

Thursday, 30 June 2022

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(10.00 am)

LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to our evidential hearings in the foster care and boarding-out case study. We have oral witnesses today. The first one, I'm told, is ready to give evidence.

Ms Innes.

MS INNES: Yes, my Lady. The first witness is 'Margaret'. She was in the care of Falkirk Burgh Council and was boarded out with JDH-JDI, who had been appointed by Falkirk Burgh Council as foster parents.

She was boarded out on 1965 and was adopted by them on 1974. Falkirk Council is accordingly the relevant successor.

LADY SMITH: Thank you.

'Margaret' (affirmed)

LADY SMITH: Before we begin, one or two things I just want to say to you, 'Margaret'. Practicalities, first of all. That red folder has the hard copy of your signed statement in it. You'll be taken to that in a minute or two. You'll also see parts of your statement coming up on screen as we go to different aspects of your evidence that we'd like to discuss with you this morning and I hope you find that helpful.

If you don't want to use it, you don't have to, but



1 A. Yes.

2 Q. We have your statement here and we give it the reference  
3 WIT.001.002.3427. If I can ask you, please, just to  
4 look at the second-last page of the statement, page 11,  
5 at paragraph 48. Paragraph 48 says:

6 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
7 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
8 I believe the facts stated in the witness statement are  
9 true."

10 If you go over the page, I think you see your  
11 signature there and you signed it on 17 January 2019.  
12 Is that right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. Now I'm going to take you back to the beginning  
15 of your statement and you'll also see it coming up on  
16 the screen in front of you as well, although on the  
17 screen there's things blanked out, as you can see.

18 You tell us at paragraph 2 a little bit about what  
19 you know about your family and you say there that you  
20 now know that you had four brothers and three sisters.  
21 When you say that you now know, is this something that  
22 you found out when you were a bit older?

23 A. I found out -- I always knew I had a sister, [REDACTED],  
24 and I know she went to Canada. I didn't know I had  
25 brothers and I didn't know about the other sister.

1 I found out later on through living with the foster  
2 parents that I had brothers, but I didn't know about the  
3 sister. She was -- she was born in prison and taken  
4 straight to the foster parents, so I didn't know about  
5 her until later on.

6 Q. Okay, so you found out about your brothers when you were  
7 living with the foster parents?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You always knew about your sister [REDACTED]?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you've told us that she went to Canada?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was that during your childhood that she went --

14 A. Yes, she was adopted and went to Canada.

15 Q. Okay. And then your youngest sister you mention in this  
16 paragraph, she was adopted as a baby?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you didn't find out about her until later in life?

19 A. That's when you could go and find your records from  
20 Social Services, when it was allowed to happen.

21 Q. Okay, right.

22 You say in this paragraph that you understand that  
23 your parents were alcoholics and were a danger to you  
24 and that's why you were removed from them.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You say that you understand that your brothers were sent  
2 to a home in Dumfries?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Is that something that you learned when you found out  
5 about your brothers?

6 A. Found out from my brothers, yeah.

7 Q. Then you say that you and your sister were sent to  
8 Weedingshall?

9 A. Weedingshall in Polmont, yes.

10 Q. I think that's a home?

11 A. Yes, a children's home.

12 Q. After you were in Weedingshall did you go straight to  
13 the foster care in Larbert that you tell us about?

14 A. I thought I did, because that is what I remember, but  
15 when I got my social work records I was actually put to  
16 a family in Falkirk and I wasn't one of the kids that  
17 you would keep. I wasn't toilet trained or anything.  
18 I used to go crying -- it's in the record -- to people  
19 looking for my parents so they couldn't cope and sent me  
20 back to Weedingshall.

21 LADY SMITH: 'Margaret', can I just ask you to pull that  
22 microphone a little nearer to you.

23 A. Is that better?

24 LADY SMITH: It should come a wee bit nearer. If you lift  
25 the arm of it --

1 A. There?

2 LADY SMITH: That's much better. We need to hear you  
3 through the sound system.

4 MS INNES: You were saying that you had originally thought  
5 that you went straight from Weedingshall to the foster  
6 placement in Larbert.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But in fact you had gone to a foster placement in  
9 Falkirk?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But you say that the social work records said that you  
12 couldn't stay there?

13 A. No, they didn't want me because I -- as I said, I wasn't  
14 toilet trained, I was crying a lot, I was going to  
15 people and asking them for -- where my parents were,  
16 looking for food, so they sent me back to Weedingshall.

17 Q. They sent you back to Weedingshall, okay. Were you with  
18 your sister [REDACTED] in that foster placement?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And did she stay there?

21 A. She stayed there and then she was fostered out to  
22 a couple in Grangemouth.

23 Q. Right.

24 A. And I was fostered out to Larbert.

25 Q. To Larbert, okay. So your sister went to another

1 placement then in Grangemouth, and are these the people  
2 that then --

3 A. Emigrated to Canada.

4 Q. -- emigrated to Canada? Okay, right.

5 You tell us then that you were put into a foster  
6 placement in Larbert and I'm going to call them your  
7 foster parents, if that's okay.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. You say that as well as your foster parents there was  
10 a person living in the house who you describe as the  
11 foster mother's partner?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was he there the whole time that you lived with them?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. If we go on to paragraph 4, you tell us about your  
16 memory of going to that house.

17 A. That's right. When I went there, I was dropped off in  
18 this big car, black car, and I remember a girl being in  
19 it, which I knew was my sister, and they asked if  
20 I wanted to go for a coffee or something -- go with them  
21 for a cafe or something. I said no, but when I saw the  
22 car going away, I wish I had went. And to this day  
23 I still regret not getting in that car. I might not  
24 have been brought up the way I was brought up, but  
25 probably I would have. That was the last time I saw my

1 sister.

2 Q. That's your memory of your sister going to --

3 A. Canada.

4 Q. Going somewhere else, okay.

5 You talk in this paragraph about going to the house

6 in Larbert and you say that you went -- again, it was

7 a black car with a woman in it?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you know who the woman was?

10 A. No.

11 Q. You tell us at this paragraph that when you got out of

12 the car there were three girls and a woman.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And your memory is of feeling terrified?

15 A. Oh God, yeah.

16 Q. The three girls you say at the top of page 2 that you

17 discovered that two of the girls were her

18 granddaughters?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. Were they living with --

21 A. No, they were up playing.

22 Q. Okay, they were just visiting?

23 A. Visiting.

24 Q. Then there was another girl there, who you say was

25 another foster child?



1 A. Yes, she was younger than me.

2 Q. She was younger than you. Was she already living there?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay.

5 What was the house like?

6 A. It was a bungalow in the countryside. It had three

7 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, hall, bathroom,

8 scullery.

9 Q. What were the sleeping arrangements in the house where

10 there were three bedrooms. Did you have a room of your

11 own or did you share a room?

12 A. No, we shared a room. There was her, my stepmother and

13 [REDACTED] had their bedroom, that was her partner. Then

14 stepfather, [REDACTED] and I had the bottom bedroom, which

15 included a double bed for [REDACTED] and I and there were

16 two single beds in it and he had the single bed.

17 Q. You said it was a three-bedroomed house, so what was the

18 third bedroom used for?

19 A. A spare bedroom.

20 Q. Okay. You say at paragraph 6 that this person who was

21 I think the stepmother's boyfriend or partner, he lived

22 in the house for the whole time that you lived there and

23 you say that he was all right to you?

24 A. Yeah, [REDACTED] was fine. He was okay. And he always used to

25 say, "Don't cry", or he'd say, "Oh, I've had enough, I'm

1 leaving her", "Please don't leave. If you leave I'll  
2 have to leave too". But he never left.

3 Q. You then go and tell us a little bit about what the  
4 routine in the house was like and your stepfather would  
5 leave to go to the farm early, I think he was working on  
6 the farm.

7 A. Yeah, he worked on the farm.

8 Q. Okay. You would say that she got you up, and from the  
9 age of five you had to light the fire?

10 A. I thought it was five, but in my records it says that  
11 I was seven, so it would be about seven. I always  
12 thought it was five.

13 Q. So from the time that you went there, your job was to  
14 light the fire?

15 A. You had to get up -- [REDACTED] normally split the sticks the  
16 night before, so you emptied the ashes, lit the fire,  
17 got the breakfast table in the kitchen set up, then  
18 you'd go and get [REDACTED] up, my stepsister up, and then  
19 her and [REDACTED] would get up. She'd make the breakfast, I'd  
20 do the dishes, then I had to go and make her bed, the  
21 three other beds in my bedroom, get ready for school,  
22 and school.

23 Q. Okay. You say that [REDACTED] showed you how to split sticks?

24 A. With the axe.

25 Q. Then you talk about some other chores that you did, but

1           we'll come back to those. When you came home from  
2           school, what sort of things did you have to do?

3    A. You had to Hoover -- the washing, brought the washing  
4           in, got it ready for ironing, then you done -- set the  
5           table for dinner, she put the dinner out, you do the  
6           dishes and you would bring the coal in for the fire. If  
7           there was dusting and Hoovering, you had to do that but  
8           you had to be careful with the dusting because she used  
9           to hide little things like maybe a needle or a drawing  
10          pin, just anything, just silly little things, a button,  
11          and if you dusted this table and the button was under  
12          there and it was still there when you finished dusting,  
13          I would get punished because I hadn't dusted properly,  
14          because you hadn't lifted it up to dust underneath it.  
15          That was the Hoovering and the dusting. Kitchen floor,  
16          peeling potatoes for the next day and bring the sticks  
17          in for the fire. That was our chores.

18   Q. Okay, so those were the chores that you had to do and  
19          you mentioned that one of the things that the foster  
20          mother did was to put maybe a needle or a button  
21          somewhere, hide it?

22   A. Yeah, yeah.

23   Q. Then she would check after you'd done the dusting and if  
24          she found it --

25   A. Oh!

1 Q. -- you would be punished for that, for not having --  
2 A. Because you didn't do it properly.  
3 Q. Is that something that has continued to affect you  
4 throughout your life?  
5 A. Yes. Actually scanning a floor to make sure there's  
6 nothing lying on it. Yeah, I like everything -- it  
7 causes quite a bit of trouble with my partner, because  
8 he says I'm just too OCD but if I go anywhere,  
9 a doctor's, I try and fix it for them when I'm sitting.  
10 I don't like it messy.  
11 Q. Okay. If we go over the page, please, to page 3 at  
12 paragraph 8, you say that on a Monday you had to do the  
13 washing and that was -- that took all day.  
14 A. Well, it was a Monday, it was all the washing for the  
15 whole week and it was a twin tub, so I didn't go to  
16 school much on a Monday, because you would take forever  
17 washing with a twin tub, because you had all the whites,  
18 then the colours, then his working overalls, hang it  
19 out, put it all away, get the stuff ready for dinner  
20 time again, so it took a whole day on a Monday. Then  
21 you have to bring it in, fold it, because it was ironed  
22 the next day.  
23 Q. Did your foster mother -- what was she doing? Did she  
24 work?  
25 A. No. She just was a lady of leisure, really. Her and

1           [REDACTED] went out quite a bit during the days.

2   Q.   What about the other foster child, [REDACTED]?

3   A.   She was at school.  It was always just me until probably

4           later on in life I started thinking maybe I didn't

5           protect her enough, I can't remember, I would have done

6           the chores, [REDACTED] never done the chores.

7   LADY SMITH:  Was she older than you?

8   A.   She was younger.

9   LADY SMITH:  She was younger?

10  A.   Yeah.

11  LADY SMITH:  Oh, I see.  This business of washing on

12           a Monday, you said something about a twin tub.

13  A.   Yeah.

14  LADY SMITH:  Tell me about that.

15  A.   It's a washing machine --

16  LADY SMITH:  I know what a twin tub is, but what was it

17           about it?

18  A.   It just takes all day, because your water gets dirty,

19           and then you have to empty it and then you have to

20           refill it and it's a spinner and she liked her sheets --

21           she took them outside and put them through a wringer

22           with a handle, so they were (unclear) and then you

23           pinned them up, so it took all day.

24  LADY SMITH:  This was one of the early twin tubs that you

25           had to fill manually with water?

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: It wasn't connected to the mains?

3 A. No.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS INNES: I think you said there would be different loads  
6 of washing that you'd have to do.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. So there'd be whites and then coloureds and then your  
9 foster father's work clothes) --

10 A. Yes, it had a big impact on me because I can't have  
11 a wash in my house. If I take this off today, this will  
12 be washed today. I don't have washing in my house,  
13 because I get a row for just washing one item, but they  
14 don't understand you can't have it in the house.

15 LADY SMITH: When you were growing up in this bungalow, it  
16 was the old-fashioned system of saving up all your  
17 washing until a Monday --

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Be quite a pile of it by a Monday.

20 A. Yes. Well, there was three adults and the two of us.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22 MS INNES: Then you talk in this paragraph about the ironing  
23 and that the ironing was done on a Tuesday after school  
24 and you say that she used to burn you on the hand with  
25 the iron?

1 A. Because you can't iron a crease in your material. So if  
2 you iron and you get a wee crease when you run the iron  
3 over it, that's not how you iron. You don't iron  
4 a crease in it, so sometimes if I ironed a crease she'd  
5 take it off me and your hand was there and she would do  
6 that.

7 It was a reminder: just do it right and you don't  
8 get hurt. So don't iron a crease in your material.

9 Q. Is that something that has continued to affect you?

10 A. Aye, it's got to be perfect.

11 Q. Everything's got to be perfect?

12 A. Mm.

13 Q. Okay. You say that at paragraph 9 that you'd be able to  
14 go out on a Saturday afternoon --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- with [REDACTED], but you still had some housework to do  
17 at the weekends?

18 A. Yes, still had to do the dusting, the hoovering, the  
19 beds were always made every day, the fire was set every  
20 day, so you still had that to do. Dishes still had to  
21 get washed after.

22 Q. At paragraph 11 on this page you tell us about food and  
23 you say that there were good dinners like stew and  
24 potatoes, but sometimes there would be things,  
25 particularly desserts, I think, that you didn't like and

1 if you didn't want to eat them, what was her reaction?

2 A. It was cold custard with skin on it. It just -- it was  
3 horrible. And you'd sit ... and I didn't like it, so  
4 I'd get slapped for that. I remember one time I was  
5 eating and eating it I had to go and be sick and I got  
6 slapped for that and I was still made to eat it. And to  
7 this day I don't like custard.

8 Q. You also say that you never ate with them that you ate  
9 in the kitchen?

10 A. They had the dining room and I had the kitchen. I don't  
11 know if it was a punishment for me to sit in the kitchen  
12 and they ate in the dining room? It didn't bother me.  
13 Because I got peace. I didn't have to think about  
14 chewing my dinner right or making a noise when sipping  
15 my milk, so sitting in the kitchen wasn't a punishment.  
16 She might have thought it was, but it wasn't.

17 I set the table, I took their dinner out to them,  
18 she made it, but I plated it -- she plated it, I put it  
19 out on the table, but I ate mine in the kitchen and  
20 I still eat my dinner in the kitchen, because I love my  
21 kitchen, the kitchen's my safe place.

22 Q. Where was [REDACTED] eating?

23 A. They were all in the living room.

24 Q. They'd all be in the living room?

25 A. Uh-huh.



1 Q. So the foster parents, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?

2 A. [REDACTED].

3 Q. Okay.

4           You then go on to talk about school and you

5           mentioned you often missed school on a Monday because of

6           doing the washing.

7 A. Doing the washing.

8 Q. You say that you don't have many memories about school?

9 A. Not primary. I don't know school much.

10 Q. Okay. Then if we go over the page, please, you talk

11           about going to the high school at paragraph 14 and at

12           paragraph 15 you tell us again about the low attendance

13           and you say that you're aware that the school wrote to

14           her about --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- your low attendance?

17 A. She got a letter from a Larbert High School to say that

18           I hadn't been there much and then she accused me of

19           plugging the school and I said I didn't and she said you

20           must have because obviously -- and I said I didn't and

21           I argued with her because I wanted her to go to school,

22           she was wanted me -- examine the handwriting, but it was

23           always him that wrote the letter to say why I was off

24           and she wouldn't go and I got a -- I got into so much

25           trouble and she hit me for telling a lie and I thought

1       please, please go to school and she never to this day  
2       went to school.

3   Q.   You wanted her to go to the school so that you could --

4   A.   Prove to her that I didn't plug school because  
5       I couldn't write like him, I'm not a good writer.

6   Q.   At paragraph 14 you say that you were bullied and  
7       ridiculed at school?

8   A.   Yeah.

9   Q.   Was that because -- you describe there because of the  
10       clothes that you wore?

11  A.   I was -- I used to wear a skirt, a long grey skirt.  
12       I think one time I wore her shoes, because of made  
13       a fool of me, but I think I was just quiet and probably  
14       a wee girl at school that nobody wanted to be friends  
15       with. I used to hide in the cloakroom when the girls  
16       came in because I didn't want them to see me. I just  
17       didn't like school because I couldn't go home to her and  
18       tell her I was being bullied and I couldn't tell the  
19       bullies why I was dressed the way I was.

20       I think there was one time one of the girls had said  
21       something to me and I -- I got an A in geography and  
22       I was so proud because I wanted to go home and tell her  
23       I got this A and I asked the teachers what did I get and  
24       she repeated it and of course the group of girls said,  
25       "Oh you trying to be smart, blah, blah, blah". I went

1 out the corridor, they all went for me and I just lost  
2 it and I had a fight with them, I think it was the first  
3 fight ever, and they said to me it was going to get you  
4 tomorrow at school when you come in and I thought  
5 I can't tell her, and I was terrified but I went into  
6 the school next day and they said we weren't going to  
7 touch you, you're not right, and I was kind of left  
8 then.

9 Q. Okay. Now, at the bottom of this page -- sorry -- you  
10 tell us about visits and inspections.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you remember anybody from the social work department  
13 coming to see you?

14 A. I only remember a man once.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. We went into the bedroom that we shared with him. There  
17 was a fireplace there and the chair was here, and before  
18 he came we were told to tell him we got sixpence as  
19 pocket money, we were allowed with friends up to stay  
20 and things were okay and I remember the man sitting  
21 facing me and he asked, "Do you get your friends up?"  
22 I said, "Yes". "Does anybody live here, is it just the  
23 two of you with the foster parents?" I said, "Yes",  
24 because we were not allowed to mention [REDACTED], and I -- he  
25 said -- there was a couple other things he said and

1 I said -- I wanted to tell him the truth, I wanted to  
2 say please get me out of here, and I thought if I tell  
3 him, he's going to go and tell her, he'll go away and  
4 I'll get battered, so I just told him exactly what we  
5 were told to tell him and sometimes I think to myself he  
6 asked [REDACTED] the same thing, so surely it doesn't  
7 match, but that's the only visit that I can remember.

8 Q. You say that [REDACTED] would disappear out of the house?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. And when you knew that they were coming, so were you  
11 aware if your foster parents knew in advance that --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- the social work were coming?

14 A. Yes, they knew when that chap was coming, yes. And when  
15 I have read my social work, they knew in advance when he  
16 was coming because there's one mention of [REDACTED] and they  
17 said they asked about the sleeping arrangements, but she  
18 wasn't there and they said they'd follow up, but it  
19 wasn't done.

20 Q. It wasn't followed up, okay.

21 Then you say that you were adopted, and I think we  
22 know that was when -- the date of that was  
23 [REDACTED] 1974 was when you were adopted. If we go on  
24 over the page, you say:

25 "Nobody asked me if I wanted to be adopted."

1 A. No.

2 Q. Can you not remember anybody speaking to you about that?

3 A. No. Nobody did.

4 Q. Then at paragraph 18 you talk about the time that you  
5 saw your sister before she went to Canada and you've  
6 mentioned that already in your evidence.

7 After she went to an characters were you able to  
8 keep in touch with her at all by sending letters or  
9 anything like that?

10 A. No, no. I didn't get back in touch with her again until  
11 it was legal that you could get your records and she had  
12 sent a letter to social work many, many years before  
13 I got it, but they weren't allowed to give me it because  
14 it wasn't legal that you could give things out of the  
15 records.

16 Q. In this letter that she had sent to the social work  
17 department, what --

18 A. That's when she told me about our parents and our  
19 brothers and our sister and she remembered me.

20 Q. Okay. Do you know when she sent this letter? Was she  
21 an adult?

22 A. No, she was still a little bit younger. Not like 20s or  
23 30s, she was still 18 or something.

24 Q. Do you know if she was asking the social work department  
25 to be put in touch with you again?

1 A. She had to ask them to pass it on. Because what she  
2 said was she'd put a thing in the Falkirk Herald, "Help  
3 [REDACTED] find her sister" and that's when the couple that  
4 adopted my other sisters said I think she's looking for  
5 you, so that -- my other sister wrote and said, "I'm  
6 your sister", I said, "No, you're not, my sister's  
7 called ...". And that's when her parents had to explain,  
8 no, she is your sister, you were adopted as a baby, and  
9 that's how we knew we had a third sister.

10 Q. That's how your sister [REDACTED] found out about your youngest  
11 sister?

12 A. And then she wrote to the social work and said look,  
13 help find my sisters, but they didn't because it wasn't  
14 legal for them to give me a letter until it became legal  
15 you could get your notes from social.

16 Q. It was only when you were able to get your own records  
17 that you were then able to try and --

18 A. Get the letter.

19 Q. -- trace your sister [REDACTED] again?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. If we go on on page 5 to paragraph 19, you say:  
22 "I never had a birthday."

23 A. No.

24 Q. You talk about remembering that the first birthday cake  
25 you had in your life was when you left home and got

1           married?

2    A.   That's right, 21.

3    Q.   Can you remember your birthday ever being marked in any

4           way?

5    A.   No, she just told you, like you were another year older.

6           It impacts on me today. As long as you get a birthday

7           card, it doesn't matter what, as long as you get a card

8           on your birthday. That's all I ever ask for. No.

9    Q.   You talk about Christmas and you say that you would get

10           one thing for Christmas, but the other foster child

11           would get lots of things.

12   A.   Yeah, but if we asked for bikes, both got a bike, but

13           the other girl got a bike plus maybe four or five gifts

14           and I always used to stand and watch her opening them.

15           But I was happy with my bike, but I still wanted what

16           she had.

17   Q.   Was her birthday marked?

18   A.   She got a cake and a card, but I don't know when it is.

19   Q.   Then at the bottom of this page you go on to talk about

20           some of the abuse that you suffered when living with

21           these people. You've talked already about if you didn't

22           do something perfectly right, you would be beaten, and

23           you talk about being slapped --

24   A.   Mm-hmm.

25   Q.   Was this only by the foster mother or also by the foster

1 father?

2 A. No, just by the foster mother.

3 Q. Okay. You say that she also hit you with a belt?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And what kind of belt was it? Was it a --

6 A. Just like a belt off a man's trousers, because it would  
7 leave the welts on your legs and I always remember her  
8 asking me one time in the bath what was the marks on my  
9 legs, because I had three of them and I said that's  
10 where you belted me and I remember her slapping the side  
11 of my head for telling a lie. It was the truth.

12 Q. I think you tell us about that incident at the top of  
13 page 6. Then at paragraph 22 you tell us about her  
14 hiding things about the house that you've already  
15 mentioned.

16 At paragraph 23 you tell us about a time that she  
17 put your hand on a hot cooker and burnt your palm.

18 A. Every second Sunday we'd get the bus -- my stepsister  
19 and I would get a bus with him to Edinburgh, because  
20 that's where his sisters stayed and we'd spend the day  
21 there. But again in the morning I still had the chores  
22 to do, so you still had to make the fire, do the beds,  
23 get the breakfast, do the dishes, and then we went to  
24 Edinburgh. And when we came back she was angry and she  
25 took me in the kitchen and says what have you forgot to



1 do and I was looking about going what have I forgot?  
2 What have I forgot? And she took me over to the cooker  
3 and she lifted the lid off the pan that was at the back  
4 and she said -- and it was, it was the potato pan and  
5 I forgot to do and just as I was coming -- I was upset,  
6 she put my hand on the cooker and turned it on, I just  
7 got there and there, it was hot, and she said that will  
8 teach you a lesson. You check everything before you  
9 leave this kitchen, and I always do and I cried and  
10 cried, my fingers were sore, but it taught me a lesson.  
11 You check everything.

12 Q. You say that after that she kept you off school for two  
13 or three days to hide the blister.

14 A. Mm.

15 Q. Then at paragraph 24 you tell us about the one time that  
16 you found a £5 note. Can you tell us about that?

17 A. [REDACTED] and I were playing in the woods and we found  
18 a £5 note and I took it to her, because I wanted her to  
19 like me and I thought if I take her this £5 note she's  
20 going to like me. I remember taking it in and I said  
21 I found this in the woods and she said, "No, you didn't,  
22 you took it out of my purse". I said, "No, I never",  
23 she said, "Yes, you did", and I said, "I found it". She  
24 hit me and I'm looking at [REDACTED] to say, "Please say  
25 we found it". [REDACTED] didn't speak up, so I got hit

1 for stealing money and I wish to this day I just ripped  
2 the money and hadn't took it to her, but I just wanted  
3 her to like me.

4 Q. You tell us in this same paragraph that she used to say  
5 thing about your parents?

6 A. Yeah, she said they didn't want me. What she would say  
7 is they didn't want you, we didn't want you, we couldn't  
8 send you back, but we wish we had. And deep down  
9 I would think I wish you had as well. I just grew to  
10 hate her. I just didn't like her. And hate's  
11 a horrible word, but I just grew to hate her.

12 Q. Then at paragraph 25, you tell us about one time that  
13 you had said that you wanted your hair cut to fit in at  
14 school --

15 A. Mm-hmm.

16 Q. -- and she cut all your hair off.

17 A. Mm.

18 Q. Do you feel able to tell us about what happened then?

19 A. Just at the high school, I still had pigtails and they  
20 pulled the ribbons out and I'd get in trouble going home  
21 because of the way she had put them in. But when I was  
22 at high school, they were all wearing their hair cut  
23 short so I kept on and on about it and she said yes, and  
24 I thought yes, I'm going to go to the hairdressers, I'm  
25 going to not be picked on at school. It was a Sunday

1 and I had pigtails and she just cut them and then she  
2 just cut bits and I thought that's not what I wanted and  
3 I remember going to the bathroom and I saw -- it was  
4 horrible and I sobbed and sobbed and I thought I can't  
5 go to school like this, I can't take no more. And  
6 I remember going out of the room, where they had a room  
7 and there was this brown thing that your [REDACTED] all go  
8 in, [REDACTED]. I didn't  
9 know what they would do to me. They had a sidecar and  
10 a motorbike right down in a big garden, so I lay down  
11 there and I must have been falling asleep and her own  
12 son came, the oldest one, and he took me out of the  
13 sidecar and made me drink milk, because I was being sick  
14 and somebody in the background said you'd better get  
15 an ambulance and someone said no, if you get  
16 an ambulance the police will be involved, so they took  
17 me to Kilwinning and I think I was there for about  
18 a month, but I can't remember, maybe a couple of days  
19 I think I just slept and slept.

20 And then when I went back, because my hair -- they  
21 took me to the hairdressers, oh, you've made a mess of  
22 your hair, oh aye, she did and I thought I never. But  
23 when I went back to her house after staying there for  
24 a wee while, her first words were to me, "You wait until  
25 they go away, because you did that to draw attention to



1 Q. Do you feel able to tell us anything about that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. What would you like to tell us about that?

4 A. The bedroom -- the double bed was at the wall end and  
5 his single bed at the top of the room. [REDACTED] slept  
6 at the front of the bed and I slept at the back of the  
7 bed, but for the first couple of nights he used to put  
8 his hand up the bottom of the bed and get your feet and  
9 pull you out the bed to go into his bed and just give  
10 him a cuddle and that at first, because he told me that  
11 I was his good girl and I'm not to cry and he would keep  
12 me safe, but whatever happened in his bed, I would have  
13 to be back in my own bed before it was time to get up so  
14 she wouldn't know I was in his bed.

15 So that went on for a little while and then the more  
16 often he would pull me out the bed to go into his bed,  
17 like your nightie would get pulled up a little more and  
18 more and I thought it didn't feel right but to get  
19 a cuddle and that and told you was good was sometimes  
20 nice, because what she was doing was horrible.

21 And then it just advanced from there to sexual  
22 abuse. I didn't like it. I used to lie -- when  
23 I started to realised I didn't like what he was doing,  
24 some of the things he was saying to me, I tried to keep  
25 my feet up so high that he couldn't reach them, but

1           somehow he always did.

2           And if I was in the kitchen doing the dishes, he  
3           would be passing and he would touch, I don't like  
4           anybody touching me, he would touch my neck and whisper  
5           I was his good girl and not tell anybody and touch you,  
6           and that's all ...

7   Q.   I think that carried on -- did that carry on for the  
8           whole time that you lived there?

9   A.   Actually sleeping with him did, until I got my periods  
10          and the next thing [REDACTED] and I were moved into the  
11          spare room, which was great because it was two single  
12          beds each and I thought he can't come in here.

13          So actually sleeping with him and doing the things  
14          he did to me, that bit stopped, but the touching, me  
15          having to touch him didn't stop. Because again [REDACTED] and  
16          her would go out a lot, so it was just us in the house.

17          My stepsister used to -- she got an accordion, so  
18          she played the accordion, so she was never really in the  
19          living room at night, she would go away through there,  
20          and she sneak out the window and go and play with her  
21          friends instead of (unclear), so I would cover for her  
22          saying no, she's doing her accordion and the abuse  
23          happened on the couch in front of the fire, but not  
24          sexual abuse, touching abuse. I know it's the same, but  
25          it's not -- he couldn't do things what he'd done in the

1 bedroom.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. And I remember -- and I still sometimes blame myself for  
4 it because I think maybe I walked funny or maybe I did  
5 flirt with him or -- because I remember one night -- and  
6 this is rude, so please forgive me for saying it, but he  
7 said to me, "You'll make somebody a good wife one day  
8 because you've got good rhythm." So ... I didn't like  
9 it.

10 Q. You tell us at the end of that page that you don't know  
11 if he abused [REDACTED].

12 A. No. In my head, I will say no, but I -- unless [REDACTED]  
13 told me, and I don't know her, I only met her once since  
14 I left at 16, I don't know if he did. And I keep it in  
15 my head he didn't, because I think if I ever found out  
16 he did I would have a complete breakdown because  
17 I didn't do enough to make sure he didn't, to protect  
18 her.

19 Q. You tell us at paragraph 30 that you do think that he  
20 abused his granddaughter?

21 A. I know he -- because the two girls that were there the  
22 very first day, that's their granddaughter and again  
23 I feel bad because it was in the living room, it was  
24 dark, the fire was on, the couch faced the fire and  
25 behind that was the dining room table and the three

1 girls -- there was my stepsister, my cousin and myself,  
2 we were lying on the floor and he had his oldest  
3 granddaughter on the couch and we knew what he was  
4 doing. You know that way -- not giggled, we didn't  
5 laugh, but we never stopped him and we should have.

6 Q. Okay. You talk about his grandsons. There were  
7 grandsons as well?

8 A. They had granddaughters and grandsons, and it wasn't --  
9 it's only hearsay, but when I left, there was a girl,  
10 his grand -- the youngest granddaughter, I've met her  
11 a couple times, she's had me at her house a couple of  
12 times and what she said was, "Do you know what your  
13 stepfather done to [REDACTED]?" That was the cousin. I said,  
14 "Yes, I know, why do you think I left?" She says, "Oh,  
15 they say that he done it to one of the grandsons as  
16 well".

17 I don't know if he did, but that's what she told me.

18 Q. Okay. Over the page at page 8, you mention at  
19 paragraph 31 about [REDACTED] keeping a book about everything  
20 that happened in the house.

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. But it was burnt when he died. I think you've said in  
23 your statement, you've mentioned [REDACTED] already in your  
24 evidence. Reflecting back on [REDACTED] what's your view of  
25 him and --



1 A. Him now? When I was younger he was always nice because  
2 like if [REDACTED] got tuppence to go to school I wouldn't  
3 get anything, he would give me one and tell me not to  
4 tell her. But now ... he didn't do anything to save me.  
5 Even when I got my hair cut and her son came and took me  
6 away, they took me back but nobody ever once said to me,  
7 "Why did you do it?" So none of them were any good,  
8 because none of them did anything.

9 The same with [REDACTED]. I went to his funeral, because  
10 they had asked me to go back to his funeral and I went  
11 because I thought [REDACTED] never did this, and this is -- how  
12 to (unclear) people, because his -- the stepfather's  
13 daughter-in-law came up to me, they're a lot older than  
14 me, and said, "What do you make of them two sleeping  
15 back in the same bed?" And I thought: what? He's just  
16 dead. But she was back sleeping with her husband.

17 That's when the thing about the book came, [REDACTED] had  
18 kept a book about the goings on at the house but they  
19 burnt it. I would love to have read it, but anyway.

20 Q. You say at paragraph 32 that there were no neighbours or  
21 visitors other than [REDACTED] brother-in-law?

22 A. That's right.

23 Q. You say that occasionally he used to ask about marks on  
24 you?

25 A. She said I was clumsy or I fell, "You know what she's

1       like, she's just clumsy", and if I had a big burn, "Oh,  
2       that's what she does when she's ironing, she's not  
3       paying attention", so there was always an excuse, she  
4       was always making an excuse for a mark on yourself.

5   Q.   Then you tell us I think, as you've already mentioned,  
6       that you left I think maybe when you were 16?

7   A.   I was 16 or 17, because I was working for a wee while.

8   Q.   After you left, you never spoke to her again?

9   A.   I spoke to them once, they sent [REDACTED], again, did come and  
10      see me. I was staying with my friend and her mum and  
11      dad and even at 16 I was still scared because I said to  
12      my friend, "If I'm not back by 8 o'clock, please phone  
13      the police because she's kidnapped me", and that's the  
14      only time I had seen her.

15  Q.   Then you've already told us about trying to find your  
16      family or going to the social work department. If we go  
17      on, please, to page 9, at paragraph 36, first of all,  
18      you tell us there about going to the council over 30  
19      years ago to find out more about your family and this  
20      was, I think, when you got the letter from [REDACTED]. Is that  
21      right?

22  A.   That's right.

23  Q.   Okay. Then you tell us about meeting your sister at  
24      paragraph 37 and her introducing you to your brothers.

25  A.   Yes.

1 Q. At the bottom of this page at paragraph 38 you tell us  
2 about going to see your records. Who did you go to see  
3 your records with?

4 A. I went with Cath from the -- I think it's something  
5 Survivors. Open Secret.

6 She organised for me to go with her and we went down  
7 and I remember the lady that gave me them. She was very  
8 emotional. She apologised for the way they'd been  
9 written, because they wouldn't be written now as they  
10 were then, and that's when I said to you that the first  
11 two or three pages about myself were not very nice and  
12 that's when I realised I had gone to a foster home  
13 before I went to that foster home.

14 No, they don't make good reading.

15 And I met my real parents. Because I used to cry  
16 and say, "My real mum and dad's going to come and  
17 they'll fix you".

18 But I met them, they were alcoholics. I met them  
19 once and never went back.

20 Q. Was it the lady from the social work department that  
21 apologised --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- saying that the records were --

24 A. Written --

25 Q. Written --

1 A. Yeah, not nice. As I said to you earlier, I wasn't  
2 a nice kid.

3 Q. That's what the records say about you?

4 A. They say I was below average, yeah.

5 LADY SMITH: 'Margaret', just going back to [REDACTED] 1974,  
6 the date of your adoption, you told me that nobody asked  
7 you whether you wanted to be adopted.

8 A. No.

9 LADY SMITH: You'd have been, what, 14 then, 14 and a half?

10 A. (Witness nods)

11 LADY SMITH: Did you know it was going to happen?

12 A. No. They told me I was going to this house, because it  
13 was a house I went to, it was a lady's house. Again,  
14 nobody told me what I was going to do. They had  
15 a conversation and then this lady said, "Could you sign  
16 here?" And that's when I seen my proper name.

17 LADY SMITH: Oh.

18 A. And I signed it and when I seen my proper name, that's  
19 when I always became 'Margaret'.

20 LADY SMITH: Did you have any idea what it was you were  
21 signing?

22 A. No.

23 LADY SMITH: When the adoption went through, did anybody  
24 tell you that you'd been adopted?

25 A. She did. She says, "You're now ours", and when

1 arguments started, things like, "We shouldn't have had  
2 you, we should have sent you back, you shouldn't be one  
3 of us". Why did you do it then?

4 LADY SMITH: But you'd already been there for what, nine  
5 years or so?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 A. No, I genuinely didn't know what I was doing. I just  
9 was in this big house and this lady was sitting and they  
10 were having this conversation. Then they said, "Could  
11 you please sign that?" And I seen my name.

12 LADY SMITH: All right. Thank you.

13 A. Thank you.

14 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

15 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

16 If we can move on, please, to page 11, you have been  
17 talking in the section at the beginning of the page  
18 about impact. If we can look, please, at paragraph 44,  
19 you say that you think the abuse has had a positive  
20 effect on your relationship with your children and  
21 grandchildren?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Can you explain that, please?

24 A. When I was younger, I used to cry and say I couldn't  
25 bring my children up the way I was brought up, and

1 I would never do it. I've got three grown-up children  
2 and very -- they've got very good jobs, been very  
3 well-educated, very well mannered, my two daughters  
4 phone me every single day of my life, about three or  
5 four times a day. My son's a wee bit quieter, he's  
6 maybe once a week. My two grandchildren I see mostly  
7 every single day. And I'd probably describe myself as  
8 a fun gran, because I do things that I would have wanted  
9 done. Like, you know, if you've got a watering can and  
10 you are watering the plants, just tip it on them a wee  
11 bit. If you're sitting there and they are moaning about  
12 Rice Krispies, just pour it over their head. Things  
13 that I would want to get done as a kid, in some way  
14 maybe I'm being a kid because I didn't get to do the fun  
15 times, so I have the fun times now. And we're very,  
16 very close.

17 Q. In the next section you talk about some other things  
18 that you think that we should learn from your  
19 experience. At paragraph 45 you say that you think that  
20 there should be a follow-up of care of a child who goes  
21 either into foster care or adoption for at least a year  
22 following their placement.

23 You say the child should be taken out of the home  
24 environment and asked questions.

25 A. I think when you've got -- when you're fostering

1 a child, I take it they get Social Services popping in,  
2 or they know when they're coming, and that's fine. But  
3 when you adopt a child, you sign that bit of paper and  
4 you never see another social worker.

5 Okay, like, when they come into the house, I was  
6 programmed what to say to them. Take that kid out for  
7 the day, whether it's to go to the pictures, to a park,  
8 a McDonald's or if you have a wee dog, take them out  
9 with the dog, and the child will open up to you.

10 Not to go back -- you've just watched a kid maybe  
11 for six months, oh, he's fine now, we'll walk out. You  
12 haven't got the whole picture. Why abandon a kid? And  
13 I strongly believe not just me, but hundreds are  
14 forgotten about. They get that wee bit of paper and  
15 they're away. You don't have to check up on that kid.  
16 You sign that bit of paper and you're left. Who have  
17 they got? Sometimes like myself, I had nobody.  
18 I couldn't pick um a phone, because I was too frightened  
19 of her, couldn't tell the school, because I didn't have  
20 friends at the school, so we are left.

21 I think that for a year -- it doesn't have to be  
22 once every month, maybe just once every six months, say,  
23 "I'm coming, we're going to the pictures", because you  
24 don't have to sit there and say, because I know my  
25 grandkids tell me every single thing that goes on in

1           their house, but I never ask, a kid will tell you, "Oh,  
2           my mum does that", "Oh, does she?" That's not really  
3           right. Or, "See, my mum, her boyfriend's called [REDACTED] but  
4           my father's there". That's not right.

5           So I might have spoke, I don't know. I didn't have  
6           the choice and I think a kid should have that choice.  
7           That's what I would change.

8   Q. You talk there about if you have a relationship with  
9           a child, like you have with your grandchildren, they  
10          trust you and they will tell you things?

11   A. Oh, everything. Like I would say:

12           "I heard [REDACTED] has a new job."

13           "How do you know that, mum?"

14           "[REDACTED] just told me."

15   Q. You talk about, as you have already said in your  
16          evidence, that there was [REDACTED] living in the house, there  
17          was the son who came to the house, son and  
18          daughter-in-law, I think, there was the brother-in-law,  
19          there were the teachers at school, but nobody seemed to  
20          do anything.

21   A. No.

22   Q. Do you think that there's anything that we can learn  
23          from the fact that they did nothing?

24   A. Well, right, the school wrote to her to say, "Please  
25          come and check her absences log, come and check the



1 handwriting". That was never followed up. She didn't  
2 go. Why? Rewrite and put two letters out. If they  
3 don't come then -- I'm in the social service system, get  
4 in touch with them and say, "We've written three times,  
5 they've not come, could you check up on her?"

6 If they turn around and she says, "She's been ill",  
7 she is this and that, okay, the next visitor to come,  
8 three months down the line, take the kid out and say to  
9 the kid, "Oh, you were unwell that time, you were off  
10 school?" "No, I was kept off school".

11 Somebody will tell the truth. Especially a kid.

12 Q. You say at paragraph 46 that you later found out that  
13 you'd in fact been at the same school as your adopted  
14 sister --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- and you didn't know, obviously, at the time that she  
17 was your sister?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Do you think that you should have been told more about  
20 your family life when you were a child?

21 A. Again, to me that's the social work that should tell  
22 that, because she hid this. She hid the fact that I had  
23 brothers and things, until later on when she wanted to  
24 hurt me. I always knew about my sister. But yes, if  
25 you have siblings, like brothers and sisters, and

1       supposing one is in Canada, give -- say, "This is the  
2       address if you want to keep in touch with them", or you  
3       be the in-between people, you get a letter, send the  
4       letter, so then you know the letter is getting sent, the  
5       parents are ripping the letter up and the kid is not  
6       getting it and getting told, "Oh, she's not writing to  
7       you".

8             Don't split kids up. There was only two sisters.  
9       It was four boys went to a home. Why could we not have  
10       stayed together? There was only two of us and yet  
11       I never seen her from the age of six until -- and the  
12       child you will hear, you will do it yourselves, you will  
13       all do it. "Oh, me and my sister did this". I have no  
14       photographs of myself as a kid. But just to have  
15       something. You shouldn't split kids up. I think it's  
16       so wrong. You shouldn't put a brother here and a sister  
17       there. And I know people maybe don't want two kids,  
18       well, don't get these two kids. We'll send you  
19       somewhere where you can have two kids. I think it's  
20       wrong.

21   Q. Then at paragraph 47 you say that you hope the Inquiry  
22       will recognise that something needs to be done and you  
23       talk about that backgrounds should be checked so that  
24       everything is tighter and safer for the child.

25   A. Yes.

1 Q. Can you explain a little bit more of what you have in  
2 mind there?

3 A. When I was seven, I went to their house, [REDACTED] wasn't  
4 there and I get that and you can hide things, we all do,  
5 stick your dirty washing in the cupboard and shut it,  
6 it's not there. But if you speak to neighbours or --  
7 I don't know if social work do. Just if this chap's  
8 always here when you go to visit him, "Oh, he's just  
9 a friend along the street", but he's there every time  
10 I come, look more into it. They got wedding invites, it  
11 was [REDACTED] and her, they were a couple. They were  
12 a recognised couple. And yet social work didn't know  
13 that.

14 And I get it when they -- don't tell them when  
15 you're turning up, like they knew when they were coming  
16 so [REDACTED] was out the picture. We were so terrified we  
17 could not say [REDACTED] was there. But again maybe if we went  
18 out, his voice would have come up or his name would have  
19 come up, "Oh, but [REDACTED] did this", "Oh, who is [REDACTED]?"  
20 I think there's so much you can learn just by taking the  
21 kid out of the house environment. Go and take them to  
22 a park and play, take them to the pictures, do more  
23 background checks. If you turn up every three months  
24 and that chap's still there or that lady's still sitting  
25 there, find out who they are. Don't take her word for

1       it.

2   Q.  You go on in this paragraph to say:

3               "There is a reason that a child is difficult."

4               So perhaps looking at a child's behaviour and  
5       looking at why that might be.

6   A.  Well, in my notes I'm below average.  Why am I below  
7       average?  Because I didn't go to school.  I wasn't at  
8       the school.  And I still -- I've described myself as  
9       thick and stupid, and I know I am because I can't spell  
10      very good, I know the spell checker's good, but I wasn't  
11      educated.  So I just think it should all change.

12  Q.  Then you say:

13              "Don't give up on children the way they gave up on  
14      me."

15              I think that's --

16  A.  I think that's, "Okay, this kid is below average, last  
17      time she was at somebody's house she was not toilet  
18      trained and they didn't like her so they sent her away",  
19      but split her up from her sister -- well, don't.  I can  
20      be -- as I've been told in the trauma classes I go to,  
21      a kid isn't born difficult.  Help a kid.

22              I didn't know how to -- I didn't know how to read  
23      and write.  I should have been taught better.  I'm not  
24      great at spelling, but if I've went to school.  I'm only  
25      good at one thing is cleaning.  I'd have loved to have

1           been clever, but I'm not because I wasn't educated and  
2           I think if education comes into it and somebody says,  
3           "This kid's not at school very often, we've written  
4           three times, why is she not at school?" Follow it up.  
5 MS INNES: Thank you, 'Margaret'. I have no more questions  
6           for you.  
7 A. Okay, thank you.  
8 MS INNES: There's no applications, my Lady.  
9 LADY SMITH: Thank you.  
10           Are there any outstanding applications for questions  
11           for 'Margaret'?  
12           'Margaret', that does complete all the questions we  
13           have for you.  
14 A. Thank you.  
15 LADY SMITH: Thank you so much for --  
16 A. Okay.  
17 LADY SMITH: -- engaging with us. We have a really helpful  
18           detailed written statement from you --  
19 A. Thank you.  
20 LADY SMITH: -- and you've talked so well about aspects of  
21           it that are obviously very important to you and still  
22           live with you, I'm sorry to say, in your evidence this  
23           morning. Hard though it may have been, please be  
24           assured it's been so valuable to me --  
25 A. Thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: -- to hear you, have you here and see you and  
2 hear your own voice explaining what it was like. It  
3 makes all the difference in the world.

4 A. Thank you.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you for that and I'm now able to let you  
6 go.

7 A. Thank you.

8 (The witness withdrew)

9 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes, what's the plan?

10 MS INNES: We have a short read-in I think that can be  
11 accomplished in the time.

12 LADY SMITH: Let's do that.

13 MS INNES: Again if I might be excused to speak to the  
14 witness?

15 LADY SMITH: Certainly.

16 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

17 'Bette' (read)

18 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this is a statement of an applicant  
19 who wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen the  
20 pseudonym 'Bette'. Her statement is at WIT.001.002.4644  
21 much.

22 'Bette' was placed by Glasgow Corporation in  
23 a foster placement with Mrs MPO in Glasgow from [REDACTED]  
24 to [REDACTED] 1968. The current responsible authority  
25 is Glasgow City Council.

1           " My name is 'Bette'. I was born in 1962. My  
2           contact details are known to the Inquiry.

3           I was born and spent the first few years of my life  
4           in Glasgow. I was one of six children, although I later  
5           found out my dad had two other girls from a previous  
6           relationship. They never lived with us. Where we lived  
7           at first was very small, just a room and kitchen. The  
8           toilet was on the landing. There was a section that  
9           lifted out the bed to make it bigger and my mum, dad and  
10          the six children all slept in the same bed. It was  
11          awful.

12          My father worked for the Post Office but wasn't well  
13          paid. I sometimes followed him on his rounds and  
14          annoyed him. My mum looked after the children. She was  
15          always tired and unhappy. She resented being in the  
16          house all the time looking after so many of us in such  
17          a confined space. She missed going out because she  
18          wasn't allowed to, and she missed her friends. She  
19          wasn't happy that he was out spending money. Often my  
20          dad would come home drunk and he was violent and  
21          abusive, especially to my mum, and he was angry at us."

22          From paragraphs 4 to 8, 'Bette' speaks of her life  
23          before care. The police arrived at the house because of  
24          drunken fights, the children were split up to live with  
25          different relatives for short periods, they moved house

1 several times. When 'Bette' was six, her mother died  
2 and her father's drinking got worse. The social work  
3 department became involved.

4 Moving now to paragraph 9 on page 3:

5 "We were subsequently all put in care. We were  
6 split up. My younger sister and brother went to foster  
7 parents somewhere. My youngest brother went to a baby  
8 home in Blairvardach, near Helensburgh. I'm not sure  
9 where my other brother went. My older sister and I went  
10 to foster parents in Glasgow. I think my family got  
11 tired of having to constantly look after us when there  
12 was a crisis. It was a social worker who told us that  
13 we were going into care. I don't know the social  
14 worker's name. They came and picked me and my older  
15 sister up and drove us to the foster parents. I would  
16 still have been six.

17 When we arrived, [MPN/ MPO] seemed pleasant to  
18 begin with. They were nice in front of the social  
19 worker. They showed us to our bedroom, which had two  
20 nice single beds. When the social worker left, we were  
21 sent upstairs, but it wasn't the room that we were  
22 shown. It was further up into the house, into a sort of  
23 loft. It had two camp beds with rolled mattresses.

24 Mrs [MPO] told us this was our room.

25 [MPN/ MPO] were rather obese. Mr [MPN]



1 disappeared during the day, I don't know where he  
2 worked, but Mrs MPO was always there. They had two  
3 sons who were older than my sister and I. They were  
4 about 13. I can't remember their names.

5 We never got a proper meal when we were with the  
6 MPN/ MPO. We got scraps of food that were left over from  
7 their meals. We didn't eat at the same time as them.  
8 We were left in the kitchen while they ate their dinner.  
9 We took some biscuits and ate them.

10 We were never taken anywhere for the day or had any  
11 holidays with MPN/ MPO. When we got home from school,  
12 that was us home. We didn't go out again.

13 I went to school but can't remember the name of it.  
14 Mrs MPO would pick us up after school and take us  
15 home.

16 I never went to the doctors or dentist when I was  
17 with MPN/ MPO. I didn't need any medical attention  
18 for the times I was beaten. It was usually just  
19 bruises.

20 When MPN/ MPO had anyone visit them, before they  
21 arrived they would have us dressed impeccably and well  
22 presented. I think I saw a social worker once when  
23 I was there. It was the same social worker who dropped  
24 us off and later took us away. The foster parents were  
25 present and we never got the chance to speak to her on

1 our own. We were dressed smartly and just acted normal.

2 From the very start, MPN/ MPO made it clear  
3 that we were beneath them and didn't warrant any special  
4 treatment. If anything, we were treated like glorified  
5 skivvies. We did the housework. Mr MPN would often  
6 make us strip naked when we were doing the chores. He  
7 would make us clean things that we had already cleaned.  
8 He would tell us that we had missed a bit and would need  
9 to start again. They were obsessed about cleanliness  
10 and for some odd reason they always insisted on us doing  
11 it naked. As soon as we came in from school we had all  
12 these chores to do. We then helped wash up in the  
13 kitchen when Mrs MPO was cooking.

14 Mr MPN belted us. He took the belt off his  
15 trousers. Sometimes he folded the belt over and pulled  
16 it quickly to make it make a loud snapping noise. He  
17 hit us most days with the belt. Mrs MPO had her own  
18 belt which she hit us with. It looked more like  
19 a ladies' belt. Sometimes she would hit us with a wet  
20 tea towel and smack it right across the back of our  
21 legs. They would both hit us if they thought we weren't  
22 doing something properly or if the boys had told them we  
23 had done something. Mr MPN would hit us with the belt  
24 on our bare back or on our bare backside. Usually it  
25 was on our backside. Mrs MPO would tell us to take

1           our vest off and hit us with the belt on our bare back.  
2           Most of the time, my sister and I were only in a night  
3           shirt because we barely left the house. The only time  
4           was when we went to school. They never hit us near the  
5           face. Most of the time they made sure that the belt was  
6           on our back or bottom.

7           When we got food, it wasn't a meal. It was usually  
8           because somebody had left something. There was a bit at  
9           the back of the kitchen, like a scullery, and while they  
10          ate in the dining room we had to wait in the scullery.  
11          We were usually in there watching up their dishes  
12          anyway. The boys would come in sometimes with a bit  
13          food and make us think it was for us. They would eat it  
14          right in front of our faces. They were really cruel.  
15          The parents thought this was highly amusing.

16          We didn't go to church. When **MPN/ MPO** and  
17          their two sons went, me and my sister were stripped  
18          naked and locked in the wardrobe in their bedroom.  
19          **MPN/ MPO** did this to us. They went every  
20          Sunday. We were locked in the wardrobe for hours.

21          On several occasions, my sister and I were tortured.  
22          The boys did it and the parents watched. The boys  
23          instructed us to strip naked and lie on the floor and to  
24          spread our legs and our arms between their beds. They  
25          tied us to the bed frames, which were either side of us.

1 They then ran their bikes over us. [REDACTED]  
2 were laughing and thought it was really funny. They  
3 were absolutely vile. The boys regularly hit us. They  
4 punched and kicked us.

5 We had to do housework every day. One time Mr [REDACTED]  
6 told me I was to scrub the kitchen floor. I refused.  
7 My sister did it but he made her strip naked. She had  
8 to use a scrubbing brush and a big green bar of soap.  
9 When she was scrubbing, she was sliding all over the  
10 floor. The boys found it hysterical because my sister  
11 was slipping all over the place. It was sick.

12 [REDACTED] would force me and my sister to  
13 stand on one leg and see how long we could stay like  
14 that. When we were doing that, one of the boys would  
15 slap us with a ruler. They would also make us hop on  
16 one leg and we would hop around the room. They would  
17 make us do stupid things like that every single day just  
18 for their entertainment.

19 There were times when the parents were downstairs  
20 and the boys would tell us to do things. If we refused,  
21 they would say that they would tell their mum that we  
22 had done something. They might hide things, then tell  
23 their mum that we stole them. [REDACTED] would  
24 believe everything they said and we were beaten by them  
25 with the belt.

1           On one occasion, one of [MPN/ MPO] friends  
2           was visiting. She was in the living room. When we were  
3           alone, she said that she hoped I was grateful for what  
4           [MPN/ MPO] had done for me. She then slapped me on the  
5           face. I was so confused. I told her I was, while  
6           holding my face. I didn't know what was going on.  
7           Their friends were horrible.

8           There was no sexual abuse when I was at [MPN/ MPO].  
9           It was all physical and emotional. It was humiliating.  
10          It was mostly the boys that did it while Mr and  
11          Mrs [MPN/ MPO] watched.

12          Mrs [MPO] always said to us that if anyone noticed  
13          any marks on us I was to say that I had been climbing or  
14          doing something like that. No one ever did ask. I even  
15          had a black eye one time. I got the black eye when  
16          I was turning to get away from the boys and I went into  
17          the wall. No one ever noticed or asked how I got it.  
18          Mrs [MPO] once told me not to do PE. I don't know if  
19          I had bruises or not but I had been belted across my  
20          back and it was sore. I had to just say that I wasn't  
21          feeling well. A couple of times she got me on the legs  
22          with a tea towel which left bruises but I had woolly  
23          tights on at the school.

24          We were too frightened to tell anyone what was going  
25          on in [MPN/ MPO] house. We wanted to tell the social

1 worker but I was frightened that she wouldn't believe me  
2 and we would be left there and it would be worse for us.

3 We stayed with [MPN/ MPO] family for six months.  
4 I have no idea why we left. We were just told that we  
5 were going back home. I was pleased in a way to be  
6 going back to familiar territory. I think my dad had  
7 said that he was ready to take responsibility and he  
8 must have proved to them that he could.

9 We were taken home to my dad by the social worker.  
10 I think he wanted us back but that wore off within a few  
11 days. After that, he didn't seem to care that we were  
12 there. He seemed annoyed that he had been lumbered with  
13 us again. All my brothers and sistered ended up back  
14 with my dad about the same time. I was pleased to hear  
15 that my sister and brother who had been in foster care  
16 had lovely foster parents where they had been."

17 From paragraphs 30, 31 to 32, 'Bette' speaks of  
18 ill-treatment by her father, which resulted in her and  
19 three of her siblings being moved to Lagarie House, Rhu.

20 From paragraphs 33 to 149 'Bette' tells of her  
21 experiences at Lagarie.

22 The remaining sections of 'Bette's' statement,  
23 including the sections of her life after care, impact,  
24 support, reporting abuse, records and lessons learned  
25 are more closely related to her experiences at Lagarie.

1           For this reason I'll move now to paragraph 149 on  
2           page 48.

3   LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4   MS RATTRAY: "About eight years ago I phoned the number  
5           I found for **MPN/ MPO**, who were my first foster  
6           carers. I don't know what possessed me, I just had  
7           an urge. It was on a Sunday morning and I managed to  
8           get hold of this document with their name and address on  
9           it. I phoned and a female answered so I asked for  
10          Mrs **MPO**. She asked who I was. I told her to cast her  
11          mind back to 1969 when she fostered two young girls from  
12          the area of Glasgow. I reminded her that she had  
13          tortured us, as had her two sons. She started screaming  
14          awful abuse down the phone. I was shaken and reverted  
15          back to a little child. She told me never to call her  
16          number again. She hung up but I held the phone for  
17          ages. I was shocked. I never attempted to ring her  
18          again."

19                Now to paragraph 197 on page 50:

20                "I am so pleased that we have had this chance to  
21                talk about my experiences. I hope something comes of  
22                everything I have said.

23                I have no objection to my witness statement being  
24                published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.  
25                I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are

1 true."

2 'Bette' signed her statement on 20 March 2019.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 We break now and the next witness will be ready at  
5 11.45; is that right?

6 MS RATTRAY: That's correct, my Lady, yes.

7 LADY SMITH: I'll do that.

8 Before I rise, just to mention **MPN/ MPO**, the  
9 foster carers who were mentioned in that read-in, have  
10 identities that are protected by my general restriction  
11 order and their names can't be used outside this room.

12 Thank you.

13 (11.33 am)

14 (A short break)

15 (11.46 am)

16 LADY SMITH: Ms Innes.

17 MS INNES: My Lady, the next witness is 'Denise'. 'Denise'  
18 was in the care of Edinburgh Corporation and was placed  
19 with foster carers in Edinburgh from  1971 until  
20 she was returned to the care of her mother on  
21  1972. The City of Edinburgh Council is the  
22 relevant successor.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 'Denise' (sworn)

25 LADY SMITH: 'Denise', you'll see that there's a red folder



1 in front of you there. That has a hard copy of your  
2 written statement in it and we'll take you to that in  
3 a minute or two. We'll also put your statement up on  
4 the screen and go to the parts of it that Ms Innes will  
5 be asking you questions about in the course of your  
6 evidence. You might find that helpful. You don't have  
7 to use it if you don't, but it's there if you need it.

8 A. (Witness nods)

9 LADY SMITH: But quite apart from that, 'Denise', can I just  
10 say at the outset I know that what we're asking you to  
11 do is difficult. You're coming along as an adult to  
12 talk in public about your life as a child, your personal  
13 life as a child, and some of it may be distressing, some  
14 of it may trigger emotions that take you by surprise.  
15 I know that. I do understand that that can happen.

16 If you want a break, if you want to pause, that's  
17 absolutely fine. We can do that. We can accommodate  
18 that. You just guide us as to what will work for you,  
19 because if it works for you, it works for me. All  
20 right?

21 A. Okay, thank you.

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

24 Questions from Ms Innes

25 MS INNES: 'Denise', we understand that you were born in

1 1960?

2 A. Yes, that's correct.

3 Q. Your statement, we give it the reference

4 WIT.001.002.8348, and if we can look, please, at the

5 final page of your statement, we see there at

6 paragraph 83 that you say that you have no objection to

7 your witness statement being published as part of the

8 evidence to the Inquiry. You believe the facts stated

9 in this witness statement are true. You signed the

10 statement on 4 September 2019; is that right?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. If we go back to the beginning of your statement,

13 please, you tell us a bit of your life before you went

14 into foster care. At paragraph 3 you tell us that you

15 have an older brother and two younger sisters; is that

16 right?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 Q. One of your sisters is two years younger than you and

19 the other is five years younger than you?

20 A. Yes, that's correct.

21 Q. You tell us in paragraph 4 of your statement that your

22 parents separated?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And there came a point that your dad disappeared from

25 the scene and you didn't see him again.

1 A. Yes, that's correct.

2 Q. Then if we go on over the page, you talk about living in  
3 a flat in Sighthill with your mother and your two  
4 sisters.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And your brother was in a residential school at that  
7 time?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You describe that your mother had some difficulties  
10 after the separation from your dad?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And she became essentially unable to look after you and  
13 your sisters?

14 A. I think the crunch point came when she -- obviously she  
15 was drinking a lot, she didn't pay the rent and we were  
16 evicted from the flat in Sighthill.

17 Q. You tell us about that at paragraph 7. You say that the  
18 actual circumstances leading up to you going into care  
19 are hazy, but you can remember your mother taking you  
20 and your sisters on a bus to what must have been  
21 a social work office in Edinburgh?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Where did you go from the social work office, can you  
24 remember?

25 A. We spent one night in a house, a big house, with I guess

1           it must have been temporary foster care people. They  
2           were really lovely, actually, but I don't think they  
3           could accommodate three of us, because I think they  
4           already had a couple of children there. So yes, we  
5           spent one night there.

6   Q. At the bottom of this page at paragraph 10 you say that  
7           you were taken the next day to foster carers. You don't  
8           remember going there.

9   A. Yeah, I do remember -- I remember going to the FGK-FGL ,  
10          yeah.

11   Q. If we go over the page, you tell us about that. At  
12          paragraph 12 you tell us where they lived, so they lived  
13          in an apartment.

14   A. Yeah.

15   Q. And it was on a golf course? Was it an apartment above  
16          the club house?

17   A. Yes. I think he was the groundsman of ██████████ Golf  
18          Course, from what I can remember, and I guess as part of  
19          his job they got this large apartment up some stairs  
20          within that complex and that's where we were.

21   Q. Did you have a room that you shared with your sisters in  
22          that?

23   A. Yes, again that's a bit hazy. I think they occasionally  
24          had other foster children, so at one point I had a room  
25          on my own but then at another point I shared a room with

1 both my sisters, yeah.

2 Q. What were your first impressions of the FGK-FGL? Can you  
3 remember?

4 A. I think I remember the first day we were there and they  
5 asked us to go to the shops and I think we were very  
6 sort of eager to impress them, so we kind of raced up  
7 and got them whatever it was they wanted and raced back  
8 and they praised us for being so quick and I guess we  
9 were just, you know, really wanting to make a good  
10 impression.

11 And it was hard to say, really. I don't remember  
12 having any positive or negative feelings about them on  
13 that first day, just that we wanted to make a good  
14 impression. I remember wanting them to like us,  
15 basically.

16 Q. You say that you don't know how old they were. You  
17 would guess that they were in their 30s at the time?

18 A. Yes. They had a young child, I think he must have been  
19 about 18 months old at the time. I don't think he was  
20 walking. But yeah, I'm guessing they would be in their  
21 30s, but I'm not sure.

22 Q. If we go on over the page you tell us a bit about the  
23 apartment. If we look at paragraph 17, you say that you  
24 didn't sleep very well there.

25 A. It was really cold. It was a cold place. I don't

1 remember there being much heating. We had very few  
2 blankets, in the way of blankets and things. They  
3 weren't the kind of people you could really ask for more  
4 blankets or anything, so what you had was what you got,  
5 really.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. There was a lounge and a kitchen. We weren't allowed to  
8 go in the lounge. That was for them and their guests  
9 and things. We were banned from the lounge. We weren't  
10 allowed to watch television or anything like that. We  
11 weren't allowed to go and sit in the lounge.

12 Q. Okay. You talk in this paragraph about you remember  
13 getting a slice of toast for breakfast and then you'd be  
14 off to school and in the evening you can't remember any  
15 specific routine, but you can remember if you were  
16 making any noise in your room they would come in and  
17 tell you to go to sleep, you say.

18 A. Yeah, I think one of the worst things about being there,  
19 apart from other things, was the lack of food. We were  
20 always starving all the time. We weren't -- you know,  
21 if we asked for any more food, you know -- food was  
22 almost seen -- our foster mother, FGL, she almost  
23 policed the food. You know, you weren't allowed -- she  
24 would give you food that even though she knows you  
25 didn't like it, say for instance she'd give you pasta

1 with tuna and some really awful sauce on it, which  
2 obviously that's the sort of thing I would never eat and  
3 don't eat today, but that would be it. She'd give you  
4 in a little margarine tub, so tiny portions, and if you  
5 didn't eat it you weren't offered anything else. If you  
6 said you didn't like it -- I mean, it just wasn't -- you  
7 know, you didn't get any choice in anything that you  
8 had. If you were still hungry, there was never anything  
9 offered afterwards.

10 If you were seen to -- you weren't able to like ask  
11 for a biscuit or a slice of bread or anything.  
12 I remember sneaking out of bed one night -- I mean we  
13 were always starving hungry, so hungry. I don't  
14 remember ever being as hungry as when I lived with them.  
15 I sneaked out of bed one night, stole -- it was classed  
16 as stealing if you dared to take a slice of bread, for  
17 instance, and I got a slice of bread and I remember  
18 putting vinegar on it, because I daren't get the butter  
19 out of the fridge because it might make a noise, just to  
20 give it some taste, but she caught me and then she  
21 slapped me so hard she threw me across the kitchen,  
22 I flew across the kitchen because I'd stolen, how dare  
23 I steal, steal bread.

24 So that was the kind of culture we were living under  
25 as far as food was concerned. We weren't allowed to --

1           you know, ask for anything. If we did, that was the  
2           kind of comeback we had.

3           She'd bake stuff, she was always baking stuff,  
4           I don't remember what, biscuits and things like that,  
5           but it never came to us. I don't know whether she gave  
6           it to family or friends or it was just for them.  
7           I don't remember ever having biscuits or anything like  
8           that. We just got this horrible food in these margarine  
9           tubs. Yes, it was almost like animals, putting out  
10          a bowl of dog food for us basically, that's how it felt,  
11          really. You know, that she was doing us a favour by  
12          giving us this slop.

13 Q. Okay. If we hear evidence from the **FGK-FGL** that there  
14          was plenty of food, what's your response to that?

15 A. Well, there might have been plenty of food, but it  
16          certainly wasn't given to us. They might have had  
17          plenty of food, but both my sisters and I, that's one of  
18          the things I'm sure they would have said. I haven't  
19          seen their statements, but I can tell you for a fact  
20          that's one of the things they would say is that we were  
21          starving, we weren't given enough food. You know, we  
22          were really, really hungry. We would be walking the  
23          streets absolutely starving. I remember neighbours  
24          coming out and giving us, you know, I remember some  
25          neighbour coming out and giving us a bag of sweets and



1 things. We were obviously hungry.

2 When we were at school, I remember distinctly,  
3 because in those days you had medicals at school and  
4 I remember FGL coming in with us one day for  
5 the medicals and I remember a doctor being quite almost  
6 angry or hostile towards her saying, "These children are  
7 really underweight".

8 So it must have been put down in our medical records  
9 that we were severely underweight for him to question  
10 her. I mean as a child you don't take much in, but I do  
11 remember there being a tension there saying why are  
12 these children so underweight and I can't remember what  
13 she said, but I remember thinking it's because we don't  
14 get fed any food, obviously we are going to be  
15 underweight if we're not fed.

16 Yeah, I think whatever they say about her baking  
17 things is irrelevant, really. We weren't fed. We  
18 weren't given the opportunity to have food. If we  
19 took -- if we asked for food, it was denied. We were  
20 too scared to ask for food. It was obvious. If we  
21 helped ourselves to food we were punished. You know, we  
22 were starving.

23 Q. You mentioned school there and you talk about this from  
24 paragraph 21 of your statement and you say that you can  
25 remember going to a school and it was a different school

1 to the one that you'd gone to before. How did you get  
2 on at this new school?

3 A. I think, you know, I was fine. I mean I was never  
4 a problem child at school or anything. You know,  
5 I think I went to Sighthill school when I lived at  
6 Sighthill. I think it was [REDACTED] or wherever was  
7 nearest to [REDACTED] school, the school we went to.

8 Obviously we were not dressed brilliantly. We used  
9 to have jumble sales shoes and ill-fitting shoes and  
10 things on that she gave us, but I think I -- you know,  
11 we behaved well at school. I was never in any trouble  
12 at school. I did my studies. I did well. I don't  
13 think I was ever any -- any particular issue.

14 Q. You talk at paragraph 23 about your middle sister being  
15 bullied at school --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- and you say that you think that you were happier at  
18 school. You then go on to say:

19 "I think schools at that time were very different  
20 place from how they are now. I don't remember making  
21 any relationships with teachers or feeling I could speak  
22 to anybody about how I was or how things were at home."

23 A. No. I think in those days, you know, you sort of felt  
24 really ashamed of those kind of things, you didn't want  
25 everybody to know you were in foster care and even if

1       you did tell them, you know, it's embarrassing to tell  
2       people how things are, that you're not being fed and  
3       that they're treating you badly and I don't remember  
4       having any particular relationships with schoolteachers.  
5       I think schoolteachers at that time weren't looking for  
6       those kind of things, were they, and they didn't really  
7       forge those kind of relationships and things.

8               Obviously my sister was terribly badly bullied at  
9       school and that was horrible to see, really, really bad,  
10      the police were involved and all those kind of things as  
11      well.

12             I ran away from the **FGK-FGL** once, I ran away to my  
13      friend's house, I made a couple of friends, because of  
14      the terrible situation that was going on at the **FGK-FGL**.  
15      I couldn't bear it. But the police in that time  
16      obviously they didn't ask you why you'd run away and why  
17      would an eight-year-old/nine-year-old girl run away  
18      who'd never done anything like that. As I say, I wasn't  
19      a problem child, I wasn't in trouble at school or  
20      anything, but I didn't want to be with those people, but  
21      I mean the police obviously just took me back to them  
22      and then they of course just beat me for leaving, for  
23      running away instead of sort of sitting down and  
24      saying -- nobody questioned to me why -- you know,  
25      I don't remember the police or anybody getting involved

1 and saying why or social workers of the time saying,  
2 "'Denise', why are you running away from these people?"  
3 Or anything like that, really.

4 All they did was took me back to them and then they  
5 beat me for going, telling me how much they hated me for  
6 causing trouble.

7 Q. At school, of course, we know that you'd moved from the  
8 school that you were at to this new school, so it was  
9 entirely new teachers at the school --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- when you were in foster care?

12 A. Yeah. And I don't know whether the school realised or  
13 even knew that we were in foster care and I think that's  
14 something that's important that they should know that,  
15 really, that if children are in foster care, the school  
16 should take more notice of what's going on with them, if  
17 they're hungry and underweight and those kind of things,  
18 miserable.

19 Q. Okay. Then you talk about -- at paragraph 25 you talk  
20 about washing and bathing and the thing that mostly  
21 sticks out in relation to that is that you were given  
22 old worn towels.

23 A. Yeah. We were not allowed to use their towels. They  
24 had their own towels. We were given like these really  
25 old scrappy towels and things to use. It made us feel

1       like we were lepers, basically, like we were somehow,  
2       you know, infective or -- you know, very -- it just made  
3       us feel very rubbish that we weren't good enough to even  
4       use their towels, we were somehow so different to them  
5       that -- you know, it was horrible. I don't remember  
6       ever --

7   LADY SMITH: You were being treated as being a lesser form  
8       of life?

9   A. Yes, exactly. Absolutely, yeah.

10   LADY SMITH: Not worthy of better provision?

11   A. Exactly, yeah, that's exactly it, yeah.

12   MS INNES: At paragraph 26 you talk about clothing and  
13       shoes, so you've mentioned this already that you would  
14       be bought things from jumble sales, I think.

15   A. She used to make us -- FGL -- I mean, she was  
16       absolutely awful, she was a terrible woman to us. She  
17       used to make us go around knocking on doors, all round  
18       the neighbourhood, asking/begging for jumble sale  
19       things, and then she'd go through them all, keep the  
20       bits that she wanted and make us wear anything that sort  
21       of vaguely fitted us. So, you know, we just had stuff  
22       from jumble sales to wear, jumble sale shoes, jumble  
23       sale clothes, whether they actually fitted us or not.  
24       Obviously we were all really thin, quite thin and  
25       emaciated looking when we were with them. You know,

1 going to school in shoes that didn't really fit us very  
2 well, wearing these jumble sale clothes and actually  
3 having to go around the doors and begging strangers for  
4 clothes and things. It was humiliating.

5 LADY SMITH: Were you explaining to me there that you were  
6 told by FGL that you were to ask for items to take to  
7 a jumble sale but actually she wanted to go through them  
8 first --

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: -- and take what she'd use for you?

11 A. Yeah.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 A. So she didn't have to pay for anything.

14 MS INNES: Over the page on page 6 you talk first of all  
15 about leisure time during the week and you say that you  
16 weren't allowed out to do any of the normal things that  
17 children of that age do. In the evenings you just had  
18 to sit in your bedrooms after you'd done the housework.

19 A. Yeah. I mean we were never allowed to listen to things  
20 like the radio, we were not allowed to go -- as I say,  
21 we were never allowed in the lounge, so we weren't  
22 allowed to watch television as normal children of that  
23 age would be, watching television programmes, those kind  
24 of things. You know, which is really weird. It's  
25 a year that you sort of kind of missed, really. You

1 know, you couldn't listen to the radio or anything that  
2 you wanted to do. I mean I enjoyed reading and things,  
3 but apart from that, we couldn't have had friends back,  
4 we would never have had friends back there or anything,  
5 we didn't have bikes or anything to play on, or any of  
6 the normal things that normal children have to do.  
7 Yeah, it was just -- yeah, it was -- yeah, horrible.

8 Q. At paragraph 28 you say that you were left to your own  
9 devices most weekends and you would be put outside to  
10 roam the streets.

11 A. Yeah. I think that's another kind of abiding memory as  
12 well, really. Me and my two sisters, bearing in mind my  
13 youngest sister was probably about four, if that.

14 FGL and FGK used to go out with their son for  
15 obviously days out at the weekend, particularly on  
16 a Sunday I seem to think. Obviously we would have been  
17 just an inconvenience to that, really, we wouldn't have  
18 been allowed to stay in the house, so they would dump us  
19 on beachfront, with a pack of like polony  
20 sandwiches wrapped in the paper you got to have bread  
21 in, so almost half a sandwich each and a bottle of  
22 dilute squash and then they'd disappear for about  
23 six/seven hours, for the whole day. We would be left,  
24 three little girls roaming beach front, no  
25 money, buy

1 ourselves anything else to eat. So once those  
2 sandwiches were eaten we had nothing else and we were  
3 obviously starving, which we were always hungry anyway,  
4 but I remember us just roaming around crying --  
5 I remember us crying, wandering the streets crying.  
6 What are you supposed to do at that age?

7 We were really lucky nothing happened to us, because  
8 we were three little girls all under 10 with nowhere to  
9 go and no money to even buy ourselves any food, go on  
10 [REDACTED], do anything. That happened all the time. We  
11 were just literally dumped, as if we were like unwanted  
12 kittens on the streets because we were an inconvenience  
13 while they had a lovely day out somewhere.

14 It just -- those hours go on and on and on and on,  
15 don't they, when you're just wandering around, nobody to  
16 look us or anything, trying to look after my two little  
17 sisters. You know, it was really horrible.

18 Q. Did anybody speak to you when you were out?

19 A. I remember a couple of times one of the neighbours, as  
20 we were walking around the streets, she came out -- you  
21 know, we -- I remember us walking around the streets  
22 crying all the time. How nobody ever reported it  
23 I don't know, but we were just so miserable all the  
24 time, we were just literally just crying all the time,  
25 wandering the streets crying. It's almost like



1 something out of Bosnia or something when I look back  
2 now, you know, these poor three small children wondering  
3 the streets [REDACTED] crying their eyes out, it's  
4 just appalling, in these rags basically, it's just  
5 incredible really that nobody ever did anything.

6 I remember somebody coming out of the house and  
7 she'd obviously seen us and brought bags of chocolates,  
8 bars of chocolates, and giving us those, it was like  
9 Christmas, oh my God, somebody's given us some food,  
10 some chocolate to eat. That was -- she obviously felt  
11 really sorry for us.

12 So people saw us, you know, people saw how miserable  
13 we were and how neglected we were, but obviously nobody  
14 did anything about it. Or as far as I know they didn't  
15 I mean they might have reported it but nobody ever did  
16 anything.

17 So yeah, people saw us in our misery.

18 Q. Again if we hear evidence from the [REDACTED] that you were  
19 never left on your own and in fact you weren't allowed  
20 to go to the beach on your own and you went for walks  
21 together as a family, what's your response to that?

22 A. I think it's just -- well, they're lying. They're  
23 blatantly lying. It's an absolute joke. We never ever  
24 went for a walk with them anywhere. They never took us  
25 anywhere. And we were dumped on [REDACTED] beach for

1 hours, hours and hours and hours on our own.

2 It's an abiding memory, the fear, the fear of being  
3 there on our own and not knowing what to do, the hours  
4 just went on and on and on. And I'm sure if you speak  
5 to my sisters individually they'll tell you the same  
6 thing. It's one of the worst things. I never want to  
7 go back to [REDACTED] now in a million years, because  
8 the idea of even going anywhere near that place would  
9 fill me with like horror. I'd never want to set foot on  
10 [REDACTED] Beach again and I'm sure my sisters would  
11 feel the same. The idea of going -- even if it comes up  
12 on screen ... (Pause)

13 Q. It's okay.

14 A. Just walking around there for hours with my sisters,  
15 crying. Not knowing sort of like when they were going  
16 to come back and being always hungry and not knowing  
17 what to do and ... being scared of all these people like  
18 [REDACTED] and things like that, really, and just being  
19 so abandoned, which we had been, obviously, just  
20 abandoned there. It was really -- it was quite  
21 frightening and it was just like a -- just horrible. It  
22 was just like an abiding memory, really, it just makes  
23 it feel like a horrible hostile place, doesn't it.

24 And yeah, no, they definitely dumped us, they  
25 definitely let us go places on our own. They didn't

1 want us, we were just an inconvenience. It was  
2 perfectly obvious that they didn't want to take us with  
3 them. They never took us anywhere. We never once went  
4 for a walk with them as a family. We were just treated  
5 like an inconvenience, really.

6 Q. Okay. If we can go back to page 6 of your statement,  
7 please, and paragraph 30. You talk there about the  
8 chores that you would be asked to do in the house. What  
9 sort of things would you be asked to do?

10 A. I think one of the most difficult things was they used  
11 to make us -- FGL would write a list of shopping  
12 and -- a really long list of shopping and she'd make me  
13 and my sisters walk up to Leith, to all these different  
14 shops, I guess there were supermarkets, bakers,  
15 whatever, to get this really long list of shopping,  
16 really heavy bags, and I remember the bags cutting into  
17 my arms. They were far too heavy for children to carry,  
18 it was ridiculous.

19 My poor sisters as well, I remember us having to try  
20 and get these heavy bags home and having to stop every  
21 five minutes because they were so heavy, cutting into  
22 our arms and everything. It was ridiculous to expect  
23 children to carry such things.

24 And obviously we were hungry, as we were always  
25 hungry, and there was food in the bags, like yoghurts

1 and things like that. We were starving, but we wouldn't  
2 have dared to help ourselves to anything because she  
3 would have gone ballistic. FGL had a really, really  
4 ferocious evil temper and she was almost worse than he  
5 was, because she was absolutely vile. Like if you upset  
6 her or annoyed her in any way, you know, you'd pay for  
7 it, you know, because she would, you know, beat you  
8 basically, scream at you and beat you.

9 Q. Do you know if she ever went to do any of the shopping  
10 herself?

11 A. I don't remember her doing anything -- she never came  
12 with us, that's for sure. She used to send us on our  
13 own to Leith to all these shops and things. I don't  
14 remember seeing her, I don't know if she went to do  
15 shopping or not, to be honest.

16 Q. Was it quite a long walk?

17 A. It seemed miles. It was from [REDACTED] to Leith,  
18 I seem to remember, and it just seemed a long way. As  
19 a child obviously it would seem a long, long way and the  
20 bags just seemed really, really, really heavy, so  
21 I guess I'm sort of saying it from a child's remembrance  
22 as well. It seemed miles and miles and miles to have to  
23 walk. It seemed to go on forever. It was an ordeal.  
24 I remember it being an a big ordeal for all of us.

25 Q. In addition to that, did you have to do chores in the

1 house?

2 A. Yes. I mean I remember if there was any cleaning up to  
3 do, her Alsatian had diarrhoea and I remember her making  
4 us clean that up with newspapers and that kind of thing.  
5 It was absolutely -- you know, to ask small children to  
6 do that kind of thing is just appalling, really. Yeah,  
7 she was -- she was horrible.

8 Q. If we go on to page 7, paragraph 33, you talk there  
9 about any contact that you had with your mother and you  
10 think it was sporadic?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. You say you can't say how often it was, maybe once every  
13 couple of months.

14 A. Something like that, yeah.

15 Q. When you saw her, was it at the FGK-FGL house or did you  
16 go out with her?

17 A. I think we went out with her I seem to remember, but  
18 yeah. But I don't think she came to the house much.  
19 I don't remember her being in the house and chatting to  
20 them or to us. I remember us all being there together,  
21 I kind of just vaguely remember going out with her,  
22 seeing her just briefly.

23 Q. Not staying over with her and then going back to the  
24 FGK-FGL ?

25 A. No, we didn't stay over I don't think, no.

1 Q. Then you talk about your brother. He was at the  
2 residential school that we've mentioned throughout your  
3 time with the FGK-FGL.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Did you see him at all over the time that you were  
6 there?

7 A. No, we didn't see him at all.

8 Q. When you were living with your mother, did you see him?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did he come home at the weekends or did you go to see  
11 him?

12 A. I think he came home and we went to see him as well.

13 Q. Do you remember a social worker ever coming to visit you  
14 when you were at the FGK-FGL ?

15 A. I think I vaguely remember one coming once. I think we  
16 tried to tell our mother about how awful it was, I don't  
17 know whether she'd spoken to them, and I think a social  
18 worker might have spoken to us vaguely when we were at  
19 the FGK-FGL. I remember being too frightened to speak to  
20 her about it and my sister, ██████, has said that the  
21 FGK-FGL said to her or FGL said to her that she had --  
22 there was microphones everywhere and that if she spoke  
23 to anybody about what was happening she would hear her.  
24 I mean I don't remember her saying that to me, but my  
25 sister wanted me to say that. She said that a few

1 times, actually, that she'd hidden microphones. And my  
2 sister was really scared.

3 That would be one of my recommendations, that  
4 children are given a safe space that they can speak to  
5 a social worker. I think it's really important that  
6 children looked after in any situation are given a safe  
7 space and an opportunity to say exactly what's going on  
8 in that place away from the place that they're staying  
9 in. You can't speak to children who, when they're on  
10 the spot in that particular place, and ask them, because  
11 if the perpetrators of the abuse are in the building,  
12 children are petrified of these people and they just --  
13 if they think they're anywhere near them, they'll just  
14 be punished for anything they say.

15 Children should be taken out somewhere neutral and  
16 asked on a regular basis, once a month, for instance,  
17 taken somewhere by somebody who is neutral and asked  
18 exactly what's going on in the placement, are they  
19 happy, do they want to stay there, and be assured that  
20 whatever they say to them, they will not have to go back  
21 to that place if they don't want to.

22 I know the trouble is there's pressures on the  
23 services and I think that -- I think far too much  
24 credence is given to keeping people within the  
25 placements that they're in and to keep the foster carers

1 on side and to keep the service and keep the placements  
2 going, and not enough is put on actually making sure  
3 those children are in the right place and that they want  
4 to be there.

5 Because children -- if children are happy and well  
6 cared for in any environment, they wouldn't want to  
7 damage that. You know, children are not going to say,  
8 "These people are terrible, they're treating us really  
9 badly" unless they are, because they haven't got  
10 a vested interest. If people have been good to them,  
11 caring for them, they're going to want to keep that  
12 going, they're not going to want to damage that.

13 So if children are given an opportunity, taken out  
14 on a regular basis and asked by somebody who, you know,  
15 they can trust and told, "Whatever you say to me today  
16 I will believe you and we'll act on it, and if you tell  
17 us ..." And if the children then say, "These people are  
18 really horrible, they're starving us, they're beating  
19 us, they're neglecting us, we don't want to live with  
20 them". And then, you know, that person -- it has to be  
21 an absolute that those children are not put back into  
22 that place. You know, credence should be given on the  
23 children saying that. If children are saying, "We don't  
24 want to be there", they should not be made to be there.

25 You know, they should be ... (Pause) ... they should



1 be given a time to say that, to be able to tell people  
2 that. They should be given an opportunity to say,  
3 "These people are treating us really badly and we do not  
4 want to be with them", and we were never given that  
5 opportunity to say, "We don't want to be here", because  
6 we would have said that, you know, "We don't want to be  
7 with these horrible bloody people, get us out of here",  
8 and nobody gave us that lifeline ever. We were just  
9 dumped with them, even though all the red flags were  
10 there. We were underweight, we were wandering the  
11 streets crying, we were miserable, we looked miserable,  
12 they could have looked in there, there were no toys,  
13 there was nothing nice, we were never ... we were  
14 obviously really unhappy. But we were given  
15 an opportunity to say, "We don't want to be with these  
16 people, get us out of here", and children should always  
17 be given that opportunity you know. It's appalling that  
18 people should ever be put in a situation they can't get  
19 out of, you know, that children should never -- it  
20 doesn't matter where they are, whether they're in foster  
21 care, institutions, boarding schools, anywhere, children  
22 should always be given a regular chance to say, in  
23 a neutral place away from the place that these abusers  
24 might be, "I do not want to be in that place, I don't  
25 want to go back there, get me out of there".

1           And that should be something that's fundamental and  
2           a very basic thing. You know, on top of everything  
3           else, you know, keeping the foster carers happy, I know  
4           the services are really overstretched and funding and  
5           all the rest of it, and I think too much emphasis is put  
6           on that and the very basic emphasis should be: is that  
7           child okay? And the person you need to ask is the  
8           child. It's not the parents, it's not the school, it's  
9           not the social workers.

10           You get the child into a situation and you say to  
11           that child, "Do you want to be with these people? Are  
12           you all right?" And they'll say, "No, I'm not, get me  
13           out of there", and that's the fundamental thing that  
14           children should always be able to say that, "I do not  
15           want to be there". And then whatever else comes from  
16           that is secondary. Get that person out of there, get  
17           them to a place of safety and then look into it. You  
18           cannot let that person go back into that situation.

19           I ran away from that place and they took me back.  
20           I ran away from it for a reason. Nobody bothered to ask  
21           me. It was obvious what was going on there. And, you  
22           know, these sort of things are going on now and that's  
23           the one thing I would want this Inquiry to take away,  
24           really, is, you know, there's a very basic fundamental  
25           thing and that is the child, the vulnerable child, has

1 got a right to say -- these Social Services are putting  
2 you in that place with these people. You should have  
3 a right to say, "I don't want to be here".

4 They should be checked up on. They should be given  
5 a safe space to say, "I don't want to be with those  
6 people", because, as I say, if those people are looking  
7 after them, caring for them, children will not say,  
8 "I don't want to be with them", because children want to  
9 be with people who are looking after them, so it has to  
10 be taken seriously.

11 LADY SMITH: 'Denise', this is really interesting, there's  
12 quite a lot in what you're saying there, and I'm hearing  
13 you envisage there needing to be a system that enables  
14 children to feel that somebody who is not their foster  
15 carers, let's say, for example, a social worker, will be  
16 able to talk to them away from the foster home, is  
17 genuinely interested in them --

18 A. Yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: -- and they genuinely want to know whether the  
20 children are okay.

21 A. Yeah.

22 LADY SMITH: And that it's absolutely okay to speak up and  
23 tell that person what's not good. Even if it's to the  
24 extreme of saying, "I cannot go on living there, get me  
25 out", that the child must feel that they can say that

1 and be safe in saying that. Do I have you right?

2 A. Yes, absolutely. And also that child needs to know  
3 that, you know, I think the fundamental thing the child  
4 would need to know is, as we would have needed to know  
5 in that situation is, "You don't need to go back there,  
6 so you can tell us what's happening".

7 We were terrified that we would say, "They're  
8 mistreating us" and then they would take us back and  
9 then the social worker would say to the FGK-FGL, "They  
10 are saying that you're mistreating them", and then they  
11 would beat us even more than they beat us already.

12 And that's what would have happened, that's the  
13 reality. Because when I ran away, I was beaten. When  
14 we questioned them, we were beaten. When I took that  
15 bread, I was slapped. This was what happened, so if we  
16 had said to a social worker, "They are beating us, they  
17 are starving us, they are neglecting us", then they  
18 would take us -- "I will speak to the FGK-FGL about it",  
19 they would have beaten us into submission. So they need  
20 to be taken to a safe space, a neutral place, on  
21 a regular basis because it might be okay for a couple of  
22 months and said:

23 "Actually, you don't need to go back there. You can  
24 tell us and if you tell us you don't want to be back  
25 there, we won't take you back there. You can feel safe

1           that whatever happens here -- if you tell us you don't  
2           want to be in that space anymore, you won't have to be  
3           there anymore."

4           I think that's the most important thing to say to  
5           all children, "We won't take you back there if what you  
6           tell us is you don't want to be back there". And they  
7           have to mean that as well, do you know what I mean, and  
8           not kind of like manipulate the children into kind of --  
9           because children are very easily manipulated or quelled  
10          into saying, "Oh no, it's okay, no, it's fine", if they  
11          think the person, an adult or somebody in authority,  
12          which a social worker is seen as authority, and they're  
13          seen as working with the foster parents, they're never  
14          really seen as yours, they're seen as on their side.

15          If children think for one minute that what --  
16          they're very easily led. Children are very intuitive  
17          and if they see that the social worker actually has  
18          a vested interest in keeping them in that situation,  
19          "Well, I know they're doing their best and they've said  
20          they will" -- children will very quickly pick up on the  
21          fact that they don't want to believe what they're  
22          saying, they don't want to hear what they're saying,  
23          they want them to stay in that situation, and then they  
24          will see them as a threat, in cahoots with the person  
25          who's abusing them.

1           So it has to be carefully managed, it has to be  
2           somebody who is really invested in that child's safety  
3           and really wants them to be okay and not wants them to  
4           stay in that situation that they're in.

5   LADY SMITH:  What if the hypothetical social worker I was  
6           talking about cannot promise to a child that they will  
7           get them away immediately and that they won't have to go  
8           back?  What does the social worker do then?  Is it  
9           a matter of assuring the child they are listening, they  
10          understand and they're going to go back to find out what  
11          can be done as a matter of urgency to address the  
12          problem or what?  What's the answer?

13   A.  There has to be a mechanism where those children don't  
14          go back.  That's what it boils down to.  There can be no  
15          question, because that is then those children will be  
16          abused and also those children won't be able to feel  
17          free to tell you.  Then that's why the whole thing --  
18          you know, the services and whatever it needs to change,  
19          needs to change so those children don't have to go back  
20          there.  There has to be emergency placement, or there  
21          has to be a greater emphasis on getting decent foster  
22          carers in, building up the network of foster carers or  
23          some kind of other thing, but there has to be a way that  
24          children who say, "I don't want to go back" -- because  
25          how could you possibly put a child back into a situation

1           that they've told you they're being abused in, neglected  
2           in? You know, you have a duty of care to make sure that  
3           child does not go back into that situation. And, you  
4           know, it's -- you know, it should be an absolutely nil  
5           event, a non-event, that if a child says to you, "I'm  
6           being abused or neglected in any way by those foster  
7           carers", it should be unequivocal: that child is not  
8           taken back to that place.

9           I think there should be never -- it shouldn't even  
10          be a question of them ever going back there. And it  
11          doesn't matter where they end up -- you know, obviously  
12          not in a worse place, but there has to be measures taken  
13          that those people -- that they're not put back in that  
14          situation. You can't do that to people.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

16           Ms Innes.

17 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

18           If I can take you back to your statement, please,  
19          'Denise' and another area that you cover at page 8 and  
20          paragraph 39. You mentioned already that sometimes the  
21          FGK-FGL had other foster children?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Did these people sort of come and go --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- or was anybody there all the time that you were

1           there?

2   A.  No, I just remember a girl being there, particularly  
3       I think it was a girl and a boy.  I remember she was  
4       dumped on the streets like us for a day and I remember  
5       she was walking along a wall and she fell and -- I don't  
6       know if I put it in there actually, and she slipped and  
7       a railing went right through her arm, up through our  
8       axilla into her arm and she went to hospital and  
9       I remember them being miserable as well, just as  
10      miserable as we were and they were treated in the same  
11      way I believe.  I don't think they were there as long --  
12      they were only there for a brief period.  I think their  
13      mum was in hospital or something.

14  Q.  You say that I think this gave you the impression that  
15      foster caring was a money-making exercise for the  
16      ███████?

17  A.  Yes, absolutely, yeah.

18  Q.  If we go over the page at page 9, you deal with the  
19      abuse that you suffered and you've mentioned some of  
20      these things already.

21           At paragraph 40 you talk about Mrs ████████ and you  
22      say, as I think you've already mentioned, that she had  
23      a terrible temper.

24  A.  Mm.

25  Q.  You say that you were nice children, you've already said



1       you were doing well at school, you were well-behaved,  
2       and you wouldn't have played up, but you say here the  
3       slightest thing would set her off.

4    A.   Yes.  She was -- she had a really, really insane temper.  
5       She'd be screaming and shouting about anything.

6           I remember my sister -- there was a knot in the  
7       hoover wire and my sister just undid it, I don't know  
8       whether it stopped the hoover from working, I can't even  
9       remember, but I remember FGL going absolutely insane  
10      at her, screaming in her face.

11          But yeah, the slightest little thing and I don't  
12      know whether she just actually enjoyed hitting us, but  
13      yeah, she'd grab us and throw us over her knee, pull our  
14      knickers down and literally sort of batter us basically,  
15      slap the hell out of our backsides basically.

16          You're not talking a few gentle slaps, you're  
17      talking raining down as hard as she could.  She really  
18      enjoyed battering us, you could tell, and it went on for  
19      ages, for literally hardly anything, any little  
20      misdemeanour, if we'd forgotten something, shopping,  
21      et cetera, nothing, basically.

22          My sister wanted me -- because one of my sisters,  
23      I think it was FGK this time, obviously we were  
24      petrified whenever they were going to do it, they would  
25      just grab us, he'd obviously grabbed her to beat her

1       like this, so she wet herself and because she wet  
2       herself so he beat her anyway and then he beat her again  
3       because she'd wet herself, even though she'd wet herself  
4       because she was scared of him, you know, because he  
5       petrified her.

6             It's just the fact that yeah, they used to do this  
7       all the time, both of them. FGL was just -- you  
8       know, she was vile, she was absolutely vile. There was  
9       no warmth or kindness or anything. It was almost like  
10      she hated us. Yeah, she'd scream at the slightest -- we  
11      were terrified of her, because she was just -- her  
12      temper was unbelievable. She would just fly off the  
13      handle and start screaming and shouting and then as  
14      I say the slightest little excuse she'd beat us, which  
15      was really humiliating.

16            I mean, I was eight, nine, whatever. I mean to have  
17      yourself thrown over somebody's knee, FGK obviously  
18      a man, have your knickers taken down and slapped the  
19      hell out of your backside like that, I'd never  
20      experienced anything like that. And FGL as well,  
21      I mean she would do it as often as she possibly could,  
22      it seemed, and him as well. It was humiliating as well  
23      as being really painful.

24            And just insane. As I say, we weren't bad children  
25      or anything. They were just horrible people, I guess.

1           As I say, my sisters would wet themselves because  
2           they were petrified of them. Yeah, just ...

3   Q. You go on at paragraph 42 to talk about the incident  
4           that you've told us about when you ran away and the  
5           police took you back.

6   A. Yeah.

7   Q. And you were beaten on that occasion.

8   A. Yeah.

9   Q. You say at the end of that paragraph:

10           "I remember her shouting things like 'how dare you  
11           cause all this trouble' and 'no wonder I don't like  
12           you'."

13   A. Yeah, I remember her saying that.

14   Q. At paragraph 43 you say that she always told you how  
15           much she hated you.

16   A. (Witness nods)

17   Q. You say:

18           "We were treated like we were infected."  
19           That maybe refers to some of the things you've  
20           already told us about, that you were kept separate.

21   A. Yeah.

22   Q. You weren't to use their towels.

23   A. Yeah.

24   Q. You weren't allowed to use plates, for example.

25   A. No, exactly. I mean we were treated as if we were

1 contaminated somehow and we were, yes, lesser human  
2 beings than them.

3 We were an inconvenience, you know, given these  
4 horrible old towels and margarine tubs to eat out of and  
5 not allowed to watch the television and -- yeah.

6 I mean, you know, it's just very damaging in the  
7 long term, because your self-esteem, your self-worth --  
8 you know, we'd never been -- even though my mother had  
9 her issues, we'd never been treated in that way before,  
10 we'd never been physically abused, we'd never been  
11 treated as if we were worthless, which is how they  
12 treated us, as if we were worthless.

13 The amount of effect that has on your self-esteem  
14 long term, your self-worth, I mean that lasts  
15 a lifetime. It makes you -- it is very, very damaging  
16 to be in that situation, to be treated in that way over  
17 a long period of time.

18 It was an absolutely hideous experience.

19 Q. We'll come back in a moment just to speak a little bit  
20 more about the long-term impact of this time that you  
21 spent with the **FGK-FGL**.

22 If we go on over the page, I think we see some of  
23 the other things that you've mentioned. At  
24 paragraph 44, the time that you'd taken the bread and  
25 vinegar that you've mentioned.

1           At paragraph 45, wandering around the street, and  
2           again at paragraph 46.

3           In terms of Mr FGK, did he also shout at you or  
4           was it mainly physical abuse that he perpetrated?

5   A. I think it was mainly physical abuse. I mean obviously  
6           he did shout at us, but not to the same extent that  
7           FGL did, but his was mainly physical abuse, yeah.

8   Q. Would he do that off his own back, if you like, or was  
9           that instigated by FGL saying to him, "Oh, they've  
10           done this, you need to punish them"?

11   A. I don't know, to be honest. I think she did it more  
12           than he did, but he did it as well. But I don't know  
13           whether that was at her instigation or whether he  
14           decided. It wouldn't surprise me, but -- yeah.

15   Q. Okay.

16           If we hear evidence from Mrs FGL that there was no  
17           discipline as such and there was never any physical  
18           punishment, what's your response to that?

19   A. Well, she's a liar. She's lying. All three of my  
20           sisters say -- you know, all three of us are saying  
21           exactly the same thing. I haven't seen their  
22           statements, obviously, but I'm pretty sure they'll be  
23           saying the same thing, because that's the truth of what  
24           happened.

25           He has been charged with assault, so the evidence

1 must be there. I don't know why she hasn't been charged  
2 with assault, but she hasn't so far. You know, it's  
3 incredible that they're even denying -- I suppose people  
4 just do deny it, but, you know, it's absolute rubbish.  
5 You know, it's imprinted into our memories forever the  
6 humiliation and the pain they caused us on a very  
7 regular basis.

8 That is the truth and that's the facts of what  
9 happened.

10 Q. Again, if we hear from Mr FGK that there was no  
11 physical discipline and that he would just say,  
12 "I believe you've been naughty" and you would say  
13 "Sorry", again, what's your response to that?

14 A. Yeah, that's not the truth. That's -- he's just -- he's  
15 just lying.

16 Q. When you were talking a moment ago about your sisters'  
17 statements, are those their statements to the police?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. If we can move on, please, to page 11 of your statement  
20 and to paragraph 47, you say that you think that your  
21 mother -- you told your mother how you were treated and  
22 then a social worker came to speak to you and you've  
23 told us about that, that you were too scared to say  
24 anything.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And that's your only memory of a social worker coming.

2 A. Yes. And that's why I just -- you know, I think it's  
3 very important that people are given a voice and given  
4 a safe space to talk about these things.

5 Q. Then you talk about at paragraph 49 the only other  
6 person you remember discussing it with was your friend,  
7 the time that you ran away?

8 A. Yeah, my friend, yeah.

9 Q. Then you tell us at paragraph 50 that you were with them  
10 for just over a year and your mother had gone back to  
11 live in Knaresborough with your grandmother and then did  
12 you go back to live with your mother then?

13 A. Yes. I don't know if it was a year or 18 months we were  
14 with the **FGK-FGL**. Some period of time. But yes, we went  
15 back to live with my mother in Knaresborough in  
16 Yorkshire. We left Scotland.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. If we can go on to talk about the impact of this,  
20 I think you've already said it's a lifelong impact.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. I think that's been an impact for yourself and for your  
23 sisters; is that right?

24 A. Yes. I mean -- you know, it has a massive effect long  
25 term, being treated in that way, being treated as

1 animals. It's the shock of it, really, you're suddenly  
2 with these people and I'd never experienced anything  
3 like that before, you know, to be physically abused in  
4 that way, to be neglected, to be treated as if you were  
5 some sort of an animal, basically.

6 It's very degrading to be treated like that, very  
7 humiliating and it kind of destroys your self-esteem and  
8 your self-worth and you never really get that back, to  
9 be honest. I mean you'd have to have years of  
10 counselling to get over that, really, and of course in  
11 those days, you know, those things weren't talked about.

12 It's humiliating. We never spoke about it for  
13 years, because it's degrading and humiliating and who  
14 wants to talk to their friends about that or even like  
15 when I got married I would never even speak to my  
16 husband about it, because it was humiliating. People  
17 look at you in a very different way when you explain  
18 that you've been treated in that way by somebody. It's  
19 very -- it's not something you want to talk to people  
20 about, is it, really, and have them look at you in that  
21 pitying way, really. People think less of you.

22 Especially, you know, going back years. It's only  
23 since I've got older that I realised kind of I'm not the  
24 one who should be ashamed here. We were just innocent  
25 children. We were decent, innocent children and we were



1 treated appallingly by these terrible, wicked people and  
2 they're the ones who should be ashamed and they're the  
3 ones who should be accountable, which is why I contacted  
4 the Social Services in the first place to say, "You put  
5 us in this situation and these people abused us", you  
6 know, and I think that's how it should be, really.

7 You should be able to say, "These people have been  
8 terrible", but obviously it has a massive impact on you  
9 long term, to your self-worth, your self-esteem. My  
10 relationships have suffered. My professional life has  
11 suffered. It's not something that you ever really get  
12 over.

13 I kept that inside, I didn't speak to anybody about  
14 it for years. The only person I spoke to about it was  
15 my sisters, obviously we could speak to each other about  
16 it, because we understood, but I didn't speak to close  
17 people about it and I think, you know, it's like a big  
18 horrible dirty secret inside you, really, so it's quite  
19 good that finally it's all come out.

20 But my -- it has -- you know, had a negative impact  
21 on my life. But my sisters, my youngest sister ...

22 (Pause)

23 My youngest sister was really badly affected by it.  
24 She's just -- she was so traumatised by the whole thing,  
25 she was so young, and, you know, she was so young and

1       it's that powerlessness, isn't it, of seeing your  
2       sisters being treated so badly and not being able to  
3       help them in that situation, seeing those horrible  
4       people treating them so badly and not being able to stop  
5       them hurting them, you know, it's a really terrible  
6       situation to be in.

7             It's very hard to trust people, but my youngest  
8       sister particularly, she's particularly traumatised by  
9       it. She can't really talk about it without getting  
10      really, really upset and really -- just, you know,  
11      really traumatised about it. It's awful to see, really.

12            She was really brave to give that statement to the  
13      police, because she can't really talk about it to  
14      anybody. So, you know, she was really brave to do that.

15            But she's an alcoholic, you know, she drinks. She  
16      drinks a lot and I think a lot of it -- I'm sure a lot  
17      of it stems from that, because she hasn't ever been able  
18      to handle it. So she just sort of like took to the  
19      bottle, basically, and she's just -- her whole life has  
20      just been ruined by it, really.

21            And then her children that she's had, obviously  
22      she's not been able to be a good mother to them and they  
23      in turn have turned to drink and one of them takes drugs  
24      and she's not been able to be a good mother herself and  
25      the whole thing has just been -- you know, I'm sure that

1       it's -- sort of a lot of it stems from the time that she  
2       had there, because she's so messed up by it, really.  
3       It's had such a negative impact on her, it's really  
4       awful to see and you can't unpick that now. It's too  
5       late. Maybe 30, 40, 50 years ago if people talked about  
6       these things better at the time we might have been able  
7       to have some counselling, she might be able to have be  
8       helped.

9             And I think that's another thing. I think that  
10       people in these situations, especially when they're  
11       younger, they really need some serious counselling while  
12       they're still really young so that they can not turn  
13       into these people who are -- you know, depend on alcohol  
14       and drugs.

15            I work in the intensive care unit and the amount of  
16       people that come through my department with end-stage  
17       renal failure and end-stage drug failure and all this  
18       kind of thing, and so many of them have been into these  
19       foster carers or care systems and when people have been  
20       in a bad foster care, for instance, especially if  
21       they're still young, I think it's really important to  
22       make sure that they get some kind of counselling and  
23       people support them to understand that they've done  
24       nothing wrong, they're not bad, they're not the bad  
25       people, they're good people and they can still have

1 a good life and a positive life, and what happened to  
2 them is not their fault and it doesn't have any  
3 reflection on the person they are or the person they can  
4 be. And I think maybe if [REDACTED] had had that when she  
5 was young, she might not be in the state she's in today.

6 And my other sister, you know, she's -- she's  
7 suffered really badly from it as well, so it's been  
8 really difficult to see them in -- sort of like handling  
9 it in that way, I suppose.

10 Q. After you left the [REDACTED], can you remember if you ever  
11 saw them again?

12 A. I think we were briefly in another foster care -- in  
13 another -- my mother had another meltdown at some point  
14 and I think for a few weeks we were in another -- some  
15 sort of a children's home for a couple of weeks or so,  
16 Saltaire or somewhere. And I've got a feeling they came  
17 to watch us swimming or something bizarre. I remember  
18 us looking and thinking, "God, please don't let us go  
19 back with them".

20 I mean that home was fine, they looked after us  
21 fine.

22 Q. Can you remember speaking to the [REDACTED] at all then that  
23 day?

24 A. I don't remember speaking to them, no. I don't think we  
25 did speak to them.

1 Q. If we can go on, please, in your statement to page 17,  
2 you have mentioned there that you reported the abuse to  
3 the police and you've told us about that you understand  
4 that FGK [REDACTED] has been charged.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. You say at paragraph 76 it had never occurred to you to  
7 report it to the police, "... but I'm glad they're  
8 looking into it now". Then you talk about -- at the end  
9 of that paragraph you say:

10 "I would like for them to be made to feel  
11 uncomfortable for even just five minutes, and that might  
12 happen when the police go to speak to them."

13 Has any part of you reporting to the police or  
14 telling people about what the FGK-FGL did, is it anything  
15 to do with getting compensation from the FGK-FGL?

16 A. No, because I didn't even though know that we could --  
17 I didn't even know that was a factor until I actually --  
18 that wasn't something that was ever known to me that you  
19 could do that.

20 I first contacted the Social Services in Scotland  
21 because I was angry. I was angry about the fact that  
22 we'd been put in that situation and so I contacted the  
23 Scottish Social Services really on behalf of myself and  
24 my sisters to say -- you know, to put in a complaint  
25 really, if you like, to say, "Look, you put us in this

1 and do you know what these people were like?" And it  
2 kind of snowballed from there.

3 Then I was put in touch with the Scottish Child  
4 Abuse, they came to see me down south. And it was only  
5 them, and they took my statement, and it was only after  
6 I had given them my statement that they pointed me in  
7 the direction of saying, "Why don't you apply for  
8 compensation?" So none of that came from me, it came  
9 from the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, they said to me,  
10 you know, this is -- you've got these roads that you can  
11 go down if you want to apply for compensation.

12 My sisters are not going for compensation, because  
13 they wouldn't be able to go through -- give any more  
14 statements or anything like that. So even though  
15 they're not going for -- asking for any compensation,  
16 they've still given a police statement.

17 It never occurred to me, I didn't realise that that  
18 sort of scenario would be something that would come  
19 under any umbrella of compensation, if I'm honest.

20 As I say, it was only when I'd already given my  
21 statements about them that I was -- you know, they  
22 advised me that it was a possibility that you could do.  
23 And I think even if you do get compensation, I think  
24 it's something like a few thousands pounds, which is --  
25 I'm not -- you know, it's nothing, you know, £6,000 or

1 something. I'm not being funny, but what is that?  
2 You'd give ten times that not to have been in that  
3 situation. It's pitiful, really.

4 But it's only because I was -- you know, I was  
5 propelled in that direction.

6 Q. Is that through the redress scheme, do you know?

7 A. No, I was given -- the people that came down to see me  
8 in Bournemouth gave me the name of Thompsons Solicitors,  
9 they said I could either use them or the redress system.

10 Q. I see.

11 A. That wasn't something I went looking for, that  
12 I enquired about. I hadn't looked into compensation,  
13 I hadn't looked up these people. I was just given the  
14 names of the redress and the Thompsons Solicitors by the  
15 Inquiry. That wasn't something that would have occurred  
16 to me otherwise.

17 Q. If we can look on, please, to the final page of your  
18 statement and to lessons learned, and I think that we've  
19 covered some of these aspects already in your evidence.

20 At paragraph 78 you talk about the person that  
21 you've already told us would be somebody who can see the  
22 children in a safe space, you refer to them here as  
23 a mentor, somebody who they see regularly --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- and builds up a relationship with the child.

1           You say at paragraph 79:

2           "It might actually be better to have more than one  
3           mentor for a child, as my fear would be that some of the  
4           people carrying out the role would be more for the  
5           establishment or on the side of the foster carers."

6   A.   Yeah.

7   Q.   That, I think, probably alludes to something that you  
8           mentioned earlier about a child perceiving that a social  
9           worker is on the side of the foster carer.

10  A.   Yes, definitely.

11  Q.   You also refer at paragraph 81 again the need for proper  
12           monitoring. So I think again, as you've already  
13           mentioned, things like you being underweight should have  
14           rung alarm bells and something should have been done  
15           about that.

16  A.   Yes. Absolutely.

17  Q.   Again at paragraph 82, you talk about counselling  
18           whenever a child leaves foster care, regardless of the  
19           situation they're going into.

20  A.   (Witness nods)

21  Q.   You mentioned earlier the counselling in the context of  
22           having been in an abusive placement, but I think here  
23           you're saying more generally somebody moving on from one  
24           placement to another or leaving care --

25  A.   Yeah.



1 Q. -- should be given counselling or support?

2 A. Yeah, I think they should be, absolutely, because even  
3 if they're in a reasonable foster care environment,  
4 those children are being taken out of their family,  
5 they're being put into -- I mean we were confused and  
6 traumatised anyway when we went into the **FGK-FGL**  
7 situation. You know, your family's broken down for  
8 whatever reason, you feel as if you've been abandoned.  
9 You know, so I think children should have help coming to  
10 terms with that as well and to understand that, you  
11 know, again it's not their -- it's not their doing. You  
12 know, their family's broken down because mistakes may  
13 have been made by their parents or things have happened,  
14 but it's no reflection on them and that they can still  
15 build a strong future and those kind of things.

16 Some kind of a stepping stone into their future,  
17 really, and an acknowledgement and an understanding of  
18 what's happened to them and why they were in foster care  
19 and to sort of unpick that, really, and then to help  
20 them move into the future. You know, nothing's --  
21 nothing's done to help them, you know. I mean obviously  
22 we were in a very traumatic and abusive situation so we  
23 desperately could have done with some counselling and  
24 things, but I think all children in that situation could  
25 do with some counselling and some help, really.

1 MS INNES: Right, 'Denise', I've come to the end of the  
2 questions that I have for you, but is there anything  
3 that you think that we've not covered during the course  
4 of your evidence that you wanted to say?

5 A. I don't think so. I think it is just obviously really  
6 important to support and monitor children in that  
7 situation. You're very, very vulnerable, you don't have  
8 a voice. Children are terrified. Children are very  
9 easily terrified of adults. They feel like they've got  
10 no power, and I think that's the worst thing. You've  
11 got no voice, you've got no power, you're terrified of  
12 these people.

13 Adults can be very manipulative. These people can  
14 put themselves across as, "We're foster carers, we're  
15 lovely people", you know, they can be very manipulative,  
16 but you have to look below the surface, that's why you  
17 have to speak to the children.

18 If people had really looked into that situation,  
19 where were our clothes? Where were our shoes? Where  
20 were our toys? Which programmes were we watching? It  
21 would have been very easy for somebody to come in and  
22 unpick that situation. We're underweight, what did we  
23 have for tea? You know, nothing.

24 Those kind of things are really important and they  
25 are such an indication of what is going on in that

1 situation, and I think that's the kind of thing that  
2 people should be looking at really, coming in and doing  
3 spot checks, you know, getting receipts, where are the  
4 clothes that you're buying these children? How are they  
5 dressed? You know, liaising with the school. Are they  
6 coming in okay? Do they look happy? Making sure that  
7 their weight and things are being monitored. Are they  
8 going to the dentist? Do they have a decent coat to  
9 wear?

10 All those kind of things are such an indication of  
11 how they're being looked after.

12 And more monitoring should be done, but I think the  
13 most important thing is to give children a voice and  
14 make them feel safe and make sure that they know they  
15 don't have to go back to those people.

16 MS INNES: Thank you very much, 'Denise', I have no more  
17 questions for you, and there's no applications, my Lady.

18 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19 Any outstanding applications for questions?

20 'Denise', that does complete the questions we have  
21 for you. One thing I'm struck by thinking about your  
22 and your sisters' experience was at the time you didn't  
23 know how long it was going to go on.

24 A. Mm.

25 LADY SMITH: It's perhaps all too easy now looking back and

1 to say, well, thankfully it was only just over a year,  
2 but I'm guessing that probably felt like an eternity,  
3 with no knowledge of where you were going in the future  
4 once you were there. Am I right about that?

5 A. Yes. No, it did. It did seem to be the longest year  
6 out of our childhood, I think, certainly out of my  
7 childhood. It seems a lot longer than a year. It seems  
8 almost as if we were in some kind of prison and it does  
9 feel like it went on for much, much longer than a year.

10 And the impact of that year has had much more of  
11 an impact than anything else in my whole life, if I'm  
12 honest, negatively.

13 Of course, we didn't know when it would end, whether  
14 we would be there forever. It was horrifying to be  
15 honest.

16 LADY SMITH: And nobody talking to you openly about whether  
17 there was going to be any possibility of you returning  
18 to live in a family home with your own mother again?

19 A. No. I mean the communication is very little, isn't it,  
20 in those circumstances. Especially back in the day, you  
21 weren't given any reassurances that this would end. No,  
22 it was hideous.

23 LADY SMITH: 'Denise', thank you so much for engaging with  
24 us as you have done, both your written statement and the  
25 evidence you've given today have painted a very clear

1 picture of what that time with the FGK-FGL as their  
2 foster children was like. It's full of impact and  
3 you've made it come alive with all its distress and  
4 difficulties. I'm grateful to you for that.

5 I'm now able to let you go, but you go with my  
6 thanks for adding to my learning and my understanding.  
7 It's extremely valuable to have had you here in addition  
8 to being able to read your statement.

9 Thank you for that.

10 A. Thank you very much.

11 LADY SMITH: I hope you're able to have a quieter and more  
12 restful afternoon.

13 A. Thank you.

14 (The witness withdrew)

15 LADY SMITH: Just before I rise for the lunch break, the  
16 FGK-FGL were mentioned. At one point 'Denise' mentioned  
17 her own name and one of her sister's names. They're all  
18 covered by my general restriction order and aren't to be  
19 used outside this room.

20 Time for the lunch break, Ms Innes?

21 MS INNES: Yes, my Lady.

22 There'll be another oral witness at 2 o'clock.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

24 (12.58 pm)

25 (The luncheon adjournment)

1 (2.00 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. We return to oral evidence and  
3 I understand the next witness is ready. Is that right,  
4 Ms Rattray?

5 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady.

6 The next witness is an applicant who wishes to  
7 remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Janette'.  
8 'Janette' was placed in foster care with Mr and  
9 Mrs ENF-ENH in [REDACTED] and then Inverness from  
10 [REDACTED] 1964 to [REDACTED] 1969. The responsible  
11 authority was Glasgow Corporation, now Glasgow City  
12 Council.

13 'Janette' (affirmed)

14 LADY SMITH: 'Janette', a couple of things I want to explain  
15 first. The red folder that's in front of you there has  
16 the hard copy of your signed statement in it. You'll be  
17 taken to that in a couple of minutes. But we're also  
18 going to put your statement on the screen and show  
19 different parts of it that you're going to be asked  
20 questions about, so if you find it helpful to use either  
21 of these or neither of them, it's up to you, but they're  
22 there if it does help.

23 A. Thank you.

24 LADY SMITH: But separately from that, 'Janette', I know  
25 doing what we're about to ask you to do is really

1           difficult. It's anxious making, it's stressful and  
2           you'll be aware that you're in public and you're about  
3           to be asked questions relating to when you were a little  
4           girl and some of the things you're going to be asked to  
5           talk about may be hard and they may trigger emotions  
6           that take you quite by surprise.

7   A.   (Witness nods)

8   LADY SMITH: I understand all that, I do get that.

9           I understand, for example, you might want to pause at  
10          some point, you might want a break, to go out of the  
11          room and come back. Any of these or anything else that  
12          would help is absolutely okay. If it works for you, it  
13          works for me. That's the key. Because stressful and  
14          anxious making as it is, I'd really like to do all I can  
15          to help you relax --

16   A.   Thank you.

17   LADY SMITH: -- and give your evidence as naturally as you  
18          can. All right?

19   A.   Thank you.

20   LADY SMITH: Very well. If you're ready, I'll hand over to  
21          Ms Rattray and she'll take it from there. All right?

22                                Questions from Ms Rattray

23   MS RATTRAY: Hello, 'Janette'.

24   A.   Hello.

25   Q.   'Janette', you've given your statement to the Inquiry

1 and we've give it a reference, that reference is  
2 WIT-1-000000863. You'll see that's appeared on the  
3 screen before you.

4 What I would like to do first is I'd like to ask you  
5 to look at the hard copy statement, the one in the red  
6 folder. If you could actually go to the back page of  
7 that, which is the last page of your statement, page 28,  
8 do you have that?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Can you confirm that you signed your statement?

11 A. Yes, I did.

12 Q. Do you see that at paragraph 133 above your signature  
13 you say:

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

18 Is that right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You can put that to one side, unless you'd prefer to use  
21 the paper version, and I'm going to turn back to the  
22 first page of your statement.

23 I'd like you to tell me the year you were born.  
24 I don't need the month or the date, simply the year you  
25 were born.



1 A. 1960.

2 Q. Thank you.

3 'Janette', I'm going to ask you questions in three  
4 broad parts.

5 The first part is just to ask some general  
6 background information about what happened before you  
7 were put into foster care.

8 The second will be about your experiences when you  
9 were in foster care.

10 At the third we will move on to the impact those  
11 experiences had upon you and what lessons we can learn  
12 from that, and also I will ask you to comment on some  
13 records we have recovered in relation to your time in  
14 foster care. Is that okay?

15 A. Yeah, that's fine.

16 Q. To start with, 'Janette', you tell us on the first page  
17 of your statement that you were born in Lennoxton, but  
18 your family came from Glasgow and that you have four  
19 siblings, you have two older sisters and two younger  
20 brothers. Is that right?

21 A. Well, I've got half sisters and half brothers as well.

22 Q. Right, okay.

23 A. But I only have two brothers and one sister, the other  
24 one's a half-sister.

25 Q. The other one's a half-sister, thank you.

1           'Janette', can you tell me what memories you do have  
2           about your family life before you were taken into care?

3   A.   Just a lot of fighting and noise and things getting  
4           smashed about.  Mainly in like the flat that we stayed  
5           in.  I've not got any memories of going anywhere or  
6           anything like that.  But just a lot of violence and  
7           noise.

8   Q.   That was the background, that kind of life, that was one  
9           of the reasons you were taken into care?

10  A.   Well, eventually it was because we got abandoned by our  
11           mother and our father got taken into prison for neglect  
12           for us, so ...

13  Q.   You do tell us that your mum left and she took your  
14           older sister and your youngest brother with her.

15  A.   Mm-hmm.

16  Q.   And you know the dates that you went into care because  
17           you've seen some of your records.

18  A.   Yeah.

19  Q.   And you tell us that you and your sister and brother  
20           spent one night at Lochgarry Children's Home in Glasgow  
21           on [REDACTED] 1964, before going back to your father,  
22           and then the three of you were in Castlemilk Children's  
23           Home from [REDACTED] 1964 before moving to foster care  
24           together on [REDACTED] 1964.

25  A.   (Witness nods)

1 Q. You tell us that the foster carers were ENF-ENH  
2 ENF-ENH .

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Whereabouts were you taken?

5 A. To [REDACTED], which is not that far from Inverness.

6 Q. Moving now to the second section that I spoke about,  
7 which are your experiences when you were in foster care,  
8 turning to page 3 of your statement and from  
9 paragraph 3, can you remember how old you were when you  
10 first went there?

11 A. To foster care?

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. Well, four, because I wasn't at school --

14 Q. Right.

15 A. -- and we started school in a wee primary school in  
16 [REDACTED], so I'd be five there.

17 Q. Right, so you were only four. What do you remember, if  
18 anything, about leaving the Castlemilk Children's Home  
19 and moving to foster care?

20 A. Not a lot, just like a big adventure because we hadn't  
21 been -- like we hadn't been out -- not out in public,  
22 but we hadn't been -- anywhere we went was like in the  
23 house and that was it, so this was like a wee adventure  
24 for us, but we didn't really know what was happening.

25 LADY SMITH: That would be your first long journey, was it?

1 A. Yeah, yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: Quite a long journey.

3 A. It was, yeah. Because I can remember we were left in  
4 the flat ourselves for at least five days, me and my  
5 brother and my sister when our mother left us and our  
6 father was in jail. Well, we didn't know he was in jail  
7 at the time, we just thought he was away somewhere. So  
8 it was like I am not going to say a relief, because at  
9 that age you don't know what a relief is, but we were  
10 going somewhere, it's got to be better than this kind of  
11 thing.

12 MS RATTRAY: Do you remember whether anyone told you what  
13 was going on and why it was you were moving there?

14 A. No. No.

15 Q. Do you remember how you got there? Did you drive in  
16 a car or train? Was someone with you? Do you remember  
17 any of that?

18 A. We went in a train and then it must have been a car  
19 after that, because there's not a train station near  
20 [REDACTED].

21 LADY SMITH: I suppose you might have gone by train from  
22 perhaps Glasgow to Inverness and then car after that.

23 A. I think so, yeah. Because I can remember the wee train  
24 used to have the doors, that's how old I am, I can  
25 remember the train doors would be ... I can't think --

1 the compartments, it wasn't like trains now. The door  
2 was just shut and me and my brother and sister were  
3 there.

4 LADY SMITH: So there would be a corridor down one side of  
5 the carriage --

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: -- with windows outside?

8 A. Yeah, and we thought this was great, because we'd never  
9 seen a train, let alone been on one.

10 LADY SMITH: Then individual compartments, probably with two  
11 benches facing each other --

12 A. Yeah.

13 LADY SMITH: -- with three seats on each bench?

14 A. Yeah.

15 MS RATTRAY: When you arrived there, had you ever met Mr and  
16 Mrs **ENF-ENH** before?

17 A. No. No.

18 Q. Can you remember what your first impressions were of  
19 arriving and seeing them and where you were going to be  
20 living for the first time?

21 A. We thought it was great. We thought they were great.  
22 But that house we first went to, I'm not 100 per cent  
23 sure, but I'm sure it was a bed and breakfast and there  
24 was other people staying in the house and it was a nice  
25 atmosphere and they had a big garden and things like

1 that. But I mean that all changed when we moved to  
2 Inverness, yeah.

3 I can remember being quite happy there. I'm not  
4 sure how long we were there. I don't think we were  
5 there that long, though.

6 Q. In your statement, 'Janette', paragraphs 10 and 11, you  
7 tell us a bit about the foster parents' family and  
8 various people. Can you tell us a little about that?

9 A. She had a daughter and sons of her own and she had one  
10 son before she married Mr ENF . They weren't very  
11 nice to us either. They weren't very nice.

12 Q. Do you know whether the foster parents had jobs?

13 A. No. No. He had -- they kept goats, you see, it was  
14 like a wee croft thing, so that was -- I'm sure that was  
15 their main thing.

16 Q. The house at [REDACTED], you've explained that it was  
17 a big house, it was a bed and breakfast?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Do you remember where you and your siblings slept?

20 A. Just we were all in the one room, in bunk beds.

21 Q. You mentioned you started school.

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. Was that a good experience?

24 A. Yeah, yeah. It was nice, it was nice. We used to go --  
25 this girl, I can't remember her name now, but we used to

1 go to her house on the way to school and we couldn't  
2 believe how much toys and everything she had. Like we'd  
3 get to go to play with stuff and we thought oh wow.  
4 Just the way kids do. So it was good. It was nice  
5 there.

6 Q. Then moving on from paragraph 14 in your statement,  
7 'Janette', you tell us that you all moved from  
8 [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] near Inverness on  
9 [REDACTED] 1965 when you were five years old.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Can you describe your home there?

12 A. It was all run down. They were doing renovations to it.  
13 It was quite dangerous, actually. We had to walk along  
14 scaffolding to go in our bed. There was no stairs.  
15 There were stairs but there was no floor and you were  
16 shouted at to get in there to your bed. It was very  
17 scary. I can still remember it.

18 The house was -- it was a big house and had a big  
19 garden and that. Then, as I said, they had got goats  
20 and all that. I don't think they had goats at  
21 [REDACTED], I think they just got them when they went  
22 to Inverness. So it was quite -- it was a big house.

23 Q. I think you tell us about the house in your statement  
24 and what you've told us is that there were no  
25 floorboards upstairs.

1 A. Mm.

2 Q. And you say you had to walk across a big beam every  
3 night --

4 A. Mm.

5 Q. -- to go to your bedroom.

6 A. Yes, because it was on another level. Downstairs was  
7 down like and the room they were doing was upstairs,  
8 there was a room there. It was in the shape of  
9 a thruppenny bit, it was an old tollhouse and they were  
10 putting an extension on it, you see. So our rooms were  
11 at the back, so you had to cross there in your pyjamas  
12 and it was terrifying because if you fell down there --  
13 and that was at five years old.

14 LADY SMITH: You moved in when renovation and building work  
15 was still being done; is that right?

16 A. Yeah. Yeah.

17 MS RATTRAY: You tell us that it was a building site for  
18 a long time.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Can you remember when it was finished, or whether it was  
21 finished whilst you were there?

22 A. Yeah, it was finished. I'm sure -- it must have taken  
23 about two years, I would say two years, because they had  
24 to build like another bedroom on the other side and then  
25 I can remember downstairs the bit at the side, it was --



1           there was no flooring, it was just earth underneath it.  
2           I don't know what they'd done, but I remember this -- it  
3           was like paint but it had like flakes in it, dried --  
4           like they put that on the floor and it turned into like  
5           a-- not linoleum but something like that. I can  
6           remember we weren't allowed to go anywhere near that in  
7           case we made a mess or whatever it was.

8    Q. You've described where you were sleeping when you first  
9           arrived and then at paragraph 16 you tell us about the  
10          bathroom and that there was a bathroom there, but you  
11          would have to walk across the beam if you wanted to use  
12          the toilet at night.

13   A. Yeah. That was the same one we had to pass to go to the  
14          bedroom.

15   Q. Okay. I think you said that you were so afraid of that,  
16          to walk over the beam, that you dreamt you were sitting  
17          on the toilet at night and --

18   A. Yeah.

19   Q. -- you were wetting your bed?

20   A. Yeah.

21   Q. So clearly not having a toilet that was nearby and safe  
22          must have been a huge problem for you.

23   A. Yeah, yeah. I was just terrified to walk along there  
24          and then your mind thinks that you're sitting on the  
25          toilet and you're not.

1 Q. Moving on at this stage, 'Janette', I'm going to take  
2 you to paragraph 22 of your statement on page 5 and  
3 that's where you tell us about your clothing, the  
4 clothes you were wearing.

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. What were your clothes like?

7 A. They didn't fit us. They were like tatty and I think  
8 she must have got them from jumble sales or something.  
9 Looking back now -- they weren't new clothes, definitely  
10 not new clothes. And whatever -- because my sister was  
11 a year older than me, I would get hers when she finished  
12 with them. But we never ever got took to shops to get  
13 anything new or anything like that.

14 Q. At paragraph 18 further up the page you tell us about  
15 meal times and food.

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. How was the food that you were given?

18 A. Well, we didn't -- we got brose in the morning, which is  
19 a wee bowl, it's just oatmeal and hot water, it was  
20 supposed to get cooked but it didn't. And because  
21 I used to wet the bed, I was then -- well, shall we say  
22 getting changed upstairs, so most of the time I missed  
23 it, because my brothers -- because we were starving. My  
24 brother and sister would eat it.

25 So we got dinners at school and we thought this was

1 great. Do you know what I mean. And then we'd come  
2 home from school and there was no dinner.

3 What we used to do was eat the ripe bananas that she  
4 kept for the goats, because we were starving, eat them  
5 and then of course you got battered for doing that.

6 Q. Is it fair to say you were hungry?

7 A. We were starving. Well, not starving, that's terrible.  
8 We had meals at school, but then at the weekends, the  
9 brose thing in the morning, that would be it. And then  
10 very rarely like maybe soup or something but that's only  
11 if she made soup, but very rarely. Very rarely.  
12 Couldn't wait till Monday to go back to school and be  
13 fed.

14 Q. At paragraph 20 on your statement, 'Janette', you were  
15 asked about whether you had any toys. You referred  
16 earlier on to when you were at [REDACTED] admiring  
17 your friend's toys.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. How about you and your brother and sister? Did you have  
20 toys and books to play with?

21 A. No. No. Nothing. We never had anything. We used to  
22 just play with stones and things like that. As I said  
23 there, I can remember actually cataloguing, folding up  
24 and tie it up with a wee string making butterflies or  
25 presents for one another. Things like that. Never got

1 anything. And she had a catalogue and we thought -- we  
2 stupidly thought she'd bought us a bike and it was for  
3 somebody at our class at school so we told them at  
4 school that our mom had bought a bike and got absolutely  
5 battered stupid for that. But we thought we were  
6 getting a bike to share between us and it wasn't -- we  
7 didn't know that -- well, we knew what a catalogue was,  
8 but we didn't know that somebody had ordered it.

9 But no, we didn't have any toys at all, no.

10 Q. What about clubs and activities and Brownies, that kind  
11 of thing? Did you get a chance to do anything like  
12 that?

13 A. No. No. No.

14 Q. Any trips or holidays?

15 A. No.

16 Q. You mentioned that you'd make butterflies for each  
17 other. What about birthdays and Christmas? Were they  
18 marked or celebrated?

19 A. No. Not till we went to Abelour Children's Home.  
20 Nothing like that. At school, you got made a fuss of at  
21 school and we thought this was great, but then it ended  
22 when you left the classroom.

23 Q. Okay. On the question of school, did you enjoy school?

24 A. Aye, I loved school. Loved it.

25 Q. Did the other children there, were they aware you were

1 in foster care?

2 A. No, I don't think so, no.

3 Q. You didn't experience anything about other children  
4 treating you differently or anything like that?

5 A. No, no.

6 Q. What about friends? Were you able to make friends at  
7 school?

8 A. I had friends at school, but we never ever got to go to  
9 their house and they never got to come to our house.  
10 Never. Obviously -- obviously hiding things, I think  
11 that was part of the reason she didn't want anybody up  
12 at the house.

13 Q. So although you had friends, you weren't able to meet  
14 and play with them outwith school hours?

15 A. No, no.

16 Q. Your foster parents, did they encourage your education?

17 A. Yeah. They were really strict. I think that's where  
18 I stuck in at school and I was there -- because you were  
19 terrified to get a wrong report card or anything,  
20 because that would just mean another battering.

21 Q. What about homework? Was there a place in the house  
22 that you would be able to do your homework?

23 A. Yeah, we just used to do it at the -- where we got the  
24 bowl of cereal thing in the morning, there was just  
25 a round table and we just sat there and done it there.

1 Q. What about your foster parents? Did either of them help  
2 you with your homework at all?

3 A. No, no. No.

4 Q. Were there ever any sort of events at school that  
5 parents might attend?

6 A. I think they actually went to parents' nights ... but  
7 I think -- I can remember once that they went, but  
8 I mean it was the quickest you could get in and out  
9 again and they never ever went again. So I don't know  
10 what the reason for that was.

11 Q. You don't say in your statement at all, but I'll ask  
12 you, did you attend church or Sunday school or anything  
13 like that?

14 A. We went to Sunday school, yeah, down the road, it might  
15 be a mile walk or something, we used to go down to  
16 there. I used to like that. I'm not a religious  
17 person, but we liked it because it was getting out the  
18 house and you got a we cup of tea and a biscuit.

19 Q. What about your foster parents? Did they go to church  
20 as well?

21 A. No. We just went ourselves. It was just on a straight  
22 road. The church is still there now. It's a way off  
23 the road, because I've been back up past the house and  
24 you realise how far it is for a wee kid to walk, it's  
25 over a mile there and a mile back. But no, they didn't

1 go, they just stayed in the house.

2 Q. In relation to medical care, do you remember ever seeing  
3 a dentist or getting a checkup with the doctor or  
4 anything like that?

5 A. No. Nothing. No.

6 Q. I think you do say in your statement that you had  
7 a problem with your eyesight.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Was that attended to when you were in foster care?

10 A. No. Not until I went to Abelour Trust.

11 Q. During your time in foster care, did you ever have any  
12 contact with your birth family?

13 A. No, no. No, I never met my birth mother again until  
14 I was 19.

15 Q. Turning to the question of chores, did you have any work  
16 or chores that you were having to do?

17 A. Yeah. We did everything in the house. We never had  
18 hoovers, we had to brush downstairs, that room I was  
19 telling you about, we had to brush that kind of lino  
20 thing. Do all the dishes. Just do everything. Then we  
21 had to help muck out the goats and she had hens and  
22 things like that. But we never thought anything of  
23 that. We just thought everybody did that.

24 Q. I think you also tell us when you tell us about chores  
25 in your statement, 'Janette', at paragraph 26 that you

1 washed floors on your hands and knees?

2 A. Yeah. I specifically remember that one I was telling  
3 you about, because it was a pale yellow colour. The one  
4 with -- I don't know what it's called but it's like  
5 paint and it has flakes in it and it dries and it's  
6 a hard surface. I can remember we were doing that and  
7 because it was just a cloth and bits of flaked paint  
8 would go in your nails. Painful. The three of us had  
9 to do that.

10 Q. "The three of us," it was your older sister, yourself  
11 and your wee brother?

12 A. My wee brother.

13 Q. How much younger is your brother than you?

14 A. There's a year between the three of us. [REDACTED] --  
15 she's a year older than me and my wee brother's a year  
16 younger than me.

17 Q. Do you remember anything about any social worker coming  
18 to visit you?

19 A. Yeah. Ms Richmond her name was.

20 Q. Can you tell us what you remember about her visits?

21 A. It seemed to cause a lot of like bad feeling and like  
22 anxiety and -- and stress. We were crying and  
23 everything. But I do remember her coming, because  
24 I remember her coming to Aberdeen as well when we left  
25 there.



1 Q. Do you know if when you were in foster care she ever  
2 spoke to you direct?

3 A. Yeah, yeah. She was adamant that we had to like behave  
4 and -- and like not make up stories or things like that,  
5 because they wouldn't be able to look after you and they  
6 were doing a great job. We were just terrified, do you  
7 know what I mean?

8 Q. Was she someone that in this situation you would have  
9 been able to tell what was happening to?

10 A. I don't really think so, because we were scared to say  
11 anything to anybody, because if it got found out, we  
12 would have got absolutely battered, honestly. But I do  
13 remember her coming.

14 Q. Moving on to your relationship with your foster parents,  
15 what did you call them? Did you call them Mr and  
16 Mrs [REDACTED]? Did you call them anything else?

17 A. No, no, it was "mam" and "dad".

18 Q. Do you remember whether that was something you wanted to  
19 call them or did they ask you to call them that or can  
20 you remember?

21 A. I honestly can't remember. I think they must have said  
22 when we went there when we were four, like, "We're your  
23 mam and dad", kind of thing.

24 Q. How would you describe your relationship with your  
25 foster parents?

1 A. I was absolutely terrified, terrified. But at the same  
2 time she was our mam and we thought that everything she  
3 was doing was because she was our mam and that's what  
4 mams did and we must have been bad to deserve to get hit  
5 all the time and all these other things.

6 And yet when we got taken away, I was really, really  
7 upset because we were getting taken away from her. For  
8 all we got battered stupid, she was what we knew as our  
9 mum and I blamed myself for years for that. Years and  
10 years.

11 Q. Do you remember either of your foster parents ever  
12 showing you affection?

13 A. No. No.

14 Q. Would they ever -- you know, if you fell over and hurt  
15 your knee or something like that, would they ever pick  
16 you up and give you a hug or something?

17 A. No, you got a row for being so stupid and clumsy and if  
18 you damaged socks or anything like that, you'd got hell  
19 for that. No sympathy whatsoever for anything.

20 Q. Moving on now, 'Janette', if we can, you tell us about  
21 abuse that took place --

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. -- in foster care.

24 I'll turn firstly to bed-wetting. You tell us about  
25 when you wet the bed. You've obviously already

1 described the problems you had in getting to a toilet at  
2 night in the circumstances, but how often did you wet  
3 the bed?

4 A. Every night. Every night.

5 Q. What happened when you wet the bed?

6 A. In the morning she would -- everybody got up and she'd  
7 look at my bed and it was wet and she used to put my  
8 head down the toilet and flush the toilet till I thought  
9 I was going to drown, honestly.

10 And then other times she would run a bath of  
11 freezing cold water and hold me under it until I nearly  
12 passed out, but she stopped at the -- do you know what  
13 I mean? Obviously knew what she was doing because --  
14 well, I'm here. But I can remember being plunged into  
15 one that was icy cold and absolutely terrified and then  
16 just gasping. That happened every day. Every day.

17 And then she had a -- it was like a chamber pot  
18 thing, it wasn't in our room, I think it must have been  
19 for herself, but I still have a scar to this day, she  
20 threw it at me and I have like a scar on my bum there,  
21 and I reckon I was only about six year old there. But  
22 I can remember it clear as day.

23 Q. You tell us I think that she did something in relation  
24 to drinking water?

25 A. Yeah, because I wet the bed, I wasn't allowed to have

1 a drink at all. So outside, because it was a big croft  
2 thing, they had a big enamel tin bath and it caught the  
3 rainwater and it had like daddy long-legs living in it  
4 and I used to drink loads of water out of that, because  
5 I never was allowed a drink. And then we had a hot  
6 water bottle and I used to take the water out of hot  
7 water bottle and drink that because I wasn't allowed to  
8 drink, because I wet the bed.

9 Q. On page 8 of your statement at paragraph 35, 'Janette',  
10 you tell us about something else that happened to you  
11 following you wetting the bed.

12 A. Then -- about having to sleep outside?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. Yeah, they had a garage that had a -- it was like  
15 a triangle shape, there was a window at the front, and  
16 because they had goats, they had these big plastic bags,  
17 like big giant things like that, and she cut the bottom  
18 of them out and I got put in there naked, just my legs  
19 hanging out and the things up to here and I had to sleep  
20 in there, with no blankets or anything, and there were  
21 rats and mice and everything running about and that was  
22 all because I wet the bed, and that went on for years.

23 Q. Was this you had to wear that in the bedroom or was this  
24 you were sleeping in the barn outside?

25 A. No, no, that's the barn outside. That's because --

1           because I'd wet the bed and wet the sheets and  
2           everything, they weren't going to put sheets on for me,  
3           so I had to go there with nothing on and it was --  
4           I don't know if you get them now, but it was like  
5           farmer's feed bags, but they were clear, they were  
6           transparent. And they would go right up to there and  
7           she'd just cut the ends off for holes for my legs. And  
8           then of course I was wetting that as well because just  
9           terrified, and in the morning they'd get tipped out and  
10          you'd put the same thing back on at night.

11 Q. How old were you when that was happening?

12 A. I reckon from about six, because we went to Inverness  
13          when I was about five. Maybe actually about five and a  
14          half, because it was -- after she got fed up with me  
15          wetting the bed in the house I got put out there.

16 Q. Did that happen -- was that a one off or did that  
17          happen --

18 A. No, that's where I slept.

19 Q. You tell us at paragraph 36 about the rats and the mice  
20          and the spiders and that you're not scared of them --

21 A. No.

22 Q. -- and you felt that they were your wee friends?

23 A. Yeah, yeah. Because it was -- that was the only thing  
24          that was there, because my brother and sister were in  
25          the house and the house were all locked and I was out

1           there. Either go one way or the other. You scare  
2           yourself to death with the mice and that or just oh  
3           well, they are not doing you any harm kind of thing.

4   Q. 'Janette', if I can ask you now, you've told us that you  
5           were hit.

6   A. Mm-hmm.

7   Q. Who was it who was hitting you?

8   A. Our foster mother. She used to pull me by the hair and  
9           throw you about and hit you with a stick, anything that  
10          came to hand. She just -- and that was because she was  
11          a temper. You wouldn't even have to do anything for her  
12          to hit you. But ... as I say, we were just used to it.  
13          We used to come home from school and hold our breaths  
14          opening the door and pray the door was locked that she  
15          wasn't in. But of course she was. A lot of other kids  
16          say, "Oh, I hope my mum's in the house", but we used to  
17          pray that she wasn't there when we came home from  
18          school. But she was.

19   Q. The hitting, how often did that happen?

20   A. Practically every day. There would be some -- every day  
21          there would be something wrong and she would just take  
22          it out on us.

23   Q. Were you ever injured as a result of being hit?

24   A. Just bruises and -- nothing -- no broken bones. But, as  
25          I say, I've still got scars, yes.

1 Q. You've described you being hit. What about your brother  
2 and sister? Were they hit as well?

3 A. They were kind of -- I wouldn't say hit as bad as me,  
4 because I used to take the blame for a lot of things,  
5 because I wouldn't want them to get hit. They were kind  
6 of pushed about, "Up to your beds", things like that,  
7 but I would get taken by the hair, as if she hated me.  
8 I don't know why, but she just didn't like me.

9 They didn't get -- like they used to get chastised  
10 kind of thing, like, "You stay in your room" and things  
11 like that. Which is bad enough honestly, I'm not saying  
12 it's not bad. But I was the main target. I took the  
13 blame for a lot of things so that they wouldn't get hit.  
14 Do you know what I mean?

15 Q. Did the abuse that you've described, did that continue  
16 throughout your time living with them?

17 A. Yeah, yeah, right up to the day before we left.

18 Q. You tell us something about food again on paragraph 39  
19 of your statement, 'Janette', at the foot of page 8.  
20 Paragraph 38, sorry, my apologies. You've already told  
21 us that you got your dinner at school --

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. -- and that was the only thing you got to eat and that  
24 one time you got caught eating the goats' bananas.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And you were battered for that?

2 A. Definitely, yeah. But we didn't care because we were  
3 starving. I mean ... there was -- I dare say there was  
4 food, but we wouldn't dare go near a cupboard or  
5 anything looking for anything. We just knew that we  
6 weren't going to get fed. I mean the bananas were  
7 rotten, but it was food.

8 Q. You say she had dogs and there were cooked sausages for  
9 the dogs?

10 A. Yeah. And we got made to stand in a line, she was in  
11 a bad mood or something, and she would just force cold  
12 sausage with the fat and everything -- we would shut our  
13 eyes and -- I can remember -- still remember to this  
14 day, and we were all sick and my sister can't eat -- she  
15 can't even -- my sister (unclear) now, but she can't  
16 even bear even cooking sausages for her kids or  
17 anything, because it just takes her back to that time as  
18 well.

19 Q. You describe in your statement that the sausages that  
20 she had for the dogs, your foster mum made you and your  
21 sister and brother shut your eyes and she shoved this  
22 sausage into your mouth and you didn't know what it was  
23 and you were sick?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Was she doing that to make you eat or was she doing it



1 as a punishment?

2 A. It was a punishment. I honestly can't remember what we  
3 done, but I remember it was in the kitchen and maybe  
4 we've asked -- maybe we told her we were hungry or  
5 something and she just done that. If your kids were  
6 hungry you'd sit them down at the table or give them  
7 some food with a knife and fork. No telling them to  
8 shut their eyes and shove a -- it wasn't frozen cold but  
9 it was cold congealed sausage in your mouth. At that  
10 age, or any age to be fair.

11 Q. You've described all of this and if I understand the  
12 position correctly, it was your foster mother doing  
13 this.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. What about your foster father, did he ever do any of  
16 these things?

17 A. No. He was always out. He was always in the wee croft  
18 thing, because they had land and that. I don't actually  
19 know if he had another job. I don't think he did  
20 because he was round about the house all the time, but  
21 he was never in the house if you know what I mean. He  
22 was doing things outside. But I think he was  
23 terrified -- not terrified, but I think he was kind of  
24 scared of her as well. He was quite just a quiet kind  
25 of man. Never said very much. He didn't defend us, he

1           didn't.

2   Q.   Was he aware what was happening?

3   A.   Yeah, oh definitely, but he'd just put his head down and

4           walk out.

5   Q.   He never at any stage did anything to try and stop her?

6   A.   No.

7   Q.   Moving to page 9 of your statement, 'Janette', you go

8           and tell us about things that happened with someone who

9           I think was your foster parents' younger son.

10  A.   Mm-hmm.

11  Q.   What kind of age was he?

12  A.   Well, he was a lot older than us. I think he was maybe

13           18 or something.

14  Q.   Was he someone who lived in the house or did he live

15           elsewhere?

16  A.   He lived elsewhere. He had a girlfriend staying in

17           Inverness -- he was actually maybe older than 18,

18           thinking about it, because he had his own work van and

19           things like -- he used to come down the house in his

20           work van. But she had two sons that went to Australia

21           and they came back. And the one who came down in the

22           van and that, he -- I don't know where the foster

23           parents were, they must have been away out, and they

24           were babysitting for us. And they made me, my brother

25           and sister strip naked and had a power hose to wash his

1 van and like we had to stand there and get hosed down  
2 and they were all laughing and things like that.

3 My brother remembers this, because I've spoken to  
4 him -- not about this, because he doesn't know anything  
5 about this, but we were just speaking and he can  
6 remember that and he was only five. He was a year  
7 younger than me at the time.

8 But they weren't nice at all.

9 Q. I think you also tell us that you mentioned he had  
10 a works van.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. You tell us that he would lock you and your brother and  
13 sister in the work van.

14 A. Yes, just for badness, not for no reason at all.  
15 Because we were terrified.

16 Q. You tell us that he said he would be leaving you there  
17 all night?

18 A. It wouldn't be all night, it would be to maybe just  
19 before they came back, because they must have been out  
20 at the pub or something, my foster parents, and then we  
21 would be like taken back in the back of the house and as  
22 if nothing had happened for them coming home.

23 Q. You tell us in your statement that you were terrified  
24 and the van was pitch black because there was no windows  
25 in it.

1 A. Yeah. It had a slide door, you know the ones where the  
2 door is like a slide door but once the door shut that's  
3 it, there's no light at all.

4 Q. You go on to tell us about having a memory involving her  
5 other sons.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Are they the sons who were in Australia and came back  
8 again?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. What do you remember about that?

11 A. It was in that room -- I know I keep mentioning this  
12 floor, but this is where it was. And one of them had  
13 said something about his willy or something like that,  
14 and I said, "I've not got one", "Like show me what  
15 you've got", and I was like, "No, no".

16 And I can remember him sitting there with an erect  
17 penis and I had to touch it, and I reckon I would be  
18 about six or seven. But the (unclear) were not there,  
19 I don't know where they were. We used to get left quite  
20 often with them.

21 But I know that's bad enough, but nothing -- there  
22 wasn't any like sexual intercourse or anything like  
23 that. It was just touching and things like that. But  
24 you're too scared not to do anything, because they were  
25 our big brothers, as it were, and it must have been all

1 right ... that was really the only thing that -- like  
2 that time I'm talking about.

3 Q. Did that happen on that one occasion or did something  
4 similar ever happen again?

5 A. I can really only remember the one time, but then again  
6 they could have went back to Australia and then not come  
7 back for like a long time. But I really -- I do  
8 remember that.

9 Q. Further on on that page, 'Janette', you tell us about  
10 your hair and that you weren't allowed to have long  
11 hair.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. What are you telling us here?

14 A. Well, she used to cut our hair, the old classic like  
15 a bowl, I don't know, it was something, a dish, anyway.  
16 But when we were at school, I used to put a shawl over  
17 my head so I had long hair and I thought this was great  
18 and I would just -- I used to look like a boy.  
19 I thought I looked likely a girl with long hair and  
20 things like that. But I remember doing that. It was --  
21 see, we loved school because it was away from them. And  
22 people were nice to you and you got fed and you got to  
23 play and things like that. But the minute you went home  
24 it was just -- just back.

25 Q. You say in your statement that your foster mum knew that

1           you wanted long hair and you think it was just another  
2           way of controlling you --

3   A.   Yeah.

4   Q.   -- by insisting you had a short haircut?

5   A.   Yeah.

6   Q.   You go on to tell us about sometimes your foster parents  
7           went to the pub --

8   A.   Yeah.

9   Q.   -- and you had to go down and sit in the car outside.

10  A.   Yeah. We thought that was great, because some of the  
11           punters would come out -- I can remember getting a Mars  
12           bar, that's how old Mars bars have been about, but I can  
13           remember that and got like a bottle of juice, I don't  
14           think there were cans at the time, and we thought this  
15           was great. I mean it probably wasn't as long as we  
16           thought sitting out there, but that was like a wee  
17           outing for us, it was in the dark, you're sitting in  
18           a car park in a pub, but we thought it was great.

19  Q.   The Mars bar and the juice, was that your foster parents  
20           who got that for you?

21  A.   No, somebody in the pub because they must have seen us  
22           sitting out in the car. Or they have said there were  
23           kids in the car kind of thing. Oh no, they didn't buy  
24           us anything.

25  Q.   They didn't bring out some juice or a packet of crisps

1 or nothing like that?

2 A. No, it was somebody in the pub that did it, because  
3 I remember that.

4 Q. Then over the page at the top of page 10 at  
5 paragraph 45, 'Janette', you say that your sister told  
6 you that something had happened to her?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. What was that?

9 A. She said that he used to like lay on top of her, but she  
10 was fully clothed and so was he, but she can remember  
11 that. She's a year older than me, so I reckon she must  
12 have been about ten -- well, I -- eight or nine, because  
13 we left when she was ten. But he never -- honestly, he  
14 never ever done anything like that to me. But I think  
15 it's because [REDACTED] was older. And [REDACTED] is quite  
16 tall, whereas I'm still wee. But she looked a wee bit  
17 older anyway, but ...

18 Q. Who was it that your sister said did this to her?

19 A. Our foster father, ENF [REDACTED].

20 Q. You've already told us that this wasn't -- none of these  
21 things would have been things you could have told  
22 Ms Richmond, the social worker, about and you were so  
23 afraid.

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. What about at school? Do you think anyone at school

1           knew what was going on?

2   A. I don't think so. I don't think anybody knew. I just  
3       remember one incident, I'd fell and I'd ripped my tights  
4       and I knew I was going to get into trouble and my  
5       primary school teacher had saw the bruises on my legs  
6       and my back and things like that, but -- and I just said  
7       I fell, because you couldn't have said, "Oh, it was my  
8       mum that done that", because you were terrified you were  
9       going to get taken away.

10  Q. You say that your teacher saw the bruises?

11  A. Mm-hmm.

12  Q. And she was able to get you another pair of tights --

13  A. Yeah.

14  Q. -- so you didn't have to go home with ripped tights?

15  A. But I still got battered, because I got tights from  
16       somebody else and I'd ruined mine, you know.

17  Q. You say that the teacher said something about the  
18       bruises and you said you fell.

19  A. Yeah.

20  Q. Obviously you were afraid, but you also say in your  
21       statement that you were protecting your foster mother.

22  A. Yeah, yeah, because they were our mum and dad and they  
23       were the only people that we had and you just ... you  
24       don't want to say anything bad about them because  
25       they're -- it must have been normal to get treated like



1 this. And as I said earlier, when we got took away,  
2 I blamed myself for years and years for us getting taken  
3 away from our mum and dad.

4 It's only when you're an adult you realise they  
5 weren't much of a mum and dad to let things like that  
6 happen. But I would never have thought of telling  
7 a teacher or anybody, because you were just terrified if  
8 they didn't believe you and it got back to them that  
9 you'd said something, it would have been all the worse,  
10 like beatings.

11 LADY SMITH: 'Janette', I don't suppose you'd have had any  
12 idea that there was somewhere else you could go.

13 A. No. No. Because we had moved from Glasgow to  
14 [REDACTED], which was fine, and moved to there, we  
15 thought well this is it, we're going to be here for the  
16 rest of our lives and you've just got to put up with it  
17 kind of thing.

18 LADY SMITH: At that point you'd know nothing about Abelour  
19 or places like Abelour.

20 A. No. We thought that this was our house and this was  
21 your mum and dad and I must be really bad to get -- to  
22 be battered like that. You just accept it, but ...

23 I don't even know, Lady Smith, I don't even know if  
24 there was somebody I could have went to, I don't think  
25 I'd have went because -- not the fear of not being

1 believed, but you wouldn't want it to come back on your  
2 foster mother and then her finding out that you'd told  
3 somebody. It was like the carry on with the bike,  
4 I thought she'd bought a bike for somebody in my class  
5 at school and I got, "How dare you mention anything that  
6 goes on in this house?" And that was only because  
7 I thought she'd bought the bike and it was for somebody  
8 else. But I don't think I would have told anybody.

9 LADY SMITH: The other thing I notice in your statement was  
10 that you felt you had to look out for your little  
11 brother and protect him as well.

12 A. Yeah.

13 LADY SMITH: Is that right?

14 A. Yeah. Still the same -- I would ... I would die for my  
15 wee brother. And my sister. Yeah, because he was  
16 younger than me and it's still the same, I still  
17 mollycoddle him.

18 LADY SMITH: He's lucky to have you.

19 A. Oh, thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

21 A. Sorry.

22 LADY SMITH: Don't apologise. Just take your time. That's  
23 fine.

24 MS RATTRAY: 'Janette', I'm going to ask you now about when  
25 you left the **ENF-ENH**. What do you remember about

1 leaving foster care and moving on to Abelour?

2 A. I remember the journey, going, as I said it was  
3 traumatising, but then we went on another train from --  
4 must have been Inverness to Aberdeen and then we got to  
5 Aberdeen and I didn't eat anything for at least two  
6 days, I just -- when we got in it was dinner time and  
7 there was a big table, because we'd never seen places to  
8 sit and eat your dinner and all the rest of it. So my  
9 brother and sister was like eating whatever it was and  
10 I got a glass of water and I was so grateful for a glass  
11 of water and I thought oh, and I was afraid to drink it,  
12 because I thought I'm going to wet the bed but I thought  
13 this was great because I had a jug of water. I still  
14 like my water. And it was fine.

15 Aberdeen was fine, Aberdeen was really nice,  
16 actually, I think we were there for nearly a year. We  
17 got taken out places and we went to a wee primary school  
18 and we were in the nativity play and things like that.  
19 It was lovely.

20 Q. Although we're not looking at Abelour, you do when you  
21 talk about the children's home in Aberdeen, which was  
22 a positive experience --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- you do compare your experience there to your time in  
25 foster care and you mentioned wetting the bed. Did you

1 wet the bed when you got to Aberdeen?

2 A. Yeah, yeah. I wet the bed up until I was 13, till my  
3 periods, and then it stopped.

4 Q. At Aberdeen when you wet the bed, were you punished for  
5 that?

6 A. No, no. No. I used to just curl up in a ball, I was  
7 terrified to get out my bed in the morning and they were  
8 so nice. I couldn't believe that I wasn't getting --  
9 I was just cowering down because of what you're used to,  
10 but no, nothing like that. Nothing at all.

11 Q. I think you also talk about getting new clothes there?

12 A. Yeah, uh-huh. We had to go down to shops. I think it  
13 was actually Woolworths, believe it or not, they had  
14 clothes, and my sister's got a blue -- no, I got a blue  
15 one and my sister got a kind of orange woolly dress  
16 thing. It sounds horrible. I can still remember it.  
17 At that time, it was like bright green and bright  
18 tangerine kind of bead things. That was in the 1960s  
19 that we got them.

20 But yeah, we got clothes. We didn't get our hair  
21 chopped with a bowl. I think somebody actually came in  
22 and cut our hair, I don't think we went to the  
23 hairdressers, I think that was the norm in children's  
24 homes, you got your hair cut. It was night and day.

25 Q. You mentioned Christmas there and what with Christmas?

1           Were there any gifts at Christmas?

2    A.   Yeah, aye, aye.

3           I think we got about three things each and this  
4           was -- couldn't believe it.  Because you opened --  
5           I remember I got a doll and she had long hair and  
6           I couldn't believe it.  And I hadn't opened it because  
7           I didn't know it was for me and we got like fruit and  
8           things like that, and we never had anything -- well,  
9           bananas but not Christmas satsumas and things like that.  
10          And you were allowed to help yourself to things and  
11          you're just scared to touch it because you're not used  
12          to getting anything.  But it was lovely.  I can remember  
13          it was a lovely place.

14   MS RATTRAY:  I think perhaps at this point in 'Janette's'  
15          evidence it would be appropriate to take a break,  
16          because after the break we will then turn to some  
17          records and I'll ask 'Janette' to comment.

18   LADY SMITH:  'Janette', we normally take a break around this  
19          time in the afternoon in any event.  Would it work for  
20          you if we did that now?

21   A.   Yeah, of course.

22   LADY SMITH:  Let's do that and then we'll return to the rest  
23          of your evidence after the break.

24   (2.58 pm)

25   (A short break)

1 (3.11 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Are you ready for us to carry on, 'Janette'?

3 A. Yeah.

4 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

5 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

6 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.

7 'Janette', what I'm going to do now is I'm going to  
8 give you a chance to comment on some of your records,  
9 your children's records.

10 A. Mm-hmm.

11 Q. I understand that you may have seen some of your Abelour  
12 records. These particular records are records that the  
13 Inquiry has recovered from Glasgow.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. The current Glasgow City Council and, as was, Glasgow  
16 Corporation.

17 A. (Witness nods)

18 Q. Glasgow Corporation was the Local Authority who placed  
19 you in foster care.

20 A. Right.

21 Q. I'm going to turn now to GLA-000002073, page 14.

22 'Janette', you'll look at these and they can be  
23 extremely hard to read on the screen, particularly with  
24 the handwriting. I've spent quite some time trying to  
25 find out what it says. It takes a while to read.

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. I think if we look at the top left-hand side of that  
3 page that we have in front of us and we see the first  
4 entry there, which is a record -- it's a record of  
5 visits to the foster home and these are records of  
6 visits by a childcare officer or a social worker from  
7 Glasgow.

8 The first entry -- I think part of the date is  
9 blanked out -- is [REDACTED] 1964. The fifth line down,  
10 I won't read every line, but the fifth line down says:

11 "Mrs ENH [REDACTED] discussed with me the question of  
12 clothing allowance for the children as she feels she  
13 would much rather buy the clothes herself."

14 But I think you've told us she didn't buy any  
15 clothes; is that right?

16 A. That's right. We never ever went shopping, we never got  
17 anything new. It was like -- to me she was getting them  
18 handed down from somebody else or like jumble sales,  
19 because they weren't clean when we got them, they  
20 weren't new.

21 Q. I think this is what tells us -- because I think we know  
22 that sometimes in relation to clothes, sometimes the  
23 clothes would actually be sent by the Local Authority.

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. It would be the Local Authority who would go out and buy

1           them and sort of send up piles of clothes, but it seems  
2           to be a request by Mrs ENH from the outset that she  
3           would rather have the allowance, the money.

4   A.   Yeah.

5   Q.   But we understand from you that whatever happened to  
6           that allowance, it certainly wasn't spent on clothing  
7           from your experience?

8   A.   No, definitely not.

9   LADY SMITH: Can you give us the date? I know we have 1964.

10  MS RATTRAY: It's [REDACTED] 1964.

11  LADY SMITH: That's within weeks of the children arriving at  
12           the foster home?

13  MS RATTRAY: Yes.

14           My Lady, the children arrived at the first foster  
15           home in [REDACTED] on [REDACTED].

16  LADY SMITH: It's about three weeks later.

17  MS RATTRAY: Yes.

18  LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19  MS RATTRAY: The next entry we look at, which is on the same  
20           page but is towards the bottom left, and it's the last  
21           two lines at the bottom left. It's an entry of  
22           4 November 1964, which is another visit to the foster  
23           home. The last two lines say:

24           "I should think Mrs ENH is proving to be very  
25           capable and has a pleasant but sufficiently firm way



1 with the children, in spite of being rather reserved and  
2 even abrupt in conversation. Home satisfactory.  
3 Children keeping in good health and appear happy."

4 I think from what we understand from you, 'Janette',  
5 when you were staying in [REDACTED], you don't recall  
6 anything bad happening then?

7 A. No. But then I think that was probably because there  
8 was other people in the house.

9 Q. We know, turning to page 15 now of that record, at the  
10 top left-hand side, the first entry there is one of  
11 5 October 1965 and that's the entry which records that  
12 a letter was received from Mrs ENH [REDACTED] telling Glasgow  
13 Corporation that they had moved house and I think this  
14 is what you've told us as well --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- that you moved from [REDACTED] to a place near  
17 Inverness.

18 A. (Witness nods)

19 Q. Moving on the same page there to the entry of  
20 3 November 1965, which is the top left again, the second  
21 entry down --

22 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, I'm sorry to interrupt. The date  
23 of the move to --

24 MS RATTRAY: Was 5 October 1965.

25 LADY SMITH: No, I've got the date of the entry, but when

1           was the actual move, do we know?

2   MS RATTRAY:  That's the only record we have of the date of

3           the move.

4   LADY SMITH:  Do you have any memory of what time of year it

5           was that you moved, 'Janette'?

6   A.  I don't think it was in the summer, because it was like

7           dark, dark nights.  And we went to this big house and it

8           was in darkness, basically.  It wasn't like summer

9           weather.

10  LADY SMITH:  Right.  It may well have been around the time

11           that the letter was written to social work by your

12           foster mother advising them of the move --

13  A.  (Witness nods)

14  LADY SMITH:  -- and this entry went into the records on

15           5 October.  It would mean the date in paragraph 14 of

16           your statement isn't quite right.  I think that suggests

17           you actually moved on the 11th, which would have been

18           after that, but it doesn't matter, it's around then,

19           around October.

20  A.  Mm-hmm.

21  LADY SMITH:  Thank you.

22           Ms Rattray.

23  MS RATTRAY:  The next entry we'll look at is the entry of

24           3 November 1965, which is the second entry on that page.

25           I'm looking at the fifth line down again and just taking

1 a part out of it. This is the first visit I think to  
2 the new house at Inverness, which says:

3 "This is an old house that had been allowed to  
4 deteriorate by a previous occupant but the ENF-ENH are  
5 redecorating and working at bringing the house up to  
6 a higher standard."

7 We have one image of that, it sounds like a house  
8 which is just being done up a little.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. But I think as we move on through the records we will  
11 see different things --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- about that house.

14 The next entry I'm going to look at on the same page  
15 is on 15 February 1966 and it's on the left-hand side of  
16 the page and it's the second entry and the fifth line  
17 down of that entry. It says:

18 "The home is still in a rather undecorated condition  
19 but they are still waiting on electricity being  
20 installed, which has been promised to them for  
21 a considerable time now."

22 Which rather suggests that, as you say, it wasn't  
23 simply a matter of paint and wallpaper.

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. There was a period where you didn't have any electricity

1           in the house.

2    A.  Yeah.

3    Q.  Is that something you remember at all?

4    A.  I just remember being cold, like being cold and the tap

5           water was outside, it was an outside tap.  I remember

6           that.

7    Q.  There are various other entries in the course of 1966

8           where we're told that the house is still in the process

9           of being modernised but according to the visitor, you're

10           well and happy here.  We even see the entry of

11           18 May 1967, still on page 15, the bottom right, the

12           fourth entry, the sixth line down, which makes reference

13           to "Satisfactory home condition".

14   A.  (Witness shakes head)

15   Q.  Would you agree that's rather surprising, given --

16   A.  Yeah, very surprising.

17   Q.  Given previously there was no electricity, at least, and

18           it was an outside tap and there were no floorboards and

19           so forth.

20   A.  Mm-hmm.  It seemed to take years for the renovations --

21           like upstairs the beam across we were made to walk was

22           there for a long, long time.

23   Q.  'Janette', I think as we move through these entries we

24           will see that.  I think we'll see when another social

25           worker takes over.

1 A. Mm-hmm.

2 Q. We will then see other entries which perhaps did say  
3 that.

4 There's an entry of 16 November 1967, which is the  
5 bottom right-hand side of that page, the fifth entry,  
6 second line down of that entry, which says:

7 "The house is a bit of a muddle as the foster  
8 parents are carrying out major alterations. In spite of  
9 this, the children were clean and tidy and happy  
10 together."

11 That's what that particular person took from their  
12 visit on that date.

13 LADY SMITH: This looks like new handwriting.

14 MS RATTRAY: It does. I think we see different handwriting,  
15 my Lady, as we move forward, which presumably implies it  
16 was a different person.

17 LADY SMITH: I think that's the first time that  
18 handwriting -- I'm no expert on handwriting, but it's  
19 plainly very different from the handwriting in the ...  
20 oh, it would be a year earlier, the first visit to the  
21 house.

22 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: That would be the first time that person had  
24 been there and if they hadn't read the previous records  
25 carefully, they wouldn't have known how long the house

1 had been in a state of disrepair with the children  
2 living in it.

3 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

4 At this stage we're going to move on to page 16 of  
5 this document and moving to the left of the page, the  
6 second entry on the left-hand side, which is an entry of  
7 6 March 1968, and it's about seven lines down there, and  
8 there is a comment here from that visit that:

9 "The children's clothes were not over clean, but  
10 then they were in their play clothes and school skirts  
11 were on chair. House is still in the process of being  
12 modernised."

13 We get another snapshot from the viewpoint of the  
14 childcare officer there.

15 Then we see the next entry here to the bottom left,  
16 which is the third entry on that side of the page, and  
17 we're going to start on the first line and that's dated  
18 8 March 1968. On this occasion the childcare officer  
19 has written:

20 "Visited school. Discussed children with  
21 headmaster. States the infant teacher has wondered  
22 about the situation here and whether Mrs ENH is not  
23 too strict with children. He has found no trouble with  
24 the girls but will pay more attention now and if I call  
25 on my next visit north, he will have an up-to-date

1 report ..."

2 We move to the top of the next column:

3 "... to give me and also have discussed situation  
4 with infant mistress whom he says has rather diffidently  
5 taken some very good second-hand clothes to Mrs ENH ,  
6 but Mr McRae was not very clear about the reaction."

7 I think we see here, 'Janette', that there are some  
8 concerns on the part of the school about how strict --

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. -- Mrs ENH is being with you and your brother and  
11 sister, and clearly someone has been concerned about  
12 your clothes at school, let alone any play clothes at  
13 home.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Because a teacher has taken it upon herself to access  
16 some good quality second-hand clothes.

17 A. Yeah, I remember the teacher, her name was Ms Fraser and  
18 she had bright red hair and that was her that gave me  
19 the tights that day and saw the marks, so ...

20 Q. The next entry we're going to look at on this page is at  
21 the top and it's the second entry. It's dated  
22 19 July 1968 and it's the fifth line down on that entry.  
23 What we see is that this is a visit not just by the  
24 childcare officer but also with someone called  
25 Baillie Miller, who, as I understand it, every so often

1 there would be someone from the council like  
2 a councillor, an official other than a childcare  
3 officer, who would accompany the childcare officer on  
4 a visit.

5 What it says here:

6 "House is in more advanced state of  
7 reconstruction ..."

8 We can see we've moved from a suggestion it's  
9 a paint and paper job to being rebuilt.

10 A. Mm.

11 Q. "I asked to see the bedrooms. Children are in a large  
12 bedroom but it is still to be refloored. Beds not made  
13 and bed clothing clean but rather a mixture. I was not  
14 at all happy about state of room, but Mrs ENH said  
15 she hoped to have all in order soon. The children's  
16 clothing was only adequate and clean but not very  
17 tasteful and the boy's jersey in particular was holed.  
18 Spoke about school clothes and asked if they had  
19 a school uniform, but Mrs ENH says they do not  
20 require it. The children, however, are happy."

21 Further on she mentions that she discusses this  
22 position with Bailey Miller. I'm moving now onto  
23 page 17 of this document, the top left-hand side of that  
24 page is a continuation of a discussion with Bailey  
25 Miller:



1 " ... who feels there is not much one can do until  
2 reconstruction is complete. The school report for last  
3 term is still to be returned to department and note will  
4 be taken of headmaster's remarks."

5 The next entry we'll look at is the top left, first  
6 new entry on that page, two lines down, and it's  
7 an entry of 10 October 1968. It says here:

8 "Older girl was growing up and is clean and tidy in  
9 her dress. The other two were poorly dressed but seem  
10 happy and content."

11 The next entry we'll look at is [REDACTED] 1969,  
12 which is the bottom left and the second entry, and from  
13 the first line of that we see:

14 "Visited to be greeted by the boy, who was in the  
15 shed at the back and who was rather indignant when asked  
16 if he had a good time playing. He wasn't playing, he  
17 was taking in wood for the fire."

18 Can you remember, how old would your wee brother be  
19 at that stage in [REDACTED] 1969?

20 A. Eight, I think.

21 Q. Maybe I can help you. I appreciate you're having to  
22 think back on dates.

23 A. I was nine then, so he's -- just like ...

24 Q. If I can help at all, 'Janette', because I checked the  
25 records because it does have your date of birth and your

1 siblings' dates of birth on there, and what I worked out  
2 is your wee brother had quite recently turned seven, age  
3 seven, maybe just a few weeks before, in [REDACTED] 19 --  
4 A. Aye, his birthday's [REDACTED].  
5 Q. He had had a birthday quite recently?  
6 A. Yeah, that would have been right because then the  
7 following year he would be eight and I was a year older  
8 than him.  
9 Q. So six, turning seven --  
10 A. Yeah.  
11 Q. -- and he's not playing in the shed, he's bringing in  
12 firewood.  
13 A. Yeah.  
14 Q. Was that one of the chores that he had to do?  
15 A. Mm. Yeah. He had to break the wood up as well. And  
16 like have an axe to chop wood and things like that.  
17 Q. It goes on to say:  
18 "Had a long talk with Mrs [REDACTED] ENH, who was in the  
19 process of putting tiles down on living room floor.  
20 Mrs [REDACTED] ENH for the first time since I've met her talked  
21 quite freely. She's had a bit of trouble over 'Janette'  
22 continually bed-wetting, but says this is due to the  
23 fact the child has an obsession for drinking water."  
24 What do you say to Mrs [REDACTED] ENH comments here?  
25 A. I wasn't allowed to drink water. I mean ... ah. I'm

1 not saying the reason I wet the bed was because I was  
2 terrified, but that was part to do with it, because  
3 I couldn't get to the toilet. But it was nothing to do  
4 with water. Obsession with drinking water, I did drink  
5 water out the bath outside because they wouldn't allow  
6 me to drink water. I wasn't obsessed about drinking  
7 water out a -- you had to pick daddy long-legs out of  
8 it.

9 Q. I won't read out the full quote, but it seems to be that  
10 Mrs ENH then thinks it's all down to a schoolteacher  
11 saying your older sister's better at school than you are  
12 a year ago --

13 A. No.

14 Q. -- and she couldn't complain about that, because she was  
15 married to the headmaster and so forth. And then  
16 towards the end the comment is:

17 "Mrs ENH certainly seems very fond of the  
18 children and understanding and patient with them, but  
19 I find it hard to imagine how one can comfortably live  
20 for so long amidst the tremendous alterations they are  
21 making to the house."

22 From what you're telling us, 'Janette', your  
23 experience wasn't one of where Mrs ENH was very fond  
24 of you and understanding and patient?

25 A. No. I would say she hated me for some reason. I was --

1 I got the brunt of everything. She would take all her  
2 temper and nastiness out on me. And I don't think I was  
3 bad. I don't think I asked for anything like that.  
4 Maybe because I stuck up for my brother and sister and  
5 this annoyed her, but even when things like that weren't  
6 going on, she just didn't like me for some reason.

7 Q. The next entry I'm going to look at is moving on to  
8 4 April 1969 and that's the next entry that starts at  
9 the bottom right of page 17, which has the date of the  
10 entry but I'm actually going to start reading where it  
11 continues on the next page, page 18 on the top left-hand  
12 side corner there. What that seems to say is:

13 "'Janette' is still bed-wetting but seems to do it  
14 for reasons of drawing attention, as if there's  
15 something special she wants in future [I think perhaps  
16 'if'] she can refrain from bed-wetting. Mr ENF came  
17 in and I was introduced to him. Saw the children, who  
18 were all playing in the back green. Well, possibly  
19 muffled up in the cold day, and all as happy as could  
20 be."

21 Were you deliberately bed-wetting to draw attention  
22 to yourself in order to get something special?

23 A. No. No. We never ever got anything special so  
24 I wouldn't know what special was to do anything like  
25 that. It was purely nerves.

1 Q. The next entry we'll look at is 5 August 1969, which is  
2 the next entry on the top left. Starting at the third  
3 line down there, it says:

4 "The children are happy and relaxed, but their  
5 clothes are very tattered and poor, even for play  
6 clothes."

7 Then I'm going to move to the foot of the page,  
8 about the fifth line from the bottom, where it says:

9 "Later discussed visit with Councillor Methven, who  
10 feels children were ill clad in hand-me-downs which may  
11 well have come from jumble sale. Explained how I was  
12 only now getting Mrs ENH confidence, and although  
13 all along I had been dissatisfied with children's  
14 clothing, I had not complained because I felt with the  
15 house being reconstructed this case had to be given  
16 special circumstances. I agreed with Mrs Methven that  
17 now that reconstruction more or less complete, I should  
18 take up subject of clothing."

19 It seems the councillor shares your view, 'Janette',  
20 that you were wearing things that might have been got --  
21 clothing that might have been acquired from the jumble  
22 sale.

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. We have a suggestion that the childcare officer's been  
25 unhappy about this as well but felt she wasn't going to

1 raise it because of this ongoing building project, which  
2 has now been ongoing for several years.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. At this stage, we're going to move away from the  
5 visiting records and look to page 3 of this document --

6 LADY SMITH: Just before you leave them, Ms Rattray, are you  
7 able to tell whether the childcare officer, as you  
8 referred to as being the most recent entries, was  
9 a Glasgow social worker, childcare officer or a local  
10 one from Inverness?

11 MS RATTRAY: She was from Glasgow. We're quite clear that  
12 we think her name was in fact Ms Richmond and she was  
13 from Glasgow Corporation and we'll see, because we're  
14 moving now to a letter she now writes, which will  
15 confirm.

16 LADY SMITH: Interesting that on at least two occasions she  
17 was accompanied by, I take it, Inverness councillors, is  
18 that right?

19 MS RATTRAY: We're not clear about that. We don't know. We  
20 know there's reference to a Bailey someone and  
21 a councillor, but whether they're from Glasgow or from  
22 Inverness, we don't have any information about that from  
23 the records.

24 LADY SMITH: I see. No doubt if Glasgow discover that,  
25 they'll tell us. It would be helpful.

1 MS RATTRAY: Mm-hmm.

2 Moving to page 3 of this document, and I think this  
3 bears to be a file copy letter taken from records  
4 recovered from Glasgow, apparently from a Ms Richmond,  
5 who is a childcare officer, a letter of 12 August 1969  
6 to Mrs ENH, which says:

7 "Dear Mrs ENH

8 "I have arranged for a plastic cover for 'Janette's'  
9 mattress, two blankets and two pairs of sheets to be  
10 sent on to you.

11 "I am sorry that I feel obliged to tell you that  
12 when visiting you last week I was perturbed about the  
13 clothing the three children were wearing. On previous  
14 visits I have not remarked on it because I felt  
15 allowance had to be made for the reconstruction then in  
16 progress, but now I feel that the house is well on its  
17 way to being completed and that the children should  
18 certainly be dressed in less tattered clothing than on  
19 my last visit.

20 "I trust that on my next visit I will find a big  
21 improvement.

22 "I have contacted Dr Anderson about 'Janette' and  
23 hope something helpful can be done.

24 "Yours sincerely.

25 "Childcare officer."

1           That's Ms Richmond raising the issue of the  
2 clothing.

3           Then if we turn to page 8 of this document, what we  
4 see here is a reply from Mrs **ENH** back to Ms Richmond  
5 and the Corporation of Glasgow, and it's a letter dated  
6 28 August 1969 which, according to the Glasgow records,  
7 was received on 8 September:

8           "Dear Ms Richmond.

9           "I acknowledge here with receipt of the blankets.

10          "Regarding your letter dated 12 August, I regret  
11 that you consider that I am unfit to mother the  
12 children. I have always made them change into old  
13 clothes on their return from school, as good clothes  
14 would soon deteriorate in rural surroundings,  
15 particularly whilst picking berries, as they were on the  
16 day you visited us.

17          "For you to speak as you did to me and then send  
18 a letter of complaint hurt me more than I hope you will  
19 ever be hurt. You should realise that I have had the  
20 children for five years, and I would not have kept them  
21 if I had no love for them, in view of the trouble I have  
22 endured -- which I never had with my own children -- not  
23 only one wet bed, but three, very often, at one time.  
24 I still have this from [the boy] and, as you know, every  
25 day from 'Janette', as well as messing, torn sheets,



1 quilts, nightclothes, et cetera.

2 "Now that you are going to dictate to me how I am to  
3 act, I feel that you should make alternative  
4 arrangements for them, and they will be ready for you to  
5 collect with their clothing at your earliest  
6 convenience.

7 "Kindly advise me accordingly.

8 "Yours faithfully.

9 "Mrs ENH "

10 Were you aware at all, 'Janette', of these kind of  
11 issues?

12 A. (Witness shakes head)

13 Q. Then I'm going to turn to page 7 of this document, which  
14 will show us the next letter in response to this from  
15 Glasgow Corporation and it's a letter dated  
16 8 September 1969 from Ms Richmond to Mrs ENH , which  
17 says:

18 "I was both sorry and surprised to receive your  
19 letter of 28 August when I came into the office today.

20 "Your love for the children has been very apparent  
21 to me and I was not in any way suggesting you are unfit  
22 to mother them. In fact, I thought I had got to know  
23 you well enough now to be frank about what I felt about  
24 their appearance now that your home is more or less  
25 complete. I refrained from mentioning the matter on my

1 last visit simply because I was accompanied by  
2 Councillor Methven. I wrote of it in the letter because  
3 I felt I should let you know what my feelings were in  
4 this respect.

5 "The children love you and would be heartbroken if  
6 moved and I am sure you would be too.

7 "As it happens, I have to be in Inverness on  
8 Thursday, 11 September, so I will call to see you then  
9 when I hope we can sort things out successfully."

10 'Janette', did you love your foster mother?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. You did?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Notwithstanding all the abuse?

15 A. No. She was our mum and she was the only person we had  
16 that was looking after us. And we didn't know any --  
17 well, I certainly didn't know any better. I just  
18 thought that's what you're here to -- I was there to get  
19 treated like that.

20 Q. What we're going to do now, 'Janette', we're going to go  
21 back to the visiting records. So we can turn to page 18  
22 of this document. At page 18 in the middle right-hand  
23 side you will see there's a record of the exchange of  
24 these letters, which are the letters we have just looked  
25 at.

1           Now there starts a lengthy entry of  
2           11 September 1969, which I think is worthwhile in this  
3           context of reading out in some detail. It says:  
4           "Visited Mrs ENH , 11.45 am to 2 pm. Mrs ENH  
5           was obviously in upset state when I called. I asked if  
6           she had received my second letter and how she now felt  
7           about the children. Mrs ENH replied that she still  
8           felt the same and had been feeling for some time that  
9           she couldn't carry on. I asked if she was really  
10          intending that children should be moved, as I had had no  
11          intention of doing so because the children always  
12          appeared happy, and it was only on recent visits she had  
13          maintained 'Janette's' continued bed-wetting.  
14          Mrs ENH then went on to say that children would  
15          always change out of school clothes to play when they  
16          came in from school. I agreed that this was only right  
17          but suggested that the play clothes should not be as old  
18          and holed as had been, but also because of fact that  
19          Mrs ENH was obviously not well. Apologised for  
20          having written re state of clothes. Stated that I had  
21          been endeavouring to get to know her before criticising  
22          the clothing and also had been taking this into  
23          consideration, the tremendous construction in the house,  
24          but now that this was in the main complete I had to  
25          speak of it, but didn't do so in the last visit lest she

1 be embarrassed by Councillor Methven's presence and  
2 hence the letter.

3 "Mrs ENH then said the letter had been the last  
4 straw, as children had pulled her down in health over  
5 the last two years and she had been on nerve pills for  
6 that time. She then broke down and said she couldn't  
7 stand it any longer as up until six months ago all three  
8 children bed wet every night. Now the older girl is dry  
9 and the boy more or less so, but 'Janette' is still wet  
10 every night and bites blankets, sheets, finger and  
11 toenails. Mrs ENH is quite definite that 'Janette'  
12 bites her toenails and says some of them have been  
13 bitten into the quick."

14 'Janette', did you bite your nails or your toenails?

15 A. I don't remember biting my toenails, but I bit my nails  
16 and I still do, it's just a nerve thing.

17 Q. Is that a stress thing?

18 A. Yeah. I'd be terrified to go to sleep in case I wet the  
19 bed and then terrified to wake up because I knew I would  
20 have wet the bed and I certainly didn't bite holes in  
21 blankets or anything like that.

22 Q. "I then asked why she had not told previous officer the  
23 trouble she was having and why only recently had she  
24 mentioned it to me. She then cried afresh and said she  
25 had always treated them as her own children and if they

1 misbehaved then that was the burden she had to bear and  
2 she was not going to tell anyone about it as it was  
3 a family matter. I tried to point out gently that the  
4 children had been placed in her care by our department  
5 and therefore, if they were a burden, we had  
6 a responsibility to help her shoulder this burden. She  
7 then said what could an officer do anyway who only came  
8 every three months and was a snooper? She then  
9 apologised for using word 'snooper'. I asked if she had  
10 told the children they might be leaving her and she said  
11 yes and that she thought they would forget her sooner  
12 than she them. At this point she broke down again and  
13 said she couldn't stand the lies the children were  
14 telling. She maintained that they had been telling  
15 other children they didn't get food, sweets and pennies.  
16 She also feels that this is a most unsociable area and  
17 that now all neighbours ..."

18 At this point it continues on page 20, top left-hand  
19 side:

20 "... think she is a bad mother. She knows this  
21 mainly from the fact that it has come back to her that  
22 the boy, who is very healthy looking, has said at dinner  
23 at school that he doesn't get food. She says that  
24 Mrs McCleod, who attends the school dinners is  
25 a terrible gossip and has told everyone this. She then

1       said that some time ago, she thinks last year, she was  
2       most upset because 'Janette' had been seen by someone at  
3       school and was afraid that they were going to send her  
4       to a school for mentally defective. Yet she did not  
5       tell either myself or Mr Meldrum of this, nor did she go  
6       to school to find out about it. Mrs ENH then went on  
7       to talk of 'Janette' and how she was just as sensitive  
8       as the other two, though when they had first come to her  
9       the boy and older girl had bawled their heads off,  
10      'Janette' just smiled. And though 'Janette' seems to  
11      give most trouble, she seems to be more drawn to her.

12             "After a great deal of talking during which she said  
13      she had trouble with one of the children biting another,  
14      I think 'Janette' and she couldn't get it stopped until  
15      she in turn bit the child and then it did not happen  
16      again."

17             'Janette', do you remember being bitten by your  
18      foster mother or one of your siblings being bitten by  
19      your foster mother?

20    A. I honestly can't -- I can't remember that.

21    Q. "... I eventually managed to find out she did not want  
22      the children moved before the end of [REDACTED], because  
23      she wanted see them in the Gaelic mod in Aviemore, so  
24      asked that they wait until then. I suggested it seemed  
25      as if she would be just heartbroken as the children if

1 they were moved and she agreed but said she couldn't go  
2 on as she'd been doing. I suggested that I call again  
3 after 4 pm to see children and also see headmaster about  
4 asking educational psychologist to see children and that  
5 she look upon time from now until end of [REDACTED] as  
6 a trial period and whole position to be reviewed then."

7 She then goes on to say she called at the school at  
8 4.15, but the headmaster was out so she came back to  
9 Mrs ENH [REDACTED] at 5 o'clock and saw all three children.

10 "All children cried at my arrival until told I was  
11 not taking anyone away. I then had them in to talk to  
12 me in Mrs ENH [REDACTED] presence and asked them if they  
13 wanted to go away and all said no through their sobs.  
14 I spoke to them all about being naughty and making mummy  
15 ill and said that if they told lies and upset mummy,  
16 then maybe they wouldn't be allowed to stay. I took the  
17 older girl first on my knee and asked what she had been  
18 saying to upset mummy and she said she told lies and  
19 said she didn't get sweets and pennies. Asked why she  
20 said this and it turns out girls asked her for sweets  
21 but she didn't have any that day and had eaten all hers  
22 the previous day. She said she just wanted to stay with  
23 mummy and wouldn't tell lies again. Asked her to say  
24 sorry to mummy, which she did, and she and Mrs ENH [REDACTED]  
25 had a weep and hug together."

1           Now, 'Janette', did you get sweets from your foster  
2           mother?

3   A.  No.  I'll tell you what I did do -- I'm not ashamed of  
4           it, actually.  At the goat show they used to show these  
5           goats, right, and I don't know if you remember Smarties,  
6           they used to be in a round tube and she used to save  
7           up -- I don't know it was sixpences -- thruppence it  
8           was, and we knew all these smarties were there and we  
9           used to steal some from there, because we were starving,  
10          like if they were outside and that.  That was the only  
11          sweets we got, and they weren't even for us, they were  
12          using the empty tubes to fill with thruppenny bits and  
13          you were to guess -- for these shows, it was not  
14          a raffle, but it was something like that, guess how many  
15          thruppenny bits was in the tube.  But that was the only  
16          sweets and we weren't even allowed them.  But being the  
17          bad person I was, took them.

18  Q.  Then moving on, the record says:

19                "I then took the boy onto my knee and he was  
20                shuddering with sobs and hiccupped that he had told  
21                a lie.  He said that he had told Mrs McCleod he didn't  
22                get any food.  Had he not been so upset it would have  
23                been laughable, as he is such a porky wee lad.  I asked  
24                him why he said this but he didn't know.  I asked if the  
25                boys teased him about being fat and he said they always



1 called him fatty. I asked him if he would say he was  
2 sorry to mummy, whereupon he ran to mummy and as with  
3 the older girl, mummy and he had tearful hugging time.

4 "'Janette' then came to me and I said she had a big  
5 bother that was worse than telling lies and she sobbed  
6 and I said yes, that she had wet the bed. Talked to her  
7 for a time and asked if she would really try not to wet  
8 the bed and that I hoped when I came back after the  
9 festival at Aviemore I would hear she had been much  
10 better. 'Janette' too told mummy she was sorry and had  
11 a long hug and both she and mummy were in tears. I then  
12 told three children that mummy had to let me know if  
13 they behaved or not and if they were much better when  
14 I came back, then they would not have to go away."

15 Do you remember any of that, 'Janette'?

16 A. Mm-hmm. Yeah.

17 Q. It sounds traumatic --

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. -- for you and your brother and sister in that  
20 situation.

21 A. Yeah. It was. I can remember like it was yesterday.

22 Q. Were you telling lies?

23 A. No.

24 Q. If people at school were being told you weren't getting  
25 food at home?

1 A. No, because we weren't getting food. Why would you  
2 lie -- why would a child that age make up a big story  
3 about not getting food?

4 Q. And not just one, all three of you?

5 A. Yes, all three of us. Oh ...

6 Q. I'm going to look at the next entry, 12 September 1969,  
7 which is the next entry on the right on page 21 here and  
8 that's where the childcare officer says:

9 "Saw the headmaster, who said he would not want to  
10 see the children go away as from all the talk in school  
11 they seemed happy. He did say though that one of the  
12 girls was taking sweets from teacher's bottle but he  
13 wasn't sure which girl. Mr McRae said he had no trouble  
14 at school with Mrs ENH but did not really know her,  
15 but all the staff were very hesitant about speaking to  
16 her as they never knew what her reaction would be."

17 Then there's reference to the fact that the  
18 childcare officer's going to arrange for an educational  
19 psychologist, a Mr Stephen, to see yourself and your  
20 brother and sister.

21 The next entry is on page 22 that we're going to  
22 look at and it's on the top left and it's the new entry,  
23 third line down and it's 28 October 1969. We're back on  
24 a visit to Mrs ENH and in the course of that entry  
25 she mentions:

1 "She's still difficult to talk to and the only thing  
2 she enthuses about is the mod. She says the children  
3 did very well and the choir came third equal in their  
4 class. It was some time before I could get her to talk  
5 about the children and their problems and only by  
6 question and answer could I get her to talk."

7 But it appears from this entry that Mrs ENH  
8 hasn't changed her mind.

9 I'm going to most of now to the top right of this  
10 page, where there's an entry of [REDACTED] 1969 and this  
11 is where Ms Richmond, the childcare officer, is now  
12 speaking to the educational psychologist, a Mr Stephen,  
13 who has seen the children by this stage:

14 "Saw Mr Stephen, who feels that it is most unusual  
15 that Mrs ENH should now want children away when  
16 things have improved so much from what she claims they  
17 had been.

18 "'Janette' no longer soiling during the day and  
19 pattern of bed-wetting improving in that some weeks dry,  
20 boy only occasionally bed-wetting, older girl not  
21 bed-wetting."

22 This is what Mrs ENH told Mr Stephen, I think.

23 "He feels that she has no true motherliness, that  
24 while she looks after children's creature needs, she has  
25 no love to give. From children's attitudes he feels it

1           may well be they sense this and although upset at the  
2           thought of being moved, it is more the fear of the  
3           unknown than a very strong affection for Mrs [REDACTED] ENH . He  
4           would like to know what her initial reason for wanting  
5           to foster children was, as he feels this is what he  
6           cannot comprehend due to her lack of warmth, unless  
7           she's now changed in her feelings and attitude due to  
8           her age."

9           'Janette', you have told us previously about you've  
10          carried a guilt with you --

11        A. Mm-hmm.

12        Q. -- about somehow you were responsible for leaving foster  
13          care.

14        A. Yeah.

15        Q. But here we see you were sat down in a very traumatic  
16          situation and told you were lying --

17        A. Yeah.

18        Q. -- told you were naughty --

19        A. Yeah.

20        Q. -- told you shouldn't wet the bed.

21        A. Mm-hmm. Which just makes you all the more anxious about  
22          it happening. And I do believe that -- not so much now,  
23          to be honest with you, but for years and years I blamed  
24          myself for us getting taken away from our mum and dad.  
25          For all ... we were bad, but we didn't know any better,

1 and I still think it was my fault.

2 Q. We also can gather from these records, 'Janette', that  
3 we know as a matter of course that Mrs ENH was paid  
4 for -- you know, given an allowance for raising three  
5 children.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. She had a clothing allowance, which from your evidence  
8 she didn't spend on clothing.

9 A. Mm.

10 Q. That you weren't being fed. And her sudden decision to  
11 end the foster care seemed to coincide with the  
12 completion of her house.

13 A. Mm-hmm. Yeah. And these people, social workers,  
14 et cetera, knew all that was going on, and she'd  
15 asked -- she said she was going to give us up and all  
16 the rest of it, but we were still left there.

17 LADY SMITH: Just to interject for a moment, 'Janette', you  
18 were getting the message from her, your foster mother,  
19 that you were naughty, bad children and you were at  
20 fault and you were making her ill and so on. That was  
21 being backed up by the children's officer --

22 A. Yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: -- where the clear message was that you were  
24 naughty, you were at fault, you were bad, you were  
25 causing trouble and you had to behave better in all

1           ways, all three of you.

2    A.   Yeah.

3    LADY SMITH:  Because you were not doing and behaving -- you

4           were not doing what you should be doing and not behaving

5           the way you should be behaving for your foster mother.

6    A.   Mm.

7    LADY SMITH:  And you were getting it from both sides.

8    A.   I know, I know.

9    LADY SMITH:  Can you see now that your long-term feeling

10           that you were at fault might not be right?

11   A.   Yeah, I do, actually.  Not fully, to be honest with you.

12           But -- but looking back on things, you do realise --

13           I mean, I'm 62 and it's taken me until I was about

14           60 ...

15   LADY SMITH:  Yes.

16           You left there before you were 10 years old.

17   A.   Pardon?

18   LADY SMITH:  You left there before you were 10 years old,

19           I think.

20   A.   Yeah.

21   LADY SMITH:  You were little.

22   A.   Yeah.

23   LADY SMITH:  How can you be to blame?

24   A.   Because it was drummed into us that it was my fault and

25           I was bad.  And then it was because we were took away

1           because that was our home. For all it was what it was,  
2           it was the only -- do you know what I mean. It does  
3           affect your mental health --

4   LADY SMITH: You were at the stage of life in childhood that  
5           if it's all you know, you may think well, life is just  
6           like this.

7   A. Exactly, yeah.

8   LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

9   MS RATTRAY: We know from further on in the records that  
10          having reviewed the situation, the recommendation was  
11          taken by the childcare officer that it would not be  
12          advisable for this home to be used again as a foster  
13          home.

14                 Also, I'm going to turn briefly to page 2 of this  
15          document.

16                 'Janette', what this bears to be is a very brief  
17          summary of certain matters, which I think was prepared  
18          by someone at Abelour Trust.

19   A. Mm-hmm.

20   Q. Whilst it's not dated, it refers to you being past the  
21          age of 18 and your sister being married, so I think it  
22          must have been a summary that was prepared towards the  
23          end of your period of care. I think in the first  
24          paragraph it refers to your experiences:

25                 "The family were in the care of Glasgow

1 Corporation's Children's Department after desertion by  
2 their parents. After a short period in a children's  
3 home, they were fostered to a Mr and Mrs ENF-ENH in  
4 Inverness-shire but were later removed and placed in the  
5 care of the Trust in Aberdeen, from where they were  
6 transferred to a small home in Kirkcaldy. The reason  
7 for the removal from the foster home appear to have been  
8 neglect and cruelty, especially to 'Janette'."

9 So perhaps one way or the other, when you moved to  
10 Abelour and having looked at your behaviour, which you  
11 described when you arrived in the children's home in  
12 Aberdeen, in Abelour, and perhaps by this stage there  
13 was at least an appreciation --

14 A. Oh definitely.

15 Q. -- that there was definitely neglect and cruelty in the  
16 foster home.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. 'Janette', to finish with, just briefly, you tell us --  
19 I appreciate -- turning back to your statement and  
20 page 21 of your statement you tell us about the impact  
21 that this has had upon you and you speak about impact of  
22 being in care and being abused in care from  
23 paragraph 100 onwards of your statement. We have that  
24 and we have read that. You tell us that we know  
25 elsewhere in your statement unfortunately you



1 experienced abuse in other Abelour care settings.

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. I appreciate it must be very difficult to untangle the  
4 precise sources of some of that impact, but are you able  
5 to describe at all what the impact of your experiences  
6 in this foster care setting had upon you in your adult  
7 life?

8 A. It just makes me feel that ... for my own mental health  
9 it's not very good, but I still -- and this doesn't  
10 sound poor me, there's not a thing I like about myself.  
11 And like even -- if I have to pick a card for somebody,  
12 I have to scrutinise it so I don't hurt anybody with  
13 words, or even a gift card, to upset everybody. I still  
14 have this thing ... like ... I've got to be very guarded  
15 and I've got to not upset anybody or do anything or --  
16 and I question everything. I question every single  
17 thing.

18 I (unclear) have kids of my own and, oh my God,  
19 I would never let anybody breathe on them the wrong way.  
20 And I just -- I just don't understand why people could  
21 do that.

22 Even years now, and we're talking like 55 years,  
23 I was in the shower this morning to come here and the  
24 shower hit and I was thinking and it just takes you  
25 right back to getting your head put down a toilet with

1 water and you can't breathe. And that still happens to  
2 me.

3 Q. 'Janette', I'm now going to ask you briefly on page 27  
4 of your statement. You were asked whether there were  
5 any lessons that we can learn from your experiences.  
6 Whilst I appreciate that some of those may be related to  
7 your time in Abelour, I think at paragraph 129 you  
8 mentioned there should be more inspections by social  
9 workers --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- and they should build up relationships with children.

12 A. Definitely. If there had been people there who was  
13 coming in -- even when we were with Abelour, but also --  
14 and you felt comfortable, but to be sat down and told by  
15 a social worker, "You're doing this to upset your mummy"  
16 ... people should have -- they should have spot checks  
17 on places like that. I mean I'm not saying things are  
18 just as bad, but you never know and I think social work  
19 should have the power just to appear at somebody's  
20 foster care place or appear at a children's home.

21 But having said that, all my days I've had  
22 an inbuilt fear of social workers and anybody in  
23 authority, because I know what powers they've got,  
24 because we got taken away, which was for the best  
25 eventually, I still thought it was me who did that.

1           And they need to visit kids and not question them  
2           but just like, "So what were you up to today?" And kids  
3           will tell you things without -- I don't know what I'm  
4           trying to say. Like they don't need to be prompted to  
5           tell you bad things, it would just roll off their tongue  
6           because they wouldn't think they were doing anything  
7           wrong. But we were told not to say anything and what we  
8           did get told -- what we did say check we were liars and  
9           things likes that.

10           So even 50-odd years later, I just hope that  
11           nobody's suffering like what we suffered.

12 Q. I think you make the point as well at paragraph 130 that  
13           you don't trust anybody when you're in care.

14 A. No.

15 Q. "Someone should be employed to listen to kids, check on  
16           kids and do surprise visits. They should ask the kids  
17           if there is anything worrying them or is anyone doing  
18           anything to them."

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You think it is important to have people who will listen  
21           to children?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. But also people who will not just listen but ask?

24 A. Yes, so if somebody maybe work for the social work  
25           department, but not say that's who they are, can just

1        maybe somebody visiting the home just for the sake of it  
2        and the kids don't know that they're social workers and  
3        just speak to them on their own level. You know what  
4        I mean? It's like -- because you do -- well, in my  
5        situation, I think children are scared of officials and  
6        it depends what circumstances they're living in, but to  
7        me it should be somebody who's like kind of friendly  
8        and -- not joking about, but they're taking it all up in  
9        their head and not necessarily writing things down but  
10       they remember it and say, "Maybe so-and-so said  
11       something about that, maybe I'll look into that",  
12       because if that -- if somebody had done that for us ...  
13       it would have been a lot better.

14    MS RATTRAY: 'Janette', I have no further questions for you.  
15       It just remains for me to thank you very much for your  
16       help here. My Lady, I'm not aware of any applications  
17       for questioning.

18    LADY SMITH: Let me just check: are there any outstanding  
19       applications for questions of 'Janette'?

20                'Janette', that's all we need to ask you.

21    A. Thank you.

22    LADY SMITH: But before you go, can I thank you so much for  
23       engaging with us as you have done, both in providing  
24       your detailed, very helpful written statement and by  
25       facing up to coming here in person today and talking

1           about all these difficult things.

2    A.   Thank you.

3    LADY SMITH:  I don't know if in the long term whether it

4           might help you to have done that.  I hope so.

5    A.   Oh, I think it will, actually.

6    LADY SMITH:  But I would like to just repeat what I said

7           earlier.  From what I've heard and what I've read, it

8           doesn't look to me as though your leaving the ENF-ENH

9           was your fault.

10   A.   No, I kind of realise that now, but ...

11   LADY SMITH:  You were kids.

12   A.   I know.

13   LADY SMITH:  And you weren't with your own birth family, you

14           started off with strangers --

15   A.   I know.

16   LADY SMITH:  -- and you weren't being parented.  And from

17           what you tell me, far from it, you were being very badly

18           treated in all sorts of ways.

19   A.   (Witness nods)

20   LADY SMITH:  Thank you for helping me understand that.

21           Thank you for increasing my learning today and

22           understanding, and I'll certainly think about the

23           matters you've raised as lessons for the future, because

24           that's part of our work that's so important.

25           I wish you well.

1 A. Thank you.

2 LADY SMITH: I hope you're able to go away and now rest, not  
3 just tonight but maybe have an early weekend and have  
4 a long one.

5 A. I'm going to a wedding tomorrow, so I'm trying to  
6 compose myself.

7 LADY SMITH: Good, good.

8 A. Thank you so much for listening to me.

9 LADY SMITH: I'm glad to hear that. Go and enjoy it.

10 A. Thank you, everybody, for listening.

11 (The witness withdrew)

12 LADY SMITH: We used the names of the foster parents, the  
13 ENF-ENH in the course of 'Janette's' evidence, but  
14 their identity is covered by my general restriction  
15 order, so the name can't be repeated outside this room.

16 That's neatly just after 4 o'clock, Ms Rattray. Is  
17 that it for today?

18 MS RATTRAY: Yes, that concludes the evidence for today and  
19 we resume tomorrow at 10 am and tomorrow we have three  
20 oral witnesses and a read-in.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. I'll rise now until  
22 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

23 (4.08 pm)

24 (The Inquiry adjourned until 10.00 am on  
25 Friday, 1 July 2022)

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2  
3 'Margaret' (affirmed) .....1  
4       Questions from Ms Innes .....2  
5 'Bette' (read) .....46  
6 'Denise' (sworn) .....56  
7       Questions from Ms Innes .....57  
8 'Janette' (affirmed) .....110  
9       Questions from Ms Rattray .....111  
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