

Wednesday, 21 September 2022

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning.

4 We return to our hearings in the foster care and
5 boarding-out case study, the second day this week, and
6 we begin with an oral witness.

7 Ms Innes?

8 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady.

9 The first witness this morning has chosen to remain
10 anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Kelly'.

11 'Kelly' was in the care of Grampian Regional
12 Council. She was placed with FZW-FZP in
13 Aberdeen from to 1992. FZW-FZP
14 were foster carers for Grampian Regional Council from
15 about 1985 until about 1996. Aberdeen City Council is
16 the relevant successor.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Kelly' (sworn)

19 LADY SMITH: 'Kelly', that does sound a good position for
20 that microphone. If I can ask you to try to make sure
21 you are using it, we need to hear you through the sound
22 system.

23 A. Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: There's a red folder on the desk and you will
25 be taken to that in a moment, it has your statement in

1 it, but we'll also bring your statement up on the
2 screen. If you need to consult it, it will also go to
3 the parts we're discussing as we go through your
4 evidence.

5 A. Okay.

6 LADY SMITH: Apart from those practicalities, 'Kelly', thank
7 you for agreeing to come here today to give evidence in
8 public, all a bit strange, I'm sure, and might feel more
9 than challenging at times. I do understand that asking
10 people to do this can take them really unawares so far
11 as their own emotions are concerned sometimes, so if you
12 want a break or just a pause, you must let me know.

13 A. Okay.

14 LADY SMITH: Or if there's anything else I can do to help
15 you give your evidence as clearly and carefully as you
16 can, give the best evidence you can, I suppose --

17 A. Okay.

18 LADY SMITH: -- that's what we're about here.

19 A. Okay.

20 LADY SMITH: Don't hesitate to say if you have any questions
21 or requests.

22 A. Okay.

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

25 A. Okay.

1 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

2 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

3 Questions from Ms Innes

4 MS INNES: 'Kelly', we understand that you were born in
5 1978. Is that right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. If we can look first of all at your statement, please,
8 we give it the reference WIT.001.003.0112. If we can
9 look first of all at the second-last page of the
10 statement, page 30, at the bottom of the page at
11 paragraph 199 we see there that you say:

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

16 I think you signed the statement, if we go over to
17 the top of the next page, on 6 November 2021. Is that
18 right?

19 A. Yeah, that's correct.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 If we can go back to the beginning of your
22 statement, please, you tell us at paragraph 2 a little
23 bit about your family and you mention your parents and
24 two younger brothers?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Your first memories I think of your childhood are at
2 paragraph 3 that you had quite a good upbringing?
3 A. Mm-hmm.
4 Q. At paragraph 4 you talk a little bit about your
5 background. You remember your parents being staunch
6 Catholics and going to church every Sunday.
7 A. Yeah.
8 Q. You also mention that your mum is from a travellers'
9 gypsy background?
10 A. Yeah, that's correct.
11 Q. Did that have an influence on your upbringing?
12 A. No, not really.
13 Q. Okay. You talk about having a mixed upbringing and
14 remember going out to the fields and picking tatties and
15 berries and --
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. So did you live in the countryside for a time?
18 A. We'd go down in the summer holidays for six weeks and
19 then the October holidays we would go and do the tatty
20 picking and stuff.
21 Q. Okay. So when you say you would go down, where would
22 you --
23 A. Alyth, to a caravan.
24 Q. Okay. Other than that, were you living in Aberdeen or
25 Aberdeenshire?

1 A. Aberdeen -- well, Dundee and Aberdeen.

2 Q. Then you tell us that difficulties began to arise or
3 perhaps you began to become aware of difficulties
4 between your parents?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. You tell us that your father was an alcoholic and you
7 witnessed violence, domestic violence, towards your mum?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Then if we move on to page 2, you tell us that your dad
10 was also violent towards you?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. You tell us at paragraph 9 that your dad didn't get on
13 with your granny.

14 A. That's right, yeah.

15 Q. Is that your mum's mum or your dad's mum?

16 A. My mum's mum.

17 Q. Did she live in Aberdeen as well?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Did that have an impact on your ability to see your
20 granny?

21 A. Yeah, it did.

22 Q. Did he not want you to spend time with her?

23 A. He didn't want me to speak to her, see her or do
24 anything with her.

25 Q. Okay. At paragraph 10 you talk about your parents

1 moving from Aberdeen to Dundee but having difficulties
2 with accommodation and you describe that you would then
3 go back to your granny's at that point?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. At paragraph 11 you tell us that your mum took
6 an overdose at some point.

7 A. She went to take an overdose. She didn't quite do it,
8 but she [REDACTED].

9 Q. Okay. You say that after that was the first time that
10 your father assaulted you and I understand he assaulted
11 you violently and you were injured and you tell us at
12 the top of the next page that you were taken to the
13 police station?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. I think, as an adult, you've been able to recover some
16 information about that from the police, that you gave
17 statement and photographs were taken of your injuries at
18 the time?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. You describe at paragraph 12 remembering that
21 your social worker was terrified of what your dad was
22 going to do?

23 A. Yeah, it was the social worker that was last in the
24 office. I can't remember his name. But because of the
25 state my father was in, he actually took me in and

1 locked the doors because he was frightened and my dad
2 was screaming and shouting not to put me to my
3 grandmother's.

4 Q. At that point did you think that there was some plan
5 that you might go to your grandmother's?

6 A. Yeah, well, that's what I thought was going to happen,
7 that I would be taken down to my grandmother's.

8 Q. Okay. And what happened?

9 A. I got taken to [REDACTED] and the
10 FZW-FZP [REDACTED] foster care.

11 Q. You say at paragraph 14 that you were put into care you
12 understand on a 21-day order?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Is that something that you had an understanding of at
15 the time?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Is that something that you found out later on from
18 looking at your records?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay. Do you have an understanding of what the purpose
21 of you going to stay with FZW-FZP [REDACTED] at that time was?

22 A. I think it was because the social worker had seen my
23 father's behaviour and he was quite concerned and that's
24 why I got put there and not to my gran's.

25 Q. Okay. Now we mentioned your brothers earlier.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. What happened to them at that point?

3 A. They -- [REDACTED] he was quite influenced by my dad, but
4 [REDACTED] was too young to sort of understand. When
5 I spoke to him later on in life, he just didn't
6 understand like what had been going on and what not, and
7 a lot of the time me being big sister, because I was
8 very close to [REDACTED]. I shielded him from it. It was
9 because I was also -- like, when I got put away, I was
10 stopped from seeing my brothers and speaking to my
11 brothers too.

12 Q. When you went to FZW-FZP [REDACTED] did your brothers stay with
13 your mum and dad?

14 A. Stayed with my mum and dad, yeah.

15 LADY SMITH: I see you mention right at the beginning of
16 your statement that the second brother you talked about
17 was, what, five years younger than you?

18 A. Yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: Were you protective towards him?

20 A. Oh yeah, yeah. Both of my brothers I was protective
21 towards, but [REDACTED] was only a year younger than me so
22 he had to (unclear).

23 LADY SMITH: He would be the wee one that would look up to
24 you, I suppose?

25 A. Oh, aye.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 MS INNES: When you went to FZW-FZP was this the first
3 time that you had been in care?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. You mentioned their address and at paragraph 14
6 you tell us that they actually lived in the same street
7 as your parents or close to your street?

8 A. Close to my parents, yeah.

9 Q. Were they people that you knew before you moved to their
10 house?

11 A. No.

12 Q. How did you feel about living there when your parents
13 were just down the road?

14 A. I was okay about it. It was -- I suppose at that time
15 I didn't see it as like a sort of problem/big deal type
16 thing.

17 Q. Okay.

18 You go on to tell us a bit about FZW-FZP so at
19 paragraph 15 you talk about the length of time that you
20 were there and we have the dates for that so we know
21 that you were there from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] 1992, so about
22 four weeks, as you say.

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. How did you find it when you went there to begin with?

25 A. At first it was okay, and then obviously as time went on

1 things started -- how can I put it? To shock me a bit,
2 because I come from quite a -- well, my mum was like
3 spotlessly clean. The sort of house that you could eat
4 your supper off the floor. But FZW-FZP weren't very
5 clean, so I started to notice things like that. And the
6 amount of like people in the house, well, kids and
7 adults, and just when it was coming to like dinner time
8 and stuff I didn't feel that there was like enough food
9 to go around everybody.

10 Q. Okay, we'll talk about some of those things in a bit
11 more detail. You tell us at paragraph 16 that you
12 remember it being a three-bedroomed house?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. And it just had one bathroom?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. You say that there were 13 of you staying in the house?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Okay. So there were FZW-FZP themselves?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And there was you?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And did they have any of their own children?

23 A. Their own three children there.

24 Q. Okay, and what sort of ages were they? Were they older
25 than you or ...?

1 A. [REDACTED] was older, [REDACTED] was older and [REDACTED] I believe
2 was younger than me.

3 Q. Okay, so that's six of you, I think, that we've counted
4 so far.

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. The other children who were living in the house, were
7 they foster children?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay. And if there were three bedrooms in the house,
10 where did the children sleep?

11 A. The boys were in the bigger room and just bunk beds if
12 you were, and the girls was in the little room and there
13 was two sets of bunk beds in that room.

14 Q. Okay. So if you were in the girls' room, were their two
15 daughters in that room as well?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Then other girls who were foster children?

18 A. Yeah, myself and another girl.

19 Q. Okay, so there were four of you in the girls' room?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And then there were the boys, including FZW-FZP [REDACTED] own
22 son, in this other room in bunk beds?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. When you were there, was it the same children that were
25 there over the four weeks that you were there? Can you

1 remember children coming and going or was it the same
2 children that were there?

3 A. There was four boys come in when I had been there for
4 a couple of weeks.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. And that's when it like went up in numbers. But
7 everybody else was like the same.

8 Q. Okay.

9 At paragraph 17 you talk about the bunk beds and FZW-FZP
10 FZW-FZP having their own room, and you talk about
11 the kids having to sit through the back in an extension?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Can you explain that?

14 A. It was just -- it was sort of used as like the dining
15 area --

16 Q. Right.

17 A. -- extension. And we used to sit through there. We
18 didn't get to sit in the living room.

19 Q. Okay. At the bottom of this page at paragraph 18 you
20 say that they were in the process of adopting one of the
21 children, so the other girl that was in the room with
22 you, I think?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Okay. Then if we go to the top of the next page, you
25 talk about boys living there and you have some knowledge

1 of who those people were, I think, from the community.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. You say that the boys were there because of illness?

4 A. Yeah, their mum was ill.

5 Q. Okay. And is that the four boys that came?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. I see. You say:

8 "It was different back then as everybody knew
9 everybody and they all looked after one another."

10 A. That's right, yeah.

11 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that?

12 A. Obviously the community we was in, everybody like sort
13 of knew one another and obviously when that four boys
14 went in, I knew their mum and I knew them, so when they
15 got put into care, just sort of kept an eye on them,
16 made sure that they were okay and stuff.

17 Q. What sort of ages were they? Were they older or younger
18 than you?

19 A. Younger.

20 Q. Okay. Were they all at school?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Then you mention another boy living there who you think
23 is now a social worker, was he there the whole time that
24 you were there?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. You mentioned mealtimes a moment ago in your answer. If
2 we just look to the bottom of this page at paragraph 23
3 you say there that you used to get regular proper meals
4 at home but that wasn't the case when you were in foster
5 care?

6 A. No.

7 Q. What sort of things were you -- say for an evening meal,
8 how was that prepared, who prepared it?

9 A. FZW prepared it, but like I says, it was a sort of --
10 how can I put it? Like a roast beef that size to go
11 round like 13 people and so it was like a very small
12 amount that you got. And obviously I was used to -- if
13 my mum done a roast dinner I was used to plenty of veg,
14 plenty of spuds and plenty of meat, so I sort of went
15 from that to that, it was like a -- okay. I didn't see
16 that as being right. And especially when there were so
17 many to feed.

18 Q. Were you able to sit round a table or was there more
19 than one sitting or was it a sort of free for all?

20 A. We would sit round a table, it would be the kids, and
21 FZP would eat his tea in the living room.

22 Q. So that's Mr FZP?

23 A. Yeah. And FZW was always like just mooching about
24 around the kitchen and stuff. But yeah, we sat at the
25 table.

1 Q. Okay. Now you say at paragraph 24 that because your
2 home was so close you remember going home to your mum to
3 get your dinner?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. To get fed?

6 A. Yeah. I was also -- at that time that I was in training
7 as well for sports and obviously I wasn't getting enough
8 to eat and one of my favourite things was smoked
9 sausage, so my mum always had smoked sausage in the
10 fridge for me and so I -- well, I went home and got
11 myself smoked sausage and it just so happened my mum
12 wasn't at work that day and she asked why I was over
13 getting food and I told her and my mum worked in the
14 fish, and so she went and got a half stone of haddock
15 from her work and dropped it off at FZW-FZP for a meal
16 for everybody.

17 Q. You'd obviously been put to FZW-FZP because of what
18 had happened at home and you say that you were going
19 back to your mum's house -- did you have a key for the
20 house at that stage?

21 A. No.

22 Q. No. So somebody would have had to be in to let you in?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Did anybody raise any issues about you going back to
25 your mum's house?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Was your dad there?

3 A. No, he was at work.

4 Q. Okay. And so did you go when you knew he would be out,
5 can you remember?

6 A. Pretty much, yeah.

7 Q. Okay. You talked about being involved in sports at the
8 time and I think you tell us that you were involved in
9 gymnastics and suchlike at the time?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Okay. If we can just stay on page 4, please, and go
12 back a little bit up to paragraph 20. You mentioned
13 that at the beginning things were okay when you were
14 with FZW-FZP but as things started to change a little
15 and you talk at paragraph 20 about going out with their
16 daughter.

17 A. [REDACTED] yeah.

18 Q. Can you tell us what happened?

19 A. Well, when I was 13 obviously I wore make-up and done my
20 hair and stuff, but when my hair was put up and my
21 make-up was done I always looked a lot older and
22 [REDACTED] took me down to what's known in Aberdeen as the
23 "bouley", which is the beach boulevard where the boy
24 racers go, and she was introducing me to a lot of older
25 like lads that had driving licences and what not.

1 Q. What sort of age was she?

2 A. I think [REDACTED] had just turned 16 or 17, so she was
3 older.

4 Q. Did anybody say that you shouldn't be going down to the
5 beach boulevard?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Was this different to what you'd been allowed to do at
8 home?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Is it something that your parents would have allowed or
11 your mum would have allowed?

12 A. Absolutely not.

13 Q. Then if we go back over now to page 5, and you talk
14 there about the gymnastics that you were doing, at
15 paragraph 26 specifically about gymnastics.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Then if we move on, please, to page 6 and at paragraphs
18 32 and 33 you talk about an incident where Mr FZP [REDACTED] went
19 absolutely ballistic with you.

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Can you describe how he behaved?

22 A. Screaming and shouting at me. What had happened, I was
23 on my period and at that time it was towels that you
24 ripped and put down the toilet and I done that and
25 I hadn't realised it hadn't flushed away properly and

1 [REDACTED] the son, seen that, went down and told, and then
2 I got shouted down and he started screaming and shouting
3 at me that that was disgusting and dirty and what not
4 and I says I didn't mean it and then that night I ended
5 up wetting the bed and I was too scared to tell, so
6 I just laid in it until it was my turn to do my washing
7 and then I got it like cleaned.

8 Q. Okay. So when Mr FZP [REDACTED] was shouting at you, how did that
9 make you feel?

10 A. Scared. I was shaking. And I remember it as clear as
11 day. I was shaking. I was just absolutely petrified.
12 My dad always used to like scream and shout but that was
13 my dad. I wasn't used to strange men shouting at me,
14 so ...

15 Q. Then you talked about wetting the bed. Was that
16 something that happened at home or not?

17 A. No.

18 Q. No. You say that you were too scared to tell them what
19 had happened?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Then you talked about waiting for your turn to do your
22 washing.

23 A. Mm.

24 Q. So were you responsible for doing your own washing at
25 FZW-FZP [REDACTED] ?

1 A. Yeah. Yeah.

2 Q. So you would take your own bedclothes or clothes that
3 needed to be washed and --

4 A. Take them down and get them washed, yeah.

5 Q. Okay. How did you find Mrs. FZW? Was she somebody that
6 you could speak to?

7 A. No. No, not really. She just went about the house
8 doing her sort of own thing and a lot of the time I just
9 sat up in the bedroom.

10 Q. Okay. So if we hear evidence from Mrs. FZW that, you
11 know, she was able to show care and warmth towards
12 children in her care, is that something that you
13 experienced?

14 A. No.

15 Q. If we hear evidence from her that her husband wouldn't
16 have behaved in the way that you've described, what's
17 your response to that?

18 A. She's telling lies.

19 Q. Okay.

20 I wonder if we can look at something in your
21 records, please, so it's at ABN-000000527, page 6. We
22 see I think that this is a handwritten note which at the
23 top says Tuesday, 2 February 1993. If we can scroll
24 down to January 1992 I think we see there that it says:
25 "Hearing -- foster care ..."

1 Then that refers to you, so it says:

2 "'Kelly' accused foster parents (Mr) that he had
3 attempted to strike her and had to sleep in wet bed.
4 Outcome -- discharged to [your parents] without
5 ?explanation."

6 I think this is the only note that we've been able
7 to find of this incident that you've described with
8 Mr FZP Can you remember if he did attempt to strike
9 you?

10 A. No.

11 Q. No?

12 A. It was just purely shouting at me.

13 Q. You don't know why somebody might have written that
14 down?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. But you've told us that you wet the bed and you
17 slept in it?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And so that's correct, that note?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Okay. It talks about you being discharged to your
22 parents, so did you go back to your parents' care after
23 you'd stayed with FZW-FZP ?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Did you have any understanding of why you went back to

1 live with your mum and dad again?

2 A. No. They just says that I had to go back to my mum and
3 dad's and that was it, even though I kept putting in the
4 request that I wanted to live with my granny, I just
5 kept getting put back to my mum and dad's.

6 Cathie McHugh had a very high opinion of my parents.

7 Q. Okay, that's your social worker?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Here we see what's mentioned in this note about Mr FZP
10 Can you remember hearing anything more about it or there
11 being any kind of investigation or discussion?

12 A. No.

13 Q. No, okay.

14 Right, if we can go back to your statement again,
15 please, you tell us at the bottom of page 6 that you, as
16 you've told us, went back to your parents and
17 essentially things didn't get any better, I think they
18 maybe got worse with your dad. Is that right?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay.

21 In your statement you then tell us that you went to
22 a number of residential homes and ultimately Oakbank
23 residential school?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. So I think you were in Kincorth Children's Home, Bridge

1 of Don, Seafield, Bon Accord, Urquhart House and then
2 finally in Oakbank.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You've told us all about that in your statement and that
5 all forms part of your evidence to the Inquiry, but
6 because we're focusing on foster care I'm going to move
7 on, if it's okay, to page 27 and paragraph 179 where
8 you -- you've been telling us in this section about your
9 life after you were in care and how things developed for
10 you. You tell us at paragraph 179 that you have been
11 a foster parent yourself.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. I understand that in the past you had an arrangement
14 which was maybe a kinship arrangement?

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. And that currently you're a kinship carer?

17 A. Yeah, that's correct.

18 Q. Okay. I don't need to know the details of the children
19 involved or their family circumstances --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- but I wonder if you can tell us a little bit about
22 your previous experience of being a kinship carer and
23 I think you had a boy with you for a couple of years?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Is that right? How did you find the assessment process?

1 Were you assessed by the social work department, can you
2 remember?

3 A. I got obviously police checks and that done. And that
4 was really about it. Because I think that was before
5 you had to really get the disclosures and stuff like
6 that. So it was just like quite basic.

7 Q. Roughly can you remember when that was?

8 A. Oh God.

9 Q. Or how many years ago it was?

10 A. We're speaking about -- maybe about 12 years ago now.

11 Q. Okay, okay. So maybe around -- yeah, so 2010 or
12 thereabouts?

13 A. Yeah, round about that, yeah.

14 Q. Okay. Can you remember did you get any training at that
15 time from the social work department?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Can you remember a social worker coming to visit you and
18 provide you with support at that time?

19 A. He would come in and sit for half an hour and just see
20 what you was like doing and what you was up to and then
21 he would just say, "Okay, that's fine", and leave. And
22 that was about it.

23 Q. Okay. So did you feel that you were getting sufficient
24 time with the social worker or not?

25 A. No, not really.

1 Q. Okay. Was that social worker the worker for the child
2 or was that somebody who was assigned to you?
3 A. No, it was for the child.
4 Q. The child. Did you have somebody who was assigned to
5 you at that time, can you remember?
6 A. No.
7 Q. No, okay. Do you think that you needed more support
8 from the social work department at that time?
9 A. Definitely.
10 Q. What sort of support would you have needed?
11 A. Well, I ... [REDACTED] was a bit like unruly and because of
12 his upbringing he kept on like running away to try and
13 like get to his parents and stuff like that. And apart
14 from phoning the police and going and looking for him
15 myself to bring him back, there wasn't really much
16 support from the social work. Obviously I phoned and
17 reported it, but there was nothing really done about it.
18 Q. Okay. I understand that you're a kinship carer at
19 present?
20 A. Yeah.
21 Q. On this occasion when the child's been placed with you,
22 first of all again: how did you find the assessment
23 process?
24 A. Much better.
25 Q. Okay.

1 A. Much better. It was more in-depth and there has been
2 a support for myself and for [REDACTED] and social work has
3 spent a lot more time with [REDACTED], making sure she's
4 happy and obviously with ourselves as well, explaining
5 things as we go along for like LAC meetings and panel
6 meetings and stuff, so much better.

7 And the kinship side of it, it's just been
8 absolutely fantastic. There's so much support there now
9 comparing to back when I had [REDACTED] Maybe if I had
10 that support back then, then things could have been
11 different.

12 Q. Okay. So the assessment process was much more in-depth
13 first of all you said?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. In what way was it more in-depth? Did they ask you more
16 questions or did they speak to more people or what?

17 A. I had to fill out disclosure forms. We got put through
18 disclosures and PVGs to check everything. And then they
19 obviously checked up on like [REDACTED] to make sure she was
20 happy, that we were happy with the way things were
21 going, and just put in little bits in place for her,
22 more support at school through social work and what not,
23 which helped her a lot.

24 When [REDACTED] like come to me, this was a little girl
25 that wouldn't speak to anybody, social work, nobody, and

1 slowly with everybody working as a team with her, we got
2 her out of her shell. Now she'll go to McDonald's with
3 her social worker and she'll speak to her social worker
4 and any other person that she needs to speak to. She's
5 got a befriender that takes her out and she speaks away
6 to her and goes out and does like little bits with her,
7 like Codona's, swimming, things like that, picnics,
8 walking her puppy.

9 So, yeah, a lot more support now with the kinship
10 and stuff being in place. And social work seems to have
11 a little bit more time as well and -- because, as I say,
12 when social work first come in I was a bit like wary
13 because of what I had been through previous, but her
14 social worker is lovely and does everything that she
15 possibly can to support [REDACTED]

16 Q. Okay. So do you have your own social worker as well as
17 [REDACTED] having her own social worker?

18 A. No, I have somebody who comes in for kinship if I need
19 them. If I have got any questions or I'm struggling
20 with something, then I can phone and they'll come
21 straight out and see me.

22 LADY SMITH: 'Kelly', when you say "kinship", what are you
23 referring to?

24 A. I -- it's like another part to the social work that they
25 have brought in.

1 LADY SMITH: A division within the Local Authority?

2 A. Yeah, yeah.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS INNES: There's maybe a team that you can phone up or --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- people that specifically work with kinship carers?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay. Have you had any training or anything that you

9 can go to to provide you with training?

10 A. I've been offered training and stuff but it's difficult

11 for me at times, because my son is actually severe

12 autistic, so he's like 24/7 as well, so it does make it

13 a wee bit different and as I've says to them, I'm

14 a mother and she'll just be treated the same as I've

15 treated my own and bring her up the best way I possibly

16 can, so -- but if I did need like training and stuff,

17 then I would go for it. But it does get difficult with

18 [REDACTED]

19 Q. Do you have to go to annual reviews or anything like

20 that?

21 A. Yeah. There's been quite a lot of reviews for [REDACTED]

22 So normally there would be six months, the panel

23 hearings like once a year, the reviews is like a LAC

24 meeting and that's normally once every six months, but

25 lately -- well, since it's all being gone through for

1 the last year it's been like every couple of months
2 because of the situation.

3 But now that [REDACTED]'s settled and coming along,
4 they've moved it up to the six months and obviously when
5 we go through the adoption, kinship's going to help me
6 all through that and get me through like everything with
7 that and then obviously I wouldn't need the kinship and
8 that but they says that they'll still be there in the
9 background if I ever need them.

10 Q. Okay. So there are reviews for the child, so
11 looked-after child reviews, and you mention the panel
12 once a year. Would that be the Children's Hearing in
13 respect of the child?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you have to go to any kind of kinship panel or
16 annual --

17 A. No.

18 Q. -- review or anything like that?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Okay. You compared your experience of the Local
21 Authority now with your experience of the Local
22 Authority when you had the previous child with you. Do
23 you have any reflections on your experience of the Local
24 Authority now as compared to your own experience when
25 you were in care?

1 A. Much better. They seem to listen more and, as I say,
2 they're more patient, I suppose, with different
3 situations, whereas when I was younger it was just like
4 "oh, okay then", well, as you can see, with a lot of my
5 records it was just like brushed away like it never
6 happened.

7 Q. You feel they look into things more?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You mentioned that the social worker takes ██████ out,
10 I think, to McDonald's and things to speak to her?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Does she normally speak to her outwith the house or does
13 she sometimes see her in the house?

14 A. No, she sees her in the house as well. She just --
15 obviously I understand that she needs time out with
16 ██████ just to make sure that ██████ is happy and every
17 time she comes back I've got a glowing report, so -- but
18 no, Nicky(?) sees her in the house and that as well.

19 Q. How often does she come to see her?

20 A. Before it was once a week and then she sort of let it go
21 to like once a fortnight and then once a month, just to
22 slowly like -- and now every couple of months. But she
23 phones just to make sure everything's fine. And as
24 I say, she'll arrange dates to come see us with ██████
25 and maybe take ██████ out.

1 Q. You mentioned about the support that [REDACTED] s had and
2 working in a team.

3 A. Mm.

4 Q. Do you feel that the education and social work all speak
5 to each other?

6 A. (Witness nods)

7 Q. Do you feel included in that discussion?

8 A. Yeah, no, definitely, aye. Everything. It's quite open
9 with everybody. And if the school's got a problem
10 obviously they'll contact me, but they'll also like
11 contact Nicky, but nine times out of ten by the time the
12 school's contacted me I've contacted Nicky anyway to
13 say, "Right, what should I do here?" and things. But
14 no, everybody's in close contact.

15 Q. Do you think that's different to when you were in care?

16 A. Definitely.

17 Q. Okay. How is it different?

18 A. Well, there was not support like there is now and
19 I think it was limited like contact with everybody.
20 I can't -- I say that like my sort of guidance teacher
21 was not in close contact with Cathie McHugh or anything
22 like that, it would probably have been a lot more like
23 found out.

24 So, yes, the way it is now, the contact that they
25 get now is so much better.

1 Q. Okay.

2 If I can move on, on page 27, to paragraph 180 you
3 talk there about the impact of being in care and you say
4 that in one way it's made you a stronger person but in
5 another way it broke you. You say:

6 "I should never have been in care."

7 Is that reflecting back on the fact that you think
8 that you should have been with your granny?

9 A. I should have just been put with my granny and just been
10 left alone to like grow up as a normal teenager. But
11 yeah, instead of getting pushed here and pushed there.
12 If they'd left me at my granny's then I would have been
13 fine.

14 Q. We know that you were in the placement with FZW-FZP in
15 foster care and then later on you were always in
16 residential care.

17 A. (Witness nods)

18 Q. Do you have any or did you have any understanding at the
19 time of why you were put into residential care rather
20 than being put back into foster care again?

21 A. No. No idea why that.

22 Q. Do you have any reflection on whether it was right to
23 put you into residential care rather than foster care or
24 is your thinking really that you should have been with
25 your granny?

1 A. I should have just been put with my granny.

2 Q. Okay. If we go on to page 28 at paragraph 185 you talk
3 about your records and that you've seen some of your
4 records I think?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. How was your experience of getting your records?

7 A. I didn't actually have any problem with getting my
8 records and there was a lot of people surprised that
9 I actually got them. I think they took about three
10 weeks to come through and I had to go down to Marischal
11 College in Aberdeen to sign to pick them up. So
12 I didn't have like any issue with getting them.

13 Q. Okay. Then once you obtained them and you started
14 reading them, how did you feel about that? Were you
15 given any support to help you read them --

16 A. (Witness shakes head)

17 Q. -- or did you just read them yourself?

18 A. Just read them myself.

19 Q. Okay. You say in this paragraph that you read a little
20 bit of it and you felt quite sick, to be honest, so you
21 didn't carry on?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Have you ever been able to read all of your records or
24 not?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Okay. Are you able to tell us what it was about your
2 records that made you stop reading them?

3 A. Basically I got put down that I was on drugs, I was
4 sleeping about, I was a compulsive liar ... and it was
5 basically always put down to me for what was happening
6 at home because I was spoilt ... and basically just
7 being called a liar and stuff.

8 Q. So it was the way in which the records spoke about
9 you --

10 A. (Witness nods)

11 Q. -- and I think you're saying that they said some things
12 about you which I think you say aren't true?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Is that right? Okay.

15 I want to move on to the end of your statement now,
16 'Kelly', and to page 30 and paragraph 197. You say
17 there:

18 "The system needs be changed to give the kids the
19 help that they need."

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Are you able to tell us what your thoughts are on that?

22 A. Well, obviously I -- being in care and a lot of people
23 that I was in care with are no longer here. They've
24 obviously had major struggles and just couldn't cope
25 with it, turned to drugs and stuff which has lost them

1 their lives. And there wasn't enough support in the
2 system neither. A lot of the time you could basically
3 just do what you wanted and there was just nobody there
4 to sort of look out for them. Once you were -- like
5 turned 16, you were basically out of there to get on
6 with life on your own with nobody about to like help you
7 or anything like that and, as I say, some good friends
8 have passed away because they just couldn't cope with
9 being out in the wide world and able to do for
10 themselves. So maybe if there was a bit more support
11 there, it maybe wouldn't have come to that.

12 Q. Okay. So there's a couple of things within that,
13 I guess that you've already talked about you know having
14 a social worker or somebody that you can speak to like
15 ██████████ has at the moment. I think you've already
16 indicated in your evidence and you tell us in your
17 statement that you did not have a good relationship with
18 your social worker.

19 A. No.

20 Q. So she wasn't somebody that you felt that you could
21 confide in or tell --

22 A. No.

23 Q. -- what was going on. So there's that element of what
24 happened during care as a child, but I think you're also
25 saying that people need long-term support?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And perhaps if people have suffered abuse in care then
3 they might need ongoing support as well --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- after they leave care to deal with it?

6 A. Yeah, definitely.

7 Q. I think as you say it's important to you to recognise
8 that there are people who you were in care with who have
9 died subsequently --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- as a result of things that have happened to them
12 during their lives?

13 A. Yeah.

14 MS INNES: Okay. Thank you very much for your evidence,
15 'Kelly'. I don't have any more questions for you.

16 A. Okay.

17 MS INNES: There are no applications, my Lady.

18 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
19 questions of 'Kelly'?

20 'Kelly', that does complete all the questions we
21 have for you this morning.

22 A. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you so much for --

24 A. No, you're welcome.

25 LADY SMITH: -- the extent to which you have helped us, both

1 with your written evidence and by talking to us about
2 your experiences today, both your experiences in care
3 yourself, what you saw of other children in care, and
4 your experiences as a kinship carer, which are valuable
5 to me as well --

6 A. Okay.

7 LADY SMITH: -- because I haven't heard quite so much about
8 that and certainly not from your perspective.

9 You're probably exhausted after all we've put you
10 through --

11 A. That's fine.

12 LADY SMITH: -- so I'm now able to let you go and relax for
13 the rest of the day.

14 A. Okay.

15 LADY SMITH: I hope you have a safe journey back home.

16 A. Okay, thank you.

17 (The witness withdrew)

18 LADY SMITH: We heard some names during 'Kelly's' evidence,
19 FZW-FZP who were foster carers, 'Kelly's' own
20 brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and children that she's
21 been the kinship carer of, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] None of
22 these people can be identified outside this room because
23 they're all covered by my general restriction order.

24 Ms Innes?

25 MS INNES: My Lady, Ms Rattray has some read-ins which can

1 be done now.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 MS INNES: If I might be excused briefly?

4 LADY SMITH: Certainly.

5 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

6 'Colin' (read)

7 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

8 The first read-in this morning is a statement of
9 an applicant who has the pseudonym 'Colin', and
10 'Colin's' statement is WIT.001.001.8406.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you. (Pause)

12 MS RATTRAY: While that comes on the screen, just by way of
13 background, 'Colin' says that he was in a foster
14 placement with JBO-JBP in East Kilbride
15 for a period of about three months in 1986. 'Colin's'
16 family home was in Glasgow. Attempts have been made by
17 the Inquiry to recover his children's records from
18 Glasgow City Council and South Lanarkshire Council, but
19 neither authority has been able to locate any records in
20 relation to this placement or indeed the child.

21 LADY SMITH: Shall we just carry on while it's being hunted
22 for?

23 MS RATTRAY: Carry on reading, okay.

24 "My name is 'Colin'. I was born in 1981. My
25 contact details are known to the Inquiry. I want to

1 tell you about a three-month period of foster care
2 I spent in 1986 with JBO-JBP family in East Kilbride,
3 Scotland. I was only four or five years old. I do not
4 have a complete memory of my time spent there.

5 My father has told me a lot of what led up to me
6 going there. He's told me a lot of what went on when
7 I was there.

8 I was my parent's only son. I was born in Glasgow
9 and resided with my father in Glasgow. He worked as
10 a fireman. My mother did not keep well and suffered
11 from depression. There were times when my mother would
12 get angry and I recall my mother assaulting my father by
13 throwing him down a flight of stairs. My mother was
14 dependent on alcohol and my father tried to stop her
15 drinking. My father never raised a hand to my mother.
16 She spent a lot of time in bed.

17 I didn't have an understanding of mental illness at
18 that early age. My mother passed away and my father
19 told me that she had died of pneumonia. It was not
20 until I was older and had a better understanding of
21 mental illness that he sat me down and told me that my
22 mother had committed suicide.

23 My father was struggling to cope with caring for my
24 mother who had a mental illness, trying to look after
25 me, trying to work as a fireman on shift work and trying

1 to run the house. He told me that one day he was taking
2 me to nursery school and asked my mother if she needed
3 the doctor as she was ill in bed. She declined this
4 offer. When my father returned to the house, the
5 emergency services were all there and my mother had
6 died.

7 I remember that for most of my early years my mother
8 was in bed. My father did not manage to cope and he had
9 a breakdown and was admitted to hospital. Initially
10 I was sent to my grandmother's but she also had her
11 hands full nursing my grandfather who suffered from
12 severe emphysema. It was not practical for me to remain
13 there. I was about four years old.

14 I then went to live with my aunt but she had two
15 older children. I had to be taken to nursery school
16 every day and it proved too much for her to look after
17 me as well.

18 As far as I was aware, the social work were
19 involved. I didn't have much dealings with them. The
20 name of the social worker was Ms Reid and I recall I was
21 her first case.

22 I was taken in a car by two men and Ms Reid.
23 I thought I was going to my uncle's house. It was
24 explained to me that my father was ill and I was going
25 to spend some time with a different family. I remember

1 that I took a small case and some of my toys. I didn't
2 want to go to a stranger's house. I was quite upset.

3 I remember arriving at JBO-JBP house. It was
4 an upstairs and downstairs house. It had patio doors to
5 the garden. There was a snooker table and a television.
6 The kitchen was quite small but there was a large living
7 room. I think I must have been about four years old.

8 The first two days that I spent there I sat in
9 a corner in one of the rooms and refused to speak to
10 anyone. The occupants of the house were Mr JBO
11 who worked away from home most of the time in the Middle
12 East. His wife was called JBP and they had
13 two children, a son who was 11 and a daughter who was
14 about six. The children were treated differently to me.
15 I was the black sheep. I never saw JBO-JBP children
16 being slapped for bad behaviour.

17 I slept in a bottom bunk in the boy's room with the
18 son. The daughter had her own room. I was on the
19 bottom bunk and the son had the top bunk. Neither of
20 the children wanted me around when they were playing
21 with their friends. They spent a lot of time making fun
22 of me.

23 One of the first nights that I was there I wet the
24 bed. I had never wet the bed before going into foster
25 care. I thought that I could cover this up by getting

1 a towel from the bathroom and trying to clean the
2 sheets. Mrs JBP discovered the wet bed and was not
3 pleased. I recall sitting at breakfast and she came
4 downstairs. She started hitting my head off the settee
5 and she was screaming at me. I think that she thought
6 if she was angry I wouldn't wet the bed. I remember she
7 called me a moron. I think that this made me worse and
8 I continued to wet the bed, it meant that most morning
9 I would be slapped about the head and be shouted at, it
10 happened all the time I was there.

11 There was another occasion that I defecated in the
12 bed. I was due to stay with my father over the coming
13 weekend and I remember JBP told my father that
14 I was to be punished for messing the bed and that
15 I wouldn't be allowed to go with my father. I was also
16 hit for messing the bed.

17 JBO-JBP children had a new computer and they would
18 play with it all the time. I wasn't allowed to play
19 with it and I remember how upsetting that was.

20 JBO-JBP had a golden retriever dog. The dog was
21 the only friend I had in the house. I used to sit on
22 the dog as if it was a horse.

23 This might have been the start of some of my mental
24 health problems but I remember that in the back garden
25 there was a blue plastic lid on a string. I used to

1 think it was Donald Duck and I used to speak to the lid.

2 No one knew I was doing this.

3 My father used to visit every week and take me home
4 every weekend. I would be taken out every Wednesday by
5 my father, who had to make a long bus journey from his
6 house to East Kilbride. My father often had my cousin
7 with him and we would go somewhere nice. I had to be
8 back at the foster parents' in the early evening and
9 then my father had to get the bus home.

10 I can remember when my father used to visit he would
11 give JBO-JBP money to take me and the other children
12 to the cinema or whatever. JBO-JBP used to take out
13 their children and I was left behind with a woman
14 I didn't know who would look after me. I don't think my
15 father knew that this was happening. JBO-JBP used my
16 dad's money to entertain their two children.

17 I also remember my father coming to the foster
18 carers and he used to sit and play with me in the house.
19 I never told my father what was happening to me.

20 I think that I do remember my social worker,
21 Ms Reid, coming to visit me when I was in foster care
22 but I definitely didn't tell her what was going on.

23 Basically JBO-JBP children didn't want anything to
24 do with me and I wasn't made to feel welcome. I loved
25 playing on my own with my model cars. When I left

1 I wasn't able to take the cars with me.

2 I do remember being taken on holiday to a caravan.
3 I don't know where the caravan was and I can't remember
4 much about it. When I was at JBO-JBP I was still
5 going to nursery school. JBP always took me by
6 car. I think that I also went to some sort of Sunday
7 School. I was too young to remember much about it.
8 I can't remember any problems with the schools.

9 I wasn't malnourished or anything like that.
10 I think that the food was fine. I do remember being
11 given a hard-boiled egg on one occasion. I thought that
12 you had to eat the shell as well. When JBP saw me
13 eating the shell she gave me a slap. I didn't know any
14 better.

15 My dad used to give money to JBO-JBP family to
16 spend on me but they never did and used to spend the
17 money on their own children. I only learned this after
18 I had left JBO-JBP when my father told me. I was too
19 young to realise what was going on.

20 There was an occasion when I was grabbed by Mr JBO
21 and he pulled me out of the room by my collar. I think
22 that I had been swearing. I had picked up swearwords
23 when my mother and father had been arguing and I didn't
24 know that you weren't allowed to use them despite the
25 fact that my father had told me that they were bad

1 words. He didn't hit me but he sent me up to my room.

2 I recall being assaulted by the children at the
3 house. I woke up one morning and the kids asked me to
4 climb up onto the top bunk with them. I climbed the
5 small ladder, the son spat in my face. The daughter
6 pushed me off the bed. I landed on the floor and
7 started to cry. JBP came in and I told her what
8 had happened. She didn't take any action against her
9 children.

10 I would get a slap from JBP for no real
11 reasons. I can remember being slapped for colouring
12 outside the lines in a colouring book. It didn't make
13 any sense to me. Why did she need to slap on the back
14 of the head? I didn't know what I was doing wrong.

15 On another occasion JBP kicked me down a small
16 flight of stairs. There were about seven stairs, I was
17 playing at the top of the stairs, she kicked me and
18 I sort of rolled down. It was painful at the time. It
19 just made me feel very vulnerable.

20 There was another occasion when I was playing
21 outside and was talking to two girls. JBP shouted
22 for me to come back inside and she gave me a slap for
23 talking to strangers.

24 I remember that my dad told me that he had given the
25 JBO-JBP some money to get me a haircut. I never got the

1 haircut and there was a photograph taken, it showed me
2 with a long fringe that needed cut. I never got the
3 haircut and JBO-JBP pocketed the money.

4 JBP used to bath me. She used to wash my hair
5 but instead of rinsing my hair she used to push my head
6 backwards under the water and hold it there. I can
7 remember looking up and seeing her face as she held me
8 under the water.

9 I remember coming back from the supermarket in the
10 car. We got back to the house and I had been arguing
11 with JBP I refused to get out of the car and she
12 told me that she would lock me in. I cooried in to the
13 door on the back seat. She then opened the door and
14 dragged me out by the hood of my jacket and into the
15 house.

16 I wasn't able to tell anyone what was happening to
17 me when I was at JBO-JBP I didn't tell my father and
18 I didn't tell the social worker. My only real happy
19 memories of foster care with JBO-JBP were playing with
20 the dog and the day I left.

21 My father had left the fire brigade at this time and
22 what I later learned was he was finding it very hard to
23 travel across East Kilbride to see me. He convinced the
24 Social Services that he was very capable of looking
25 after me. After about three months at JBO-JBP my

1 father told me that he was taking me home. I was never
2 so glad because I was still wetting the bed and was
3 being punished for it.

4 My father got a special device which would ring
5 a buzzer when I was wetting. He would then come to my
6 room and get me up and take me to the toilet. I wasn't
7 being punished any more.

8 My father tried other things but what worked was him
9 getting me up in the night and when I was aged seven
10 I stopped wetting the bed."

11 From paragraphs 43 to 56 'Colin' speaks of his
12 childhood and adulthood after care. Moving now to
13 paragraph 57 on page 10.

14 "When I left foster care I was badly affected by OCD
15 and depression. It meant that I have to do things in
16 a certain way and if I don't do it properly I felt some
17 harm could come to me or my family.

18 I think about my foster placement every day. I feel
19 anger, hate and sadness. I wonder all the time what
20 I did to get hit. I ask people and they tell me not to
21 blame myself.

22 If I see things on the news about abused kids it
23 brings it all back. It makes me angry for them. I have
24 a lot of resentment for JBO-JBP family and now I want
25 to put it to bed and get over it. I just want to do

1 what I can for other children by speaking to you at the
2 Inquiry.

3 The first time I revealed what had happened to me
4 was when I was on a trip into town with my father.
5 I was about seven years old. My father and I were
6 walking towards a café that I sometimes went to with
7 JBP and it had very bad memories. I started
8 to pull back and that's when I told my father what had
9 happened to me in care in JBO-JBP family. I remember
10 JBO-JBP family also wrote a letter to my dad and
11 I think that it was written in the event that I had said
12 anything to him about my treatment in their care.

13 I don't want to make a report to the police although
14 if there are children at risk because of JBO-JBP family
15 I would certainly speak to them and give them as much
16 information as they would need.

17 I have never tried to access my social work records.
18 Most of my memories come from my father.

19 I think that there should be better background
20 checks made on foster parents. They should be vetted
21 better. There are a lot of fragile kids out there who
22 need help and they should be placed in a solid
23 foundation with appropriate care.

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

1 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
2 true."

3 'Colin' signed his statement on 4 May 2018.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I think we have time for another
6 shorter read-in.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes, certainly.

8 'Calum' (read)

9 MS RATTRAY: This one is in relation to an applicant who has
10 the pseudonym 'Calum' and the cypher is LAF. This is
11 a statement of an applicant and his statement is at
12 WIT-1-000000003 and 'Calum' was in the care of East
13 Ayrshire Council. He was in a foster placement with
14 LAH-LAI [REDACTED] in Kirkconnel(?) from
15 [REDACTED] 2003 to [REDACTED] 2004.

16 "My name is 'Calum'. I was born in 1993. My
17 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

18 I changed my name when I left care and I got
19 married. It was simply because I chose to bury my past.
20 There are very few people in my life who know that I was
21 in care."

22 From paragraphs 3 to 8, 'Calum' speaks of his life
23 before care. He lived with his parents and his two
24 younger siblings in Kilmarnock. His parents separated.
25 His dad was an alcoholic and violent. He describes his

1 family situation as horrendous, staying with his mum in
2 various temporary accommodations to get them away from
3 his dad.

4 'Calum' had ADHD, which is attention deficit
5 hyperactivity disorder, and he says he was wild and it
6 couldn't have been easy but his mum was never maternal.
7 His mum couldn't cope with three wild boys, one who had
8 autism and another who had ADHD.

9 Moving to paragraph 12 on page 3:

10 "I think I was in care when I was very young but
11 I don't remember it. I believe it was possibly foster
12 care or respite carers. I was around six years old the
13 first time that I went into care. They put me in
14 Kilmaurs Children's Home as an emergency placement.
15 I can't remember anybody explaining it to me. I think
16 the family situation had deteriorated so badly that it
17 was done on a whim. Selina Daly was my social worker
18 when I first went into care. You couldn't have met
19 a nicer person. We also had a family support worker
20 called Elaine Nash. When I was at Kilmaurs initially
21 they looked at other alternatives and they exhausted
22 everything. They wanted to give me a normal family life
23 so they tried foster care. They found LAH-LAI
24 LAH-LAI I visited them before I went there so we
25 could get a feel for each other. I could see that

1 LAI was two-faced even then.

2 I'm not sure how old I was when I went to LAH-LAI
3 LAH-LAI I just remember it was really bad. I think
4 I may already have been in Kilmaurs for a couple of
5 years. I was only there for a short time, maybe not
6 even a couple of months. I don't know where they lived,
7 but I think it might have been a place called Kirkcaldy.
8 It was quite far away because I used to get a taxi to
9 school and it was a long drive. When I first went into
10 foster care I was very scared. The door for the house
11 was on the side of the building. It was just
12 an ordinary house but quite big. Mr LAH's car was his
13 pride and joy. It was a blue-purple Toyota Corolla.

14 My foster parents, LAH-LAI, were
15 horrible. They were bullies. LAH and LAI were both
16 in their 40s. I am sure that LAH was older than
17 LAI. I don't remember them working. I think
18 fostering was their income. I don't think that they had
19 been fostering for long before they took me. They
20 hadn't had a challenging child that came from
21 a background like mine. I don't know how they were
22 approved as foster carers. LAH-LAI had children of
23 their own. They were extremely nasty to me. One of
24 their children was a boy, possibly in his late teens.
25 They also had two other foster kids. The foster kids'

1 room was in the attic of the house. The other foster
2 kids were as good as gold. I don't know whether they
3 were scared of LAH and LAI.

4 For the first few weeks I had a room of my own then
5 I had to share when another boy arrived. The room was
6 quite small. We slept in bunk beds. I didn't like him.
7 I didn't put any posters or anything up in my room
8 because I had no intention of staying there any longer
9 than necessary.

10 I was never taken out for trips or holidays. I have
11 no nice memories of being with LAH-LAI

12 I was still going to the same primary school. I had
13 to get a taxi to school. This would take about an hour.
14 I remember the taxi driver, who was lovely. I used to
15 dread going back to the foster home after school.

16 There was no contact with social work when I was in
17 foster care. I don't think LAH and LAI allowed it
18 in case I told the social worker what was going on.
19 There was a contact person, Paul, who would liaise
20 between my foster parents and the social work. The
21 LAH-LAI didn't want me in the room when he was in the
22 house because they didn't want their horror exposed.
23 I burst into the room and I told him that if I wasn't
24 moved I would put a brick through LAH's car window.
25 When I wasn't moved this is exactly what I did. Paul

1 was there when I did it. LAH chased me down the road
2 but he was never going to catch me as he was about
3 25 stone.

4 I would be taken to a contact location not far from
5 the foster home when I had a visit from my mother. It
6 was a trailer, a little cabin. The room was quite
7 small. On one occasion just before Christmas I met my
8 mother. She got me some nice presents and I got to open
9 them early. LAH and LAI ridiculed me for this.
10 They would bully me for almost anything. They were mean
11 and they enjoyed it. It wasn't nice and I felt like
12 I was being bullied by them. I was always singled out
13 by them. They wouldn't do the same to the other kids.

14 LAH was cruel and he took great pleasure in
15 being cruel. I was bullied by LAH-LAI. I was
16 singled out for whatever reason. They stripped my room
17 of every present that my mother bought me. They hid
18 them under their bed. I kicked open their door and
19 practically destroyed their house so they had no other
20 option but to have me moved.

21 Paul was a liaison between social work and the
22 LAH-LAI. He was an older man. I told Paul, the contact
23 person, what was happening to me but nothing was ever
24 done about it.

25 I knew that LAH and LAI wouldn't be able to cope

1 with me if the children's unit couldn't cope with me.
2 They lived in a nice area. After I put the brick
3 through LAH's car window they told social work that
4 they were giving 28 days' notice for me to be moved.
5 I had never heard of this happening before. LAH and
6 LAI basically blackmailed the social work into moving
7 me by saying they would stop fostering if I wasn't
8 moved. I left within 24 hours. I was placed into
9 temporary foster care.

10 I think LAH-LAI gave 28 days' notice that they
11 were stopping fostering altogether. One of the other
12 children at LAH-LAI moved with me to emergency foster
13 care. I don't know how old I was but she was about six.
14 She was a lovely little girl, very quiet and shy.
15 I don't remember her name. I don't know where the
16 emergency foster placement was, but the foster father
17 was a nasty man. I would say that he was worse than
18 LAH. He had two sons who were also stuck up.
19 They were treated differently than the foster kids.
20 They had a PlayStation and we weren't allowed to play on
21 it.

22 The foster mother was okay. She was quite nice.
23 The foster father was hideous. He never hurt me but he
24 was very verbally aggressive and shouty. I don't know
25 if he was ex-police or ex-military, but he was very

1 hostile and everything he said had to be done right then
2 and there. I think his wife was a little afraid of him.

3 There was a room in the house divided by glass
4 doors. It's the only part of the house that sticks in
5 my memory. The little girl was playing with Duplo. We
6 used to enjoy playing and spending time together.
7 I really wanted to play with her but I was kept
8 separate. I think LAH or LAI had made them
9 aware that I was a troublemaker so they used to
10 segregate us. I never stepped out of line there. The
11 foster father would threaten me with the police station,
12 which was across the road.

13 I honestly don't know how long I was in that
14 placement for. I was taken back to Kilmaurs afterwards
15 because the Local Authority had nowhere else for me to
16 go. I was put into a tiny bedroom at the back, which
17 was used in emergencies. When I was moved between
18 foster placements and Kilmaurs I would be fired into the
19 back of a social worker's car or the unit's minibus. My
20 stuff would be in black bags. That was soul
21 destroying."

22 From paragraph 27 'Calum' describes his experiences
23 in other care settings Secondary Institutions - to be published late

24 From paragraph 148 he speaks of his life after care,
25 impact and lessons to be learned, all of which have to

1 be understood in the context of his overall care
2 experiences rather than specifically foster care.

3 However, moving to paragraph 170 on page 46, where
4 'Calum' speaks of Children's Hearings:

5 "My experiences of the children's panel were that
6 they'd already decided the minute that they got their
7 report from the police, the school, the social worker
8 and everybody else who did reports. It was a waste of
9 time and money and a pointless and fruitless exercise.
10 They didn't care about the child. I was never heard.
11 Any time I requested something from the panel, I never
12 got it. The panel needs to be made up of professionals,
13 of people who specialise in care making these decisions.
14 These are three random strangers who don't have
15 a background in care. I sat across from them and they
16 told me what my future was. Why did they get to decide
17 my future? They didn't have a clue what it's like for
18 a kid to be removed from a family unit and placed from
19 pillar to post.

20 When I was younger, I felt that the children's panel
21 didn't care about my view. A child's view is the most
22 important thing to be taken into consideration. They
23 expect the child to come into a meeting and listen to
24 all these professionals talk about them and talk at them
25 and not listen. A child has needs as well. A child has

1 desires. I wanted to be a doctor and instead I work for
2 the government in a CCTV control room. I was
3 intelligent enough to be a doctor. I think the
4 children's panel system should be abolished. It's
5 an absolute sham. They can't expect three random people
6 to change a child's life and expect the child to be okay
7 with that. If a child tells you how they feel and you
8 ignore that, the child will get more and more
9 frustrated. You're never going to make the future
10 better for them because it's not really what they want.
11 I understand that some children want to move home and
12 it's not an option. Rather than tell them that's not
13 an option, sit down and speak to them and explain things
14 to them."

15 To paragraph 175 on page 48:

16 "Unless there are extreme circumstances, I don't
17 believe that social workers should dictate how kids see
18 each other. My brother wanted to see me and I wanted to
19 see him. That should be what's important. In my
20 opinion, having been in care, social workers have far
21 too much control. They have unilateral control of
22 things like sibling contact. For some reason, my
23 brother's social worker didn't like me. She said that
24 my brother didn't want to see me. When I spoke to my
25 brother face to face, he said that he'd been trying to

1 see me for years."

2 To paragraph 180 on page 49:

3 "I hope that every Local Authority takes note, sits
4 up and listens. This isn't coming from someone who is
5 in care. It's coming from someone who's experienced
6 care at several different levels in several different
7 placements. Every placement had almost the same
8 negative effects. I believe that every Local Authority
9 needs to sit up and take responsibility for their
10 actions. I think social work departments need more
11 funding and better training. They have extensive case
12 loads. You can't expect a social worker with a huge
13 case load to make a difference in a child's life. How
14 can they make a difference in a child's life when they
15 meet them once a week?"

16 To paragraph 183 on page 50:

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

21 'Calum' signed his statement on 30 June 2020.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

23 It's slightly before 11.30, but I think we should
24 take the morning break now. You're not suggesting you
25 have a five-minute statement to read, I don't suppose,

1 Ms Rattray?

2 MS RATTRAY: No.

3 LADY SMITH: Very well.

4 I'll take the break just now. A couple of names in
5 the course of those read-ins, JBO-JBP the foster
6 carers that 'Colin' referred to, and LAH-LAI the
7 foster carers that 'Calum' referred to, they can't be
8 identified outside this room.

9 Thank you.

10 (11.27 am)

11 (A short break)

12 (11.48 am)

13 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

14 MS INNES: My Lady, the next witness wishes to remain
15 anonymous and is using the pseudonym 'Caroline'.

16 'Caroline' was in the care of Strathclyde Regional
17 Council and then Glasgow City Council. She was in
18 a number of foster care placements, and in particular in
19 respect of the foster carers named in her statement, she
20 was placed with EUX-EUY from
21 1989 until 1990.

22 She was then with a who was
23 a Barnardo's carer, from 1992 to
24 1994.

25 Then JAR/JAS, from 1994

1 until she turned 18.

2 Glasgow City Council is the responsible authority in
3 respect of the placements where abuse is alleged.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 'Caroline' (affirmed)

6 LADY SMITH: If you could stay in a good position for that
7 microphone, that would be really helpful, 'Caroline',
8 because we do need to hear you through the sound system.

9 The red folder has a copy of your statement in it
10 and you'll be taken to that in a moment. We'll also
11 bring the statement up on that screen and go to the
12 various parts of it that we want to discuss with you as
13 we go through your evidence.

14 'Caroline', apart from those practicalities, please
15 be assured that I do understand it's difficult to come
16 and do what you're doing today. We've asked you to come
17 to a public place and talk in public about personal
18 matters and private matters in relation to your
19 childhood in particular. It could be upsetting as you
20 go through your evidence. People often come in, think
21 they're prepared and they're organised and they can
22 cope, and their emotions do take them unawares.

23 I quite understand that, so if there's anything
24 I can do to help, whether giving you a break or anything
25 else, you must let me know.

1 A. Okay, thanks.

2 LADY SMITH: I'd like to do anything I can to enable you to
3 give the best evidence you can as clearly and carefully
4 as you can. So whatever it is, if it works for you
5 it'll work for me, do be assured of that.

6 A. (Witness nods)

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

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

11 Questions from Ms Innes

12 MS INNES: 'Caroline', we understand you were born in 1983.
13 Is that right?

14 A. I was.

15 Q. If I can refer first of all to your statement, please,
16 we give it the reference WIT.001.002.6780. If we can
17 look on to the final page of it, please, and
18 paragraph 153, it says there:

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

23 I understand that you signed this statement on
24 20 June 2019; is that right?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. If we can go back to the beginning of your
2 statement, please, you tell us a little bit about your
3 early life and you tell us that you were born in Glasgow
4 and you lived in Shettleston with your parents and your
5 older sister?

6 A. (Witness nods)

7 Q. How much older is she than you?

8 A. She's four years older.

9 Q. You also tell us I think that you have a younger sister?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. How much younger is she?

12 A. She's four years younger.

13 Q. Okay. You tell us at paragraphs 3 and 4 that there were
14 difficulties in your home life. Your dad was in and out
15 of prison and your mum had some difficulties in looking
16 after you and your sisters; is that right?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. You tell us at paragraph 5 that you were moving around
19 quite a lot when you were very young?

20 A. (Witness nods)

21 Q. A number of different houses?

22 A. (Witness nods)

23 Yeah. That's right.

24 Q. Were you in and out of care at that time as well?

25 A. Yeah, I was in and out of care and originally family

1 members but then in and out of foster placements.

2 Q. Okay. Yes, you talk about staying with your aunt and
3 your nana at some points.

4 A. (Witness nods)

5 Q. Okay. If we can go over the page, please, at
6 paragraph 9 you tell us that there came a point where it
7 was decided that you couldn't go back to your mum's
8 care, that you would be in care on a long-term basis.
9 Is that right?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. If we look at paragraph 11, you say there altogether you
12 were in 17 foster homes and three children's homes?

13 A. (Witness nods)

14 Q. Does that include the period that you talked about
15 before you were five, when you were in and out of
16 different foster homes?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Have you obtained that information from your records?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Just by memory as well, just by being in all the
22 different places.

23 Q. Okay. Were you always with your sisters when you were
24 going in and out of these different placements?

25 A. No, not always.

1 Q. When you went into care on a long-term basis, did you go
2 with your sisters?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Sorry, I went with my older sister for a couple of
6 placements and then we got split up.

7 Q. Okay. If we go on to page 3 and paragraph 16, you talk
8 about a time that your wee sister went to stay with your
9 auntie?

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. And you and your older sister went to another placement?

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. Did your wee sister stay with your auntie or did she go
14 somewhere else?

15 A. No, she never ended up staying there. She ended up
16 being put into foster care as well and then she ended up
17 getting adopted.

18 Q. Then at paragraph 20 at the bottom of this page you
19 mention you and your older sister being split up and she
20 was put in a home.

21 A. (Witness nods)

22 Q. Okay. We'll come back to that a little bit more in
23 a moment.

24 If we can go on over the page, please, to page 4, at
25 paragraph 22 you tell us that you remember having

1 a blue book with a figure on the front?

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. When you say a figure, do you mean a figure of a person
4 or a number?

5 A. I mean it was like a little white body with like the --
6 a little white body, a head, two arms and legs. Just
7 a sketch of a body.

8 Q. Did this book go with you when you moved to different
9 placements?

10 A. I don't remember it physically being with me, but
11 I remember it being present every time I went to another
12 placement because, as I said, I used to go to the
13 doctors and they would do me an examination and check me
14 to see if I had bruises and cuts and ... and marks on me
15 before I went to the next placement.

16 Q. You say, as you've just said, that you would be stripped
17 and checked by the nurse --

18 A. (Witness nods)

19 Q. -- and then notes would be taken?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. How did you feel about that?

22 A. Well, at the time I didn't really think anything about
23 it because it was just -- it had been done to me before
24 so I just thought it was just part of the process, that
25 you would -- that that would happen whenever you moved

1 so ...

2 Q. Have you had any reflections on that process since as
3 an adult?

4 A. I think I remember it being done when I was younger.
5 Probably when I was -- when I went to the last kind of
6 long-term foster placement I don't really remember it
7 being done then, but looking back, looking back now, you
8 know, I suppose it's quite intrusive to be doing that to
9 a child, but I suppose at that time there was maybe
10 a process that they had to follow to make sure that they
11 were maybe keeping me safe at the time, but I wouldn't
12 expect children or young people to be treated like that
13 now, because there's other ways obviously that I would
14 hope that they could be assessed.

15 Q. Okay. When you say "other ways", what sort of other
16 ways could they be assessed?

17 A. Well, a less intrusive way in terms of being able to sit
18 down and discuss any concerns or I think you know
19 nowadays there's a lot more supports and stuff like that
20 in place for young people that they can have maybe
21 an advocate or somebody that would be there to speak on
22 their behalf or a lot more open discussions that
23 children could say what's potentially wrong with them.
24 But obviously at the time that maybe wasn't available
25 for me or nobody maybe spoke to me.

1 Q. Okay. Then you tell us about the first longer-term
2 foster placement that you went to, that you went to
3 a Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] EUX-EUY

4 A. (Witness nods)

5 Q. You were about five or six at the time.

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. You say that you and your sisters were back together
8 again in that placement?

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. But did that last? Did you all stay together or not?

11 A. No, that didn't last. I think my behaviour wasn't
12 particularly good in that placement for whatever reason,
13 I was only wee at the time so I can't actually tell you
14 what I was thinking or what I was doing at that time,
15 but I remember not being particularly well-behaved and
16 I remember them saying that it wouldn't be beneficial to
17 keep the sisters together, because I wasn't
18 a particularly good influence on them. I think my
19 sister would have only been a baby at that time, so me
20 and [REDACTED] my sister, were there already, and then my
21 younger sister then came and then I was moved on.

22 Q. You think you were moved on and your sisters stayed
23 there or did they go elsewhere?

24 A. I think I moved on and they stayed there, because
25 I remember -- well, later in life -- having discussions

1 with my sister and she says she was there for a longer
2 period than me.

3 Q. Okay. What were EUX-EUY like?

4 A. Well, I can remember -- I can remember they had a son
5 and a daughter. We didn't really see the son a lot. He
6 was a punk rocker, I can remember that, he had like
7 a Mohican and stuff. And I remember the daughter was
8 there. I remember them not being particularly nice to
9 me. I remember them -- I don't really think they liked
10 me. I remember they used to take us like walks and take
11 us on activities. I remember being there for a period
12 of time obviously that I'd started school and stuff like
13 that where I went to a local school that was there, so
14 I remember being there for that time.

15 I remember sharing a room with my sister and then
16 I ended up having to share a room with the older
17 daughter. I remember she used to have loads of pictures
18 of Garfields on her bedroom wall. I remember she had
19 the word "Remember" and the word "Nine", but I remember
20 they used to put me in the room whenever I wasn't
21 behaving, I remember I used to look at the poster
22 "R-E-M-E-M-B-E-R" and that's how I spelt remember and
23 that's how I spelt nine, but I remember that's where
24 I wasn't particularly well-behaved they would put me
25 into the room and I remember they used to lock the door.

1 Q. If we go on in your statement to page 5 and
2 paragraph 33, you talk there about remembering that your
3 mum came to visit you at that placement twice?
4 A. Mm-hmm.
5 Q. But you say you were only able to see her once?
6 A. Mm-hmm.
7 Q. Why weren't you able to see her on the other occasion?
8 A. Well, the placement was quite close to where my mum
9 lived, it was like in the east end of Glasgow, so my mum
10 was able to make her way to those places to maybe turn
11 up unexpectedly to see us and I remember her doing that
12 twice, but I remember I had been -- I remember I'd been
13 put into the room -- I can't remember if I'd been put up
14 when she was there or after, but I remember being in the
15 room and I remember my mum being outside and I was
16 shouting at her out the window because they'd locked me
17 in the room, and I remember shouting out saying,
18 "I can't get to see you, mum, but I love you",
19 I remember saying that.
20 And I remember **EUX** the man who was the foster dad,
21 came in and said to me, "Oh, your mum's out there but
22 you're not getting to see her".
23 Q. Did he explain why you weren't getting to see her?
24 A. I think it was because I'd been put in the room as
25 a punishment and I wasn't allowed out of the room.

1 Q. Okay.

2 You say at paragraph 34 that you also had arranged

3 contact with your mum which was at the social work

4 office at Parkhead?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. You went there I think with a lady called Isobel Rennie?

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. She would come in a big fancy black car to take you to

9 see your mum?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Would you go with your sisters to see your mum? Did you

12 all go together?

13 A. Yeah. So I had obviously lived in different places, but

14 I remember obviously living in Falkirk in different

15 areas so they would -- I think it was like a private car

16 that Glasgow City Council would put on to bring --

17 Isobel was the escort so she would come and pick us up

18 and I used to see my mum and dad every eight weeks at

19 the social work department. It was obviously supervised

20 with the social workers or other staff members that was

21 there and I remember I used to see my sisters -- it was

22 every two weeks, but then it got moved to every eight

23 weeks -- six weeks, sorry, every six weeks.

24 Q. Once you and your sisters were separated, there were

25 some arrangements for contact you are saying?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. To begin with it was every couple of weeks but then it
3 became less?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. Were you always able to maintain contact with your
6 sisters or did that stop?

7 A. No, that changed over the years because obviously my
8 younger sister ended up getting adopted and my sister
9 who lived with her long-term foster parents, she lived
10 in East Kilbride and they bought a hotel down in the
11 Lake District so my sister ended up moving down to the
12 Lake District, so I wasn't able to see her obviously as
13 much because she had moved down to Cumbria.

14 Q. Okay. Your younger sister, once she was adopted did you
15 have any contact with her?

16 A. No. My sister got adopted when I think I was about 15,
17 so she would have been obviously 11 at the time. But
18 we'd had contact up until that point and it was actually
19 a long-term foster parent who had adopted her, so I knew
20 obviously the lady that had adopted her, but then when
21 she got adopted we were only allowed to send letters to
22 a postbox in Glasgow. We could only have letter
23 contact.

24 Q. Right, okay. So even although you'd been having contact
25 with her when she was in the same placement essentially

1 or with the same person, when the adoption came in, the
2 contact arrangement changed?

3 A. (Witness nods)

4 Q. Okay. If we can go on to page 6 of your statement,
5 please, and you talk about discipline and punishment at
6 **EUX-EUY** You say that you think that they liked
7 your older sister but not you?

8 A. (Witness nods)

9 Q. What gave you that impression?

10 A. Because I'm a wee bit more outgoing than my sister was
11 and I used to kind of take it upon myself to look after
12 them and stick up for them and speak up for them and
13 I don't necessarily think **EUX-EUY** liked that about
14 me. I was quite a hyperactive child, so I was always on
15 the go, always looking for something to do. And I don't
16 necessarily maybe think that they liked that, liked my
17 sister because she was a wee bit more quieter than me.

18 Q. You say that you think that they tried to keep you away
19 from your sisters?

20 A. (Witness nods)

21 Q. Why do you think that?

22 A. Well, I think that because obviously they would put me
23 up the stairs or they'd keep me out the way. Well,
24 I used to have my dinner with my sisters in the kitchen
25 and then I remember being on my own having my dinner,

1 but I don't know if that was because I used to take
2 longer to eat my dinner or the fact that I was maybe
3 disruptive during mealtimes so they used to keep me on
4 my own.

5 Q. I think you mentioned that you'd been sharing a room
6 with your sister but then you were separated and you
7 were sharing a room with the daughter perhaps?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You talk about mealtimes in the next paragraph, at
10 paragraph 37, and you say that you can remember you had
11 to sit at the table until you'd finished your dinner.

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. Sometimes would that be a long time?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Or you felt that it was a long time?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Then at paragraph 38 you mention being locked in the
18 room, but I think this is during the night you say that
19 you were locked in the bedroom.

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. What would happen if you wanted to go to the toilet
22 during the night or if you needed to get the foster
23 carers' attention if you had a nightmare or something,
24 woke up during the night?

25 A. There was a little purpose-built wooden door, it was

1 like kind of a wee half door that they used to put down,
2 it was at the door, but I don't remember what happened
3 if I went to the toilet or anything like that. I don't
4 actually remember that happening. But I just remember
5 the wee door being there and obviously being locked at
6 night and stuff. But I don't remember actually
7 an occasion where I have said can I go to the loo? Or
8 whatever I would imagine I would just shout on them or
9 they would come get me, but ...

10 Q. The door that you're describing, is it a door that's
11 sort of cut in half so there would be an open part at
12 the top and then a closed part at the bottom?

13 A. Yes, it was probably like this colour actually, it was
14 like a bit of wood, there was a purpose-built bit of
15 wood that they put on the door, with like a little lock
16 on the door.

17 Q. I see, as a sort of gate almost?

18 A. Yeah, like a kind of half door but not that you could
19 see over it, it was kind of higher so you couldn't see
20 over it.

21 Q. Right, okay.

22 You talk about being in that room with your older
23 sister; is that right?

24 A. (Witness nods)

25 Q. Okay. Then at paragraph 39 you talk about being locked

1 in the room if you misbehaved.

2 A. (Witness nods)

3 Q. You talk about being in I think the other room, the
4 daughter's room that you've described with the posters
5 in it.

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. Were you locked in that room?

8 A. Yeah, that was the room that I was locked in when my mum
9 was at the window. That had a lock on the door.
10 I remember being in that room obviously when my mum was
11 there and it was a full door, it was like a locked door.
12 The one with the gate on, it was like -- well, at the
13 time obviously I thought it was to keep us safe and keep
14 us in the room when we were in there, but certainly if
15 I was put up the stairs or whatever, it would be the big
16 daughter's bedroom that I would be put into.

17 Q. Okay. Can you remember if when you were locked in the
18 room you would ever miss a mealtime, like dinner or
19 anything like that?

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

21 Q. Okay. You tell us at the bottom of this page at
22 paragraph 41 that you were moved after about a year and
23 you think that was because of your behaviour?

24 A. (Witness nods)

25 Say that again, sorry?

1 Q. You say you think it was because of your behaviour that
2 you were moved?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Was that your understanding at the time or is that
5 something that you've read in your records?

6 A. Well, it seemed to be a pattern that -- well, as a child
7 obviously I'm not aware of the way I was, you know.
8 I was aware I was a wee bit misbehaving at times --
9 a lot of the time -- but that was on the back of my mum
10 saying to me at every placement I would go to, she used
11 to say, "If you kick up (unclear) enough times then
12 you'd get to go home", so I always had that at the back
13 of my mind everywhere, my mum would say eventually you
14 will just end up coming home. So at the time I'm
15 thinking that's why I would behave the way I would
16 behave.

17 But I did hear, you know, that my social workers say
18 that my behaviour wasn't a good influence on [REDACTED] or
19 my other sister, [REDACTED] and even when later on when
20 I was in the home, you know, they would say, "Oh, you've
21 not behaved today so your sisters aren't coming".
22 I don't know if it was because obviously now they would
23 maybe think I was a risk to them at the time when they
24 would come so they would stop the contact because of my
25 behaviour.

1 Q. Okay.

2 You moved from there and your next recollection
3 I think is that you were in Wooddean Children's Home for
4 a period.

5 A. (Witness nods)

6 Q. We're going to pass over that in your statement because
7 we're focusing on foster care in this case study, but
8 that forms part of your evidence to the Inquiry.

9 If we can move on, please, to page 11, you then
10 describe that you went to foster care with a [REDACTED]
11 in Falkirk?

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. I think this is at paragraph 75 on page 11. I think you
14 had been perhaps in Wooddean for a couple of years
15 before you went to [REDACTED]?

16 A. Yeah, two years maybe, two and a bit years.

17 Q. What was living with [REDACTED] like?

18 A. Well, [REDACTED] was a single carer, a single lady and she had
19 a daughter and I'd been in the home for so long because
20 I remember them saying to me they were trying to find my
21 forever family, they were trying to get me somewhere
22 that I was going to stay forever, and obviously [REDACTED]
23 the lady, Mrs [REDACTED], had been identified for me
24 obviously to go and stay there.

25 Staying there -- looking back obviously I went with

1 my own issues when I went there and I suppose it had
2 just been her and her daughter for a long time and then
3 I think I had maybe went in and upset her daughter, if
4 I'm honest probably because I was a wee bit jealous that
5 it was her and her mum and she was really pretty and
6 I was a wee bit jealous so I wasn't maybe kind to her.

7 Sorry.

8 Q. It's okay.

9 A. So that obviously disrupted the placement that would
10 make [REDACTED] not like me because I wasn't being nice to her
11 daughter.

12 Q. Okay. I think what you're saying is you went to this
13 placement and it was supposed to be your forever home,
14 this was your understanding that you had from being at
15 Wooddean that the social work department were looking
16 for this place that you would stay.

17 A. (Witness nods)

18 Q. Ultimately that turned out not to be the case and the
19 lady terminated the placement, stopped the placement.

20 A. (Witness nods)

21 LADY SMITH: When you went there, 'Caroline', judging by
22 what you say in your statement, you're going to a woman
23 who was a single parent herself and her own daughter was
24 about seven and you were about nine. Is that right?

25 A. Yeah, I was a wee bit older.

1 LADY SMITH: Are you telling me that you could sense that
2 there was already an established bond between the
3 woman's daughter and her, this small unit?
4 A. Yeah.
5 LADY SMITH: And it was tough for you to take that?
6 A. Yeah. I think as well, you know, we ended up going to
7 the same school because there was only a couple of years
8 difference so we ended up going to the same primary
9 school and my behaviour wasn't particularly good in the
10 primary school. I don't think the daughter liked that
11 as well, because she would see that was reflecting on
12 her obviously because I was at the school so I remember
13 obviously being excluded from the school lots of times
14 and then I remember I would be in an A class in the
15 morning and then a B class in the afternoon so the
16 teachers could manage my behaviour throughout the day,
17 but obviously we would get into arguments and stuff like
18 that at the school as well and I just think [REDACTED] had
19 thought, well, it's no good on my daughter so it's not
20 good on her education, it's not good in the house, so
21 [REDACTED] will need to go.
22 LADY SMITH: As you look back now, have you any idea what it
23 was that was affecting your behaviour at that time?
24 A. Well, [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
25 [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later there were lots

1 of different factors that I could look back now and say
2 that's why I was behaving the way that I was behaving.
3 But at the time as a child I didn't see that as a child.
4 I was -- I had -- I had seen that as somewhere that
5 I was going to live and somebody that was going to
6 accept me and look after me, but without fully
7 understanding my emotions and why I was behaving in
8 a way that I was obviously behaving.

9 But as an adult looking back, well, I know why I was
10 behaving the way I was behaving, but at the time, when
11 you're faced with that, you just see that somebody's
12 rejected you and they don't really want you to be there
13 so ... especially if, you know, the daughter's saying
14 she doesn't like me and -- well, her mum's -- I don't
15 remember [REDACTED] actually coming round and saying, "I don't
16 like you", but I remember she stopped taking me out and
17 about and she stopped doing things with me, obviously
18 because maybe my behaviour wasn't the best when I was
19 out and about and her daughter didn't want to spend time
20 with me.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
23 [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

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11 Q. Okay. If we go on to page 12 and you talk there about
12 moving from [REDACTED]'s to JAR/JAS [REDACTED] in Glasgow
13 again.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. And we know that you stayed with them for the rest of
16 your childhood.

17 A. (Witness nods)

18 Q. At paragraph 80 you tell us a little bit about them.
19 You say that they were an older couple?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. And at the time you think they were in their late 50s?

22 A. (Witness nods)

23 Q. Did they have children of their own?

24 A. Yeah, they had three older daughters.

25 Q. Okay. Did they live in the house or had they already

1 moved out?

2 A. No, the younger daughter used to still stay at JAR's.

3 I initially shared a room with the older daughter. And

4 then there was another foster boy there at the time and

5 he had the other room, it was a three-bedroom house and

6 I shared a room with the youngest daughter. She was

7 maybe in her early 20s at the time.

8 Q. You mention at paragraph 81 that there was an older

9 foster boy who stayed there, so was he still at school

10 at the time that you went there?

11 A. No, because I think he might have been about 18, maybe,

12 17/18. He was older than -- yeah.

13 Q. Okay. Did he live there for the whole time that you

14 lived there or did he move out at some point?

15 A. No, he was maybe there for six months to a year maybe.

16 And then I moved into his bedroom.

17 Q. Okay. Can you remember anything about him, what was he

18 like?

19 A. I can remember him being there, I remember his name,

20 I remember him having his friends from the community in,

21 playing or listening to music or whatever they used to

22 do in the room. So I remember chatting to him, but

23 that's kind of it. He was older than me, so ...

24 Q. Okay. Then you mention a girl who had profound learning

25 difficulties.

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 Q. You say that she was about 15 years old when you went to
3 stay there?

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. And she had lived with them before you got there?

6 A. Yeah. So I never ever met that girl, but I knew about
7 her and I knew of her. She was never there when I was
8 there. It was another young person that was there. So
9 I knew of her and I knew of her background and things
10 like that because of what JAR used to tell me.

11 Q. She was a person who had lived with them before and had
12 perhaps moved out or moved somewhere else?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. You mention at paragraph 82 their daughter that stayed
15 for a wee while and then left and that's the daughter
16 that you mentioned?

17 A. (Witness nods)

18 Q. Then you say that there was a girl who came to live
19 after you'd been there for a couple of years?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. She was younger than you and had foetal alcohol
22 syndrome.

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. Did you know at the time that she had foetal alcohol
25 syndrome, is that something you were aware of?

1 A. No, I never knew that at the time but I'm actually still
2 in touch with that young person, so as somebody who has
3 worked in social care for a long time I'm obviously
4 aware of that syndrome and the characteristic and things
5 like that, so I was able to identify that as an adult
6 and say that obviously in my statement, but at the time
7 I never was told that or -- I just took that young
8 person for who she was, another young person.

9 Q. You say that she stayed for a wee while, so roughly how
10 long was she there for?

11 A. So yeah. So I want to say maybe two years maybe she was
12 there.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. And then JAR ended the placement and I think -- or she
15 certainly moved on before me, anyway.

16 Q. Okay. Do you know why the placement came to an end?

17 A. Well, at the time I didn't know why -- well, maybe JAR
18 did say to me at the time, but it was -- because JAR
19 didn't trust this young person round about her
20 grandchildren because the young person came on the back
21 of her own adopted placement breaking down and she had
22 apparently done some -- her and her brother -- her and
23 her brother used to have a relationship or have
24 interactions when they were younger and then they were
25 placed with this carer and then this carer ended up

1 ending their placement because she had alleged that this
2 young person had done something to her own grand kids.
3 So she then came to JAR and then JAR just called her
4 "a dirty wee bastard" and "a freak" from the minute she
5 got there and wouldn't allow her to participate in
6 anything within her house. She was always up the stair
7 all the time. I remember she used to draw really dark
8 pictures and just be out the way for -- and I used to
9 feel a wee bit sorry for her so I used to give her my
10 clothes and my make-up and my CDs and things like that.

11 Q. Okay. You also mention that JAR had about five yorkie
12 does?

13 A. Mm-hmm.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. They weren't all her dogs, but her daughter had dogs and
16 she had dogs so they all just used to have doggy play
17 dates so they were always there at the one time. Then
18 they had a whippet and a staffie and they would all just
19 been there. They had loads of dogs, but I remember lots
20 of yorkies.

21 Q. Okay. At paragraph 83 you say that you slept in
22 a little box room on your own and that JAS and JAR
23 had separate rooms?

24 A. Yes. Originally they had separate rooms. When I moved
25 into the wee room, JAR and JAS ended up staying in

1 separate rooms, and then when [REDACTED] came, JAR went
2 back into the main bedroom.

3 Q. Then when she left, did they move back into separate
4 rooms again?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. The other room had been done up and things like that for
8 JAR going back into the other room.

9 Q. What was JAR like? You deal with this at
10 paragraph 85.

11 A. Do you know, I think I've spent my whole life just
12 masking being in care and saying actually it was good,
13 it was good, I've had an adventure, I've had a good
14 life, I've met people, I've met weird and wonderful
15 people and I've always kind of said that, but actually
16 it was probably just a mask and have a cover actually
17 what happened because I used to think if people think
18 that they wouldn't feel sorry for me.

19 But actually when I think back and look at
20 JAR's -- more so now, because I'm involved in things
21 through my work and the Promise and things like that.
22 I'm really involved in things like that through my work.
23 So when I look back at my own experience and I go
24 actually it wasn't a really good experience actually, if
25 I'm honest with myself. It was quite poor, actually,

1 the way that I was treated, you know, and where I lived
2 and all of those things.

3 But when I look at JAR -- and I always have
4 conflicting thoughts about this, because I used to go
5 back and see JAR. I used to go back and see the
6 house. But I don't think -- well, it wasn't JAR as
7 a person I would go back and see. It was the house. It
8 was my room that I used to go and sit in and I'd say,
9 "Can I go and sit in my room?" And I would go a wee
10 drive around our house because that's where my friends
11 and things like that were, so I kind of had a connection
12 with the area.

13 But when I look back at JAR and I think she wasn't
14 a nice person to me. She never used to give me pocket
15 money. The way she would speak to me. She never bought
16 me any nice clothes. She wouldn't take me anywhere.
17 She never sat down and done like my homework with me.
18 So -- and I look back now and I say actually she only
19 used to do it for the money. I said that to my husband,
20 you know, say actually I think JAR only used to do
21 that for the money and I probably -- at the time,
22 though, when I was -- so when I reached like 12, 13,
23 I used to just jump on the bus every day. I never used
24 to spend any time at my foster mum's. I just used to go
25 over to the East End and spend -- well, run away to my

1 mum and dad and spend time with them every day. And
2 then obviously JAR would initially report me that
3 I would go, but then it got to the point she used to
4 think, well, what's the point anyway, she used to say as
5 long as I was back on basically the 11.45, midnight bus,
6 I used to get the last bus to Shettleston and go back to
7 Crookston over the south side, so I would get the last
8 bus and she used to say as long as you're back by that
9 time.

10 So thinking back, I never really spent a lot of my
11 time there as I got a wee bit older.

12 Q. Okay. Now if we can go on, please, to page 14, you talk
13 about your social worker and at paragraph 96 you mention
14 that it was a Susan Cuthbert?

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. What was she like? Was she your social worker for
17 a long period of time?

18 A. No, I used to have a few -- I had lots of different
19 social workers. I can remember having quite a lot, but
20 I remember Susan, she was lovely. I remember all the
21 wee things about her and she would always make me -- I'd
22 just be happy to see her really. So yeah, she was nice.

23 Q. Did you feel that she was somebody you could talk to
24 about how things were with JAR and JAS ?

25 A. Well, I feel that I could have spoke to her but I'm not

1 really one for speaking, so I used to just keep things
2 to myself, do you know, unless -- unless -- yeah.
3 I wouldn't really talk to anybody. Like I've been with
4 my husband for 16 years, I was just saying that, and
5 although I've been with him all that time, I'm not
6 openly one to, you know, sit and talk about things.

7 I think once they're out there, they're out there.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. But I always had a good relationship with Susan.

10 I could always -- you know, yeah.

11 Q. You say at paragraph 97 that there would be reviews of
12 your placement. You remember these happening in JAR's
13 living room.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. You talk about how it would be set up. Who else would
16 be present at these meetings? Was it just social
17 workers and JAR and JAS and you?

18 A. No. So there would be my school, whoever was -- well,
19 I was at the Good Shepherd at the time so it would be
20 somebody from the Good Shepherd, it was somebody to take
21 the minutes, it would be my social worker and it would
22 be JAR, it would be JAS, it would be me. I think
23 maybe there was education psychologists or something at
24 the time as well, basically just the adults that I had
25 been seeing at that time would come in the meetings.

1 Q. You mention that they would have the whole table full of
2 food and snacks and that JAR would pretend that she
3 was really caring and nurturing.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. Is that how you felt things were portrayed?

6 A. And I used to say that to them. I used to have a laugh
7 and say, "Oh, she's putting a spread on and that for you
8 and ..." I can remember having a laugh with the social
9 workers that would come. I remember one of them,
10 Jim Moony, so I had obviously been in Parkhead social
11 worker department sorry for a long time, because that's
12 where I would go for my access and that's where I would
13 always be linked with them so I used to have a laugh and
14 say, "Oh, I've got lots of mums and dads", because they
15 had parental rights over me, so I used to say, "Oh, you
16 are all my mums and dads", so when they come I used to
17 have a laugh with them when they were in -- I remember
18 being in the reviews and, you know, not being serious
19 but I remember just having a laugh and a joke with them,
20 but also saying, "Oh, JAR 's being kind to you".

21 Whether they thought that's me being funny or
22 whether they have took on board obviously what I was
23 actually saying, but ... I remember doing that at the
24 time.

25 Q. At paragraph 99 you say that you didn't say anything

1 about being unhappy at the reviews.

2 A. (Witness shakes head)

3 Q. Why did you not say anything about being unhappy?

4 A. Because -- I think these -- even here today, do you
5 know, like these situations always take me back to when
6 I was younger, decisions would happen in my life, do you
7 know, like you would go to a panel and something would
8 happen, you'd go to review, you would sit in a -- and
9 even in my work environment, do you know, when I'm in
10 big groups or whatever, do you know, I always think oh,
11 I feel vulnerable because decisions are happening in my
12 life, do you know, and I've not got control of any of
13 these decisions.

14 So actually I used to think, well, what's the point
15 of saying because they're going to make a decision about
16 me anyway.

17 Q. Okay.

18 If we move on a little in your statement to page 15
19 and paragraph 103, you talk in the first couple of
20 sentences there about JAR being verbally abusive to
21 you, as you've already mentioned, and you remember about
22 one of her dogs biting you?

23 A. (Witness nods)

24 Q. What can you remember about that happening?

25 A. See if I'm honest I remember it actually being quite

1 funny. I remember there being -- I remember there being
2 an argument in the house. I remember coming down the
3 stairs. I remember being in the hall and I remember --
4 I can't remember what that was about, but I remember
5 there being a confrontation between myself and JAR
6 JAR being up close to me and her dog biting me. And
7 I remember the dog -- actually lifting my leg up and the
8 dog was like attached to my leg and I remember saying,
9 "Suzy's biting me, JAR Suzy's biting me", and she
10 said, "Well, you shouldn't be a cheeky wee bastard
11 then".

12 Q. Can you remember if you told anybody about that
13 happening?

14 A. Professional wise and social worker wise? (Pause)

15 I don't remember telling anybody about that.
16 I would have told my mum and dad or whatever because
17 there was marks from where the dog had bitten me.
18 I would certainly have told somebody that the dog had
19 bitten me, but I don't remember -- I may have well done,
20 but I don't remember having that -- at the moment having
21 that conversation.

22 Q. You tell us then about how she spoke to the other young
23 person in the house and you've already told us about
24 that, so if we can move on, please, to page 16,
25 paragraph 107, you talk about JAR stealing from you?

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. What sort of things did she do?

3 A. She used to steal my jewellery. She would steal

4 anything that was quite nice that probably my mum and

5 dad had given me, but my mum and dad were obviously from

6 the East End and they used to like all the gold and they

7 used to like the jewellery and they would give that to

8 me and I remember having a ring with my initials on it,

9 a gold ring with my initials on it, and I remember

10 having it was like a sovereign necklace and I remember

11 it going missing in the house.

12 So, as I said I never really spent a lot of time

13 there, JAR never used to really be in the house a lot

14 of the time, she would go out and go and visit her

15 daughters and she'd lock the door and I'd go and be out

16 with my pals or whatever, but what she didn't know is

17 I used to climb in the conservatory the window when she

18 was out and into my bedroom and make myself lunch when

19 she was out, so I used to do that.

20 And then one time I had done that, I was in her room

21 and I noticed it was a wee bag with my jewellery in it

22 that she had stolen, so I took the jewellery back and

23 climbed back out the window and I kept it, but she never

24 ever said to me, "Did you get that jewellery?" She

25 never ever mentioned that to me. But obviously that's

1 how I knew that she had taken it.

2 Q. Okay. You describe her as having stolen that as opposed

3 to keeping it safe for you, for example?

4 A. Well, if she'd kept it safe, she'd have maybe said to

5 me, "FDS I'm putting your jewellery safe".

6 Q. But she hadn't?

7 A. But at the time when it went missing I remember saying,

8 "Oh, I can't find my mum's necklace or I can't find my

9 nana's ring", so I suppose she could have said to me,

10 "Do you know, FDS , I've got that", but ...

11 Q. Okay.

12 In terms of any physical abuse, did you ever

13 experience anything like that from JAR or JAS ? Can

14 you remember them hitting you?

15 A. Sorry?

16 Q. Can you remember them hitting you, for example?

17 A. I remember JAR -- I remember JAR -- JAR 's quite

18 a fiery lady. She was Italian so she was always -- she

19 was always swearing, she would always be shouting and

20 she would always be lashing out or -- yeah, I remember

21 her -- I remember her pushing me, I remember her poking

22 me in the face, I remember her grabbing me.

23 Q. Okay. We'll come back to that in a moment.

24 A. JAS never ever -- he never physically hit me, but he

25 used to do other things to me.

1 Q. You go on to talk about that in the next section of your
2 statement, from paragraph 108 and then to paragraph 110.
3 You tell us that he sexually abused you.

4 A. (Witness nods)

5 Q. I don't know if you feel able to talk about that. It's
6 in your statement. I understand it's difficult to talk
7 about.

8 A. (Witness nods)

9 Q. But if you want to say anything about that, please do.

10 A. I think the difficulty with that is I really get upset
11 about that because I know JAS was doing that to me at
12 the time and I knew it wasn't right and I know he was
13 doing those things to me, but at the time I was a young
14 person who liked to go out to the East End of Glasgow
15 and I would like to go out with my pals and JAR never
16 used to give me any pocket money and she would never buy
17 me any clothes, she would never get me any perfume and
18 as somebody who was, do you know my mum and dad used to
19 do that for me, so as somebody who used that for their
20 identity and the things I was saying, you know, if
21 I looked nice people wouldn't think like bad or
22 whatever. So when JAS used to do that to me, JAS
23 used to give me money after it and JAS would take me
24 and buy me deodorant and he'd buy me like all the things
25 that I liked.

1 So on one hand I knew that it absolutely wasn't
2 right and I let myself down because I didn't tell
3 anybody at the time, but it was obviously because I was
4 getting the things off of JAS that allowed him to do
5 these things to me.

6 LADY SMITH: 'Caroline', can I just tell you, I have heard
7 similar accounts to yours often, and people sitting
8 where you're sitting or in our previous premises saying
9 similar things about feeling, as you put it, you let
10 yourself down or it was wrong to feel good sometimes
11 about having somebody being interested in you and being
12 nice to you. Please don't worry about that. You're not
13 here to beat yourself up, all right?

14 A. (Witness nods)

15 LADY SMITH: But it does help me to hear from you whatever
16 you feel able to explain about what happened.

17 A. (Witness nods)

18 LADY SMITH: I'm not pushing you. You just tell me what you
19 can and leave it at that.

20 A. Thank you.

21 MS INNES: You tell us at paragraph 112 that these things
22 started quite early on. Was it something that happened
23 frequently?

24 A. Well, as I said, when I got to a certain age I would go
25 out and about, do you know, I was out quite a lot so

1 probably when I got a wee bit more independence then
2 I was able to go, but the times that we used to sit --
3 I suppose he used to do those things, he'd do other
4 things to me as well, like he would take me to see the
5 Christmas lights in George's Square and he would take me
6 to the cinema and we used to watch Star Trek. So it was
7 when we were obviously on our own watching the TV or,
8 you know, out with the dog or maybe at the car, do you
9 know, then he would do those things earlier on.

10 So maybe when I say that I'm thinking maybe that was
11 when I was about 12 to 13, maybe, 14 maybe, but
12 certainly from 11 to 12.

13 Q. Okay. It happened more frequently earlier on?

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. Then as you got older it happened less is what you're
16 saying?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. Then you say it did stop towards the end of your time
19 there?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. Okay. In terms of speaking to anybody about this, was
22 JAR somebody that you could have spoken to about what
23 was happening?

24 A. (Witness shakes head)

25 Absolutely not and I would never have spoke to her

1 daughters about that. As an adult now I look back and
2 I think about the things that the other foster child
3 used to do, because JAR used to say that she was
4 a dirty bastard, she would say she's a dirty bastard,
5 she must have done sexualised acts or things like that
6 on the couch and she used to say, "Oh, she's a dirty
7 bastard", she would do this, do that, but then I think
8 maybe with that because obviously the things that she
9 had maybe re-enacted -- sorry, Ruth, I went away off,
10 I forgot what you said to me, sorry.

11 Q. We'll come back to what I was asking about in a moment.
12 You speak at paragraph 114 about your concern about the
13 young person in placement and why she was acting in that
14 way that she was, and I think what I was asking you was
15 JAR somebody that you could have talked to about this
16 and I think what you're saying is, well, this was her
17 reaction to what this young person was doing. If I had
18 told her, what would her reaction have been?

19 A. Exactly. I think when you look at obviously the
20 situation with other young person who was there because
21 of sexually inappropriate behaviour with her last
22 placement, and I suppose again I was doing it for my own
23 benefit at the time because I was getting the money. So
24 if I would have said, then obviously people would get
25 into trouble, I would have had to have moved ...

1 Q. Yeah, and those were barriers then to you being able to
2 speak to, for example, your social worker, who you've
3 mentioned, about it.

4 A. Mm-hmm. And even to this day, you know, like I've
5 never -- I've obviously spoken about the other abuse but
6 I've never actually told anybody -- obviously my husband
7 knows, but I've never really told anybody else about it
8 because I was still in contact with the family, do you
9 know, as I said I used to still go and visit and I was
10 still in contact with the daughter and the
11 granddaughter.

12 Q. Mm-hmm. You mentioned the daughters a moment ago, that
13 I think you maybe had a relatively good relationship
14 with some of them --

15 A. (Witness nods)

16 Q. -- but are you saying that you couldn't have told them
17 either?

18 A. (Witness shakes head)

19 Well, I wouldn't say I had a really good
20 relationship, but I had a -- I thought I had
21 a relationship with them and I cared about them to
22 a certain -- well, I cared about them. But I would
23 never have been able to say, obviously, that their dad
24 had done that and there was never -- but -- so recently
25 my foster mum died. She died [REDACTED] ago. We

1 went to the funeral [REDACTED]. And then when we went to
2 the funeral, the first thing the daughter said to me
3 was, "Oh, I forgot all about you, FDS [REDACTED]", but actually
4 she was saying things, "Oh, my dad really liked you, he
5 used to speak highly about you all the time", and I'm
6 thinking, oh, well obviously he used to do those things
7 to me -- so it was kind of mixed emotions because, as
8 I say, he used to take me places and do all the things
9 and give me money that JAR [REDACTED] had obviously never done,
10 but obviously I knew that he was doing that, doing those
11 things, and I know now as an adult and I know as
12 a vulnerable child that he shouldn't have been doing
13 them, but I had mixed emotions because I liked the
14 things that he was doing as well.

15 So when I was at that funeral and they said, "Oh, my
16 dad thinks highly", and I'm thinking oh well, obviously
17 he's saying those things to mask obviously the things --
18 because it would be like that. Thinking now, JAR [REDACTED]
19 would be like, "Oh, FDS [REDACTED] s this" or whatever and JAS [REDACTED]
20 would always stick up for me.

21 Q. I want to ask you about a couple of things in your
22 records, so if we can look, please, at GLA-000001738,
23 page 76. We see that this is a note dated
24 24 August 1995 and it says:

25 " ... Susan Cuthbert, social worker, arrived at the

1 office."

2 You had advised the worker -- we find out later on
3 on this page that it was Isobel Rennie -- that:

4 "... she had allegedly been slapped by her foster
5 parent, JAR, as she left the house."

6 In the next paragraph it goes on to talk about
7 an interview and it says that Susan Cuthbert and
8 Mark Gaffney would interview you. Do you have any
9 recollection of being interviewed by Susan Cuthbert and
10 another male social worker?

11 A. I don't remember that. But I don't remember having that
12 conversation. I remember times JAR's obviously hit
13 me, but I don't remember having that conversation.

14 Q. The next paragraph tells us about an argument and you
15 explained the context of that. If we go down, there's
16 a paragraph beginning:

17 "Isobel Rennie maintained that you were crying when
18 you arrived with Mrs JAR, claiming there had been
19 a confrontation. When they got into the taxi you
20 proceeded to tell Isobel that Mrs JAR had slapped her.
21 Isobel indicated that your face was red."

22 It says:

23 "You at no point stated you didn't want to return to
24 JAR/JAS but indicated the only thing you were worried
25 about was getting into trouble for advising the social

1 work department."

2 Do you think that's something that you would have
3 been concerned about at the time?

4 A. Yeah. I think going back to it, I wouldn't have wanted
5 to get moved. I think I can remember now that this is
6 coming up maybe this has actually happened, but it's
7 difficult because it's there and you're thinking: can
8 I remember that happening? But, yeah, absolutely
9 I wouldn't have wanted the social work department to
10 know because, as I said, I was always said -- and that
11 was maybe why I didn't say anything or cause bother
12 because I didn't want to move. Do you know, I was being
13 told before [REDACTED] and then JAR [REDACTED] this is my forever
14 placement -- yeah, so probably that would have been
15 a true statement. I wouldn't have probably said for
16 fear of maybe it coming back on me or being moved.

17 Q. At the bottom of the page there's then a discussion of
18 the workers going to speak to JAR/JAS [REDACTED] and
19 Susan Cuthbert explaining to them that you had been
20 upset when you'd arrived at the office and she "asked
21 them if they knew any reason why", and Mrs JAR [REDACTED]
22 complained about your behaviour.

23 At the bottom of the page it says:

24 "Mrs JAR [REDACTED] at this point requested a full
25 explanation of what you had stated."

1 And she was told by the social worker. If we go to
2 the top of the next page, it says:

3 "Mrs JAR became extremely angry and expressed
4 displeasure at the social work practice and procedures.
5 She stated that children 'make up stories in their head'
6 and believed that the social work department do not
7 believe the foster parents. Mrs JAR continued to
8 ventilate about your unreasonable behaviour ..."

9 And she goes on about that. This description of
10 Mrs JAR becoming extremely angry, does it resonate
11 with your experience of her?

12 A. Absolutely. I think -- I suppose I always seen JAR
13 like that and JAR was always -- she was always fiery
14 or she was always really nice. And obviously she would
15 be really nice to the people that mattered, you know,
16 professionals or social workers or whatever, but
17 certainly that's no shock to read that, that that's the
18 way JAR responded to the way she was treating me. She
19 would certainly blame me and

20 Q. Then if we go down, there's a paragraph where it's:

21 "Mrs [blank] admitted shouting at you and pointing
22 and touching her face with her finger, but denied
23 slapping you. She again stated 'can you not listen to
24 us for a change, I'm angry'. Mr JAS stated he had
25 never had an experience like this in 15 years of

1 fostering and that the system was all wrong. The
2 workers at great length had to explain to JAR/JAS
3 that there were specific social work procedures that
4 must be carried through when allegations of this nature
5 have been made and workers do not have discretion of
6 whether to implement them or not."

7 Again there seems to have been -- JAR/JAS seem to
8 have been angry with the social workers about raising
9 this.

10 Sorry, the other thing I was going to ask about was
11 that she talks about shouting at you and pointing and
12 touching your face with her finger?

13 A. (Witness nods)

14 Q. Is that something that she did? Would she prod you in
15 the face?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Then if we scroll down a little, so there's the "[blank]
18 demanded", it's on the screen at the moment. That's the
19 JAR/JAS demanding that a meeting is arranged.

20 Then in the next paragraph:

21 "The workers discussed with JAR/JAS whether
22 they would prefer the workers to remain until you
23 returned. JAR/JAS initially expressed no
24 definite opinion but later felt that you may 'play up'
25 if the workers were still at the home on her arrival,

1 and the workers concurred with this opinion."

2 It looks like what happened here was you said that
3 Mrs JAR had slapped you, you were spoken to by the
4 social workers about that. They then spoke to the
5 JAR/JAS and then you were going back to the house and the
6 JAR/JAS were there and there were no workers and no
7 social workers.

8 A. Yeah. I don't ever remember being taken away from
9 JAR's or -- I remember running away, but I don't
10 remember not being told to go back or I'm not aware
11 obviously of any of these discussions taking place.

12 Q. Yeah. If we can go on, please, to page 80, this is the
13 conclusion of the social work department's
14 investigations. They say:

15 "Given full consideration of the interviews and
16 information obtained, it is clear that a confrontation
17 took place between the child and Mrs JAR however this
18 incident does not constitute child abuse. What requires
19 to be taken from the situation is the difficulties
20 involved in such a complex fostering situation and the
21 subsequent need to convene a childcare and foster parent
22 review. It should also be noted that the situation was
23 calm on your return home, with both you and the foster
24 carers stating that the placement commence."

25 It says, but I think it means "continue".

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 Q. It looks like this was the conclusion of the social work
3 investigation.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. You mentioned earlier about an incident where a dog bit
6 you. If I can look, please, at page 92, this is
7 a handwritten note which says:

8 "Following a conversation between you and myself
9 (Lorraine) ..."

10 The person who is writing this is a person called
11 Lorraine McFadyen?

12 A. Yeah, she was my key worker at the Good Shepherd Centre
13 when I went to the Good Shepherd.

14 Q. Okay. And it says that you had:

15 "Explained to her two red scratch marks on your leg
16 as dog bites received after an argument with JAR over
17 an access visit to your big sister arranged for the next
18 day. In your view, after heated words, JAR pulled
19 your hair and you fell over a Hoover. You seemed
20 distressed by the whole thing and we agreed to phone her
21 social worker for her. This I (Lorraine) did and we
22 await her visit."

23 It looks as though you spoke to this person at the
24 Good Shepherd about this incident and can you remember
25 that being followed up at all?

1 A. I don't remember it being followed up. I don't remember
2 anybody coming to speak to me about that or -- I don't
3 remember that.

4 Q. Okay. I think all that we have recovered in the records
5 is this handwritten note and some other handwritten
6 notes.

7 A. I remember obviously the incident happening, I remember
8 that, but I don't remember it being followed up.

9 Q. We can move away from the records, please, and if we can
10 go back to your statement, please, you talk about having
11 left foster care I think when you were no longer under
12 the care of the social work department and you talk
13 a bit about your life after care.

14 In terms of the impact of your experiences upon you
15 and your life, is there anything that you want to tell
16 us about?

17 A. I think obviously -- so I work within social work. I'm
18 a residential worker, I've been a residential worker for
19 16 years. I assess applicants that apply to become
20 foster carers, I do the reviews on applicants that apply
21 to become foster carers, I've been a children's rights
22 officer for about six years and I also sit on a sibling
23 group -- the Promise sibling group for the Local
24 Authority that I work for.

25 And I think doing all like the Promise and the

1 frameworks and you know everything that I'm highly
2 involved in really reflects on my life and my background
3 and the reason I'm here today and the reason that
4 I participate in all these things is to make sure that
5 vulnerable looked-after children get the best outcome
6 and get the best possible experience of being looked
7 after, whether it be in any kind of looked-after
8 setting. Certainly impacting on me -- my time in care
9 has impacted on my relationships, it's impacted on my
10 family's relationships, with my sisters. Even though
11 we're in contact, like we've not got a solid like
12 sibling relationship. Superficially on the surface, but
13 obviously I think my family within the East End, I've
14 got a really big family and although I was always there
15 because I would make myself be there, I would run away,
16 I would make sure I would get the bus, I never ever felt
17 part of my family. The places that they would take us
18 for like access, do you know, and when I look at my
19 behaviours, and I look back myself and I remember
20 getting super excited because I was going to see my mum
21 that day or I would be super excited because I was going
22 to get to see my sisters, but I remember the people in
23 my life at the time would say, "Oh, FDS s too excited,
24 she's going to disrupt that, she can't go", but actually
25 instead of looking at me as a child and looking and

1 seeing behind the behaviours and saying, "Oh, FDS s
2 really excited because she's going to see her family",
3 supports can be put in place for her", it would be,
4 "FDS can't go today", so that would have more impact
5 on me because I would become angry and I wouldn't see my
6 sisters.

7 Obviously the impact of the sexualised stuff in the
8 home and obviously -- obviously JAS do you know, it's
9 certainly impacted on my relationships, my intimate
10 relationships, my trusting people, do you know my
11 husband actually deserves a medal for all the things
12 that he's put up with, but obviously through life, do
13 you know, it's -- it's not been overly positive. I'm
14 not going to sit here today and say like it was all bad,
15 because I've met some good people and I've had some
16 opportunities certainly that I wouldn't have obviously
17 had when I lived in the East End of Glasgow, but when
18 I look at the bigger picture and I look at the whole,
19 there's certainly been times within that time that
20 hasn't been positive that have predominantly impacted on
21 me as an adult.

22 Q. Okay. If we can look, please, at page 21, you talk
23 about your experience of getting your records at
24 paragraph 145. You say that you went to look at one
25 batch of records in the office and then you had another

1 two batches sent to you.

2 A. (Witness nods)

3 Q. At the time that you signed your statement, you said you
4 still haven't read all of your records.

5 A. (Witness shakes head)

6 Q. What was it about your records that meant that you
7 didn't feel able to read them all?

8 A. Well, I've always been quite -- I've always had quite
9 a transparent relationship with my mum and dad. There's
10 not a lot about them that I don't know. And do you
11 know, as an adult I've been able to understand why I was
12 initially in care because they obviously -- their
13 parenting techniques. So I haven't read them for that
14 aspect.

15 But I've also not read them because some of the
16 things that was written about me and some of the things
17 that get said about me, some of the comments would say
18 I was a manipulative child, I was a child that knew the
19 system, I wasn't emotionally intelligent, I wouldn't
20 amount to anything. So I stopped reading them because,
21 as I said, when I put myself in the past it actually ...
22 I've tried -- not tried, but I've always put on a front
23 in my life to not allow my experiences in my life to
24 impact on me. So when I read them I thought no,
25 that's -- it's not nice reading those things about you,

1 so I stopped reading it.

2 And it's actually made me, within my profession and
3 obviously my life, to make sure that I don't record
4 stuff within my daily recordings or in my reports that
5 would impact on young people's self-esteem and you know
6 actually write the positive things but write the things
7 that are obviously supposed to be there, write them in
8 a sensitive way that hopefully the child or the young
9 person will understand when/if they're ever in the same
10 situation as me that they need to read these things
11 about them.

12 And I suppose I know myself, do you know, I work in
13 social work, I've got a social work degree. I know when
14 you're in a situation like that it's the opinion of the
15 person at the time. So I also think about that and
16 think, well, that was that person's opinion of me, but
17 actually it shouldn't really be their opinion, it should
18 be their professional assessment and hopefully that
19 that's what the Inquiry will take or I'll take out of
20 being here today, that my statement will then shape the
21 perception of the professionals that are working with
22 these young people and actually see them -- look behind
23 the person and see them as a person and not just
24 an angry or vulnerable child.

25 LADY SMITH: 'Caroline', from what you say in your statement

1 about your records, it sounds as though there are parts
2 you read that failed to show respect for the child.

3 A. (Witness nods)

4 LADY SMITH: Is that one of the key things that seems to be
5 missing?

6 A. Yeah. Valuing that person or you know, yeah, just
7 seeing them as understanding their emotions and their
8 behaviours and writing about that rather than -- and
9 actually basing decisions on facts rather than saying
10 that this child will never amount to anything and she's
11 manipulative -- because actually when you think
12 manipulation can actually be a skill as well, do you
13 know, because they're actually trying to find a solution
14 to whatever problem it is rather than just saying --
15 because manipulative is obviously seen as quite
16 negative, but rather than saying actually FDS's maybe
17 got a wee bit of skill here, she's trying to find
18 a problem ... a solution, but rather than being
19 quite ...

20 LADY SMITH: You may have hit on another key factor, which
21 is that records should be records of facts, respectfully
22 recorded facts --

23 A. Yeah.

24 LADY SMITH: -- bearing in mind they're about the life of
25 a child and about a child. Yes.

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

3 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

4 You go on over the page on page 22 at paragraph 149,
5 you talk about the number of different social workers
6 that you had. I think you say there that a new social
7 worker perhaps would come and they would just see what
8 was written about you on a piece of paper. They
9 wouldn't know you as a person.

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. That's what you felt? So that might reflect back on
12 what you've been saying about the way in which things
13 were recorded. But also this changeover of social
14 workers, is that an issue that you think should be
15 addressed?

16 A. Well, obviously I work in the profession myself and
17 I know as an adult how difficult that is to have that
18 consistency and to have that obviously -- that person to
19 be with you through the whole journey of ... like me,
20 I was in care for a long time, so to have that one
21 allocated person, do you know, I appreciate that is --
22 as an adult, you know, difficult. But I think in terms
23 of building relationships and being able to have the
24 confidence if something was happening or something was
25 being said that actually that one person could build up

1 the trust. And I think that's what was lacking for me,
2 because I would always have a joke and say, "Oh, here's
3 my new mum and dad coming", you know obviously it's
4 different now, it's corporate parenting, but at the time
5 it was just that was what it was, it was just you would
6 have a different social worker all the time. And I know
7 I didn't make it easy on the social workers that I had.
8 And I remember one day my contact didn't go well and
9 I pulled all the plastic and all the stuffing out the
10 man's car and he didn't want to work with me any more.

11 So I know there's other factors that would involve
12 that, but I suppose when I say consistency it's helpful
13 to have a one person that they can trust and I could
14 speak to or -- you know, that you could rely on,
15 especially, because of all the moves or -- do you know,
16 because when you meet a social worker, you're having to
17 go back over the stuff that you've already told the last
18 one, and then you need to tell another one, you need to
19 tell another one and then, as I said, it's all opinions
20 so they think one thing, the other think one thing, one
21 social worker maybe likes you, the other social
22 worker -- because they were all different. They all
23 came from different backgrounds, they were all different
24 people. Not everybody likes you in life. You don't get
25 on with everybody in life and I certainly didn't get on

1 with every social worker that I had.

2 So, again, that would limit the -- limit what
3 I would say to them or what they would do for me.

4 Q. When you talk about having somebody that you could speak
5 to, do you think that that could be a social worker or
6 do you think that it would be better to have somebody
7 independent who's outwith the social work department?

8 A. I think just having somebody or anybody for as long as
9 possible in a child's life would contribute to them
10 being able to -- whether it be a residential worker,
11 whether it be a social worker, whether it be anybody --
12 and I think that's what I'm meaning, just the
13 consistency that they could have somebody there.

14 And I know things have changed now, that was 30
15 years ago, 30-odd years ago, so I know things have
16 changed to support young people with that.

17 Q. Okay. At paragraph 150 you talk about training for
18 foster carers, that they need to be trained on how to
19 care for complex young people.

20 A. Mm.

21 Q. And also about looking behind behaviours, as you've
22 explained. They need to learn how to be positive and
23 nurturing. Do you think that that's an ongoing need and
24 issue, that foster carers need training?

25 A. Absolutely. As I said a minute ago, I've worked with

1 four independent fostering agencies in Scotland and
2 I assess and interview applicants that not only apply to
3 become foster carers but are currently within the
4 fostering role at the moment and these are issues that
5 I'm still picking up on.

6 Even last week, I was in a meeting yesterday
7 actually about a foster carer who wasn't meeting
8 competencies to be a foster carer and I really take my
9 role seriously in terms of being an advocate or
10 a residential worker or, do you know, assessing Form F,
11 do you know actually these are the issues that I will
12 pick up on. Yeah, it's because of my past and I know
13 that -- I don't share that obviously with my work, but
14 I know when I do look at these things, I ultimately do
15 this to make sure that I'm looking and seeking for
16 individuals that are going to be good solid role models
17 and advocates and people that really want to be looking
18 after vulnerable children.

19 Q. Okay. In conclusion at paragraph 152 of your statement
20 you mention again I think something that you said in
21 your evidence a moment ago, that your reason in coming
22 and engaging with the Inquiry was to contribute and make
23 sure that there are better and more positive outcomes
24 for young people in care.

25 A. (Witness nods)

1 Q. That people should learn from your experience. I think
2 you've mentioned professionals in particular.

3 A. (Witness nods)

4 Yeah. Well, I've worked with looked-after young
5 people for the last 16 years and I suppose I'm here
6 today because how can I sit and say to them, "You need
7 to be honest, you need to speak about your feelings, you
8 need to talk about your feelings", when actually I'm not
9 prepared to do that myself? And I suppose, as I say
10 this, I don't talk to my husband of 16 years about my
11 life, do you know. I have done. I don't openly speak
12 about it. But I'm hoping that having the confidence to
13 come here today will impact greatly on the next group
14 of -- generation of looked-after children and I hope by
15 sharing my experiences and -- well, snippets of my
16 experiences, because I could have been here all day
17 telling you the rest, but snippets of my life could
18 obviously benefit others.

19 MS INNES: Okay. Thank you very much, 'Caroline', I don't
20 have any more questions for you and there are no
21 applications, my Lady.

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

24 'Caroline', that does complete all the questions we
25 have for you. Thank you so much for engaging with us,

1 both in terms of your written statement and by coming
2 here today. I started by telling you I recognise that
3 what we were asking you to do was difficult, and it
4 obviously is, but thank you very much for managing to
5 tell me as much as you have done, as clearly as you have
6 done, both so that I can understand what your life was
7 like but also what you hope will be better for children
8 now and in the future and it's really valuable to have
9 heard that from the perspective of your qualifications
10 and the work you've been doing for so long now.

11 Thank you for that and I'm glad now to be able to
12 let you go, but do realise you're going with job well
13 done this morning.

14 A. Thank you.

15 LADY SMITH: It's been really helpful. Thank you.

16 A. Thank you.

17 (The witness withdrew)

18 LADY SMITH: We'll take the lunch break now.

19 Before I rise, just to remind people of names. In
20 'Caroline's' evidence **EUX-EUY** foster carers, were
21 mentioned, as was and **JAR/JAS**
22 She also used her sister's own names, and ,
23 and at points her name, although she's known for our
24 purposes by a pseudonym 'Caroline'. All these names
25 that I've referred to are covered by my general

1 restriction order and they cannot be used for
2 identification outside this room.

3 Thank you. We'll rise now for lunch.

4 (1.12 pm)

5 (The luncheon adjournment)

6 (2.02 pm)

7 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

8 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

9 My Lady, we start this afternoon with a read-in and
10 it is a longer read-in and it will involve looking at
11 records as well.

12 'Carrie' (read)

13 MS RATTRAY: It's a statement of an applicant who has the
14 pseudonym 'Carrie'. 'Carrie's' statement is at
15 WIT.001.001.5112. 'Carrie' was in the care of
16 Strathclyde Regional Council. She was in three foster
17 placements.

18 The first with a couple in Dunfermline from around
19 1990 until she was adopted by them in [REDACTED] 1991.

20 The second placement was with temporary foster
21 carers in Cumbernauld from [REDACTED] 1992 until
22 [REDACTED] 1995.

23 The third foster couple were in Clydebank and they
24 were identified as a permanent placement and she was
25 there from [REDACTED] 1995 until that couple formally

1 adopted her.

2 We do not have the actual date of adoption, but from
3 the information we do have, it was probably in or around
4 1999.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS RATTRAY: So she spent about four years anyway as
7 a foster child there.

8 LADY SMITH: Yes.

9 MS RATTRAY: The successor authority is North Lanarkshire
10 Council.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MS RATTRAY: "My name is 'Carrie'. My contact details are
13 known to the Inquiry. I was born in 1986."

14 From paragraphs 2 to 9, 'Carrie' speaks of what she
15 knows of her background. She was born in Bellshill and
16 has four siblings. She says she was in the care system
17 from the age of six weeks because of the erratic
18 lifestyle of her parents and because they could not
19 cope.

20 Moving now to paragraph 10 on page 2:

21 "When we were first put into care, my older brother
22 and I went to different foster parents. From the
23 records I have read there were problems with these
24 homes. He was smacked and wasn't allowed to go on
25 nursery trips and wasn't being cared for. The people

1 I was with owned a shop and I used to get left outside
2 the shop all the time in the pram.

3 Although my brother and I were separated for a while
4 before we went into foster care, we were back together
5 by the time we went to the foster carers.

6 My brother and I went to foster carers with a view
7 to them adopting us. The foster mother couldn't have
8 children and that's why they wanted us. They had been
9 married for about a year and a half when we went there.
10 We were the first children they had taken. My brother
11 and I stayed with them until 1990 or 1991. The adoption
12 went through in 1990 for both me and my brother. I was
13 about two and he was about four when we got adopted.

14 Reading the files, because I can't remember, when we
15 were living with them the foster mother made allegations
16 that her husband had been abusing me so he moved out.
17 This was a few months after the adoption went through
18 according to the records.

19 I don't really remember my time with them but
20 I remember that they had a nice house and they were
21 strict but that's all I can remember. Both my brother
22 and I called them mum and dad.

23 One time when we were at a caravan park on holiday,
24 the foster parents fell out and the foster mother left
25 to come home with my brother and I was left with the

1 foster father. When we got back home that's when the
2 foster mother said she found blood on my pants. I don't
3 remember this; it is just from the records.

4 I have got a memory of the foster father doing
5 something to me but I don't know if that's just because
6 over the years I was told that he did or if I have
7 dreamt it. For some reason I think my brother was
8 looking in the window and saw it happen but I'm not
9 going to ask my brother if that's true or not. As far
10 as my time with them goes, that is the only wee memory
11 but I don't know if it was real or not.

12 After my brother and I had been at the caravan, the
13 foster mother supposedly took me to the doctors because
14 I had a tear down below but the social work later said
15 that she didn't take me to the doctors, so that was
16 a lie. The foster mother was apparently asked where the
17 pants were with blood on them and she said they had been
18 washed them but why would she do that. The police came
19 and searched our house for pornography but only found
20 adult pornography. I remember the police being in the
21 house.

22 The foster father left the house after that and we
23 were left with the foster mother. After a while she
24 said that she couldn't cope with our sexualised
25 behaviour, as it had transpired I may have touched her

1 on the bum once when we were in bed. That's what it
2 says in the records. I know the foster mother had
3 a mental illness but it had settled down before we moved
4 in."

5 My Lady, just to confirm, 'Carrie' was adopted by
6 the first couple in [REDACTED] 1991. From what records we do
7 have, it appears that these allegations of abuse were
8 made only two weeks later, so the majority of the time
9 'Carrie' spent was there as a foster child rather than
10 as an adopted child.

11 LADY SMITH: I see. Thank you.

12 MS RATTRAY: "I know I had two social workers, Margaret Kerr
13 and Sandra Sage, but they didn't have a good
14 relationship with the foster mother.

15 From the records, both of us left them very shortly
16 after that in 1991 and were put into a children's home
17 called Torrance House Children's Home in Bellshill in
18 Airdrie. We were in the children's home for maybe six
19 months and moved into the new foster home in [REDACTED] 1992.

20 In 1992, me and my brother moved in with the new
21 foster parents after we had visited them with a view to
22 them being foster parents. This address was in
23 Cumbernauld. They were supposed to be short-term foster
24 parents. The foster parents were nice at the visits
25 although I can't remember how many visits we had. I can

1 only remember one visit but we probably had more than
2 one. They gave me and my brother money for sweeties at
3 the shops when we were there so we thought they were
4 really nice. I can't remember the first time I ever
5 arrived at the foster parents to stay there, I just
6 remember being there.

7 The foster parents already had three children, a son
8 and two daughters, and they were their own children.
9 They were a good bit older. Their daughter was about
10 13 years older than me. She was their oldest daughter.
11 The foster parents had also an adopted son but I don't
12 know when they adopted him. I believe he might be about
13 43 years old [that is as at the time 'Carrie' signed her
14 statement]. I remember the adopted son being 21 when we
15 lived with the foster parents and he was maybe 15 or 16
16 years older than me. He would have been 21 when I was
17 5. I googled his name a couple of years ago and I found
18 a newspaper article saying that the adopted son had been
19 in trouble, fighting with somebody, and he was 41 then.

20 Another girl also lived in the house. She was the
21 same age as my brother. I think she had been with them
22 since she was three years old and she was adopted. The
23 adopted son and the adopted daughter are not brother and
24 sister. I don't know how long they had lived with them.

25 I think both the foster parents worked with people

1 with special needs. I know there were issues with them
2 working. I don't think they were supposed to be
3 working. I was aware from the start about her drinking
4 and I know she was an alcoholic. I didn't really know
5 it then but now realise she was drunk a lot of the time.
6 The foster parents used to argue, mostly about her
7 drinking, and it was obvious that he was the boss.
8 Sometimes the foster father would go out the back of the
9 house and smash her bottles.

10 Their house had four bedrooms which were all
11 upstairs, a living room, a kitchen and two bathrooms,
12 one upstairs and one downstairs. My brother shared
13 a room with the two sons. I shared with one of the
14 daughters. The other two daughters were in a room and
15 the parents were in the fourth room. My brother's room
16 had two sets of bunk beds and the other girls' room was
17 just two single beds. My room had bunk beds on one side
18 and there were two sets of drawers or maybe a wardrobe
19 and the telly. There were no clothes or anything lying
20 about. It was the daughter's room so I wasn't allowed
21 to touch anything because she was older. There was not
22 a thing out of place in our room. The boys' room was
23 the same. There was a TV in my room but I wasn't
24 allowed to use it. There was a TV in mum and dad's room
25 and one down the stairs. We were sometimes allowed to

1 sit in the living room and watch Home and Away and
2 Neighbours.

3 There was no routine in the house and we only got
4 a bath on a Sunday and that was the three of us sharing
5 a bath together, me, the adopted daughter and my
6 brother. The foster mother just shoved us all in the
7 bath together. We didn't have a bath or anything every
8 night. I can't remember if the foster mother helped us
9 dress in the morning or anything like that. I don't
10 really remember how we got up in the morning or if
11 anyone helped us. I can't remember getting breakfast
12 but I imagine we would have.

13 Me and my brother used to get the bus together to
14 school and the foster parents would give us a sweetie
15 for a play-piece but I used to eat mine before I got to
16 school. At first me and my brother used to get £1 for
17 lunch from the foster parents but later on we got
18 a ticket for a free school lunch.

19 When we moved to the foster parents, I had to move
20 school again. I was in Primary 1. My brother was also
21 at this school. The adopted daughter went to
22 a Protestant school. I definitely felt different at
23 school, probably because we were new because we got
24 moved about schools. From the records I know my brother
25 and I had holes in our clothes and buttons missing and

1 definitely were like wee tinkers.

2 Apparently I just played up for attention at school
3 and I was different from the rest. I used to try and
4 buy my friends, like one time I gave away the daughter's
5 perfume and my watch. At primary school though I used
6 to get top marks for maths quizzes.

7 The dad would take his younger birth children out
8 but never took us. He took them to places like ice
9 skating at the Time Capsule. The older daughter worked
10 in a Chinese and she would do her own thing. The foster
11 mother was an alcoholic so she just used to sit
12 downstairs and get drunk listening to music.

13 The foster parents had a small garden but I don't
14 really remember being in their garden playing. I was in
15 the neighbour's next door garden all the time. They had
16 a big rhubarb patch. If we weren't on a punishment, my
17 brother and the adopted daughter and I would be outside
18 probably playing in the neighbour's garden but the
19 majority of the time we were on a punishment. We were
20 on punishment most of the time. They just didn't like
21 us.

22 I know that I had two social workers from Airdrie,
23 Sandra Sage and Margaret Kerr. Sandra Sage was with me
24 from when I was a baby but she has now left. I think
25 she left in 1993. She was my social worker for about

1 a year after I went to the new foster parents. They
2 knew me inside out. Margaret was my social worker from
3 when I was with the previous foster parents when I was
4 two and a half.

5 The younger birth children were getting different
6 food, better food than me, my brother and the adopted
7 daughter. I remember that we were getting microwave
8 meals and they, that is the younger birth children, were
9 getting salad and steak. Sometimes the foster parents
10 would get a Chinese takeaway but again it wasn't shared
11 with us. Sometimes we ate our meals at the same family
12 table.

13 If my brother, the adopted daughter and I did
14 anything bad, we would be punished and got sent to our
15 rooms and we didn't get anything to eat. We had to be
16 in for dinner at 5 and if we were late we would get
17 punished which was usually getting sent to our rooms
18 without anything to eat. Even if your dinner wasn't
19 ready you still had to be in by 5.

20 The only memory I have is always taking forever to
21 eat my dinner and being left sitting there until my
22 dinner was finished, so maybe by 7 o'clock I would be
23 sent to my bed because I hadn't finished. I would sit
24 there, sometimes for hours, trying to eat my dinner.
25 This happened to my brother and the adopted daughter as

1 well. We were just made to sit at the table until we
2 were done. I just remember chewing for ages and it was
3 all dead dry. Because you had chewed it for such a long
4 time it was so dry in your mouth that it was really
5 difficult to swallow. I don't know how often this
6 happened but it just feels like that's what happened all
7 the time. I don't know if it was just that my stomach
8 had shrunk, because often we were going for days without
9 food. Most times at the weekend we wouldn't get food
10 and we would be in our room the full weekend.

11 I can't remember a particular time when I was late
12 or after 5 but it happened regularly. If I was on
13 a punishment you wouldn't get your dinner. One time
14 I was brought down to have my dinner and the foster
15 father asked me a question and I made a gesture as if to
16 say 'mind your own business' and I got sent back up to
17 my bed without my dinner.

18 If any of us were punished we didn't get anything to
19 eat. No breakfast, nothing. If you were on
20 a punishment, you didn't get fed at all. The older
21 daughter worked at a Chinese so she would get in about
22 midnight and she would bring in food for them and they
23 would sit up. Because they stayed up really late
24 I remember at the weekends, every weekend, my brother
25 and the adopted daughter and me used to just get up in

1 the morning and the foster parents wouldn't get out of
2 their beds until after 12 so we weren't allowed to do
3 anything until they got up.

4 Me, my brother and the adopted daughter normally got
5 sent to our bed straight after dinner. That's just what
6 happened because I never finished my dinner. There is
7 only one time that I remember ever getting to stay up
8 after dinner in the living room with everyone else.

9 On that day I remember I was allowed to stay up late
10 and I was really favoured that day. The foster father
11 took me to the shops and bought me stuff. I remember at
12 night it was really late before I went to my bed. In
13 the morning I was the only one that got woke up for my
14 breakfast because the adopted daughter and my brother
15 were on punishment so they didn't get breakfast. I got
16 up and had my cereal and when I had finished I stole
17 another bowl of cereal. I got caught by the foster
18 mother and was sent to my bed on a punishment.

19 Sometimes I used to go down and steal the Chinese
20 food. I would sneak down and grab a handful of chow
21 mein and run back upstairs but never got caught. I was
22 starving and had hunger pains all the time and used to
23 drink water from the tap in the toilets. We were only
24 ever given water to drink and not milk. We were told
25 there was plenty of 'council juice' in the tap.

1 If you were punished on a Friday, sometimes you
2 wouldn't eat all weekend. We wouldn't get anything else
3 to eat until we went back to school on the Monday.
4 I just remember being hungry all the time and my brother
5 was starving. He's a lot bigger than me and he is a boy
6 so he was always stealing food constantly.

7 A big pile of food wrappers got found behind the
8 drawers because he used to steal food. We got caught
9 once because he stole me a Flake and I got bits of
10 chocolate on the carpet. They put pots and pans in the
11 cupboard to make a noise to stop him but my brother was
12 too fly for them and just opened the cupboard a wee bit
13 and put his hands in.

14 In the house you weren't allowed to go in the
15 kitchen and help yourself to something to eat from the
16 fridge.

17 I know that I had a medical every six months when
18 I was in the care system. The foster mother would take
19 me for the medical when I was with the foster parents
20 and it was organised through the social work. The
21 foster mother would take me but would try and do
22 everything in her power not to take me. As far as
23 I remember they just checked my body. They didn't check
24 me down there. I remember the foster mother arguing
25 with them about having to take me for medicals. I just

1 know this all from the records.

2 I don't know how they picked up when I had
3 a discharge, if the foster mother told them or if it was
4 because they have asked. They picked up on it and the
5 foster mother admitted she knew it was happening. It
6 was put down as being normal for children.

7 I don't know if the other time when I was bleeding
8 the foster mother told them about it because she thought
9 the doctor was going to examine me down below so she
10 told them about it just before my medical. The foster
11 mother told them a week before that I had been
12 self-abusing with a wooden spoon and a toothbrush and
13 had burst a blood vessel and that's why there was blood
14 in my pants.

15 They did take us on holiday. We all went to
16 Blackpool and Butlins and that was at the very end of
17 the placement. They must have hired another car to fit
18 us all in. At Butlins we were in a caravan. Me, my
19 brother and the adopted daughter went to Sunday School
20 every week as well.

21 I have no happy memories of these holidays or at any
22 time when I was in their house at all.

23 I only remember one Christmas Day when the foster
24 father, who didn't sleep in the marital bed, but slept
25 downstairs on the sofa, he barricaded himself in the

1 living room on Christmas Eve and slept until 1 o'clock
2 on Christmas afternoon so we couldn't get in to get our
3 presents. I remember I got a teddy and a colouring-in
4 set. I don't remember any other Christmases there.

5 The first birthday I was there I got beauty and the
6 best toys and a watch, but I gave it to one of my wee
7 boyfriends at school. I don't remember other birthdays
8 after that. They didn't do anything for our birthdays
9 but a woman who fostered us organised something for us
10 at the Family Centre. We had a cake there. At the
11 Family Centre they said my brother and I weren't dressed
12 properly for parties.

13 My brother and I would go to the Family Centre quite
14 regularly. It was organised by the woman who fostered
15 us but arranged by the social work. They had loads of
16 toys in the room there for us to play with and different
17 workers and we did arts and crafts with them. We went
18 there maybe every fortnight. Margaret Kerr the social
19 worker would take us to these things in her car.
20 I can't remember what day we went there but I remember
21 being there quite a lot.

22 Holiday times were the worst times for us because my
23 brother and I were in our rooms nearly all the time.
24 I think they were stricter with us because we weren't
25 going to school every day. They just didn't want us

1 involved in their lives.

2 I think the first couple of months the foster
3 parents were okay but to be honest I don't really
4 remember. They were horrible to me and my brother.
5 I don't know where to start. They weren't caring for
6 us. They would feed us sometimes and not feed us at
7 other times. They would do things with their own kids
8 but not do anything with us. The adopted son, adopted
9 daughter, me and my brother were treated different from
10 their own birth children. As I already said, if we were
11 punished for doing something on a Friday we might go the
12 whole weekend without anything to eat.

13 Sometimes me, the adopted daughter and my brother
14 would be playing upstairs and the foster mother would
15 come in and batter us. The adopted daughter and my
16 brother and me were always sent to our room and we got
17 different food from them and any treats were never for
18 us, it was always their own children. I would normally
19 get punished for being cheeky, for not coming in on time
20 or for fighting with each other. If you answered them
21 back, you just got put to your room. Everything was
22 just getting put up to your room.

23 If we were sent to our rooms, I was sent to mine,
24 the adopted daughter to hers and my brother to his. We
25 usually waited until the dad was out and we would run

1 about into each other's room.

2 We had to stay in our rooms until they got up in the
3 morning, but me, the adopted daughter and my brother
4 used to sneak the Lego out of the room so we could play
5 with it.

6 When we got caught with the Lego that was enough for
7 us to be on punishment again for the rest of the
8 weekend. Sometimes me and my brother would sneak out of
9 our rooms and go to the adopted daughter's and play with
10 the Lego in there. My brother had toys in his room but
11 it was all like action figures that the foster parents
12 had from when they were younger and they were all set
13 out and my brother used to always get into trouble for
14 touching them but he was in his room all the time and
15 they were there so he used to always touch them. I used
16 to knock them down.

17 We spent a lot of time in our rooms at the foster
18 parents' and we never had any toys to play with, just
19 the toys we brought with us. I had a phone I loved and
20 a big yellow teapot and the Lego but I think that may
21 have been theirs. I didn't have any toys in my room,
22 none at all, all the toys were in the adopted daughter's
23 and the birth daughter's room sitting like ornaments,
24 just sitting round. I didn't get to play with the toys.

25 Me, my brother and the adopted daughter used to

1 sneak the stuff out of the room when we were sneaking
2 about upstairs we weren't supposed to so if we got
3 caught we would be on punishment. When me, my brother
4 and the adopted daughter were left upstairs and the
5 foster mother was drinking she would catch us in each
6 other's rooms and she would come in and hit us.

7 The foster mother used to tie our room doors
8 together with her husband's ties just to keep us in our
9 rooms. My room door handle was tied to my brother's
10 room and the adopted daughter's room was tied to the
11 toilet door. Me, my brother and the adopted daughter
12 used to try to pull the doors to go to the toilet and
13 stuff like that and then I wouldn't be able to get out
14 so I would just pee myself in the room. One occasion
15 I got into trouble for peeing myself when the foster
16 father came back and I said, 'What was I supposed to
17 do?' I don't remember saying this to him but I remember
18 he was angry that I had peed myself and that we had
19 stretched his ties. The foster parents tied our doors
20 together nearly every night. That was the only time
21 I remember him being angry about his ties. I always
22 cried because we were always left locked in our rooms.

23 One time the older daughter slapped me on the leg
24 because I stole her perfume which I had given to my
25 friends at school. I took it to school in my bag and

1 she noticed they were missing and she slapped me on the
2 leg. I had a swollen hand print on my leg. I don't
3 remember the foster father ever hitting me but I saw him
4 hitting the adopted son.

5 I remember getting hit by the foster mother for
6 running in the hall and making a noise. You used to
7 hear her coming upstairs and we used to run and hide.
8 I would go into my bed right to the back so she couldn't
9 get me. I was in the lower bunk. Once she grabbed me
10 by the ankles and hung me upside down.

11 The foster mother was thin but I was tiny and she
12 held me by one ankle and hit me on the legs with
13 a slipper or a hairbrush or her hand. She would hit me
14 with the back of the brush, the same way she would whack
15 me when you weren't staying still when she was brushing
16 your hair. I have only one memory of the foster mother
17 dangling me by the ankle and hitting me. Usually it
18 would be a slipper which she hit you with and she would
19 hit you several times.

20 The foster mother hit the adopted daughter with
21 a dog chain. I was in the adopted daughter's room and
22 the foster mother must have heard us and she came
23 running upstairs. I can't remember if she hit us all or
24 not but I slid down between the two single beds and the
25 foster mother mustn't have known I was there. The

1 adopted daughter was above me and she was lying on the
2 bed and she peed in my mouth. I heard her crying.
3 I didn't actually see the dog chain and I didn't see her
4 getting hit, but I heard it.

5 Obviously the stuff that I remember wasn't every
6 single night but that's just the way I remember because
7 I don't remember there being any good. I just remember
8 we were always in our room and they were always out and
9 the abuse that we were suffering when we were left with
10 the foster mother. It seemed like it was every night
11 that the foster mother was left with my brother and the
12 adopted daughter and me. We would always carry on and
13 she would hit us. I don't know where the foster father
14 was every night but he was out with the other two or
15 else just out but he was just never in the house at
16 night.

17 My memory is just that it felt like we were
18 outsiders. It was like me, the adopted daughter and my
19 brother were a team and we were always together. We
20 were always treated different. The adopted son wasn't
21 included in the foster parents' life but because he was
22 older so he was out and about doing his own thing. The
23 foster parents had a different relationship with their
24 own children and adopted son was different again.

25 The sexual abuse against me was committed by the

1 adopted son who was also later reported to the police
2 for the abuse of my brother and the adopted daughter.
3 When the three of us, me, my brother and the adopted
4 daughter, were sent to our rooms, that's when the
5 adopted son the abuser would come up and abuse us. We
6 hated it and we were upset. I can't remember the first
7 time he abused me and I really don't know if it happened
8 several times or just the once before I told the prefect
9 at school.

10 One incident happened in the bathroom upstairs on
11 the bathmat. The adopted son was touching me and tried
12 to have intercourse with me but I couldn't. I can't
13 remember how we came about being in the bathroom.
14 Normally the abuse from the adopted son happened in my
15 bedroom. I can't remember how I came to be lying on my
16 back on the bath mat. I don't know what I was wearing.
17 He was touching me down below and I didn't have any
18 pants on. I can't remember if he took my pants off me
19 or if I wasn't wearing them but I didn't have any on.
20 I don't know if he said anything to me. He was touching
21 my vagina and was lying on top of me and trying to have
22 intercourse with me. That was his routine. He would
23 try and have sex with me. The adopted son tried to
24 insert his penis in me. I knew it wasn't right.
25 I don't remember feeling anything but I know the adopted

1 son was trying to have intercourse with me. I know from
2 the records that I described that the adopted son's
3 penis was different from my brother's in the bath
4 because it had grew.

5 I can't remember if I was upset or anything by what
6 the adopted son was doing. I don't really know how it
7 ended but I ended up in my room speaking to the adopted
8 daughter and she asked me why me and the adopted son
9 were in the toilet together. She told me she had seen
10 me lying on the floor when she looked under the door but
11 not anything else. I am not sure if she said to me then
12 or if it was later that the adopted son had done stuff
13 to her as well. I wouldn't normally be in the bathroom
14 at the same time as the adopted son. The adopted
15 daughter's room is right next door to the bathroom so
16 that's how she knew me and the adopted son were in the
17 bathroom together. I can't remember much about my
18 discussion with her. I am fairly certain that this was
19 not the first time he had done this to me.

20 From the records I can say that I told a prefect at
21 St Mary's school in 1992 around my sixth birthday.
22 I told the girl prefect in school that the adopted son
23 had touched me in private places and that I knew it
24 wasn't right. I remember telling the prefect this but
25 I can't remember what else I told her. I really don't

1 know how soon after this incident happened that I told
2 her. I didn't mention anything to her about the adopted
3 daughter having seen it. This prefect may have been in
4 Primary 6 or 7 but I don't know her name. I think this
5 prefect was looking after me and was in the playground
6 making sure we were all right. I can't remember the
7 exact words or how it came about.

8 After I told the prefect I went home from school and
9 was in the kitchen with the foster mother when someone
10 phoned. It was a friend of the foster mother's and she
11 was a health visitor. I think her daughter was a friend
12 of the prefect. I don't know who the health visitor was
13 but she told the foster mother about what I had told the
14 prefect. I don't think the prefect told anyone in
15 authority.

16 When the foster mother came off the phone she just
17 came over and slapped me across the face and it was
18 a hard slap and this was quite unusual and I was
19 shocked. I was upset and I was crying. She said, 'What
20 have you been saying about my adopted son in school?'
21 I told her what he was doing and she said I was nothing
22 but a liar. I said to her to ask the adopted daughter
23 because she knew. Other people were there but I don't
24 know who. The foster father and adopted son weren't
25 there. The foster mother asked the adopted daughter and

1 the adopted daughter agreed that she had been looking
2 under the bathroom door and that what I said was right.
3 The foster mother took the adopted daughter upstairs and
4 went into the foster mother's room. I think it was just
5 the foster mother and the adopted daughter. It felt
6 like it was forever they were there.

7 I stayed downstairs but I don't know where. They
8 came back downstairs and the adopted daughter said it
9 never happened and that I had blackmailed her. The
10 adopted daughter denied the adopted son had done
11 anything to me. She didn't expand any more. The foster
12 mother then told the social work her side of the story,
13 according to the records. Everyone else in the house
14 fell out with me over it and I remember the adopted son
15 being really nasty to me as if I had betrayed him. It
16 was harder for me in the house after that.

17 The headteacher from the school came late one night
18 to the house but I don't know why they were there.
19 I don't know how close this was after this happened but
20 I thought it was really strange that the headteacher
21 would come at night.

22 The social workers never spoke to me about it, they
23 just took the foster mother's word that the foster
24 mother had spoken to me about it and they just used the
25 fact that I might have been abused in the previous

1 foster placement I was in before and this was me
2 reliving this abuse and mentioned the adopted son's name
3 as an accident instead of my previous adoptive and
4 foster father's name. I don't think I was ever
5 questioned by the social work. I just knew that the
6 house wasn't right after that incident.

7 The adopted son continued to abuse me after I had
8 told the prefect and I remember at least three or four
9 occasions when he did more stuff to me. He would come
10 into my room, lift up my nightie and try and put his
11 fingers in me, then try to have sex with me but couldn't
12 do it. One time he tried to do my back passage as well.
13 He just bent me over and he got me to sook his willy but
14 I just don't know when exactly. I know that when he was
15 trying to get me to sook his willy he ejaculated all
16 over the floor cos I got in to trouble for the marks on
17 the floor, but obviously the foster parents must have
18 known what the marks were.

19 It usually happened in the evening. One time it
20 happened when the older daughter was in her bed. The
21 adopted son sneaked into my room and she was asleep in
22 the bunk bed above me. I normally wore a nightie at
23 bedtime and I think I would wear pants. The adopted son
24 would lie on top of me and try and have sex with me.
25 One time I woke up and he was touching me down below and

1 I didn't have any pants on.

2 I would normally be in my bed and that's when the
3 adopted son would sneak into my room and the majority of
4 the time he would leave the door open. Often it was
5 early in the evening, then he used to go out after. He
6 would bring us biscuits later so we were happy because
7 we were getting something to eat.

8 The adopted son used his fingers and definitely his
9 penis and it was erect. It was sore. I don't think he
10 ever actually penetrated me but there was pressure and
11 he did damage me. I don't think he could ever get his
12 penis in. I think once he ejaculated on me because
13 again I know that from the records I told them that
14 I was sticky down below. When he tried to enter my back
15 passage it was sore and I shouted to him to stop as he
16 was hurting me. When he tried to have sex with me at
17 the front I shouted out to leave me, but he just told me
18 to shush. There was only one time that I remember he
19 tried to enter my back passage.

20 I don't think anybody heard because the foster
21 mother used to sit downstairs the majority of the time
22 with her music up loud so the adopted son just had free
23 reign of the house to do what he wanted. The foster
24 father was out sometimes with the others, but he was
25 probably in the house sometimes too.

1 After I told the prefect it was horrible because
2 everybody in the house was against me. The foster
3 parents even tried to turn my brother against me. When
4 I went to the hospital they made out that my brother was
5 happy that I wasn't there because he wasn't going to get
6 taken away from this loving family because of the things
7 I was saying. They drummed it into my brother that
8 nobody else would want us and that my brother and
9 I would get separated.

10 Around Christmas 1992 I remember foster parents came
11 upstairs. I am sure it was nighttime when this happened
12 because it was dark. Anyone coming up the stairs would
13 be able to see into our room because our bedroom door
14 faced the stairs. The adopted son was lying on top of
15 me on the bed and the door was open. She started
16 shouting and bawling. I don't know what they've said to
17 the adopted son but they've told me to get down the
18 stairs.

19 I can't remember how the adopted son came to be in
20 my room and the first thing I do remember about this
21 incident is the foster parents being at the top of the
22 stairs and they were really angry and then sitting
23 downstairs at the Christmas tree. The adopted son was
24 lying on top of me and trying to have sex with me. It
25 all happened really fast and I think the adopted son

1 realised he had been caught and he jumped away. The
2 only reason that I can remember it was Christmas was
3 because the seat they made me sit on was behind the
4 Christmas tree and I couldn't see the telly and that's
5 all I could care about, that they had sat me in this
6 chair for ages and I couldn't see the telly.

7 The foster parents just said to me that if anybody
8 was to find out about it then they would call me a dirty
9 wee girl and my brother and I would get separated and
10 that I would get punished. The foster mother started
11 shouting at me. I think she was dealing with me and the
12 foster father was dealing with the adopted son. The
13 foster mother was telling me I was a dirty wee girl and
14 wasn't to tell anybody or I would get taken of there and
15 I would get punished for this. The foster mother said
16 I would be in a lot of trouble and I was dirty. Looking
17 back, I got the blame for it as if I was the abuser.
18 The foster parents chucked the adopted son out of the
19 house but not for long, maybe a couple of days, then he
20 came back and the abuse continued but I can't remember
21 how soon after.

22 The foster mother often said that me and my brother
23 would get separated. I remember I was angry and upset
24 that she called me a liar. After that I just thought
25 that was what happens in here. I felt like I was dirty.

1 In March 1993 I was admitted to Monklands Hospital
2 because I had serious problems going to the toilet.
3 I was in hospital for 13 days. When I was there they
4 identified that I had psychological problems and that
5 I had a 'big bag of worries'.

6 There was no real change after the hospital. It was
7 just always the same pattern. I wasn't getting fed and
8 the adopted son was still abusing me. It happened for
9 the next two years. The only time it didn't happen was
10 when he was chucked out of the house or when he was in
11 jail. I know he was committing crime outside and
12 I think he also had a girlfriend.

13 I don't think he ever managed to rape me and
14 although he tried to enter me he never did. The damage
15 was caused by his fingers because he managed to get his
16 fingers inside me. He did lie on top of me and he did
17 try to penetrate me, but never managed. There was only
18 one incident I remember when he got me to masturbate
19 him, and I think that was when he ejaculated on the
20 carpet. I think he did masturbate himself. I don't
21 know how often he abused me. It wasn't every night but
22 it felt like it was every night. The abuse didn't get
23 any worse and there is only that one time when the
24 adopted son tried to anally penetrate me. This
25 continued until we left the foster parents.

1 I don't really remember ever being really shocked.
2 I think the whole set up with the family just didn't
3 feel right because there was no secrecy about what he
4 was doing. The adopted son wasn't shutting doors so it
5 was as if it was allowed. That's the way I felt. The
6 foster parents never ever done anything about it, even
7 when they did catch him they still never done anything.
8 We weren't protected and we knew we couldn't go to them
9 and tell them everything that was going on.

10 There was one day, I remember it was the same
11 morning that I told you about earlier when I stole the
12 bowl of cereal in the morning and the foster mother sent
13 up to my bed. The foster father's room is next to my
14 room and the foster father was lying on his bed and he
15 said to me to come in to where he was. He had his
16 trousers on and his big fat belly was out. He was
17 sitting on the side of the bed. I was only there for
18 a couple of minutes and I sat beside him and he grabbed
19 my hand and put it down his trousers.

20 All I can think now is that the foster father must
21 have had warts or something because that's what I could
22 feel. I had warts on my knee when I was younger so
23 I knew what warts were and that's what I felt. I knew
24 what I was touching because of the adopted son, but the
25 foster father was totally different from the adopted son

1 because he wasn't aroused, he wasn't hard, it just felt
2 like a wee wrinkly warty disgusting thing.

3 The foster father was wearing trousers. He always
4 had his trousers on. He wore them for weeks at a time.
5 He was stinking, disgusting to the extent the social
6 work picked up on the smell when they came to the house.
7 The house was stinking. It felt like as soon as my hand
8 was down his trousers the foster mother walked in the
9 room and then she shouted and bawled that I had stolen
10 cereal and was to get put to my bed. She obviously seen
11 what happened but she didn't say anything. I don't know
12 but I think she knew and she was maybe jealous.

13 That was the only time the foster father ever did
14 anything to me and I'm not aware of him doing anything
15 to anyone else in the house.

16 I have told some of my friends about this incident
17 but never told anybody else including the police. The
18 foster father is dead now so that's how I never wanted
19 to bring it up because I thought what's the point.
20 Before I would have said what had happened but I didn't
21 think I would have been believed but now I have my
22 social work records and it's documented about him not
23 being right. I wish I did years ago because he will
24 never suffer now. I don't remember ever telling anybody
25 about getting hit by the foster mother.

1 One time I went into my brother's room and the
2 adopted son had my brother bent over on the ladders on
3 the bunk beds. I can't remember when this was but
4 I think it was through the day. The room was dark but
5 I think it was because the blinds were shut. My brother
6 is my soft spot and I get upset talking about him.
7 I went into his room by chance. I was not aware before
8 then that anything was happening between my brother and
9 the adopted son. I was shocked.

10 My brother was bent over the ladders of the bunk
11 beds and I think the adopted son was inside him.
12 I don't think my brother was wearing any clothes. The
13 adopted son maybe had trousers at his ankles, that was
14 his normal. I'm not aware of my brother saying
15 anything. I just left the room. I knew it wasn't
16 right. I think the adopted son was penetrating my
17 brother because knowing the actions now I know they were
18 the actions of someone having sex. The adopted son was
19 moving backwards and forwards but I was only there for
20 a split second. I couldn't see my brother's reaction to
21 what was happening.

22 My brother didn't like me for saying it had happened
23 because he was now going to get taken away even though
24 that would be the best thing that could have happened.
25 I don't know if anything else happened with my brother.

1 Seeing what happened with my brother has affected me
2 more now than what happened to me.

3 My brother's room was full of flies so he was
4 getting hit by the adopted son and birth son because he
5 was causing the flies but they wouldn't change his bed
6 covers so he was lying in peed bed covers for days.
7 I saw them both hitting my brother. They hit him all
8 the time. I didn't see the foster father hit him but he
9 did deliberately shut my brother's finger in the door
10 one time on purpose. My brother was standing with his
11 hand on the door and the foster father shut it. He had
12 to go to hospital and he still has the scar. That was
13 in 1994 or 1995. I don't know why the foster father did
14 it.

15 We knew what the adopted son was doing wasn't right
16 but didn't see him as being the enemy. The mum and dad
17 were the enemy. Although what he was doing was wrong,
18 the adopted son was providing us with food so he wasn't
19 totally bad. I just remember the dread when he used to
20 come in the room and there was always that fear of me
21 and my brother being separated.

22 The foster parents didn't say good morning to us
23 when we got up or kiss us before school or greet us when
24 we got home from school. I don't think they were
25 capable of loving.

1 The social work were brainwashing us that they were
2 going to find another family for us but they apparently
3 couldn't find another family, that's why we were left
4 there so long.

5 I think I've told you everything that I remember but
6 I'm sure there are lots of other things I don't
7 remember.

8 I used to see Margaret Kerr, the social worker, but
9 I never told her anything, and no one ever spoke to me
10 about what I had said about the adopted son. I never
11 told anyone else. I don't think I told anybody else in
12 authority about the other things that had been going on
13 in the house, about not being fed, getting hit with
14 a brush, being sent to and locked in our room.

15 As soon as we left the foster parents I told about
16 the abuse that had happened and they all believed me and
17 I drew a picture of the adopted son's willie. They must
18 have known that a wee lassie wouldn't know that.
19 I don't know why they couldn't have done that when I was
20 in the house.

21 My brother has never told about the abuse that
22 happened to him. It was me that told, and the adopted
23 son admitted to it. My brother always totally denied it
24 and he never knew that I had seen him. My brother
25 wouldn't have seen me there. The adopted son pled

1 guilty so I didn't actually have to give evidence and he
2 got sentenced to two and a half years but only served
3 about a year and a half.

4 I had to go to Monklands Hospital in March 1993 when
5 I was at the foster parents'. I couldn't do the toilet
6 and I was retaining my faeces and urine and had to get
7 my bowels evacuated. That's when they picked up there
8 was something wrong with this wee girl. It says in the
9 records that I was not right in the ward and that the
10 problems I was having in my stomach were emotional and
11 I was to get a child psychiatrist. I was in hospital
12 for 13 days and they said I had problems with my bladder
13 and then that I wasn't eating on the ward. On the final
14 day I ate a full meal and the staff were so proud of me.

15 They put me to a child psychiatrist. All through
16 the files the foster parents were doing everything in
17 their power not to take us to the child psychiatrist and
18 everything in their power not to leave us alone with
19 them saying that I needed them to be there even though
20 social work were documenting that 'Carrie' is a lot
21 better when the foster parents are not there.

22 They said that while I was on the ward the
23 nightmares were telling a bigger picture and because of
24 this and through conversations they believed that I had
25 psychological problems and that something emotional was

1 happening inside. They called it 'I kept my bag of
2 worries in my stomach'. The hospital staff said this.
3 They gave me a book something about a big bag of worries
4 that they kept in their belly and made them not well.

5 I don't think I told anyone in there about my
6 worries. I think they did refer me to a psychologist.
7 People did come and speak to me in the hospital but
8 I don't know who they were but when I was there I never
9 told anybody about what had happened. The foster
10 parents did visit me sometimes in the hospital.

11 When I got out of hospital, I can't remember how
12 soon after but I started going to see Chris Lieberman,
13 a psychologist, and the foster parents used to take me
14 to see her. The appointments were all spaced out
15 because the foster parents were cancelling a lot of the
16 appointments. I don't think I ever told Chris Lieberman
17 what had happened.

18 The foster parents took us to the appointments with
19 the psychologist and they were supposed to bring
20 everyone, the whole family, but they only brought me and
21 my brother. The foster parents were totally sabotaging
22 the whole process. They didn't see the need for the
23 process for something that was physical. They couldn't
24 see the importance of all their family being there that
25 they wanted to speak to them all. They were just

1 cancelling and I know in the house it was drama on the
2 days of the appointments because no one wanted to go to
3 these appointments. At the initial sessions they wanted
4 to meet everybody from the family but it was a couple of
5 sessions in before they got everybody. Then sometimes
6 they would want me and my brother and sometimes they
7 would want the adopted son to be at the session, but
8 I don't know why.

9 Chris Lieberman and her team watched us play and
10 asked how things were. I never disclosed to anyone at
11 these sessions that I was being abused and I never told
12 them about any other abuse that was going on in the
13 house. Apparently I just sat silent on the floor in the
14 sessions unless it was play time I would play with the
15 toys but if it came to talking or anything like that
16 I would clam up and say nothing, but in the records it
17 says that the psychologist or psychiatrist had picked up
18 on it that the foster mother was silencing me so they
19 were wanting her left out of the sessions. The sessions
20 went on for some time after I left the foster parents'
21 house.

22 The foster parents controlled us and that was it.
23 From the records they just silenced us completely. They
24 wanted to control who we were with and who we were
25 talking to. I think because they were doing all this

1 stuff they were trying to cover it up. We just weren't
2 the same people. Me and my brother were going to child
3 psychiatrists and stuff like that. The psychiatrists
4 even picked up on it that the family were silencing us.
5 They didn't like the dynamics of the family.

6 My brother was peeing the bed, I know that, and
7 stealing food. My brother peed himself until he was
8 about 12 or 13.

9 I remember at Sunday School we told lies about how
10 often we bathed. They often asked everybody how often
11 do you bath and me and the adopted daughter said every
12 second day, but my brother said don't tell lies, we only
13 have a bath on a Sunday. We were dead embarrassed
14 because he total everybody at Sunday School we only had
15 a bath once a week.

16 I still don't understand why the social work, who
17 suspected I was being abused, didn't pursue anything
18 when I was in the house and according to the records
19 they had the evidence but didn't want to upset the
20 family by questioning them about it. I just think
21 that's disgusting. In July 1995 there was a panel
22 meeting for me and my brother to leave and the social
23 work said in an eight hour panel that there were no
24 adverse reports about the foster parents. The records
25 say otherwise.

1 As for the foster parents, they just didn't protect
2 us and then with the drinking and the fighting and the
3 foster father was controlling and we were just never
4 given anything. They tried to cling to us, they just
5 lied that we were Catholics and couldn't go to another
6 family that wasn't Catholic. It was really hard to find
7 another Catholic family. Why the social work didn't
8 pick up on that either. They weren't taking us to
9 church. We went to Sunday School. They were kidding on
10 they were taking us to church so they could keep us
11 because we were worth them a certain amount of money
12 a year. Me and my brother lived in fear that we were
13 there permanently.

14 I don't remember ever getting any love or any
15 affection from either of the foster parents. We refused
16 to call them mum and dad but sometimes they told the
17 social work that me and my brother did and the social
18 work took from that that we loved the family.

19 From the records it says I used to sit on the foster
20 father's knee sometimes and touch his inner thigh
21 apparently. The social work have said that the foster
22 mother used to get me to sit on her knee when they were
23 there and was saying 'good girl, good girl' and this was
24 to prevent me from talking.

25 Their own kids were older so weren't that sort of

1 huggy way. In some ways I feel they had a good
2 relationship with their children but other ways they
3 didn't. Their own birth son died of a drugs overdose.
4 The things they must have seen must have affected them.

5 We left those foster parents because we were
6 supposed to be leaving anyway. They found a family for
7 us because they were looking for an adopted family for
8 us, a Catholic family. Initially there was an incident
9 in their house that involved their adopted son and
10 adopted son which meant there was a delay in us going
11 there.

12 My brother and I went to a panel and this was the
13 first we'd been to for a while. This one was in 1995.
14 The purpose of this panel was to decide what was going
15 to happen to us because the two families, the current
16 foster parents and the new foster parents, were fighting
17 for us. At this hearing it was decided that we should
18 move in with the new foster parents.

19 We went home with the existing foster parents so we
20 could get our stuff together. I think we went to the
21 new foster parents the next day. I was apparently
22 acting sad but deep down I was happy to be moving. The
23 new house had two dogs and a cat so I was happy.

24 We were at the first home and after a year in 1997
25 we moved to a bigger house [REDACTED] They

1 still live there.

2 The new foster parents had an adopted daughter,
3 an adopted son and two older adopted children,
4 a daughter and a son, who had left the house. When we
5 moved in, the younger adopted daughter would have been
6 about 14 and the younger adopted son about 15 and I was
7 nearly 8. My brother had just turned 10. They lived in
8 Clydebank. The foster mother worked as a childminder,
9 the foster father worked with something to do with
10 semiconductors. The foster parents weren't man and wife
11 like they told the social work. They made out like they
12 were mum and dad and a loving family, but they hated
13 each other and weren't together. The foster father
14 didn't want the kids, never wanted any of us. The
15 foster mother did.

16 When we were at the second house the foster parents
17 lost their licence to child mind so they then took in
18 more foster kids so there was a regular turnaround.

19 It was when we were at the new foster parents that
20 my brother was abused.

21 The younger adopted son had been in loads of
22 trouble, allegations that him and his pals had done
23 stuff to the younger adopted daughter when she was
24 younger. That's why there was the delay in us moving in
25 with them before. The adopted daughter has learning

1 difficulties so although they believed what she was
2 saying to some extent there wasn't enough to take them
3 to court.

4 There were about seven children in the house most of
5 the time and at the weekend another boy would come for
6 respite. There were other children who came and went
7 from the house because the foster parents did
8 childminding.

9 I shared a room with the younger adopted daughter
10 and my brother shared a room with the younger adopted
11 son. The foster parents had their own bedroom but the
12 foster mother never slept in it and she slept in the
13 living room.

14 We didn't see much of the foster father because he
15 was either at work or was out drinking.

16 We moved school to Clydebank, I was in Primary 5, my
17 brother was in Primary 6. When we moved in, my brother
18 would be 10 and the adopted son was 15.

19 Me and my brother ran away a lot when we were at the
20 foster parents, both the new foster parents and the
21 previous foster parents. When we were at the new foster
22 parents it was just to the neighbours across the road
23 and their kids gave us eggs and we used to egg the
24 foster parents' windows.

25 One time me, the adopted daughter and my brother ran

1 away and slept in a close overnight and we got taken
2 into a house but we got taken back. I got the blame
3 from the foster mother, even though I was the youngest.

4 When I was at the new foster parents' I thought that
5 my treatment was normal but realise now it wasn't right.
6 If you had done anything you weren't spoken to in the
7 house and everyone would fall out with you. The way the
8 foster mother works, there is always someone in the
9 house who is the baddie and nobody else in the house is
10 allowed to talk to the baddie.

11 Me and my brother still felt like we were outsiders
12 when we were in this house. When we first moved in we
13 were running away all the time. There was an incident
14 when she tried to hit me with a belt and I ran away.
15 That was almost as soon as we got there. We used to go
16 to the neighbour's house across the road because
17 I remember she gave us eggs and we egged the foster
18 parents' windows.

19 The foster mother used to slap me across the face,
20 but if other people were there she would slap your bum.
21 She was hitting the adopted daughter and she was hitting
22 my brother. Usually it was a slap, quite a hard slap.
23 I didn't really feel like it was abuse because I was
24 used to so much worse, although I knew she shouldn't be
25 doing that. When the foster mother tried to hit me with

1 a belt I had been arguing with her. I think I was being
2 cheeky. I remember saying to her that she was stealing
3 other people's bairns because she couldn't have her own.

4 The foster mother was strict in her own way but she
5 was evil because she turned it on and off when she
6 wanted. She didn't act like that in front of people.
7 She would only act like that when people weren't there.
8 The social work think the sun shines out of her butt but
9 it's not true. She was nasty and as soon as the social
10 work went away she was horrible. The foster mother did
11 more for her childminding kids than she did for us, so
12 we were more like skivvies to the childminding kids,
13 other foster kids and kids there for respite although
14 she showed us affection in some ways.

15 The foster mother was horrible to the adopted
16 daughter, called her an idiot, a retard, ugly and lots
17 of other things. The adopted daughter has been through
18 a hard time in that house.

19 When I was there, we were all sitting at the table
20 one day and we were tasting the vinegar in the cap.
21 Just as I drank it, the foster mother came in and caught
22 me so she slapped me and then poured the vinegar over my
23 head. I ran out of the house in my bare feet along to
24 my friend's house along the road. I told my friend's
25 mum what happened but she would normally just take me

1 back to the foster parents.

2 The foster father hated us. He just never liked us.
3 He hated all the kids. We were not allowed to speak
4 when he was in the house. We were told shush. He was
5 quite a drinker, he used to drink whisky. You weren't
6 allowed to speak if he was in the house. He didn't do
7 any disciplining in the house but he hit my brother
8 a few times in the later years. He really took nothing
9 to do with us.

10 The foster parents just weren't nice people and
11 didn't really show us any affection, and it was obvious
12 that the foster mother cared more for the kids she was
13 childminding.

14 The adopted son used to beat my brother up because
15 my brother used to wet the bed. The foster mother was
16 aware that the adopted son was doing it because she
17 often split them up and as my brother got older the
18 beatings got worse but she didn't do anything about it.
19 My brother never hit the adopted son back, he just
20 wouldn't. He never hit anybody even if he was being
21 bullied. I saw the adopted son hitting my brother and
22 he was also hitting the adopted daughter but not as bad
23 as he was hitting my brother. He hit me as well, just
24 kind of ruffled me up. Sometimes when I was in my room
25 I often heard my brother squealing when he was in his

1 room and that was when he was getting beaten up by the
2 adopted son.

3 Once when I heard my brother squealing I saw the
4 foster mother go into the room and I saw the adopted son
5 battering my brother. My brother had been grounded and
6 wasn't allowed to switch the television on but he
7 sneaked the television on, so when the adopted son came
8 home he battered my brother. I can't remember what he
9 was doing to him at that time but I have seen him at
10 other times jumping on my brother's head, punching him.
11 I would usually just see the aftermath.

12 When we moved house, the beatings against my brother
13 got worse, probably because they were both getting older
14 and bigger. The adopted son was also starting to take
15 drugs and turned really nasty. I also think he had
16 something over the foster parents and they were
17 protecting him. The foster mother was well aware that
18 the adopted son was beating my brother and she often
19 stopped him if he was really hurting him. The foster
20 mother was often there when my brother got beaten up.

21 The foster parents must have been aware that the
22 adopted son was taking drugs. He came into the house
23 some times and he was out of his face either on drink or
24 drugs. They didn't do anything to protect my brother or
25 me and my brother regularly got beaten up by the adopted

1 son.

2 Once my bed was covered with blood and I didn't see
3 it but the adopted son had hit my brother on the nose
4 with a ginger bottle. His nose was burst open. He
5 didn't go to hospital and my brother still has a mark.
6 The foster mother would have been aware and sometimes
7 she would stop the adopted son but they would protect
8 him. My brother has scars all over his face from
9 getting beat up by the adopted son.

10 The foster mother was always there because she never
11 went anywhere so she was aware of everything that went
12 on. If she didn't stop the adopted son from hitting my
13 brother I think the adopted son would have killed him.

14 Sometimes the foster mother would call her eldest
15 son and get him to take the younger adopted son out of
16 the house for a while until things calmed down. Other
17 times they would be separated and sleep in different
18 rooms. Although I have seen her pulling the adopted son
19 off my brother, she always denies that the adopted son
20 has ever assaulted my brother.

21 The adopted son hit me a few times, just really
22 pulling my hair and stuff like that but nothing like
23 what he used to do to my brother. The foster father
24 never hit me but I did see him hitting my brother.

25 Once when my brother was 15 he stole £5 and the

1 foster mother slapped him on his back several times and
2 he still had marks some weeks later. She tried to take
3 the belt off the trousers to hit him with but couldn't
4 manage. The adopted son came in and battered my brother
5 too, then when the foster father came in, and when he
6 was told about it, he went upstairs and punched my
7 brother in the belly. I saw this happening.

8 When I was 12 years old and still at the foster
9 parents I had managed to find my mum so I was staying
10 with her. One time I was there for about 12 days and
11 the foster mother never reported the fact I was missing
12 to the social work or anybody else. They found out when
13 my mum went to the social work department trying to get
14 money for looking after me and she told them she had
15 been taking me places but the social work realised that
16 my mum had given up on us years before and that we were
17 supposed to be at the foster carers'.

18 When I was about 12 my stay with the foster parents
19 came to an end and I went to a children's home. I would
20 be allowed out of the home at the weekend and I would go
21 back and stay with the foster mother just so as I could
22 see my pals.

23 Once when I went to the foster mother's at the
24 weekend I was asleep at the bottom of the bed along with
25 two girls who were at the top of the bed. At this time

1 they were about aged two and five. We were all sleeping
2 and I got woken up by the adopted son who was steaming
3 and had come into the room and was lying in the bed and
4 was dry humping the five-year-old girl. By this I mean
5 he had all his clothes on and the girl had her
6 bedclothes on and he was lying on top of her and was
7 doing the movements as if he was having sex with her.
8 They both had their clothes on. He was like in
9 a drunken sleep and I told the girl to come up to me and
10 she did and she stamped on the adopted son's head. By
11 that time he was sleeping and he never woke up. I think
12 he lay there all night. I told the foster mother the
13 next day and she just brushed me aside as if I was
14 lying. I can't really remember but I think he was still
15 there when we woke up in the morning. I am sure that he
16 was so drunk he had no idea what he was doing.

17 Another time, a friend who was 14 stayed some time
18 and the adopted son had sex one night with her but she
19 was willing. I was in the room but I left when they
20 were at it. One time one of the other kids found some
21 hash in the adopted son's room and the foster parents
22 were aware but they didn't do anything about it.

23 According to my records we gone taken back to the
24 foster parents to try again. When we were there, the
25 foster mother slapped me on the face so I hit her with

1 a phone. I was also cheeky to the adopted daughter.
2 When the adopted son came back he pulled my hair and was
3 banging my head off the top of the stairs and nearly
4 ripped my earring out and it was bleeding. He hit my
5 brother, then he chased the both of us out of the house
6 threatening us with a knife. The foster mother was
7 there and saw all of this.

8 The police got involved and we gave statements and
9 they would have seen the marks on our faces but nothing
10 ever happened as far as I'm aware. The foster mother
11 told them that she had never known the adopted son to
12 hit anybody and they must have believed her. We were
13 allowed to stay at my mum's for a while until they
14 sorted things out but we didn't go back to the foster
15 parents after this incident.

16 Not before we left the foster parents ..."

17 I think it might be intended to be, "Not long before
18 we left the foster parents ..."

19 LADY SMITH: That makes sense.

20 MS RATTRAY: "... we actually got adopted by them. I think
21 the foster mother held off as long as possible so they
22 got more money. I was aware that we were getting our
23 names changed too and I became known by their surname.
24 My brother changed his name too. I am not aware of
25 anyone coming out to see us about being adopted. I just

1 remember me and my brother were quite happy at the
2 thought of becoming part of a family. I think we might
3 have gone out for something to eat to celebrate, but
4 I am not sure.

5 When we were removed from their home, my brother was
6 given a choice because he must have been nearly 16. He
7 got to choose whether he wanted to come with me or stay
8 with my mum. He chose to stay with our mum. I told the
9 social work that I didn't want to move from my pals and
10 Margaret Kerr the social worker told me the home I was
11 going to was only ten minutes away from the foster
12 parents so not far from my pals. I went in a car but
13 she took me to Blairvadach Children's Home, which was
14 miles away near Helensburgh. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

15 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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2 The only time we reported anything about the new
3 foster parents to the police was when the adopted son
4 assaulted me and my brother and he threatened us with
5 a knife.

6 I used to phone Childline regularly when we were
7 there but they didn't do anything about it. I think
8 they used to think we were at it. Sometimes I phoned
9 when things didn't go right or if I didn't get my own
10 way or if there was an argument or a fight, and they
11 probably got fed up with me calling them.

12 I often called Margaret Kerr, the social worker,
13 when my brother had been battered by the adopted son and
14 was covered in blood and I told her to come straight
15 away, but she wouldn't come out.

16 Margaret might come a few days later but never asked
17 me or my brother to speak to her on our own to ask us
18 how we were. The only other times we saw her were at
19 review meetings and the foster mother's own social
20 worker Mark Fallon might be at some of these meetings
21 and someone else taking minutes.

22 When my brother got beaten up I regularly phoned
23 Margaret Kerr and told her what was going on, but she
24 just said it wasn't that bad and she would come out and
25 see us. The foster mother was sometimes there when

1 I phoned the social work. By the time she came, the
2 foster mother, who was really twisted, had made sure
3 everything was fine and we would be helping her bake and
4 things. The social work department would come in and
5 ask the group how things were and we would just say fine
6 because the foster mother was there. The social work
7 never spoke to us on our own and it was like the foster
8 mother was her best friend. One time I phoned and told
9 her my brother had been beaten up and she came the next
10 week and my brother still had the marks on his face, the
11 foster mother told her my brother had been fighting at
12 school. Margaret never questioned this with the foster
13 mother. My brother never spoke up because it was in
14 front of everybody.

15 One time my brother beat me up and it ended up we
16 went to a children's panel a couple of days later and
17 I still had the marks on my face. Before we went, the
18 foster mother told me that I was to say I had roller
19 skated into a wall so I did.

20 I had also told my key worker when I was at
21 Blairvadach about everything that had got on with these
22 foster parents and the previous foster parents. A lot
23 of what I've told you is from the records that I have
24 read but I remember parts of it. I'm handing you my
25 social work records from 1991 until 1996. You will see

1 that the documents back up what I remember and they show
2 the failings are proven.

3 I went to a lawyers when I was 18. Ross Harpers
4 solicitors in Glasgow. I told them about what had
5 happened to me at the second foster parents, the ones
6 who had not adopted me, and that I told a prefect and
7 that the social work never did anything about it. They
8 said to me, 'How are you going to say that you can
9 remember things that happened when you were five?' But
10 I told him I could and when the records appeared and
11 that confirmed what I had said because it is documented.
12 I remember I told a prefect at school and when the
13 records appeared it was documented there that I had told
14 a prefect. I was also taking action against the
15 previous foster parents for allowing the abuse to
16 continue. I didn't have my records at this time.
17 Apparently a court date was set but I didn't know
18 anything about it because I was living between lodgings.

19 Because I never showed up the court case was quashed
20 and the solicitor said he couldn't represent me again
21 but I could go and see another lawyer. I also applied
22 for my records when I first went to court and
23 I eventually got a copy, which I subsequently lost when
24 I moved house so I applied for another copy which I had
25 to pay a tenner for. The second lot of records were

1 different from the first lot of records. There was
2 a lot of information in the first set which isn't in the
3 second set. Even in this second set everything that
4 I had said to the first lawyer was in there. I went to
5 another lawyer, AC O'Neill, and they said something
6 about a decree or an absolutor for or something like
7 that and I could still go to court but I would have to
8 pay to get something lifted because I didn't turn up.
9 I phoned Citizens Advice but they didn't really help.

10 In the records it says that me and my brother were
11 part of the grooming process. There are emails warning
12 people that it was getting out of hand. There are a lot
13 of other paragraphs blacked out.

14 In the records Chris Lieberman said she would be
15 writing a bigger report that would take time but hoped
16 a small report would be enough for them to go on with
17 just now. She wasn't happy with the dynamics of the
18 second foster parents' family, the way they were set up,
19 their views on abuse and how my brother and I were
20 different when they were there, how they silenced me and
21 totally not letting me speak. Those foster parents were
22 getting a 50 per cent enhanced fostering allowance for
23 me and my brother because they were dealing with
24 children who had been previously abused, even though we
25 weren't previously abused and they were abusing us and

1 they were getting this enhanced allowance. They were
2 getting training how to deal with children, and Joe Nee
3 the high psychologist actually said a year before we
4 moved out that the foster father was sexually aroused
5 when they were speaking to him and they didn't think
6 having us in the house was a good idea.

7 Me and my brother are described in the files as
8 being waif like, walking dead and basically failing to
9 thrive. Before we went to the second foster parents
10 I was chubby, although my brother was always like
11 a stick insect and he's taller. This is in the records
12 that before we moved in we were described as outgoing.
13 I also know from the records that they have picked up on
14 my failure to thrive and my weight loss.

15 In my records when my brother and I were there at
16 the second foster parents' it is documented from 1992,
17 1993 and 1994 that from the telltale signs, the way the
18 foster family were acting and psychiatrists' reports it
19 was openly documented that they suspected someone was
20 abusing 'Carrie' in the house. In a therapy group I was
21 playing with boys toys saying that all boys were bad.
22 The social work were saying it was because of something
23 that had happened before the foster parents but they
24 said a wee girl wouldn't relive this but there wasn't
25 enough to upset the family by questioning them all. In

1 1992 the social work documented what I said in relation
2 to the wrong name I supposedly said about the incident
3 when I told the prefect when they took the foster
4 mother's word for it.

5 The social work have written down loads of notes
6 about my weight loss, the look of me and everything else
7 and then at the bottom it says more significantly the
8 possibility of abuse happening in the present household
9 to 'Carrie', so it's not as if the social work never
10 knew. They knew and they documented it and yet they
11 still allowed us to stay in that house.

12 In relation to me and my brother moving from the
13 second foster parents, the way the social work seen it
14 the foster parents were working directly against the
15 department which was making it hard for them to work
16 with us. They wanted us to move out for that reason.
17 The foster parents were fighting to keep us because the
18 social work, even with all the bad reports, they
19 reported to the children's panel saying there were no
20 adverse reports on this household. So we remained in
21 that house due to the report Margaret Kerr did, who has
22 known me for years.

23 From the records I read about them finding a pair of
24 pants with blood and they covered it up saying I was
25 self-abusing with a toothbrush and a wooden spoon.

1 I think they told this to Margaret Kerr. I know that
2 when they found the wooden spoon I had made at Girls'
3 Brigade it got taken off me because they said I had been
4 abusing myself with it. It says in the records that the
5 foster mother had found a toothbrush under my pillow and
6 that I had told her I was using the toothbrush to
7 relieve an itch inside me and that I had burst a blood
8 vessel. That is how she says she found the blood in my
9 pants.

10 According to the records, the foster mother did it
11 twice. In 1993 and 1995 she tried to get me out of the
12 medicals and then came up with these stories again, but
13 she was made out to be a liar because the psychologists
14 know the way children are and that they are not going to
15 relive something years later and start acting like that
16 and that something must have been happening.

17 We never left the foster parents' house until
18 [REDACTED] 1995 and in June 1995 the social work actually
19 said that they thought me and my brother were part of
20 the grooming process used by child molesters to silence
21 and draw in and all the rest of it. How can they
22 document that in June and we were still there until

23 [REDACTED]

24 They thought that by giving the foster father
25 information was more risky to the kids than benefiting

1 us. It is documented that the foster dad was vociferous
2 as if he knew too much, he was too knowledgeable that he
3 must be involved in that sort of thing.

4 I feel bad because I can only remember the bad parts
5 about the foster parents' family and maybe not the good
6 parts but then that's not the case because in the files
7 the whole three years we were there and there is not one
8 good report, they are all adverse reports on this
9 family, so that's right that I don't have any good
10 memories because there weren't any.

11 When we got moved to the third foster parents I felt
12 that we should have been moved to a house where we could
13 have got help after the abuse we had already suffered
14 with the second foster parents. We were put into
15 a foster parents after being abused at other foster
16 parents and they should have put us with a family who
17 were able to look after us.

18 With all the childminding the second foster parents
19 did, they were in and out, it was just too busy a house
20 for us to get the attention and to get over what we had
21 been through, and because of the adopted daughter's
22 needs and what she had said about the adopted son we
23 were put on the back-burner because they were trying to
24 deal with her."

25 Moving to paragraph 187:

1 "Last year I wrote a letter to the Scottish
2 Government and they told me about this Inquiry that was
3 starting. They also gave me details of Sandra's support
4 group, INCAS, and they also told me about the National
5 Confidential Forum but they don't deal with me because
6 it was foster care.

7 I feel I keep hitting a brick wall and all of this
8 could have been resolved when I was 18. If I had
9 support then, they would have made sure I heard about
10 the court date so I would have turned up.

11 How could they have let me get abused in two
12 different houses. The records suspected I was part of
13 the grooming process but they left me in the house when
14 this was going on.

15 I went to Chris Gordon the solicitor to see if
16 anything can be done but he has found out that because
17 my case was quashed I can't do anything but that
18 shouldn't have happened because no evidence was heard.
19 The lawyer has contacted Nicola Sturgeon and is soon
20 going to a meeting to discuss some change in legislation
21 which is going through which will mean that I can raise
22 it in court again. My lawyer still has confidence that
23 I will be successful.

24 Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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More recently I have been to see the perinatal team at the Southern General Hospital and a psychologist.

5

I have been to my own doctors every now and then when

6

I have been feeling down. The GP knows what I have been

7

through and has given me details of a counsellor that

8

I can contact, but I haven't been in touch with him yet.

9

I feel better because of this process and feel that

10

someone is actually now listening.

11

I have been let down most of all by the social work.

12

They took me from my own mum and dad to supposedly give

13

me a better life, but we have been damaged in lots of

14

ways and this has affected us in our adult life and then

15

you are left to get on with it. I got into trouble

16

through drink and I have had a breakdown. Really I went

17

off the rails. I just feel that when people have been

18

in the care system they should offer them more support.

19

Luckily I have settled now and I have a new partner.

20

I see Sandra from INCAS sometimes and she is like my

21

councillor.

22

I am just upset that I have the evidence now in my

23

records and that the social work have never had to

24

answer why they allowed this to happen and how it was

25

all covered up. There was a lot more stuff in my first

1 set of records that I got compared to the second set and
2 I don't understand that.

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

7 'Carrie' signed her statement on 13 October 2016.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Rattray.

9 MS RATTRAY: There a few records, a small number of records,
10 to go with this but perhaps after the break.

11 LADY SMITH: I think we should have a break and then it
12 would be good to see those records, yes, please.

13 (3.19 pm)

14 (A short break)

15 (3.33 pm)

16 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

17 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

18 It's to turn to some records which are relevant to
19 the experiences of 'Carrie', whose statement has just
20 been read in. The records that I'm referring to are not
21 records from her children's file which she describes in
22 her statement, but rather some records which have been
23 recovered from the Crown and Procurator Fiscal's office.
24 That is in relation to an investigation which took place
25 and this was the investigation that when 'Carrie' left

1 her second foster parents' placement, where she was
2 being sexually abused by the adopted son is that
3 latterly in her third placement she disclosed to the
4 foster mother there that she had been sexually abused.

5 At that stage there was a police inquiry and what
6 I will turn to first is a document at PSS-000008652.

7 What this is is a statement given to the police by
8 Margaret Kerr, social worker, and that's one of the
9 social workers who is referred to in the statement and
10 this is a statement which has been given on
11 24 June 1996. Here Margaret Kerr says she's been
12 employed as a social worker in the area since 1979, she
13 was involved with 'Carrie' and her sibling since 1988
14 when they were in foster care and has been involved with
15 them permanently since.

16 She says that in May 1991 when the children were
17 living with their first foster parents who then adopted
18 them, the foster mother there had become suspicious that
19 her husband was abusing 'Carrie'. This was referred to
20 the police and was investigated by them. No charges
21 were preferred against the husband and the children were
22 moved into care on [REDACTED] 1992 at the request of
23 the foster mother.

24 Then we see further down this page, where it says
25 "Continuation of the statement", she says:

1 "On [REDACTED] 1992 the children were placed in
2 a temporary foster home in Cumbernauld. On
3 4 November 1992 the foster parents came to the social
4 work department, also in Airdrie, and told me that
5 'Carrie' had been telling her friend at school that the
6 adopted son had been touching her. That the foster
7 parents said that the friend's mother had told the
8 health visitor, who in turn had told ..."

9 It says the name "Ben", I think that's probably
10 someone in the social work department:

11 "At this time no child protection investigation is
12 carried out because it was suspected that 'Carrie' had
13 been confused between her previous foster
14 father/adoptive father and the adopted son in her then
15 placement. Also, the foster parents in the second
16 placement reassured myself that on no occasion was the
17 adopted son ever left alone with the children. I spoke
18 to the foster parents about it at a later visit.
19 I don't remember exactly what was said but the foster
20 parents did all the talking and reassured me that the
21 adopted son was never alone with the children and the
22 details were unclear. I attempted to speak to 'Carrie'
23 about it but she refused and the matter was never raised
24 again.

25 In [REDACTED] 1995 a suitable permanent placement with

1 the third set of foster parents at Clydebank was found
2 for the kids and they were moved there.

3 On Tuesday, 14 May 1996 Sandra Sage [who was the
4 other social worker] informed me that she had spoken to
5 the third foster mother who had told her that 'Carrie'
6 had disclosed to her on the Saturday that the adopted
7 son in the previous placement had been abusing her.
8 I went down and on Wednesday, 15 May I referred the
9 matter to the police."

10 I don't think we need to look at anything further in
11 this statement, but what we have here is an acceptance
12 that notwithstanding a statement made by the child
13 saying she was being abused, naming the abuser, they
14 didn't carry out any investigation and simply assumed
15 she was talking about a previous experience.

16 LADY SMITH: Yes.

17 MS RATTRAY: There is also a statement available by
18 Sandra Sage, but it basically supports what
19 Margaret Kerr says.

20 The next document I will turn to is at PSS-000008676
21 and this, if we scroll up, is a statement taken in the
22 course of this investigation from the foster mother in
23 the second placement. It's a statement dated
24 14 June 1996 and the foster mother there says:

25 "I am married and reside at the address stated with

1 my husband, three natural children, one adoptive child
2 [that's the daughter]. I have another adoptive child
3 [the son], aged 21 whom I have had since he was five.
4 The adoptive daughter has been with us for ten years.

5 I was foster parent to 'Carrie' and her brother
6 since 1991.

7 'Carrie's' brother, my birth son and the adopted son
8 slept in the same room and 'Carrie' slept in my birth
9 daughter's room. That the adopted daughter and the
10 other birth daughter slept in the same room.

11 In 1992 I received a phone call from a health
12 visitor at Dr Smith's practice, who informed me that she
13 had been approached by the mother of a child at school
14 who told her that 'Carrie' had spoken to her daughter
15 and said that the adopted son had been touching her.
16 That evening 'Carrie' was at the dinner table with
17 everyone in the house except the adopted son. 'Carrie'
18 told me that the adopted son was touching her private
19 parts.

20 I phoned social workers Margaret Kerr and
21 Sandra Sage and informed them.

22 I then saw the adopted son about it and threatened
23 that if he did admit to it, that I couldn't have him in
24 the house so he denied it and I believed him, as did my
25 husband."

1 But it seems to be a clear acceptance on her part
2 that she threatened him that perhaps he'd better not
3 admit it.

4 "I didn't know who to believe so I brought in social
5 work.

6 The adopted daughter never confided in me that she
7 was being abused nor too 'Carrie's' brother. My son has
8 never inferred to me that he was abusing anyone and I am
9 shocked that I allowed this to happen."

10 That was the statement of the foster mother when
11 this was eventually -- an inquiry was carried out by the
12 police.

13 Turning now to a document at PSS-000024828, and this
14 is a police record. If we scroll down to the bottom
15 half of the page, it is simply what we have here is
16 an inquiry update of 9 June 1996, which explains the
17 background:

18 "Prior to the date reported the complainer 'Carrie'
19 intimated to her foster mother that during the time she
20 spent in her previous foster home the accused had abused
21 her. Social work were informed and a joint
22 police/social work investigation took place."

23 I think that's referring to now, it's not referring
24 to previously:

25 "On 9 June 1996 the adopted son was detained and

1 interviewed regarding the allegations, whereby he
2 admitted to using lewd and libidinous practices to all
3 complainers."

4 LADY SMITH: So that included her and her brother.

5 MS RATTRAY: And indeed we will find out the adopted
6 daughter, the three children.

7 We don't need to look at it, but elsewhere in the
8 documents in the bundle there is a transcript of that
9 interview, which is very detailed and he seems to accept
10 everything.

11 If we now finally turn to PSS-000024829, and these
12 are details of some of the convictions of the adopted
13 son. What I would like to do first is look at page 2 of
14 this document. About halfway down the page, if we stop
15 there, we see that there is reference to a conviction [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] sheriff and jury, of lewd and libidinous
18 practices and he was sentenced to a period of
19 imprisonment of 30 months in total.

20 However, I then want to return to page 1 of this
21 record and look at earlier convictions. These are
22 convictions previous to this conviction in 1997. If we
23 scroll up and stop there, the ones I want to look at is
24 that we have three previous convictions, which were
25 convictions which were made during the period that

1 'Carrie' and her brother were in this foster placement.

2 The first one is [REDACTED] 1992, so that's a few
3 months after they arrived in the foster placement. It's
4 not an analogous conviction or offence, but they're not
5 minor offences either. We can see that it's been dealt
6 with by sheriff and jury, so it's been solemn Sheriff
7 Court procedure and it's conviction in relation to theft
8 by opening lockfast places. At that time he was
9 sentenced to a period of detention of nine months, which
10 on appeal was varied to two years probation.

11 Then we have a further conviction on [REDACTED] 1994,
12 also during the period that 'Carrie' was in the
13 placement, once again at Airdrie Sheriff Court, sheriff
14 and jury, which was an attempted house breaking with
15 intent and theft by house breaking. On this occasion he
16 was sentenced to a period of detention of 15 months.

17 If we turn over the page to page 2, at the top of
18 page 2. We have a conviction of [REDACTED] 1994, also
19 during the period of this foster placement, once again
20 sheriff and jury Airdrie in respect of a breach of
21 probation, in respect of two counts of breach of
22 probation and on this occasion he was sentenced to
23 a period of six months' detention.

24 LADY SMITH: It looks like that was probably breaching the
25 probation that was substituted on appeal for the

1 custodial sentence that we saw on the previous page.

2 MS RATTRAY: So quite apart from what 'Carrie' says in her
3 statement about concerns about what was happening within
4 the placement and suspicions they had about abuse, we
5 have here a young person who is committing quite serious
6 offences, who is in and out of trouble, such that he's
7 sentenced to periods of detention and he's living in the
8 household with foster children and indeed sharing
9 a bedroom. One has to question how appropriate that
10 was.

11 These are the only records that I'm referring to
12 today.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

14 I was just thinking about his age. 'Carrie' refers
15 to him being about 15 years old, I think she thought,
16 when she went to the home?

17 MS RATTRAY: I think we know at the time of the -- we do
18 have his year of birth.

19 LADY SMITH: It will be here somewhere.

20 MS RATTRAY: He was born early in 1975.

21 LADY SMITH: Okay.

22 MS RATTRAY: I think when I worked it out, he would have
23 been about 17 when the placement started.

24 LADY SMITH: Okay.

25 MS RATTRAY: I think by 1997 he would be 21 or thereabouts.

1 But certainly, whilst he wasn't a fully fledged adult,
2 he was a much older young person --

3 LADY SMITH: Yes.

4 MS RATTRAY: -- at the start of the placement.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes this read-in.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 MS RATTRAY: I think there's a possibility of another
9 read-in, but it would go past 4 o'clock so --

10 LADY SMITH: How much past 4 o'clock?

11 MS RATTRAY: I think the shortest -- it would take about
12 half an hour, so it would be at least a 4.15. Or
13 whether we defer that to another day. That is actually
14 a read-in of the statement of the oral witness who would
15 otherwise have been giving oral evidence at 2 o'clock.

16 LADY SMITH: The oral witness who would have been here
17 today, yes.

18 It's been a long day and I'm reluctant to rush it,
19 particularly since it was a witness who would have been
20 here to give oral evidence otherwise. I think we'll
21 just stop now for the day and return tomorrow morning,
22 with I think an oral witness?

23 MS RATTRAY: Yes, we have an oral witness at 10 o'clock,
24 which will be followed by some read-ins and a second
25 oral witness at 2 o'clock.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

2 As far as that last read-in is concerned -- I've
3 lost my note, are there any names I need to warn about?

4 MS RATTRAY: No, there are no names, for reasons no names
5 have been mentioned other than the pseudonym of the
6 applicant.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes, that's right.

8 Thank you very much.

9 I'll rise now until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

10 (3.48 pm)

11 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on
12 Thursday, 22 September 2022)

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