

1 you'd been out for some drinks?

2 A. No.

3 Q. When 'Lauren' was there?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Okay.

6 Then you talk at paragraph 45 about -- you say that
7 you used to take 'Lauren' and her daughter home all the
8 time?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. So that's when she was a bit older and she had her
11 daughter?

12 A. That's when we stayed in Beith. I used to take her --
13 drop her and her daughter off at her flat. I used to
14 take 'Lauren' down, cut her grass for her. And bearing
15 in mind, 'Lauren' -- 'Lauren' used to work at a ...
16 an ██████████ in Kilmarnock that sold furniture and she
17 worked with a girl called ██████████, and LYG ██████████
18 pestered me for about a year, maybe even more than a year, to get
19 with her pal, constantly pestering me to go out with her
20 pal, and eventually I went out with her a few times.
21 I always remember one night 'Lauren' was going out and
22 she asked me and ██████████ to babysit her daughter, so ██████████
23 had -- I think her daughter was the same age, so we
24 actually stayed at LYG ██████████'s house -- flat that night
25 in Beith because LYG ██████████ was going out, so me and ██████████

1 were looking after 'Lauren's' daughter and [REDACTED] s
2 daughter.

3 Q. And as you mentioned that you and her pal used to
4 babysit when she went out at the weekends?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. And that was at a time that you were -- you obviously
7 had an ongoing relationship at that point and up until
8 the time that you saw her last that you've described?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. And the argument that she and your mum were having?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay.

13 Right, thank you very much, 'David', I have no more
14 questions for you and there are no applications,
15 my Lady?

16 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
17 questions of 'David'?

18 'David', that does complete all the questions we
19 have for you.

20 A. (Witness nods).

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you for engaging with us as patiently as
22 you have done, both by providing your written statement,
23 which is part of your evidence and I've read, and by
24 coming to answer our questions today. I'm grateful to
25 you for having done that.

1 A. Thanks.

2 LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go and hopefully enjoy
3 the rest of your Friday with a bit more relaxation than
4 no doubt you've had until now.

5 A. It's going to take me two hours to get home, so ...

6 LADY SMITH: Oh, I'm sorry about that. Good luck with the
7 journey.

8 A. Thanks very much.

9 (The witness withdrew)

10 MS INNES: My Lady, we could do a brief read-in before the
11 break and then a longer read-in after the break if that
12 would be --

13 LADY SMITH: Let's do that. Very well.

14 MS INNES: If I might just be excused to speak to 'David'.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes.

16 'Mark' (read)

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

18 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

19 My Lady, this read-in is a statement of an applicant
20 who has the pseudonym 'Mark'. 'Mark's' statement is at
21 WIT-1-000000768.

22 'Mark' was in the care of Strathclyde Regional
23 Council. He was in four foster placements, the first
24 with Mr and Mrs ██████████ in Longriggend from ██████████ 1983
25 until ██████████ 1987. Sorry, that can't be right.

1 Until [REDACTED] 1983. The second with Mr and
2 Mrs [REDACTED] in Newarthill from [REDACTED] 1983 to
3 [REDACTED] 1983. The third with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in
4 Cranhill from [REDACTED] 1983 to [REDACTED] 1983. And
5 for the fourth, he was returned to Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]
6 in Newarthill from [REDACTED] 1983 until [REDACTED]
7 1984, and the successor authority is North Lanarkshire
8 Council.

9 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

10 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Mark'. I was born in 1977. I was
11 born in Bellshill. I have an older brother who is about
12 two years older than me. My younger brother died when
13 he was 18 and my other younger brother died on his 18th
14 birthday. My younger sister takes nothing to do with
15 me. I also have a half-brother who lives in England.

16 We lived in Newarthill before moving to Motherwell
17 when I was two or three years old. This was the family
18 home where a lot of trauma occurred. My mum and dad
19 were alcoholics and they used to fight in the house. We
20 had to run down to my gran's in our bare feet. My
21 mother's mother stayed at the bottom of the hill. We
22 would rush down there at 2 am."

23 From paragraphs 4 to 7, 'Mark' speaks of the
24 problems at home due to his parents' alcoholism and
25 fights. Social workers were involved and eventually the

1 children were taken into care. 'Mark' says he was
2 heartbroken and can remember being dragged away from his
3 mum crying.

4 Moving to paragraph 8 on page 2:

5 "My older brother and I were taken into foster care
6 in Carfin. I think I was five or six years old but
7 I don't know. It was an old person's place and it was
8 stinky. I remember there was an old SMA tin full of
9 half pennies. It was keeping up the end of the bed
10 where we slept. We slept on jackets. I think we were
11 only there for a week or a couple of weeks.

12 My other brothers and sister were very young. Two
13 of them were still babies at the time. They were
14 separated from us and we were all split up. I think
15 they went to different foster carers.

16 The foster parents in that first placement were
17 kind. They listened to me. Nothing bad happened to me
18 in that house. I do remember stealing the half pennies
19 and getting a row for that. I think it was just
20 a temporary or emergency placement.

21 We then moved to another set of foster carers in
22 Carfin. I can't remember the couple's names. I think
23 they were in their 30s. In recent years, I moved to
24 Holytown and I found the grotto at Carfin. I was able
25 to retrace my steps and find the house, but I didn't

1 chap the door.

2 I remember being dropped off and shown where we were
3 staying. We were staying in bunk beds. There was
4 a girl staying in the home as well. I think she was the
5 biological child of the foster parents. I remember they
6 had a fish tank but we weren't allowed into the front
7 room much. We were told to stay in our bedroom.

8 My older brother and I shared a room. We had bunk
9 beds. We would get up and dressed and go out to school
10 in the morning. I don't remember much about going to
11 bed, but we were cared for. The people were probably
12 professional enough to look after two young kids.
13 I don't know whether they were regular foster carers.

14 I think the food was okay. I don't remember
15 anything bad about it. I think we were looked after in
16 that way. I think I ate toast for breakfast because
17 I didn't like cereal.

18 We always had clothes to wear. I think the social
19 work department gave the foster parents money for that.
20 We weren't given a choice in what we wore. It was
21 strict in the foster home and it seemed that I wasn't
22 liked by any of them.

23 I remember attending primary school in Carfin.
24 School was hard. I was always thinking about my mum.
25 My mum would come and meet me at the fence during lunch

1 break.

2 I only really remember going to school. I think
3 I might have watched TV when I got in from school.
4 I can't remember going out to play. I just remember
5 being in the bedroom. I can't remember much about the
6 foster home. I know we went to see my mum for a couple
7 of hours on a Saturday. We probably went to chapel on
8 the Sunday. We were Roman Catholic and we were made to
9 go to chapel as kids. I don't think we were in foster
10 care for our birthdays or Christmas.

11 I can remember going on holiday to a caravan site
12 somewhere. There was a manhole cover outside the toilet
13 block. We wanted to have a look inside so I put my
14 fingers in it. It was metal and heavy. Other children
15 were looking in. The manhole cover was too heavy for
16 me. I told everybody that I was going to drop it. It
17 was slipping in my fingers and it dropped on a lassie's
18 head. There was a lot of blood. I was dragged away by
19 the foster mother.

20 I can't remember the names of any of the social
21 workers who were involved with us. They came from
22 Motherwell social work office. I can't remember
23 a social worker visiting us when we was in foster care.
24 I only remember them picking us up when we were leaving
25 foster care to go back to our mum.

1 While we were in foster care, my mum got a flat in
2 Motherwell. We were allowed to go and visit her. I can
3 remember two or three visit to my mum during that
4 period. I think we went to see her once a week or once
5 a fortnight. The foster parents would drive us to my
6 mum's house. We would go up to her flat and I would hug
7 my mum. It was only my older brother and me and my mum
8 was sober. The following day she would have visits with
9 my other siblings.

10 We would stay with my mum for a couple of hours and
11 then the foster parents came to collect us. It was
12 a tiny wee place. Whenever I was sick, my mum would
13 give me lemonade and tatties and gravy.

14 When it was time to leave, the foster parents had to
15 pull me away. I would hold onto my mum, telling them to
16 leave me and that I didn't want to go. I can remember
17 crying and looking up at my mum. She was in the top
18 flat. She was heartbroken and I was heartbroken. My
19 older brother had nothing. There was no emotion. He
20 was a granny's boy and I was a mummy's boy.

21 I know that my mum wasn't supposed to see us outside
22 of her allocated times. I don't know whether there was
23 any kind of court order in place. My mum would come to
24 the school gates in Carfin and give me 10p. She talked
25 to me during the break. I remember that I had to keep

1 that from the social workers and the foster parents. If
2 they found out, it would be a red mark against my mum's
3 name. She wasn't allowed to approach us, but she found
4 out where we were.

5 My older brother led me into running away from the
6 foster home. He told me that we were going to see our
7 mum. I remember walking down the big hill in
8 Motherwell. We turned right at the bottom of the hill
9 and there was a big road. We went to our gran's instead
10 of our mum's. He was my gran's boy. My grandmother
11 would call the social work department and we would be
12 taken back into foster care. I didn't realise it, but
13 my mum was only two minutes from my gran's. My brother
14 knew that but he didn't tell me. I was too young to
15 know exactly where we were.

16 When we were in foster care, my older brother
17 started touching me. He tried to force himself on me
18 and that type of thing. I didn't like it. I was in the
19 bottom bunk and he was in the top bunk. He used to jump
20 down at nighttime and touch me. It felt to me like it
21 happened every night, but maybe it didn't happen every
22 night. Whenever it did happen, he would be hard. He
23 would take my pyjamas down and he would try to penetrate
24 me.

25 When we were on holiday at a caravan site,

1 I accidentally dropped a manhole cover on a lassie's
2 head. I was dragged away and slapped by the foster
3 mother. The foster parents then sat me down and told me
4 to eat cereal. I hate cereal. It was cornflakes with
5 warm milk. I wasn't allowed any sugar. I was boking
6 and I was made to eat it. For over 20 years I couldn't
7 eat cereal because of that.

8 I told the foster parents that my brother was
9 abusing me. They didn't believe me. They told me to
10 shut up and said I was lying. I was a mummy's boy. My
11 brother got on with anyone. The foster parents were
12 horrible to me. They just wouldn't listen to me.
13 I told them that my brother was touching me. I wanted
14 it to stop, but they just told me to go up to my room.
15 It was as if they didn't want to know. They would shout
16 at me and tell me that my brother would never do that.
17 He was right in with them and he did whatever he was
18 told. He was like the golden boy and I was a piece of
19 shit. When we were with our mum, I was up on
20 a pedestal, but it all turned around when we were in
21 foster care.

22 Whenever I was separated from the foster parents and
23 my brother wasn't there, I would tell my mum what he was
24 doing. My mum would tell me not to worry about it. My
25 mum reported what I was saying to the social work

1 department. I would then be dragged away from her
2 again. It was heartbreaking. I had to go back into
3 that environment where I wasn't liked. I hated it there
4 and I just wanted to go home.

5 I don't know how long we were in foster care for.
6 It might have been two or three weeks, but it's possible
7 that it was months. All I can remember is the bad
8 things that happened there. While we were in foster
9 care, my mum split up with my dad. She had been in
10 an abusive marriage. Eventually my mum got us all back.
11 She went to Alcoholics Anonymous and she was sober. She
12 managed to prove to the social work department that she
13 could provide a stable home for us. She was staying in
14 a two-bedroomed flat in Motherwell. We then moved from
15 there to another address in Motherwell. Things were
16 fine.

17 I never went back into care after leaving foster
18 care, but we remained on the at-risk register. I think
19 social workers spoke to my mum once a week. That went
20 on for another couple of years and then we were taken
21 off the at-risk register."

22 From paragraph 31 'Mark' describes his childhood at
23 home. His brother continued to abuse him. He told his
24 mum, who believed him, but his brother denied it. His
25 mother then caught his brother abusing him. It

1 transpired that 'Mark's' brother himself was being
2 sexually abused by a neighbour, who was then arrested by
3 the police. His brother spent the remainder of his
4 childhood in different care settings.

5 As the remaining parts of 'Mark's' statement concern
6 abuse he then suffered at home as a child and traumatic
7 events in adulthood, I will move straight to
8 paragraph 76 on page 17:

9 "I hope that the Inquiry can make other people's
10 lives easier. If children are being put into foster
11 care, the foster carers should be checked out. There
12 are some horror stories out there.

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 'Mark' signed his statement on 5 August 2021.

18 My Lady, perhaps at the conclusion of this read-in
19 would be a suitable time for a short break.

20 LADY SMITH: Certainly. We'll take a short break now and
21 then return for the longer read-in that we can fit in
22 before the end of the day today. Thank you.

23 (2.59 pm)

24 (A short break)

25 (3.12 pm)

1 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, whenever you're ready.

2 'Heather' (read)

3 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

4 This is a statement of an applicant who wishes to
5 remind anonymous and has the pseudonym 'Heather'.
6 'Heather's' statement is at WIT-1-000000688. 'Heather'
7 was in the care of Strathclyde Regional Council. She
8 was in three foster placements, the first was with her
9 aunt and uncle, Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in Giffnock Glasgow
10 from [REDACTED] 1984 to [REDACTED] 1984. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]
11 then moved 'Heather' and her brother to another aunt and
12 uncle without consulting the social work department
13 before the church's own assessment as foster carers had
14 been completed.

15 The second placement was with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]
16 in Glasgow from [REDACTED] 1984 to [REDACTED] 1986.

17 The third placement was with unrelated foster carers
18 who were Mr and Mrs EPD-SPO [REDACTED] in East Kilbride and then in
19 Strathaven from [REDACTED] 1987 to [REDACTED] 1989.
20 While the EPD-SPO [REDACTED] lived in what is now South
21 Lanarkshire and accordingly South Lanarkshire Council
22 will have an interest, 'Heather' lived in Cumbernauld
23 when she was first taken into care. Accordingly it's
24 likely that the successor authority is North Lanarkshire
25 Council and North Lanarkshire Council is also the

1 authority that provided the Inquiry with 'Heather's'
2 children's records.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Heather', I was born in 1974, my
5 contact details are known to the Inquiry."

6 From paragraphs 2 to 19, 'Heather' speaks of her
7 life before care with her parents and older brother.
8 'Heather' was sexually abused by her father. Her
9 parents separated and 'Heather' lived with her mum.
10 Unknown to 'Heather' at the time, her mother had cancer
11 and parted from the man she was seeing at the time.
12 After an argument with her mum about tidying her room
13 when she says her mum lost the plot and whacked her head
14 off the wall, 'Heather' ran away to her dad's. Two
15 weeks later her mum died. 'Heather' was unaware at the
16 time that her mum had committed suicide. 'Heather' then
17 lived with her dad.

18 She says her dad kind of left her alone and hadn't
19 been doing what he had been doing before. However,
20 after a school friend visited and then complained that
21 'Heather's' dad had exposed himself to her, the girl's
22 father turned up at the house and beat 'Heather's' dad.

23 Moving now to paragraph 10 on page 3.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS RATTRAY: "We were all taken up to the police station.

1 The police asked me if my dad had done anything to me.
2 I was terrified. I didn't want to tell them. My auntie
3 said 'Remember it's okay, you're not doing anything
4 wrong' and I had to tell them what he had done to me.

5 We went to stay with my auntie and uncle in Giffnock
6 but my brother didn't get on with their daughter, they
7 were always fighting.

8 We then went to another auntie and uncle. They've
9 both passed away now. We stayed there for a couple of
10 years. I think I was about 11 by this time. We were
11 treated like dirt and my aunt abused me. Any money she
12 got for keeping us she spent on her own son, my cousin.
13 She said we weren't worth anything. It got to the last
14 point where she kicked me full force in the back. There
15 was a big swelling and bruising. The next day our
16 social worker, Sandy, came out to see us. He could
17 sense something wasn't right because we were very quiet.
18 We went upstairs to speak to him and my brother told me
19 to show him. I showed him my back and he said, 'You
20 can't stay here, that's not acceptable'. He called
21 uncle home from his work and discussed things with him
22 and my aunt in a room without us. He basically told him
23 he couldn't leave my aunt alone with us and he would
24 have a placement for us the following day.

25 We got moved to Carsewood Children's Home outside

1 Johnstone in Howwood. Before we got moved, my aunt said
2 things like, 'There's 16 baddies going to batter you
3 when you get there'. She was really just being vile.
4 I was petrified. My brother was probably scared too but
5 he was trying to do the big brother thing.

6 The social work took us to the children's home. We
7 stayed there for about two years. I got moved to foster
8 care when I was 13. I was told I was going. I didn't
9 have a choice. They said my brother couldn't go because
10 he was too old so we were split up."

11 From paragraphs 14 to 19, 'Heather' speaks of her
12 time in Carsewood Children's Home in Johnstone **Secondary Institut**
13 **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**

14 Moving now to paragraph 20 on page 5.

15 "So in the home I was fine. I had two visits with
16 the foster carers then I went there to stay. I was told
17 by the social worker and the staff at the home that
18 I was going to visit them.

19 I asked if my brother was going and they said no.
20 I wasn't given any reason why. I was just told that
21 I was going into foster care.

22 The foster carers were **EPD-SPO**
23 They were all right, just strangers, just people. By
24 this time I was kind of getting used to the fact that
25 I'd have strangers in my life. I saw them once when

1 I went for an overnight stay. The staff at the home
2 asked me if I liked it. I was a kid, I was always
3 trying to make people happy, so I was saying, 'It was
4 good, I like it, and they've got a dog'. I didn't
5 realise I was getting moved straight after that.

6 When I visited them, they had a house in East
7 Kilbride but shortly after I moved in, they moved to
8 Strathaven. I had been put to high school when I was in
9 East Kilbride, then I went to another school in
10 Strathaven.

11 It was a nice house, a nice room. They did nice
12 things with me. They made a fuss of me. They got
13 movies and stuff like that. I loved the fact that they
14 had a dog. I am very animal orientated. They didn't
15 have any kids of their own but they had another foster
16 daughter. She was a lot older than me, 16 or 17.
17 I think she was ready to leave. She was there for
18 a little while and she was there when we moved but
19 I didn't have much to do with her. She was really quiet
20 and didn't speak to me much. I can't remember her name.
21 I was 12 or 13. I think I was still in first year.

22 Things were okay for the first wee while until one
23 day I had a shower and I used the shower to wash the
24 soap away. Because I hadn't done that before, she
25 thought I hadn't used soap and I hadn't washed. She

1 came into my room and said, 'You haven't washed with
2 soap, get back in that shower'. I told her I had and
3 she said she had lifted the mat and there wasn't any
4 soap under it. I tried to tell her that I'd rinsed it
5 away and she called me a liar. She said she would make
6 sure I showered properly from then on. She then started
7 coming into the bathroom when I was having a shower to
8 supervise. It was mortifying. She hadn't hit me at
9 that point. As soon as she started doing things like
10 that I got my guard up and backed away a little.

11 We started looking at other houses. She looked at
12 one in Strathaven. I was looking about and she asked me
13 what I thought. I said it was lovely. I was asked to
14 pick a room. There were three bedrooms, there was their
15 room, a small one with a cabin bed and a double room.
16 I picked the small one and the other girl said, 'That's
17 right because I want the other one'. We moved there
18 quite quickly and got settled and everything else. The
19 other girl was at the new house for a few months, then
20 she was gone.

21 Things were okay but she was still coming into the
22 bathroom when I was having a shower. At a certain point
23 I just got used to it and got washed. I didn't like it
24 but didn't feel I could say anything about it for fear
25 of repercussions because she had a temper on her.

1 We were at the house in East Kilbride and I came
2 back from a visit with my dad. EPD asked if everything
3 was okay and I said yes. She said she didn't think so
4 and I burst into tears and told her. She got the social
5 work down and for that I am grateful for her putting
6 a stop to that. My dad had made me tell him where she
7 stayed. I didn't know he wasn't to know this. So he
8 drove me back to her house. She was quite annoyed about
9 that. We then obviously moved so that wasn't an issue.
10 I can't remember who the social worker was. The visits
11 stopped. I don't remember seeing the police, I think it
12 was just dealt with by social work.

13 I had chores like any other kid, like sweeping the
14 kitchen floor, keeping my room clean and tidy,
15 vacuuming, doing the dishes. Normal chores that every
16 teenager would be expected to do.

17 EPD woke me up for school. Sometimes at the
18 weekend she would tell me to get up if I'd slept in.
19 I had a bedtime. I think it was about 10 pm, which
20 I don't think is unreasonable if I had school in the
21 morning. At weekends, if there weren't any problems,
22 I could watch TV in bed for an hour or so.

23 She never withheld food. Food was normal. I never
24 went to bed with no dinner. She kept sweets, like
25 minibars in the cupboard for after dinner.

1 I think I tried the Girl Guides, but I didn't really
2 take to it, but I didn't go to dance clubs or anything
3 like that.

4 I had pocket money. She opened a bank account for
5 me and I'd put some of my pocket money into the bank.
6 That's something my mum done for me. With EPD I had to
7 put so much in the bank and kept some. I can't remember
8 how much. So she was teaching me how to save and how to
9 budget.

10 EPD was religious. She went to church. She took
11 me a few times but it wasn't my thing. I wasn't really
12 brought up like that. She did send me to a Catholic
13 school while I was there. I'm sure she was a Catholic,
14 I wasn't. She just asked if I wanted to go to church
15 and I said I wasn't bothered, so she didn't make me. It
16 wasn't the first Catholic school I went to. I also went
17 to a Catholic school when I stayed with my first auntie.
18 That was run by nuns.

19 I would go to the doctors. I went for a medical
20 review. If I wasn't well she'd take me to the doctor.
21 I'm not really a sickly person. I didn't tend to get
22 very ill. One time my bowel just packed up on me and
23 I was severely constipated. I was in so much pain. She
24 took me straight to Hairmyres Hospital. She thought
25 I might have appendicitis. We were in the East Kilbride

1 shopping centre at the time. We just drove straight
2 from the centre to Hairmyres. She showed great care but
3 the other side to her was horrendous.

4 I think I only had one visit with my brother during
5 my time with the foster carers. All contact between us
6 broke down. I just assumed that's the way it was.
7 I had no contact with any other family member after
8 I told EPD about my dad.

9 They didn't take me away on holiday. [REDACTED] was
10 always working. EPD went to Canada to visit relatives
11 one year for two weeks. I was sent to Lanark riding
12 school for a week and then stayed at EPD brother's
13 for a week. [REDACTED] was working night shift and sleeping
14 during the day. I was happy to see her back strangely
15 enough. I missed her. But I hadn't missed the fact
16 that I wasn't being hit.

17 EPD did try to make Christmases nice. I can't
18 remember what she got me for birthdays but I remember
19 one Christmas we had been shopping and I was mucking
20 about with keyboards and she asked if I liked them.
21 I said I did and she got me a big massive keyboard for
22 Christmas. She got me clothes, maybe not what I'd wear,
23 but not out of cheap shops. She would go to
24 Marks & Spencer or Debenhams, quite expensive stores.
25 She wouldn't skimp. This was throughout the year. She

1 wasn't horrible that way, she always made sure I had
2 nice things, haircuts, et cetera. We did girlie things
3 together. It was just centred round the violence, when
4 it came to schoolwork, getting washed, things like that.
5 Just daft things you didn't think someone would get that
6 angry over.

7 **EPD** would tell me I was grounded but that would
8 always come after a beating. I was always afraid to ask
9 to go out a lot of the time. I remember friends coming
10 to the house and asking me to go out. She would
11 eventually hear them and say, 'Just go out', as if
12 I hadn't been grounded. My friends and I never left
13 Strathaven. We didn't go to Hamilton or East Kilbride
14 or anything like that. I sometimes went to friend's
15 houses at weekends. During the week I didn't tend to go
16 out at all.

17 When we moved out to Strathaven, there wasn't one
18 thing that sparked things on of that I can remember.
19 I can't remember the first time **EPD** hit me. I remember
20 several times but not the first. She would hit me where
21 people wouldn't see. So if I was at PE at school,
22 I would cover up to hide the bruising on my back or on
23 my legs. Sometimes she would hit me with her hand,
24 I don't remember her lifting her feet to me, and
25 sometimes she would use her slipper.

1 EPD used to get me to do my homework then get me to
2 recite it word for word back to her. I had to commit
3 the whole thing to memory. If I got a word wrong she
4 would lose the plot, she would say I was at it. There
5 was one day, it was over homework, and she made me stand
6 with my hands out in the kitchen with my back against
7 the wall. She used a wooden spoon and slapped my hands
8 over and over and over again to the point where my
9 thumbs were swollen and my hands were black and blue.
10 How ██████ never noticed this and asked questions
11 I don't know. My hands were swollen and my fingers were
12 bruised. This was during a school holiday.

13 She always done it when no one was in the house.
14 There was one instance when she told me to strip
15 completely naked. She dragged me downstairs. The other
16 girl was still there at the time and EPD said, 'What do
17 you think, when she's behaving like this? Do you think
18 I should just toss her out?' The girl came out of the
19 living room and was startled because I was naked and
20 said, 'At least put some clothes on her'. She went back
21 into the living room. I don't think she knew what to
22 so. EPD told me to get back up the stairs. That's the
23 only time I remember anyone being in the house when she
24 abused me. I don't know if the other girl was being
25 abused. I remember them arguing but she was taller than

1 █ EPD █. I don't know if █ EPD █ would have been that brave
2 to lift her hands to someone that would have probably
3 slapped her back.

4 The social work would come out now and again but it
5 was months and months in between. I didn't say
6 anything. She said if I told anybody she would kill me.
7 I believed her.

8 The house was an end cottage and there was a road
9 outside that led to an industrial estate. There was one
10 time she stripped me of my bottom half of the clothes
11 and threw me outside into the garden and made me stand
12 there, completely naked from the waist down, in full
13 view of the road. I was about 14 then. I remember
14 trying to pull my top down to cover myself. █ █ was
15 a delivery driver. He drove the lorries and worked
16 overnight. When he was in, she never acted like that.

17 One time █ EPD █ mother stayed with us. She was
18 elderly. I was in the big room sharing with the other
19 girl and her mother was in my room. Her pension book
20 went missing and they kept asking me where it was.
21 I said I didn't know, that I hadn't touched it. Her
22 mother left and I was put back into my room. I found
23 the pension book under one of my hats in my closet. Not
24 even thinking anything of it, I told █ EPD █ where I had
25 found it and she battered the living hell out of me,

1 telling me I was a thief. I don't know how it got
2 there, whether her or her mother had put it there and
3 forgot, but I hadn't touched it. She punched me in the
4 back.

5 There were occasions when there were fingermarks at
6 the top of my arms. She didn't tend to hit me in places
7 where people would see it. There was one time when we
8 were in the car and I must have answered her back.
9 I can't remember what we were arguing about or even
10 where we were. It was a place I was unfamiliar with.
11 I think she was going to visit one of her friends. She
12 hit me and burst my lip and she threw me out of the car.
13 I was walking along the road, not knowing where to go.
14 I was going to go to somebody's door but she must have
15 realised what she had done and came back for me.
16 I think if I'd managed to get to someone's door at that
17 point, that would have been an end to it.

18 Most of the injuries were bruising or welts that
19 would disappear eventually. She never went as far as to
20 break a bone or cause serious head trauma. She
21 continued to watch me in the shower. That never
22 stopped. I could shower when I wanted, but she was
23 obsessive about me being clean.

24 When [REDACTED] was in the house when I did my homework,
25 EPD [REDACTED] would say, 'Okay, go up to your room and sit on

1 your chair in the middle of the room and do nothing'.
2 I had a little portable TV in my room. [REDACTED] didn't
3 know anything about this and passed and said, 'What are
4 you doing, put the telly on or something'. So I would
5 sit there wondering what to do. I'd put it on but she
6 came up and saw this and walloped me across the face and
7 said, 'What are you doing with that telly on?' I told
8 her [REDACTED] told me to put it on but she said she had
9 told me not to. [REDACTED] asked why I wasn't allowed the
10 telly on and she told him because I was grounded for
11 doing this or doing that. He didn't see her hitting me.
12 I think he heard her shouting at me. She did that quite
13 a lot, no TV, no nothing, sit and do nothing.

14 The last time she hit me before I ran away was to do
15 with school homework. She would say I wasn't doing well
16 enough, I could do better than that. I told her
17 I couldn't, that I was trying my hardest and she
18 wouldn't believe me. I was doing okay at school. The
19 fact that I had moved from school to school to school
20 didn't help. I wouldn't say I was the cleverest
21 academic person but I tried my hardest. Because she
22 used to make me memorise everything that was in my
23 jotters I started ripping pages out or giving someone my
24 jotters to keep for me. I started trying to hide
25 things.

1 I always had an element of guilt about my mum's
2 death. I didn't know at that point how it happened.
3 Whether I could have stopped it or done something to
4 help her. I know my brother was there. If I had been
5 there, maybe I could have stopped her from dying. EPD
6 revealed to me that my mum had committed suicide and
7 there was nothing I could have done. It didn't make me
8 feel any better that she had killed herself, but
9 I thought there wasn't anything I could have done.
10 I hadn't been aware that she had committed suicide,
11 neither had my brother.

12 A few months later, EPD turned round and said to
13 me, 'No wonder your mum killed herself, it was your
14 fault'. That stuck in my head and twisted. Deep down
15 I didn't think I could have caused her to commit
16 suicide, but it twisted. Obviously the questions came:
17 Why did she kill her? Why did she leave us with my dad,
18 knowing what he was doing? That caused me a great deal
19 of pain, to the point that I wanted to die. Obviously
20 I know now as an adult. I'm back in touch with my
21 mother's side of the family and they said that my dad
22 said she didn't leave a letter but they know she was
23 desperately unhappy. I was told only a year ago that
24 she had endometrial cancer. The knowledge that we have
25 now about hormones, when you have a full hysterectomy,

1 all that estrogen suddenly disappears, it can knock you
2 a bit mentally and with that and that guy saying she
3 wasn't a woman to him, that's probably why she did it.

4 It wasn't all horrendous. She wasn't hitting me
5 every day, but it was at a level that I was terrified.
6 One day we were walking through the main street of
7 Strathaven to go to the shops. Strathaven is quite
8 a small place. We were having a giggle about something
9 and EPD went to put her arm around me and I flinched
10 thinking she was going to hit me. She said, 'I'm so
11 sorry, you thought I was going to hit you'. I think
12 after the first time she really bruised me, the next day
13 she burst into tears and said, 'I'm so sorry,
14 I shouldn't be doing this to you' and I felt sorry for
15 her because she was in tears. I said, 'It's okay, you
16 didn't mean it'. That's probably the worst thing you
17 could say to someone who is abusing you. But I felt bad
18 for her. That was the only time she showed any remorse.

19 Not everything was bad with her. It was just the
20 abuse. It was the hitting and the stripping and the
21 chucking me outside and watching me showering and
22 bathing. I remember watching 'Flowers in the Attic'
23 with her and thinking oh my goodness, that's horrendous.
24 There's a scene where the grandmother cuts the
25 granddaughter's hair. After we watched it, EPD took me

1 into the bathroom one of the times she was battering me
2 and she grabbed the scissors and cut chunks out of my
3 hair. So she's watched that film and carried that out
4 on me. That kind of stuck in my mind because we'd just
5 watched the film then she did that.

6 I don't think EPD was evil. I think she was sick.
7 I think there has to be something mentally wrong with
8 her. She didn't have any kids of her own but there has
9 to be something mentally wrong with you to be able to do
10 that to someone. I'm not sure if she's still alive
11 today. She'd be in her 70s now. She was in her 40s
12 when she had me. So I don't know if she's still alive
13 or has all her faculties.

14 There were several times EPD hit me but they've all
15 just merged. There were times I was going to run away
16 but I was too afraid to. At one point I was going to
17 throw myself down the stairs just to stop it, but
18 I didn't have the courage to do it. It was the fear
19 that stopped me doing anything about it. The social
20 work did come out but I didn't say anything.

21 I would be hit at least once a week. I would try to
22 avoid it happening by memorising everything in my jotter
23 word for word, tidying my room, showering properly,
24 making sure my hair was done properly. A lot of the
25 time it felt like no matter what I done it wouldn't be

1 right. The last year I was with EPD was just as tirade
2 of being hit and not knowing where the next punch was
3 coming from, or the next slap.

4 The last argument with EPD was over homework.
5 [REDACTED] was out at work. She stripped me naked and used
6 her slipper, which had a hard plastic sole. She wore
7 them to hang out the washing so the sole became ragged.
8 She hit me with it on the backside and back of my legs
9 and the shape of the slipper was cut into my skin. This
10 time she hit me on the face with her hand. I was
11 bruised from the side of my eye down my cheek bone and
12 a little bit of bruising on the other side.

13 At that time I had a medicated cream to help acne
14 but it also acted like a foundation so it hid things.
15 I could feel the pain on my face but I couldn't see what
16 she had done. She told me to get to bed and I would be
17 cleaning the kitchen in the morning then sitting in the
18 chair in my room. This was the Friday night into
19 Saturday. I remember it was snowing. It was
20 either January or February. I was still 14 at that
21 point. I went to my bed. I had washed my face so that
22 I could see the redness. I saw the marks on my backside
23 from looking in a mirror. I didn't know what to do.
24 I didn't think anyone would believe me, I had no
25 witnesses. I went to bed, got up in the morning, went

1 downstairs and into the bathroom. I got washed and
2 brushed my teeth. I put the stuff on my face and put
3 extra on the bits to try and hide the bruising. I was
4 quite sore when I was moving about.

5 I started to sweep the floor in the kitchen and
6 something just snapped or clicked in my brain.
7 I thought, 'What am I doing? I can't do this any more'.
8 This was at 7.30 am. [REDACTED] and EPD were in their bed.
9 I went into the cupboard and took a mini Aero. I felt
10 like a thief. This was to keep me going. I snuck into
11 the cupboard under the stairs and got my boots, a big
12 thick coat and gloves. I started walking the back road
13 from Strathaven to Stonehouse. I knew my friend stayed
14 in Stonehouse. It was nine miles away and it was
15 snowing. I had walked about a mile and a van passed me
16 that I had seen earlier. The driver stopped and asked
17 where I was going. He couldn't believe I was walking to
18 Stonehouse and offered me a lift. I asked him to drop
19 me off at the petrol station.

20 I got out of the van at the petrol station and was
21 just walking about. I saw a couple of kids by this
22 time. It was a good bit later. I asked if they knew
23 where my friend stayed. I was told the address and they
24 showed me the street. I got to her house at 9.30 am.
25 I chapped the door. My friend's mum answered the door

1 and said my friend was still in bed. She asked who
2 I was and told me to go up to my friend's room. Her pal
3 was staying the night and I told her I had run away.
4 I'd confided little bits to my friends in the past and
5 I told her she had battered me again last night.
6 I showed her the bruises. She told her mum, who came up
7 and asked me what happened, so I told her. She told me
8 we weren't going to tell the social work right away but
9 let them stew a bit as they had put me there with that
10 woman. She said they need to know I was serious.
11 I felt relief, I didn't feel guilty that people were
12 worried about me because at that point I just felt safe.
13 I had something to eat, I even had a snowball fight
14 outside.

15 We went in and called the emergency social work as
16 it was the weekend. They asked where I was and I said
17 I was in Hamilton because I wasn't getting my friend's
18 mum in trouble for harbouring a runaway. They asked me
19 to go to the police station. My friend came with me.
20 We just got on a bus and I went to Hamilton police
21 station and the social work came. I told them on the
22 phone that they weren't to bring EPD with them or
23 I would run and they would never see me again. We
24 waited for ages on the social work. My friend got
25 interviewed separately from me. We both spoke with CID

1 or child protection, it was plain clothes anyway, and
2 I was examined by a police doctor. I took the stuff off
3 my face for them to see the bruising. He saw the marks
4 on my legs and thought they were scratches because of
5 the shape of them. It was actually the shape of the
6 slipper.

7 Nothing was proven. She said I had scratched myself
8 and the bruising had been done at PE or I was clumsy.
9 The social work said they had a placement for me and
10 I wasn't going back to that house. The only placement
11 was Glenavon Children's Home, which was not far from
12 EPD house. I said I can't go there, she would get
13 me. They told me she wouldn't as it was secure. I was
14 taken to the unit. I had nothing. I had what was on my
15 back. Someone gave me a loan of a nightdress for that
16 night. I was there for a few months at least before
17 I moved to Mitchell Street Children's Home in Airdrie."

18 From paragraph 60, 'Heather' speaks of her
19 experiences in Glenavon Children's Home in Strathaven.

20 Now moving to paragraph 63 on page 17. This part is
21 actually redacted, but while she's in Glenavon she
22 speaks about foster care again, hence I'm reading it
23 out:

24 "Word got round the school that I was in the home
25 and not with who they thought was my auntie and uncle

1 and people were asking a lot of questions and I thought
2 I'm not hiding it and I just told them. They've
3 obviously went home and spoke to their parents and it
4 got back to EPD After the meeting with EPD and the
5 social work, she wasn't coming near me so I started
6 going to school alone with my pals. I can't recall how
7 long it was after I'd been put into Glenavon when there
8 was a big meeting. There was a hall downstairs in the
9 home. I went with staff, the social work were there,
10 and EPD and their social worker. I was asked
11 questions and felt under pressure to be in the same room
12 as someone who had actually abused me. It felt like
13 a court minus the jury.

14 I was asked why I'd run away, did I cause the abuse?
15 I can't remember who, I think it was the social work
16 that asked the questions. The memory of it is gone
17 because I try to block a lot of this out. I just
18 remember all these people sitting and asking me these
19 questions. What did I do to cause this to happen? So
20 I thought this was my fault then. At one point I lost
21 it and said, 'I fucking hate her. She did this to me
22 and you're asking me all these questions'.

23 The meeting was ended and I went into the dining
24 room and was looking out of the window. The social
25 worker came up, I can't remember who it was, and asked

1 if EPD could see me. I felt bad because I said I hated
2 her. I didn't. I hated what she did to me. I said
3 okay, as long as the social worker stayed with me. EPD
4 said, 'You didn't mean what you said about me', I said
5 no, meaning that I didn't hate her, but it was construed
6 that I meant she didn't hit me. There were no criminal
7 proceedings.

8 EPD became a taxi driver and was picking up kids
9 from the home. As I got older, I sat and thought she
10 hasn't had anything done to her. She's not been
11 prosecuted because if she had, she wouldn't be able to
12 pick up the kids at the home.

13 She didn't give me everything I had at her house.
14 The social work gave me a suitcase the next day with my
15 clothes and the few items I had taken to EPD when
16 I first went there, but I didn't get the keyboard back
17 or the little bits of jewellery that she had given me.
18 I think my savings came with me because the bank account
19 was in my name.

20 Nobody ever told me what happened as a result of the
21 meeting but she never bothered me and I was happy enough
22 to go to school without a member of staff. Everything
23 was fine. I felt safe. I was walking up the road with
24 my friends one day and EPD stopped in her car and
25 jumped out. She said, 'Get in the car, you've been

1 telling lies about me'. I said I hadn't, but she told
2 me to get in the car again. I was terrified and went
3 in. She took me to the home. The staff said she
4 shouldn't have picked me up and they took me upstairs
5 and locked the door so that EPD couldn't follow me.
6 I don't know what was said but she never approached me
7 again and I never saw her again."

8 From paragraph 69, 'Heather' speaks further of her
9 experiences at Glenavon Children's Home in Strathaven.
10 Then at Mitchell Street Children's Home in Airdrie.

11 Moving to paragraph 81 on page 21 where 'Heather'
12 speaks of counselling she received when in Mitchell
13 Street Children's Home:

14 "I got counselling in Coatbridge. I got a train to
15 it. I don't think it helped too much then. This was
16 weekly. Once it started it just all came out. This is
17 where I spoke about EPD saying my mum's death was my
18 fault. The counsellor said I was eight and a half, it
19 wasn't my fault. That bit did help. Nothing anybody
20 said could help me with what my dad had done to me.
21 I know that wasn't my fault. I think as a teenager you
22 start to understand more about what happened and it
23 starts affecting you more.

24 My mother-in-law became a foster carer. She started
25 doing it when my kids were young and I've spotted things

1 with the kids over the years and told her she needs to
2 do something about certain things. Because I've been
3 there myself, I know what they are going through. I'm
4 not saying I was an angel, I was horrendous at that age
5 at times."

6 From paragraph 83, 'Heather' speaks further of her
7 experiences in Mitchell Street Children's Home in
8 Airdrie and then her life after care.

9 Moving to paragraph 110 on page 29 where 'Heather'
10 speaks of reporting abuse.

11 "I reported the abuse from my dad on a number of
12 occasions as a child to relatives, the police and
13 EPD who in turn contacted my social worker.
14 I can't recall who that was at the time. There was
15 never any proceedings taken against him.

16 I reported the abuse from EPD to the social
17 work department and the police at Hamilton police
18 station when I ran away from her when I was 14. I was
19 told by the police then that there was insufficient
20 proof.

21 I have a lack of trust. I don't trust people very
22 easily. I am very wary of people round me. I defend
23 myself now, but when someone lifts their arm there's
24 always that little bit inside me that wants to flinch
25 away. I never really let guys close to me. I still get

1 a vibe about boys and men and I won't go near them or
2 have too much to do with them. I get a feeling from
3 people.

4 I can relate to foster children. Because of the
5 feelings I had as a teenager I realise what they are
6 going through, whether it's the same as I went through,
7 whether it's something completely different, it doesn't
8 matter, it's still a realisation. They have opened up
9 to me in the past."

10 And now to paragraph 116 on page 31:

11 "I have never recovered my records from my time in
12 care. It's not something I'm interested in. Everything
13 I needed to know about my mum I think I know now.

14 They need to look for signs in kid. See how kids
15 act and read them a bit better. I probably showed signs
16 but no one looked for them. I picked up things with my
17 mother-in-law's foster kids because I saw myself in
18 them. Social workers should be trained to see signs,
19 read body language. To a certain degree they are better
20 now. I believe foster carers have to jump through hoops
21 to foster children now. My in-laws are with the FCA,
22 Foster Care Association.

23 There are lots of reasons why kids are in care.
24 I think they need to be able to read kids and it's good
25 that they have started doing this. You have to have

1 a lot of understanding and a lot of patience for kids
2 coming from neglected or abusive backgrounds.

3 Children's homes are difficult places to work in.
4 I know that these kids are hard work. The way they
5 speak to people is horrendous. You make choices. You
6 may have been treated badly, it doesn't mean you have to
7 be a horrible person. I tell my own kids that. Was
8 I an angel? No, I wasn't. I was a teenager, I was
9 upset, I was confused. I don't think I was mentally
10 stable at one point but I came through it all and made
11 something of my life.

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

16 And 'Heather' signed her statement on 11 May 2021.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes the read-ins and the
19 evidence for this block, and I think we resume again on
20 Tuesday, 20 September.

21 LADY SMITH: I was going to check that with you, in four
22 weeks' time and of course that will all be confirmed on
23 the website with the usual details going up with the
24 usual notice.

25 Thank you very much indeed and my thanks to those of

1 you who have been attending either in person or via link
2 all these sessions of evidence, and I wish you well for
3 the weekend.

4 Thank you.

5 Oh, I should probably just confirm in case people
6 hadn't noticed, I'm sure they picked it up already, we
7 did use foster carers' actual names during the read-ins
8 this afternoon, but they of course are protected by my
9 general restriction order. If that could as ever be
10 remembered, please. Thank you.

11 (3.49 pm)

12 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am
13 on Tuesday, 20 September 2022)

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