

Thursday, 7 July 2022

1

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning and welcome back to our case study
4 hearings in the foster care and boarding-out case study.

5 As we indicated yesterday, and that is still the
6 plan, I think, Ms Rattray, isn't it, is to start with
7 read-ins and then go on to an oral witness after the
8 morning break.

9 MS RATTRAY: Yes, that's correct. We're starting with
10 read-ins and then we will have an oral witness at 11.45
11 and at 2 o'clock.

12 LADY SMITH: Well, when you're ready it would be good to
13 hear you, thank you.

14 MS RATTRAY: Thank you.

15 'Steven' (read)

16 MS RATTRAY: The first read-in this morning is a statement
17 of an applicant who is anonymous and has chosen the
18 pseudonym 'Steven'. His statement is at
19 WIT.001.001.6455.

20 'Steven' was in the care of Dumfries and Galloway
21 Regional Council. He was in two foster placements. The
22 first was with Mr and Mrs JDS/SPO in a village about 11
23 miles from Dumfries, from [REDACTED] 1972 to
24 [REDACTED] 1976. The second was with a [REDACTED] in
25 [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] 1979 to [REDACTED] 1980.

1 The current responsible authority is Dumfries and
2 Galloway Council.

3 "My name is 'Steven'. I was born in 1968. My
4 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

5 I think my mother is still alive. I haven't seen
6 her since she left when I was a baby. My dad died in
7 2009. I have a brother and a sister. My sister is
8 about five years older than me and my brother is nine or
9 ten months younger than her. I'm still in touch with my
10 sister but not my brother. My sister is a social worker
11 in Plymouth. My brother is retired and lives in
12 Dumfries. We haven't fallen out, we just never see each
13 other.

14 I was three months old when I went into care so
15 I don't have any memories of my life at home. I know
16 that my dad was always working and my mum just
17 disappeared. We were living in Dumfries at the time.
18 My dad couldn't cope on his own. That was in the 1960s
19 and he was a typical man's man. He liked his nights out
20 and his bevvy. He was the kind of man who thought only
21 about himself.

22 I don't know whether we went into care on
23 a voluntary basis or whether there was any kind of
24 formal order. I've never been to a children's panel in
25 my life, so maybe it was voluntary. I can't imagine my

1 dad going to the social work department and asking for
2 us to be taken into care. He probably just left it for
3 someone else to phone and tell them that we shouldn't be
4 left at home. I didn't always see a social worker when
5 I was in care, but any involvement I had with them was
6 always with the social workers from the Dumfries office
7 in Gordon Street.

8 I think I was taken to a temporary foster care home
9 at first. I then went to Wendy House Children's Home in
10 Dumfries which was a children's home for young kids.
11 I think the three of us were there together. I'm not
12 sure how long I was there. I think it was a couple of
13 years, maybe even three. I'm guessing really. A woman
14 called Fiona Houston used to run it. I spoke to her in
15 later years when I was in another children's home.
16 I remember little bits about it but not enough to
17 provide any information. It's really only from talking
18 to Fiona Houston and my brother and sister that I know
19 I was there.

20 My brother and I went into foster care after Wendy
21 House. My sister went to foster carers in Langholm.

22 I was placed in a village about 11 miles outside
23 Dumfries. It's still a very small place but it was even
24 smaller when I was there. There were only around 60
25 houses. It's full of folk who work for the Forestry

1 Commission.

2 I think I went there when I was about three years
3 old and stayed for about four or five years. I know for
4 definite that I was there when I started primary school.
5 I have no memories of being taken there or my first day
6 in the house.

7 The male foster carer was called [REDACTED] and his
8 wife's name was JDS [REDACTED]. I think they were in their
9 late 40s to early 50s. [REDACTED] was a forestry worker.
10 They were horrible people. She was really nasty and was
11 always abusive to me and my brother. That was her way.
12 It was always her, never [REDACTED] He wouldn't have said
13 'boo' to a goose. He lived there though, so he
14 obviously knew what she was doing. Someone from the
15 village told me that JDS [REDACTED] died two or three years ago.
16 I believe [REDACTED] is now blind and is still living in the
17 same house.

18 Neither of them showed us any love or affection.
19 I've never been able to understand why they were allowed
20 to foster kids. There was no relationship between us.
21 I hated her with a vengeance. They got money from the
22 social work department for us to live there and that was
23 that. It was a job for her really.

24 I have no good memories of my time with them.
25 I just remember it being a nightmare of a place to live.

1 I have good memories of being out in the country and of
2 the other people in the village, but none of those two.
3 Everyone else in the village was really nice. Leaving
4 was probably the best bit, although that wasn't even
5 that good considering where we then went.

6 They had a daughter who also lived with us. She was
7 all right. I don't know what age she was. I think she
8 was in her 20s. She got married when I was there.
9 I don't know how the daughter was treated. She must
10 have known how her mother was with us. I wrote to her
11 once, but she never replied.

12 My sister came to live with us about a year before
13 we left. She hated it. I don't know why Social
14 Services would decide to take someone from a loving and
15 caring family and put them in a hellish home like that.
16 I remember they fostered another lassie after my sister
17 came. I don't remember her name. She was about 14 or
18 15. She and my sister were wild.

19 I don't remember much about the routine in the
20 house. I had to wash the sheets before school if I'd
21 wet the bed. My brother and I had to do all the
22 housework and walk the dog when we got back from school.
23 We were skivvies. I found that a lot in care: kids
24 being treated like skivvies. Whatever **JDS** couldn't be
25 bothered doing, we had to do for her. My sister had to

1 do the same when she came.

2 We didn't get anything specifically for doing the
3 housework, but we did get pocket money. I think we got
4 one of those wee sixpences once a week. We had a Post
5 Office account, but we never got the books when we left,
6 so I don't know if there was any money in them.

7 We used to go to bed really early. I remember it
8 always being light when we went to bed. There were no
9 problems with hygiene. We got washed every morning.

10 [REDACTED] were good cooks, so the food was fine.
11 We were never starved.

12 We went out to play and stayed out all day whenever
13 we could. We'd go down to the water or the woods. It
14 was back in the day when kids stayed out all day. We
15 had toys and could watch TV.

16 [REDACTED] were from Manchester. I remember going
17 with them to see [REDACTED] mother in Belle Vue, Manchester.
18 I also remember going to Inverness. I think these trips
19 were probably our holidays, but I don't remember
20 anything other than going to these places. Neither of
21 the [REDACTED] drove and where we lived was a bit isolated,
22 so we didn't go on day trips.

23 I think she was a mad Protestant, to be honest. She
24 was definitely into her Protestant church. She sent me
25 to Sunday school but I wasn't into that. Sitting

1 reading Bibles and things was not for me. I didn't go
2 for very long.

3 I went to primary school, which was just 50 yards up
4 the road from the house. It was a tiny wee village
5 school. I don't remember being encouraged by JDS/SPO
6 to do any school work. I don't really have any memories
7 of being at school.

8 Everybody in the village knew we were in foster
9 care. The people in the village were all big
10 lumberjacks and it was their kids who were at the
11 school. I'd describe the kids as rough and ready. They
12 all used to slag JDS/SPO off. It was just kids'
13 talk.

14 I don't think what was happening at home ever
15 affected my behaviour at school, but I do think
16 everybody would have known what it was like at home for
17 us. It was a small village. There were probably less
18 than 200 people living there. I think nobody ever said
19 anything because people just took the view that it was
20 none of their business. Also, they all worked together
21 and it was a close-knit community.

22 We were always clean and tidy, dressed well for
23 school and were well fed. Nobody could look at us and
24 say that we were physically neglected. JDS obviously
25 had to put in the effort sometimes to make it look like

1 we were a family. That's probably how she got away with
2 what she was doing to us. She wouldn't have got away
3 with it if there had been nothing but abuse 24/7.

4 I remember only one Christmas there. It was all
5 right. We got up early in the morning and opened our
6 presents. That's all I can remember. I don't know if
7 that happened every year. I don't remember any
8 birthdays with them.

9 We used to go to Dumfries on a Saturday and meet up
10 with my dad for a couple of hours in a cafe. I don't
11 know how often we saw him. I just know it was
12 a Saturday. I think it was just me and my brother.
13 I don't remember who took us there. We probably went on
14 the bus. We never stayed over. We just met him in the
15 cafe and then went back to the village. I never told my
16 dad what was happening. I don't know why not.

17 I don't remember seeing my sister when she was in
18 Langholm. I don't think she came with us to see my dad
19 on a Saturday after she moved to the village. I never
20 got a visit from a social worker or any other official
21 visitor the whole time we were there. The only time
22 I saw a social worker was when they came to take us
23 away. Nobody ever came to see how we were doing.

24 I remember needing medical attention only once.
25 I was about six or seven. I fell when I was climbing

1 trees and a branch got stuck in my leg. It was really
2 sore. I had a big hole in my leg. JDS wouldn't take me
3 to the hospital in case the social work department got
4 involved. She just left me lying on the couch. She put
5 gauze in the hole for about three days, but the stuff
6 just kept seeping through it.

7 She took me to Dumfries hospital after about four
8 days, as it wasn't healing at all. It obviously needed
9 stitched up. They must have realised at the hospital
10 that I hadn't got the injury that day. I don't think
11 she was ever asked why it had taken so long to bring me
12 in. I never saw her challenged for anything. All the
13 teachers knew about the injury, as it happened during
14 the school lunch break. I had dragged myself back to
15 school with the branch in my leg. My leg never healed
16 right because it was left open for so long. I've still
17 got a massive scar on my thigh to this day.

18 I don't remember going to the dentist. She used to
19 make us brush our teeth at night so maybe we never
20 needed any treatment.

21 I found out in later years that I had been seeing
22 a child psychiatrist when I was living with JDS/SPO
23 I don't know what age I was at the time, maybe between
24 four and six. I think my head would have been a bit
25 screwed up then. I think I was traumatised with my

1 mother leaving. I remember being taken in an ambulance
2 about once a week to the Crichton Royal Infirmary in
3 Dumfries. We were in the middle of nowhere, so
4 an ambulance picked you up to take you to the hospital
5 in those days. I don't know how long I went for.
6 I think it went on for a while. I don't remember
7 talking about what was going on at JDS/SPO .

8 There were always beatings. As I said, it was only
9 ever JDS who was abusive. It was like just didn't
10 exist. He was in the woods working every day of the
11 week and he just sat there when he came in. He was
12 a pitiful man who couldn't do anything for himself. She
13 ruled the roost.

14 She used to batter us about the head with brushes,
15 shoes, slippers -- anything within reach. My brother
16 was deaf in one year and she still battered him about
17 the head. I can't say for certain that it happened on
18 a daily basis, but it was a regular thing.

19 I don't know what sort of things made her do it.
20 I don't think anything merits that. We were just kids.
21 I do remember she was crazy about the football team
22 Manchester United and she used to batter us if they got
23 beat. She was loopy. Maybe she actually had a mental
24 problem. I can't really remember anything she said to
25 us. I think I've blocked out a lot from my mind. When

1 I think of her and see her face, the word that comes to
2 mind is 'evil'. She was pure evil.

3 I used to wet the bed and she made me scrub the
4 sheets in the sink with boiling hot water and bleach.
5 My hands and arms were all red and burnt. I had to hang
6 the sheet up to dry and then iron them. My brother
7 didn't wet the bed, so that didn't happen to him.

8 She sent me to school once with a nappy on because
9 I had wet the bed. I was in Primary 1 at the time.
10 I took it off as soon as I got out the door and threw it
11 in the woods.

12 She used to put hot mustard on our fingers to stop
13 us from biting our nails.

14 She wouldn't dare do anything bad to my sister. She
15 was abusive to me and my brother because she could get
16 away with it, but she wouldn't do anything to anybody
17 who could stand up to her. She didn't batter us when my
18 sister was there. She had a rival then. My sister was
19 five years older than me and she would have gone mental.
20 She was only there with us for about a year at the most.

21 I think we were still in the village the year that
22 we had that boiling hot summer, which I think was 1976.
23 I think we left in 1977. I just remember coming home
24 from school and being told that a car was waiting on us
25 and we were to pack our bags. Nobody said anything

1 else. We weren't told where we were going or why we
2 were leaving. I don't remember how I felt about it. It
3 was strange. To this day, nobody has told us why we
4 left. All three of us left together. There was no
5 Children's Hearing or anything like that. We just got
6 taken from there to our dad's in Dumfries.

7 JDS never got to foster any more kids after we left.
8 Maybe the social work department eventually realised
9 what she was like.

10 I saw JDS/SPO when I was on a Youth Training
11 Scheme with the Forestry Commission after I left school.
12 They knew who I was, but I didn't speak to them.
13 A couple of my old mates from the village were on the
14 YTS and they knew what JDS was like. We used to just
15 laugh about it."

16 After paragraph 40 and from paragraphs 41 to 119,
17 'Steven' describes his life at home with his dad where
18 he and his siblings were neglected. 'Steven' thinks
19 neighbours reported him and that it was obvious to
20 anyone in their right mind that they shouldn't have been
21 there.

22 Moving now to paragraph 47 on page 10:

23 "The social worker turned up at the door one day and
24 took my brother and me on the bus to the social work
25 office. That's what I remember about leaving my dad's:

1 having to go on the bus with her because she didn't
2 drive. My sister didn't come. She stayed with my
3 auntie. She was 14 or 15 years old by then. She was
4 never back in care again.

5 We must have been removed on an emergency basis,
6 because I remember sitting in the social work office for
7 ages while they were obviously phoning around folk to
8 find someone to look after us. I remember speaking to
9 Dave McFarlane, who I think was the head of the social
10 work department in Dumfries at that point. We were then
11 taken to foster carers in [REDACTED]

12 I was still in primary school when we moved to
13 [REDACTED] I think I was 10, coming up for 11. I think
14 we left my dad's just after Christmas. I know for
15 a fact that I stayed there until [REDACTED] 1980.

16 I think the man who fostered me was called
17 [REDACTED] I don't know the first name of his wife.
18 The house didn't have a specific address. It was
19 a massive house on its own.

20 There was a squad of folk living there. Their
21 adopted son was about 15 when I moved in. He was still
22 at school then and left in the summer. Three other boys
23 lived there and paid rent. They were aged between 17
24 and 20. I think they had all been fostered before and
25 stayed on in the house. One of the boys' brother was

1 also there. He was still at school, so I think they
2 were fostering him. He was about 14.

3 The adopted son had his own single bedroom and there
4 were two other bigger bedrooms for the rest of us. My
5 brother and the 14-year-old boy and I shared one, and
6 the rest shared the other.

7 I never understood why Mrs **ESZ** was allowed to
8 foster two young kids when she had a house full of other
9 adults. She didn't know what was going on in her house.

10 It was obvious that Mrs **ESZ** had fostered loads of
11 folk over the years. The cupboards were all filled with
12 old shoes and clothes. We never got anything new. We
13 were always told to get what we needed from the
14 cupboard. She'd had that many people there, you could
15 always find something to fit you.

16 I used to wonder how many folk had been through that
17 house and where they had all gone. Her house was like
18 a conveyor belt for the social work department. When
19 I watched programmes later in life about the Holocaust
20 and saw the piles of teeth, hair and shoes, it reminded
21 me of the house in

22 It was a horrible place to be. There was no love,
23 no family -- there was nothing. I hated it. I think
24 she was in her 70s. She certainly looked it. He worked
25 for the MOD and was away all week. Nobody knew what he

1 did. He came home on a Saturday and got absolutely
2 steaming and then went away again on the Sunday.
3 Seemingly he was traumatised from the Second World War.

4 My brother and I had to feed the animals when we got
5 up in the morning. They had cats, chickens, rabbits and
6 a dog. I then had a bath and went to school.

7 I was still bed-wetting when I was there but it was
8 never a problem. She just gave me clean sheets.

9 Again, we were just like slaves. My brother and
10 I did absolutely everything in that house. We washed
11 the dishes, did all the cleaning, chopped the wood, made
12 the fires and put the boiler on every Sunday. **ESZ**
13 baked a lot and we had to wash all the baking dishes.
14 The older boys didn't do anything.

15 There was always plenty of food. All Mrs **ESZ** did
16 was cook and bake. She was all right that way.

17 After I did my chores, I spent the day outside if
18 I wasn't at school. I was rarely in. My only escape
19 was either going to school or being out with my pals.
20 I didn't have any toys but I did have a football. I was
21 happy as long as I had a football. I thought about
22 running away a few times but didn't know where to go.

23 We didn't get pocket money or go on any holidays.
24 I remember a day out in Carlisle once, but that was it.

25 There was no system of discipline in the house. You

1 could do whatever you wanted really. Those boys ran the
2 house. Mrs ESZ never had any authority or any say.
3 She was just a dodderly old woman and you never really
4 saw Mr [REDACTED] as he was away most of the time.

5 I was at primary school at first. I never used to
6 go. The house was out in the country so I would just go
7 walking down to the shore and potter about all day.
8 I don't know why I didn't go to primary school. It just
9 wasn't for me. It was probably related to what was
10 happening in my life. Also, everybody knew you were in
11 care and I just couldn't be bothered with it.

12 The secondary school was better. I didn't really
13 skive secondary school. I met a different bunch of folk
14 there. There were a lot more people in care in Annan
15 than in [REDACTED] so people just took you as you were.
16 I was never into the academic side of school. I didn't
17 want to be a high achiever. All I was interested in was
18 sport. I played football all the time. I think that
19 was my outlet.

20 We only had one Christmas there. It was just like
21 any other day. You got up, did the housework, opened
22 your one present and that was it. It was just a crappy
23 present which was worth about a fiver.

24 We had to do all the dishes on Christmas Day. After
25 dinner, they all sat and drank while my brother and

1 I were in the kitchen clearing up. I can't understand
2 why anyone would make kids wash dishes on Christmas Day.
3 There were about 15 folk round for lunch and that was
4 our Christmas, washing loads of dishes.

5 I don't remember getting a card or anything else for
6 my birthday.

7 My sister got the bus out to [REDACTED] and gave us
8 a tenner from my dad for Christmas. That was the only
9 time I saw her. I didn't see my dad at all. I wasn't
10 interested in seeing him.

11 I remember someone bringing that female social
12 worker out once and that was it. I think it was just to
13 tell us that she was moving on because she couldn't
14 drive. That's what I remember: her saying she was
15 leaving because she couldn't drive. I'm sure that's why
16 she had never been out to see us before. Not one person
17 ever came to ask how we were getting on. Not once were
18 we asked whether we were enjoying it or what was
19 happening in the place.

20 I should never have been in that house. The social
21 work department were disgusting. They just chucked us
22 in there, with all those other adults living there, and
23 the only other time I saw them after the social worker
24 told us she was leaving was when they came to take me
25 away.

1 The [REDACTED] bred pheasants and held shooting parties.
2 The adopted son sent me into the grounds one day to get
3 a pheasant he had shot. I had to climb a large fence
4 with four layers of barbed wire. I ripped my finger on
5 the barbed wire as I was climbing down. Part of my
6 finger was split in half. I wasn't taken to see
7 a doctor. I didn't get a tetanus injection or any
8 treatment at all for it. You can see by the look of it
9 now that it's never been stitched. That's the only
10 health issue I had when I was there.

11 I was bullied by the adopted son and one of the
12 older boys. They used to punch and kick me and shoot at
13 me with their air guns. They shot my brother with the
14 guns as well. They didn't care where they shot you.
15 They'd even shoot at your head. They used to soup up
16 the guns by adjusting the spring so that there was more
17 pressure. It left a fair old dent in your skin when you
18 got hit, it was really sore. It was all fun and games
19 to them. That's how they got their kicks. The adopted
20 son was top dog in the place because he was Mrs [REDACTED]
21 favourite. He was her son. Another of the older boys
22 could have been top dog, but he was just a nice quiet
23 guy.

24 The adopted son made me give him oral sex. It
25 happened about five or six times. It happened for the

1 first time in his bedroom about six months after I moved
2 there. I was 10 or 11, but I was very small for my age.
3 I probably looked like an 8-year-old. He took me up to
4 an attic above the scullery a couple of times and made
5 me do it there. There was always a stash of porn
6 magazines up there.

7 The older boy who bullied me got me to masturbate
8 him once. We were out. I think we'd been up at a farm
9 he was working on. I was sitting on the front bar of
10 the bike. I was so wee I could fit there. He put my
11 hands down his trousers and made me masturbate him. It
12 happened not long after the adopted son had started to
13 abuse me.

14 I told each of them what the other had done to me.
15 I think they spoke to each other about it. I didn't
16 tell anybody else.

17 I've asked my brother if they did anything to him,
18 but he said they didn't. He was a lot older than me.

19 We left on [REDACTED] 1980. The reason for us
20 leaving was that Mrs ESZ [REDACTED] had to go into hospital and
21 we were told that we couldn't stay in the house when she
22 wasn't there. I wasn't bothered about her going into
23 hospital. I had no emotion or feelings whatsoever for
24 her. I felt the same way about JDS/SPO [REDACTED]

25 I remember coming back from school that day and

1 Stuart Sinclair and Peter Harley were in the house.
2 Harley was the head of Merkland Children's Home and
3 I think Stuart Sinclair was the deputy head of the
4 social work department. They told my brother and I that
5 we would probably be away for about two weeks at the
6 most. We were then taken to Merkland Children's Home
7 about 20 minutes later.

8 I was about 12 when I went to Merkland Children's
9 Home. Mrs ESZ died so we never returned to [REDACTED]
10 I didn't care."

11 From paragraphs 81 to 141, 'Steven' tells of his
12 experiences at Merkland Children's Home, Moffat, and
13 Ladyacre Children's Home in Dumfries, and then of his
14 life after care.

15 Moving now to paragraph 141 on page 29, where
16 'Steven' speaks of reporting abuse:

17 "I never reported any of the abuse to anybody at the
18 time it was happening. I don't know why I didn't.

19 The first time I spoke to anybody about what
20 happened in foster care with ESZ-SPO [REDACTED] was when I saw
21 a psychologist for the first time in 1987. I've seen
22 about five or six psychologists and I've told them
23 everything.

24 I reported the sexual abuse by the adopted son and
25 the older boy at [REDACTED] to the police in August 2013.

1 It had been bugging me for years and I just wanted to
2 get it off my chest. I should have reported the abuse
3 in foster care with JDS/SPO at the same time, but
4 I thought it was a bit trivial after all those years.
5 I just stuck to what happened when I was with the
6 ESZ-SPO I probably thought that the sexual abuse was
7 more harmful than the physical and mental abuse.

8 The names of the police officers I dealt with in
9 2013 are Murray and Jim. I think Anderson is the
10 surname of one of them. They were in the child
11 protection unit in Dumfries. I dealt mostly with
12 Murray. I gave them a statement about the sexual abuse
13 in more detail than I've gone into today. The adopted
14 son and the older boy got arrested but no charges were
15 brought because there wasn't enough evidence.

16 The police got my medical records and found no
17 mention of the abuse in them. I told all those
18 psychologists the same as I have told the Inquiry and
19 not one of them recorded it. If they had recorded it,
20 at least there would have been something to back up what
21 I was saying. I told all those people and they've
22 either not written it down or it's been chucked out
23 after so many years.

24 Murray was very apologetic when he was telling me
25 that they couldn't take the case any further. He said

1 that it would be put on the 'back burner' as maybe one
2 day someone else would come forward and they'd be able
3 to get them. My brother knows about the abuse but
4 I don't know if they ever interviewed him."

5 Moving now to paragraph 151 on page 31:

6 "I think what happened to me in care has affected me
7 in every way. I don't have a normal life. I have
8 thoughts about what happened to me every day. It's
9 constant.

10 I've suffered from anxiety since 1985. That's when
11 I had my first panic attack and I haven't been right
12 since. It happened about six months after I came out of
13 care. I knew it was related to what had happened in
14 care, as nothing else had happened in my life at that
15 particular point to cause it.

16 I had anxiety and depression for about seven or
17 eight years after I came out of care. I didn't work at
18 all during that time. I also had agoraphobia for two
19 years, which I think came along with the anxiety, as
20 I didn't want to go out. My doctor referred me to
21 a psychologist in 1987. I knew it all stemmed from what
22 had happened to me in care, but I never told anybody
23 until I saw my first psychologist in 1987.

24 I've seen about five or six psychologists. I last
25 saw one in 2013. She diagnosed post-traumatic stress

1 disorder caused by the sexual abuse. She's the only
2 person who's ever said that."

3 From paragraphs 155 to 169, 'Steven' describes how
4 suffering from anxiety has affected his life.

5 Moving to paragraph 175 on page 36:

6 "I don't know what it's like for kids in care now.
7 If things are still the same, what I'd like to see come
8 out of the Inquiry is a better system in place for
9 people leaving care. Young people need proper help to
10 make the move from being in care to living on their own.
11 They need to have someone with them for a certain amount
12 of time. They shouldn't just be dumped.

13 Children should only be fostered to people who have
14 been checked out properly and kids need to be seen
15 regularly after they've been placed in care. Hundreds
16 of things happened to me in care that shouldn't have
17 happened. It's ridiculous what people got away with.
18 Social workers should go out to care and foster homes
19 regularly to make sure they know what it's like for the
20 kids living there.

21 Kids in care need to be given hope. They should be
22 able to expect that they will have a good life in front
23 of them. Things need to be put in place to give them
24 the chance to have a good life as an adult.

25 I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

4 And 'Steven' signed his statement on 28 June 2017.

5 LADY SMITH: I wonder if we should perhaps note just for the
6 record at the moment, Ms Rattray, that of course you
7 have read the whole of the impact statement. It relates
8 not just to this man's time in foster care but some
9 quite significant abuse that he suffered --

10 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: -- when in a children's home. Indeed, one man
12 was convicted and sentenced to -- was it about 15 years
13 for having sexually abused children?

14 MS RATTRAY: Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: Yes. The witness doesn't suggest that
16 everything he says as an impact is due to foster care --

17 MS RATTRAY: No, no.

18 LADY SMITH: -- it was obviously part of a picture and it's
19 maybe important we just record that there.

20 MS RATTRAY: I'll correct another error. I think in the
21 introduction I suggested his second foster place was
22 with a Mrs ██████ in ██████ when it was Mr and
23 Mrs ESZ-SPO in ██████ but I think we might be hearing
24 about a Mrs ██████ shortly.

25 LADY SMITH: The names sound not dissimilar.

1 Of course we've mentioned [REDACTED] we have
2 mentioned [REDACTED] and they're covered by my general
3 restriction order so are entitled to anonymity and their
4 names can't be repeated outside this room.

5 Where do we go now?

6 MS RATTRAY: Ms MacLeod will now carry on with further
7 read-ins.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

9 Ms MacLeod, when you're ready.

10 MS MACLEOD: My Lady.

11 'Yvonne' (read)

12 MS MACLEOD: This is a statement of an applicant who is
13 anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Yvonne'. Her
14 statement is at WIT.001.001.9526.

15 'Yvonne' was boarded out by Edinburgh Corporation
16 with Mrs [REDACTED] in Bonnyrigg from [REDACTED] 1970 to
17 [REDACTED] 1971. The current responsible authority is the
18 City of Edinburgh Council.

19 As we heard oral evidence from 'Yvonne' on Day 82,
20 on 1 November 2018, during the case study into
21 Quarriers, Abelour and Barnardo's, I shall read out only
22 those sections of her statement that relate to foster
23 care.

24 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

25 MS MACLEOD: "My name is 'Yvonne'. I was born in 1963. My

1 contact details are known to the Inquiry.

2 I have two brothers and four sisters. There is
3 a nine-year age gap between the oldest and the
4 youngest."

5 From paragraph 3 to 17, 'Yvonne' describes her life
6 before care with her parents and two brothers and four
7 sisters. Moving to paragraph 8 on page 4:

8 "I think I was about six and a half when I went to
9 live with Mrs LXO with one of my brothers and two
10 of my sisters. The house was lovely. I don't remember
11 the address. Mrs LXO had a husband and a daughter.
12 I think she had another daughter too. I'm sure her
13 daughters were in their late teens. They certainly
14 seemed a lot older than us. I think Mrs LXO was in
15 her 40s. She was thin, with dark short hair. I can
16 recall living at Mrs LXO but I think I only
17 recall the bad things. Mrs LXO was horrible. She
18 was fine with my youngest sister, she got looked after
19 and fed. We had to sleep in the same beds as
20 Mrs LXO daughters at first. You would get a slap
21 or a kick from them if you moved. We used to have to
22 take turns to sleep in the baby's cot as well, even
23 though I was six. We then moved downstairs to
24 a bedroom.

25 We went to school while we were there. The only

1 thing I remember about the school is that there was
2 a Catholic end and a Protestant end. Quite often the
3 two sides would form big lines and run at each other as
4 if we were going to attack each other. We'd get halfway
5 and then just run away.

6 I don't know if my mother visited us at
7 Mrs LXO but we used to go and visit her at home
8 in Broomhouse. We must have been taken there by the
9 social workers.

10 A lot of the abuse was emotional, but there was also
11 physical abuse and neglect. Mrs LXO didn't feed us
12 properly. We used to steal rhubarb to eat from gardens.
13 A lady used to give us a poke of sugar. That lady is
14 now my sister's mother-in-law. She must have been one
15 of Mrs LXO neighbours back then.

16 At tea time, Mrs LXO would make us wait outside
17 until everybody else had been fed. We could watch TV,
18 but we weren't allowed to sit on the furniture. We had
19 to sit on the floor. We'd be told to get off the couch
20 if we sat on it. I don't recall any of the family
21 speaking much to us. We were treated like dogs.

22 We weren't allowed to get out of bed until about
23 lunchtime at weekends. They would all sleep in at the
24 weekend and we wouldn't get any breakfast. I remember
25 we got up one morning because we were starving. When

1 you're traumatised and you're told not to do something,
2 you don't do it, so we usually stayed in our room. But
3 this one day we were all really starving and we got up
4 and I made toast and burnt it. We were that hungry we
5 ate it.

6 Mrs LXO used to make us take our youngest
7 sister out for a walk in her pram. She would throw us
8 out during the day and tell us not to come back until
9 later. I remember going with my brother and other
10 sister to the park in the winter and it was so cold we
11 were literally frozen. We didn't have gloves on and the
12 three of us sat in the park crying. It was snowing but
13 we knew we weren't allowed to go back to the house.

14 Mrs LXO was another one who wouldn't give us
15 drinks after a certain time because we wet the bed.

16 My brother got scabies and she used to put him in
17 the cot and tie his hands to the sides so that he
18 wouldn't scratch himself.

19 Sometimes you would just be sitting there and
20 Mr LXN would walk past you and kick you for no
21 reason. Mrs LXO used to slap us as well.

22 I spent my day in a state of high anxiety, never
23 knowing what was coming or whether I was doing the right
24 or the wrong thing.

25 We told our mum how horrible it was at

1 Mrs LXO I remember her arguing with the social
2 worker, telling her that they had better get her kids
3 out of there. She wanted us back home, but I'm not sure
4 her mental health was that good then.

5 We were removed from Mrs LXO because of the way
6 she treated us. We must have been at home for a visit
7 with our mum when she bone combed our hair and we were
8 crawling with head lice. She gathered up all the lice
9 and went to the social work office and threw them at the
10 social worker.

11 I found out a few years ago that Mrs LXO won
12 some kind of award as a foster carer, 'Foster Carer of
13 the Year' or something like that.

14 The social worker didn't tell Mrs LXO that they
15 were removing us. They told us we were going to be
16 leaving, but told us not to say anything to her.
17 I remember crying because I had to go back to
18 Mrs LXO after a home visit and Ms Brown told me
19 not to worry because I wasn't going to be there for much
20 longer. This is the only time I remember anybody
21 actually discussing with me any plans about where
22 I would live. When the time came for us to leave
23 Mrs LXO the social worker told her that we were
24 just going to stay at our mum's for the weekend.

25 After we left Mrs LXO they discovered that

1 my brother had developed alopecia and that we were all
2 suffering from malnutrition because she hadn't fed us.
3 I had burns all over me from the sun. To be fair, they
4 didn't think about sun cream in those days, but I had
5 massive blisters and burns and she didn't do anything
6 about them.

7 We went back home for about a few weeks before they
8 took us to Quarriers."

9 Moving now to paragraph 161 on page 31, where
10 'Yvonne' shares some of her reflections on lessons
11 learned from the perspective of her experiences, both as
12 a child who was abused in care and as a qualified social
13 work who has worked in child protection:

14 "I think it would be good for somebody like me who
15 has been in care and works as a social worker to give
16 a talk to other social workers about the reality of life
17 in care. I accept that my experience was years ago, but
18 it doesn't matter whether it was then or now, how
19 a child feels about going into care is still the same.

20 When I am dealing with a situation in my work where
21 we have to place a child in care, my colleagues might be
22 thinking about paperwork and that sort of thing, but
23 I am off on a different tangent. I am thinking about it
24 from the child's perspective, having been a child in
25 care. I think about what a child might need, like

1 making sure they've got their favourite things with
2 them, and I do everything I can to try to reassure them.
3 If they are going to a foster home, I try to find out as
4 much as I can about the foster carers so that I can pass
5 that information on to the child.

6 A lot of social workers don't stop to think about
7 what it's like for the child to be left with a family
8 they know absolutely nothing about. They don't know
9 what it's like to be terrified when you wake up in the
10 night in a strange house, or the fear a child has about
11 wetting the bed or being forced to eat something they
12 don't like. I ask a child what their favourite food is
13 and make a point of telling the foster carers, in front
14 of the child, which foods the child doesn't like. The
15 child has then heard what you've said and is reassured.
16 All of these things affected me, so I know it's
17 important to consider these when placing a child in
18 care. I wouldn't say that these are the standard
19 thoughts of a social worker.

20 Also, if a sibling group is going into care and they
21 can't be placed together, they need to know when they'll
22 see one another. They also need to know when they'll
23 next see their mum. It is really important to explain
24 this to them as soon as possible.

25 Children need to be reassured that they are not just

1 going to be dumped. Most children have mobile phones
2 now, so I give my work mobile number to older children
3 so that they can contact me themselves. It is important
4 for children to know that they can contact their social
5 worker when they need to. I also make a point of
6 telling the foster carer, in the presence of the child,
7 that if the child needs to talk to me and can't get me,
8 they should contact the office and I'll ring the child
9 back.

10 Children need to know that the social worker is
11 there for them, not their parents or anybody else.
12 I always say to a young person that my job is to help
13 them. It's hard because a lot of children are very
14 distrustful, as I was. Children need to be able to
15 trust people to be able to disclose abuse and the right
16 questions need to be asked. A child can't just strike
17 up the conversation.

18 A lot of children are in care today and they don't
19 know why. Some of them have a story in their heads that
20 is so different from reality. Even if a child was taken
21 into care really young, when they reach a certain age
22 and want to know, somebody should sit them down and
23 explain things to them. I don't think it should be
24 a social worker that does this as some children, because
25 they don't know who makes decisions about them or

1 understand what the decisions were based on, blame
2 social workers for ripping their family apart. There
3 should be a separate role that is responsible for
4 sitting with children and going through the timeline
5 with them and explaining why decisions were made.

6 It is also important to include a child in decisions
7 that are going to be made about them and for them to
8 have more of a say. This obviously needs to be
9 age-appropriate. A lot of children will of course want
10 something they can't have, and it should be explained to
11 them the reasons why they can't have those things or why
12 they can't return home.

13 Children get so offended if you don't know their
14 name or date of birth. There are times as a social
15 worker when you have to see children in an emergency
16 situation and you know nothing about them and that can't
17 be helped. But when social workers are given new cases,
18 they should be given the time to read through the whole
19 file so that they can get a full picture of the child
20 and understand why they currently are where they are.
21 Without a full picture, things can be missed. Also,
22 I completely understand the relevance of paperwork, but
23 it has to be made easier. My only experience of social
24 workers in Scotland is from being a child in care, but
25 I think a lot of the issues I've faced as a social

1 worker in England apply to Scotland too.

2 One of the big issues faced by me and colleagues
3 daily is a lack of resources and funding. There is
4 a lack of properly qualified social workers, because
5 it's become one of those professions that people talk
6 about quietly because nobody wants to admit they're
7 doing it. I want to be able to stand up and say that
8 I am a social worker and I do a very good job. Another
9 big issue is the constant changes of staff. A child has
10 to tell their story over and over again and it gets
11 wearing. It is also difficult for a child to build
12 trust if their social worker is constantly changing.

13 A lot of foster carers do memory boxes for children
14 as a matter of course these days. The children take
15 these with them whenever they move on. I think this
16 should be done for all children in care. Parts of my
17 life are missing and I don't know what I looked like at
18 different stages in my life because no photographs were
19 taken. Something like a memory box would have helped me
20 to have a clearer picture of my life. My timeline would
21 probably be crystal clear if I had been able to take
22 things from one place to another.

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 'Yvonne' signed her statement on 11 June 2018.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

4 MS MACLEOD: I would like to refer briefly, my Lady, to
5 a record in relation to 'Yvonne', which just supports
6 some of what 'Yvonne' says in her statement. That
7 record is to be found at EDI-000000776.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS MACLEOD: If we turn to page 2 of that document, and to
10 the second half of that page, we'll see an entry
11 "██████████ 1971" underlined.

12 LADY SMITH: Is this from her social work records?

13 MS MACLEOD: It is, my Lady. This is the social work
14 records for 'Yvonne'. This is 'Yvonne's' notes by her
15 social worker here saying in ██████████ that the children had
16 been for a weekend visit, I think 'Yvonne' had been for
17 a visit with her mother and it's noted here:

18 " ... told her she wasn't happy with Mrs L XO ██████████
19 and in fact is much less cheerful than she was last
20 year. Seems to be pining to get home."

21 The last sentence on that page says:

22 "Mrs L XO ██████████ has no complaints about 'Yvonne'."

23 Then over the page:

24 "... but I don't know how sympathetic she is to the
25 children."

1 That completes the extract I want to highlight, but
2 it does support what 'Yvonne' says and indeed that the
3 children were ultimately removed from the placement.

4 LADY SMITH: It does, and these were children who were in
5 and out of care a bit because of parental illnesses on
6 both sides --

7 MS MACLEOD: Yes, my Lady.

8 LADY SMITH: -- and parental hospitalisation, isn't that
9 right?

10 MS MACLEOD: Yes, that's right, my Lady.

11 LADY SMITH: Perhaps account particularly had to be made of
12 that, that these weren't permanent removals from home.

13 Thank you.

14 What's next?

15 MS MACLEOD: I'll now move on to another read-in, which is
16 a witness 'Deborah'.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 'Deborah' (read)

19 MS MACLEOD: This is the statement of an applicant who again
20 is anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym 'Deborah'.

21 Her statement is at WIT.001.001.6993.

22 'Deborah' was boarded out by Dumfries Town Council,
23 later Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council, with

24 Mrs JAX in Dumfries from [REDACTED] 1966 to [REDACTED] 1977.

25 The current responsible authority is Dumfries and

1 Galloway council.

2 "My name is 'Deborah'. I was born in 1963. I am 54
3 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

4 I've stayed at my current address for 18 years.
5 I am unemployed and on disability benefit. I have
6 a partner and I have two sons from a previous marriage.

7 My mother has died. The name of the person alleged
8 to be my father isn't on my birth certificate. I have
9 two half sisters. We all had the same mum.

10 I went into care twice when I was young. I was
11 going to stay with my gran's cousin in Auchinleck. They
12 were going to adopt me but their marriage broke up and
13 that fell through.

14 My mum stayed in Dumfries. I don't remember it
15 myself, but my big sister says it was just us three
16 girls and mum at home. I never really got the exact
17 reason why I was put into care. I know that the man
18 alleged to be my father was charged with assaulting my
19 mum. He wanted to see me but my mum wouldn't let him.

20 My sister says that my mum tried to get me adopted
21 through the Salvation Army. She also says that she came
22 home from school one day and asked, 'Where's 'Deborah'?'
23 to which my mum replied, 'She's gone, don't mention her
24 name again'.

25 As far as I am aware, it was the social work who

1 arranged for me to go to JAX/JAY I don't know to
2 what extent my mum was involved. One sister went to
3 stay with my gran and the other sister stayed with my
4 mum.

5 I stayed with JAX/JAY in Dumfries from 1964 or
6 1965 until 1977. Their first names were JAX and JAY
7 They were both elderly, well into their 60s. Mrs JAX
8 said that I was put into care because my mum battered me
9 but the social work deny this. They changed my surname
10 although my original surname remained on my birth
11 certificate.

12 There were other kids who stayed with JAX/JAY on
13 and on, and my sister's son stayed there for a short
14 while. They had also adopted a girl, but she was grown
15 up and married by the time I got there. JAX/JAY
16 didn't have children of their own.

17 Sometimes families, like two sisters, would stay
18 with them for a short time and I recall a boy who stayed
19 with them. I don't think there was ever a question of
20 JAX/JAY adopting me.

21 The house itself was a ground floor flat with three
22 bedrooms. JAX/JAY had a bedroom each. They
23 didn't sleep together. I don't now recall where the
24 kids who came and went would sleep, but they were there.
25 It was a council-owned flat and I think there were nine

1 other flats in the block.

2 My first memory is probably at the age of four and
3 going to the wedding of their adopted daughter.

4 I don't remember much of the routine at JAX/JAY
5 although I recall that Mrs JAX would do my hair in the
6 morning. I also recall that me and her would watch the
7 wrestling on a Saturday while eating kippers. I don't
8 think I could simply watch telly whenever I wanted.

9 I don't recall when I had to go to bed. Sometimes
10 I would sleep in the back bedroom and sometimes I slept
11 in with Mrs JAX I do recall I got a bath once a week.

12 When I had free time, I would play on the landing
13 doing skipping and playing marbles or looking at scraps.
14 I also had a wee record player.

15 I didn't get visits as such, but sometimes my mum
16 would come to the school to see me. She didn't actually
17 speak to me, she just came to look at me. I don't know
18 why she didn't come to JAX/JAY to see me. They
19 probably wouldn't let her. Also, a woman who was
20 a friend of my gran would come and see me at Christmas.

21 Fiona Douglas was my social worker at the time, then
22 a Mrs Crabbie. I think before them it was
23 a Mrs Clydesdale. I don't recall seeing them much when
24 I was with JAX/JAY I'm sure I did see them but
25 I don't recall. There was an occasion that Mrs JAX

1 alleged that I had tried to shove her in the fire. I'm
2 sure Fiona Douglas came to the house at that time.

3 I went to Lochside Primary School till preliminary 7
4 then Maxwelltown Academy for a year. I seem to recall
5 that I liked school because I felt safe and could see my
6 pals. The school knew I was in foster care but I don't
7 think it caused them to treat me any differently.

8 Primary school was okay, but I found it difficult to
9 concentrate and tended to daydream a lot. Also,
10 I wanted to wear the same sort of clothes as the other
11 kids but JAX/JAY only bought me old-fashioned stuff.

12 Although I seem to recall that the headmaster in
13 secondary school was supportive of me, I don't recall
14 them doing anything to look at what was happening to me
15 in the foster house. Then again, I suppose it should
16 have been the social work who should have been doing
17 that.

18 I recall that when I went to Maxwelltown Academy
19 I was bullied a lot. I had to hand over money to the
20 bullies so that they could buy their cigarettes.

21 I must have got Christmas presents because
22 I remember finding them under the bed. I got battered
23 for that. Other than that, I don't recall much about
24 Christmas, though I recall Mr JAY once built me
25 a dolls' house. I remember they got me a bike but

1 I don't recall treats or going to the pictures. I don't
2 recall any birthday celebrations.

3 I don't recall getting any pocket money.

4 I know I got to see a doctor whenever I required,
5 but I don't recall ever seeing a dentist.

6 At JAX/JAY I was treated as a slave, doing all
7 the cleaning and washing up. I used to have to run
8 after her all the time.

9 Two of my pals told me that they came to the door
10 for me one time and they saw Mr JAY battering me,
11 though I don't actually remember this. They tried to
12 get in the door but couldn't, so went to get another
13 pal's mum to get Mr JAY off me. I was about 11 or 12
14 at this time. My pals said that they reported this to
15 the school.

16 Mrs JAX was taken into hospital once, which left
17 Mr JAY to look after me. It was in the back bedroom
18 that he raped me. I only recall this happening the
19 once, but I've been told by Rape Crisis that that means
20 it probably happened more than once.

21 I'm not sure how old I was when Mr JAY raped me.
22 The back bedroom was the room that I was using. I don't
23 recall anybody else being in the house at the time.

24 EXK lived in the flat upstairs. At the
25 time, I was getting bullied at school and used to hand

1 over money to the bullies. I got the money from
2 EXK What happened was that he used to come
3 to my bedroom window each night. I'm not sure how old
4 I was. He would grope me and give me 2p for it. He was
5 basically grooming me. I'm not sure how long this went
6 on for, but it was a long time.

7 I was also in EXK flat one time when he
8 had his private parts out and tried to enter me.
9 I remember it was sore. I can't be sure if this
10 happened before or after I was raped by Mr JAY

11 Mrs JAX battered me regularly with a tawse. She
12 would hit me all over the body and would do it for any
13 reason. She kept saying I was 'a naughty lassie' and
14 she once claimed I tried to push her into the fire,
15 which was nonsense.

16 I remember once Mrs JAX hit me on the head. I had
17 long hair and wore Kirby grips. When she hit me, one of
18 the Kirby grips got lodged in my ear and the doctor had
19 to take it out. I've still got problems with my
20 hearing.

21 I don't think she hit me in front of others, though
22 she did call me names in front of others. I can't
23 remember if she hit me in front of Mr JAY but then
24 again he spent most of his time in the garden.

25 I always felt unwanted and didn't want to be there.

1 Social work kept saying that I shouldn't be in a house
2 with such old people and that I should be moved. I saw
3 this in my records years later.

4 I got no love from JAX/JAY I was just a slave
5 and not allowed to mix with other people. I used to
6 jump out of the window to play with my pals. I did this
7 to get away and because JAX/JAY would lock the door to
8 stop me getting out.

9 The other kids that came and went couldn't have been
10 there very long as I don't have great recollection of
11 this. The only reason that JAX/JAY kept me there was
12 so that I could do their bidding. I have no good
13 memories of my time at JAX/JAY.

14 I also thought that Mrs JAX wanted rid of me but
15 that Mr JAY wanted me to stay.

16 I used to wet the bed sometimes and when I did,
17 Mrs JAX would shout at me. I don't recall who
18 thereafter would wash the sheets but it was probably me.

19 I think my friend was the first person I spoke to
20 about the abuse I had suffered and that was about 20
21 years ago. I have never reported the abuse to the
22 police. I did talk to a solicitor about it when I was
23 getting a divorce, but then another solicitor took over
24 and he just said that it had happened too long ago to
25 matter.

1 I did try to tell my husband before he left, but he
2 wasn't interested.

3 I did tell a social worker called Fiona Douglas
4 about the abuse I suffered, but this was years after it
5 happened and nothing was done about it.

6 I think I left JAX/JAY after Mrs JAX told the
7 social work that she no longer wanted me to be there.

8 After I left JAX/JAY I went to various places.
9 First I went to Merkland home in Moffat and after that
10 I went to stay with the family. I don't know how
11 long I was there for, but it was when I was there that
12 Mrs JAX died. The social work took me to her funeral.

13 After the I went to Wendy House Children's
14 Home and then to another foster home with the
15 After them, I went back to stay with my mum
16 but that only lasted five days. My mum accused me of
17 stealing her purse, which I hadn't.

18 Social work tried to get me back in with the
19 but couldn't, so I got sent to near
20 near Thornhill. From there, I went to another foster
21 home, which was the

22 After that, I got sent to the Throughout
23 my time in all the above places, I have no recollection
24 of dealing with the children's panel.

25 I wasn't abused in any of those places but I know

1 that there were signs in my behaviour that should have
2 indicated to social workers that something had been
3 wrong with my time staying with JAX/JAY I ended up
4 going to three different secondary schools because
5 I kept changing foster homes.

6 I left the care system when I turned 18 or as the
7 social work put it, 'your file is closed'.

8 When I was 18, I stayed at a nursing home working
9 and worked at an old folk's home. I had various work
10 placements. I then met my sons' dad. My son was born
11 when I was 22. My sons' dad was abusive to me for about
12 20 years and was in and out of prison.

13 My other son was born with brittle bone disorder and
14 I had to spend a lot of time looking after him. I took
15 quite ill after having him.

16 At no time after I left foster care did I get any
17 transitional help from any social worker. I turned 18
18 and they simply handed me my birth certificate. They
19 told me they were there if I wanted to speak to them but
20 there was no practical help.

21 I have suffered depression and had auto-immune
22 hepatitis when my son was born. I had a heart attack at
23 36. I can't show my kids love because I never got any
24 myself.

25 I struggle with that and have never kissed and

1 cuddled them or told them I loved them. I feel that
2 this has also impacted on them and that they now
3 struggle with relationships.

4 I feel as if I've had depression all my life and
5 I feel as if the whole system has let me down. The
6 names that Mrs JAX used to call me left me with no
7 self-confidence, which has affected me my whole life.

8 When I met my sons' dad, I ended up in an abusive
9 relationship which I found difficult to get out of,
10 because it was the closest thing I had ever had to love.
11 I put up with his abusive behaviour and the fact he had
12 affairs.

13 I got involved with my sister when I was 50 and
14 tried to help her, but she just dumped me. I feel I am
15 just an object to folk who thereafter dump me at the
16 smallest thing. I feel I can't trust folk.

17 I also feel that changing schools so often had a big
18 impact on my education.

19 I think of my time in care all the time. I feel as
20 if my life is a failure and that there are no answers.
21 I never had any sort of relationship with my mum before
22 she died about 10 years ago.

23 Ten years ago, I went to the social work department
24 to get my records because I had attended Rape Crisis and
25 they said they wanted to see them. I met with

1 Daniel McKeever, a senior social worker, who sat with me
2 as I read them. I told him I had been abused by the
3 JAX/JAY and he said that the records seemed to support
4 this and that the system had failed me.

5 As far as I am concerned, this shows that the social
6 work knew what was happening to me but did nothing. The
7 records don't explicitly say I was sexually abused but
8 there are things written in my records that were clear
9 indications and signs of what was going on. These signs
10 should have been picked up on."

11 My Lady, I'll have a look at some of the records at
12 the end of this statement.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 MS MACLEOD: "I saw a psychologist on three occasions for
15 a while. All they said was they couldn't do anything
16 about my past. They said I was just to take tablets for
17 the rest of my life. The psychologist tried to send me
18 to the Kaleidoscope Group, but they dealt with
19 schizophrenics and it was like a children's home, which
20 was the last sort of place I wanted to be. That would
21 have made me worse.

22 I have also attended Rape Crisis. I first went to
23 them about ten years ago. I went because I was
24 depressed. I had just met my present partner and was
25 worried about getting into another serious relationship.

1 I don't think Rape Crisis were a big help to me.
2 I feel they would have been more helpful if I had had
3 some sort of mental disorder, but to me it seems that if
4 you're normal you don't get the same level of help.
5 I only went a few times.

6 I wouldn't want anybody to go through what
7 I endured, but fortunately I think things have changed.

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

12 'Deborah' signed the witness statement on
13 17 November 2017.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS MACLEOD: My Lady, I'll now have a look at some extracts
16 of the social work records recovered in relation to
17 'Deborah'. Those records are to be found at
18 DGC-000000086.

19 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

20 MS MACLEOD: Some of the pages in the record are duplicated,
21 so I'll start by looking at page 6, please. The second
22 half of that page, the entry dated 4 October 1974.

23 We'll see over the page that the case was
24 transferred to Fiona Douglas, social worker, in
25 November 1975, so this was the previous social worker,

1 it seems. 'Deborah' mentions that this may have been
2 Mrs Clydesdale, but the record doesn't have a name on
3 it. So it was a visit by the social work department on
4 4 October 1974. Here it notes:

5 "Visited. JAX/JAY [REDACTED] are now officially OAPs."

6 This is something that's a theme throughout the
7 record. We'll see that this social worker, and then
8 again increasingly Fiona Douglas, notes repeatedly that
9 they are old and potentially too old to be looking after
10 'Deborah' --

11 LADY SMITH: Yes.

12 MS MACLEOD: -- and we'll look at that.

13 LADY SMITH: I'm just thinking 1974, to be an OAP, that
14 would have been age 65, I think then, if I remember
15 rightly. It then dropped to 60 and now it's jumped up
16 again.

17 MS MACLEOD: On page 7, on 20 November 1975, we can see the
18 case was at that point transferred to Fiona Douglas.
19 I'd like to pick up on a few things noted by
20 Fiona Douglas on page 8 of the document.

21 The first visit on this page is dated

22 28 January 1976 and we'll see:

23 "Home visit."

24 And that 'Deborah' was seen along with another child
25 who was in the placement. There were two children in

1 the placement at that time.

2 The second paragraph of that entry notes:

3 "The house, while never really dirty, leaves quite
4 a lot to be desired and I often feel that we, as
5 a department, should be anxious about this foster home."

6 The final sentence of that entry states:

7 "It is noticeable that 'Deborah' withdraws into her
8 scowling self, when Mrs JAX makes any complaints to
9 me."

10 The next entry, which is 9 December 1976, in the
11 final sentence notes that 'Deborah' is a "thin and sort
12 of anxious-looking child".

13 The next entry down, 11 February 1976, another home
14 visit. The second line we see:

15 "Complaints still as ever but I think the family
16 know in their heart of hearts that really they are too
17 old to cope with the two children ..."

18 Then if we go down to the final entry on this page,
19 which is an entry from 8 August 1976, another home
20 visit. Discussions during this visit seemed to be
21 focused on 'Deborah' perhaps wanting different clothes
22 and in particular shoes to what were being provided by
23 the social worker. The social worker notes:

24 "The main argument centred over a pair of shoes --
25 platform soles -- 'Deborah' showed them to me, quite

1 reasonable but she wanted higher ones. Tried to suggest
2 to the foster parents that we were all old-fashioned,
3 that teenagers wanted to be the same as their
4 classmates. 'Deborah' seemed to respond a little to
5 this approach but JAX/JAY ██████████ remained adamant that
6 these were high enough."

7 This supports the sort of thing that 'Deborah' was
8 saying.

9 Over the page, on page 9, the second full sentence,
10 that's an entry again on 11 August 1976:

11 "'Deborah' made me a cup of coffee and I noticed how
12 badly bitten her nails are -- she often seems
13 excessively anxious and I feel she is rather lonely here
14 and sometimes rather looks like the household drudge.
15 Nevertheless, she has spent 10 years in this foster home
16 and it is the only home she knows. She is growing well
17 physically but I suspect that there will be problems
18 ahead."

19 That's signed by Fiona Douglas.

20 Finally in this document, my Lady, I'd like to look
21 at two letters, which are the final two pages of the
22 document. If we turn first of all to the final page,
23 page 13, this document appears to be a letter from
24 Fiona Douglas to the headmaster of Maxwelltown high
25 school on 5 January 1977 and relates to Mrs JAX ██████████ going

1 into hospital. Fiona Douglas writes:

2 "I am writing to ask if your staff -- particularly
3 the guidance teacher responsible for 'Deborah' -- could
4 assist me by keeping a specially watchful eye over her
5 over the next few weeks.

6 As you are aware, 'Deborah' is fostered by JAX/JAY
7 JAX/JAY having lived with them for the past 11 years.
8 JAX/JAY are now pensioners and for some time now
9 Mrs JAX health has been giving rise for concern. She
10 has developed diabetes which has caused her, within the
11 last few weeks, to become blind."

12 Then it goes on to describe some treatment that
13 Mrs JAX is to receive.

14 "If Mrs JAX is hospitalised, this will mean that
15 'Deborah' will remain in the care of Mr JAY although
16 I have arranged with a very pleasant and responsible
17 neighbour that she will keep a watchful eye over the
18 situation. The question of removing 'Deborah' has been
19 gone into, but we feel that she has been so long with
20 JAX/JAY that to remove her at this very stressful time
21 would be very unfair.

22 I would be most grateful if you could let me know if
23 you are concerned at all for 'Deborah'. I would be
24 happy to come to the school at any time if you feel that
25 there are any points to be discussed."

1 LADY SMITH: She would have been more than 13 and a half, on
2 the way to being 14 then, still quite young?

3 MS MACLEOD: Yes.

4 Then the final page in the document that I wish to
5 look at is the page before that, page 12, which is
6 a letter again from Fiona Douglas, this time dated
7 14 April 1977. She is writing to somebody called
8 Dr Jamieson. It's not clear whether that's a family
9 doctor or who it is, but she says:

10 "I refer to my letter of 8 March 1977 regarding the
11 above named. Would be most grateful to have your
12 observations regarding their suitability to condition as
13 foster parents for 'Deborah' in view of Mrs JAX
14 failing health."

15 We'll see there that there were concerns being
16 raised there.

17 LADY SMITH: Yes. Given the address of the doctor in
18 Castle Street in Dumfries, it sounds as though that's
19 probably a GP, it's not gone to a hospital address or
20 a specialist address.

21 MS MACLEOD: No, it sounds like that.

22 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

23 MS MACLEOD: That completes the excerpt of the records to be
24 highlighted here, my Lady.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS MACLEOD: I will now pass back to Ms Rattray for the
2 final read-in of the morning.

3 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much indeed.

4 Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

5 'Scott' (read)

6 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, this read-in is from an applicant who
7 has the pseudonym 'Scott'. Her statement is at
8 WIT.001.002.1912. 'Scott' was boarded out by the City
9 and Royal Burgh of Perth to a Mrs GBU in Doune
10 on three occasions.

11 The first from 1965 to 1965.

12 The second from 1966 to 1966.

13 The third from 1968 to 1968.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 MS RATTRAY: The current responsible authority is Perth and
16 Kinross Council.

17 "My name is 'Scott'. I was born in 1962. My
18 contact details are known to the Inquiry."

19 From paragraphs 2 to 10, 'Scott' speaks of her life
20 before care. Her parents separated. Her mum had
21 another child and 'Scott' was taken into care when her
22 mum was due to give birth.

23 Moving now to paragraph 11 on page 3:

24 "I can remember seeing a car coming onto the street
25 in Perth. I had on a stupid red coat buttoned up and

1 a round box hat with elastic under the chin that my
2 mother had put on me. I knew straight away it was
3 a social worker coming for me so I ran and hid under the
4 bed. I was pulled out and taken away in the back of
5 a car. I can remember taking the hat off. I don't know
6 if I had been taken away before then because I knew the
7 car was for me.

8 I was taken to a woman's house in Doune for the
9 first time. She lived in a cottage. It was very
10 isolated, there were only two cottages. I think I was
11 about three. I can't remember her name but that woman
12 played a huge part in my early years. She was an older
13 woman and she was evil. She was fat and had grey hair.
14 I remember she was very old-fashioned, like Nora Batty.
15 Her husband was a wee skinny man with a cap who was very
16 quiet.

17 I slept in the attic. She would get me up in the
18 morning and I would get myself dressed. She would
19 sometimes put my shoes on for me. I only saw her
20 husband at night when he came in from work. He wasn't
21 about and when he was, he never spoke. Looking back, he
22 was probably scared of her. I remember it was winter
23 because there was a big roaring coal fire on. I can
24 remember the kitchen was tiny and there was a front room
25 with a coal fire. It was a very old-fashioned building.

1 The woman had two daughters. I had no interaction
2 with them. She had an older daughter too. She used to
3 go out to work all day. She was a grown woman.

4 One of my earliest memories there is eating a plate
5 of porridge sitting on the kitchen floor while the three
6 girls sat at the table. The woman gave me most of my
7 meals outside. After I'd eaten my porridge, I was put
8 outside on my own. It was snowing. I was left outside
9 all day. She came out at dinner time with a bowl of
10 soup with a big potato in it.

11 I used to go on my knees at an old-fashioned stone
12 dyke wall that had two bits of wood across it and have
13 my soup on it. I was kept outside. I was brought
14 inside at tea time and given another bowl of soup. I'd
15 have to get my pyjamas on and go to bed. I wasn't even
16 allowed to use the toilet. I was told to pee in
17 an old-fashioned potty.

18 I never had a bath when I was there. I can't even
19 remember what the bathroom looked like. I only ever got
20 a glimpse of it when I was passing to go into the
21 bedroom. I was never in the bathroom.

22 There was an old woman who lived in the cottage next
23 door. She knew what was going on but I don't think she
24 wanted to get involved. She used to take me in and give
25 me a cup of hot orange juice. It was as though she was

1 scared because she would tell me to drink it up quickly.

2 There was a little burn running past the cottages.
3 I pushed one of the daughters in the burn once on our
4 way to school because she was shouting 'you've no got
5 a mum'.

6 I went back to my mum's house and suddenly my sister
7 was there. It was a shock. I resented her. I remember
8 thinking I must have been taken away for her to be
9 there. I wondered what she was doing there when
10 I hadn't been there.

11 I went back to that woman's house in Doune a few
12 times. I spent the next three years going between my
13 mum's and Doune. I think I stayed with the woman three
14 or four times.

15 Around that time, there were a lot of people coming
16 into the house, mostly for my mum. There were nuns,
17 a priest and social workers visiting us. We used to
18 climb out of the window in the front room when we saw
19 a car drawing up because we thought it was someone
20 coming for us. I always thought I was going back to
21 Doune. I didn't want to go there, but even then none of
22 us told anyone."

23 From paragraphs 23 to 29, 'Scott' speaks of her life
24 at home with her mum. Her mum had a nervous breakdown
25 and was admitted to hospital.

1 Moving to paragraph 30 on page 7:

2 "My sister and I were both taken to the lady in
3 Doune. I had a new social worker by then, MCF
4 My first one, Mrs Crewden, was lovely but she left to
5 care for her own baby. The new social worker,
6 MCF, arranged it all. At first it was just my
7 sister and me in Doune. It was exactly the same as
8 before.

9 The woman used to put a camp bed down on the floor
10 for my sister and me to sleep on. There was a big water
11 tank above us and I used to hear it during the night.
12 In the mornings I would wake up with crusts covering
13 both of my nostrils. I don't know if it was
14 condensation, but it was something to do with the water
15 tank.

16 I can remember her making me pee in the potty again
17 and I didn't want to do it so I wet the bed. She came
18 through in the morning and discovered I was wet so she
19 stripped me naked. She smacked me all around the living
20 room. Her two daughters were at the table at the time.

21 The whole time I was there I was given the same
22 food. It was the bowl of soup with a potato in it.
23 Then there was a change of food and we got one boiled
24 egg each instead of soup. I can remember saying to my
25 sister, 'look, we've got an egg!'.
26

1 By then my mum had had my other siblings, a brother
2 and two sisters. They came to Doune too. I can
3 remember we were all sitting on the kitchen floor eating
4 our breakfast and it was snowing outside. I don't
5 remember the social worker coming to visit us. I could
6 have told my mum what was happening there but I didn't.
7 I don't know why. There was still a wee bit of
8 a connection with her, but it wasn't as strong as it
9 should have been. It was more or less severed.

10 Another time the woman held a birthday party for one
11 of her daughters and we weren't allowed to the party.
12 I remember someone asking 'what about the kids over
13 there?' and the woman said we would have a party later
14 but, of course, we didn't. We were just left outside.

15 It was always so cold. I remember my brother
16 crying. His hands were blue. I can remember trying to
17 tuck them in his duffle coat pockets and telling him to
18 keep them in there. We were all so obsessed with not
19 being cold. I was frozen all the time because we were
20 outside all the time. It didn't matter about the
21 weather, we were always out. We used to sit in the shed
22 trying to keep warm. My little sister was always
23 crying.

24 My brother was epileptic and had seizures. At home
25 he had been getting tablets that knocked him out. On

1 one of the occasions we were all back at my mum's, I can
2 remember him falling asleep at the dinner table in my
3 mum's. He used to escape from the house and wake the
4 whole close up singing. He took my youngest sister out
5 of her pram once, covered her in black boot polish and
6 stuck sugar puffs up her nose. He was jealous of her
7 because she was the youngest.

8 At Doune my brother wasn't being treated for his
9 epilepsy. He was sleeping on a tiny two-seater sofa in
10 the room with my sister and me. He would have fits
11 through the night so I would get up, get him up off the
12 floor and put him back on the sofa. I would do my best
13 to lie across the sofa and keep me in at the side so he
14 didn't fall onto the floor. It was all that I could do
15 because he wasn't getting any treatment. The woman
16 never came in the room, I think she was sleeping
17 downstairs. She didn't even know that he was having
18 fits.

19 She was just pure evil, the things that she did to
20 us. I can remember once that my youngest sister was
21 left sitting in a pram clipped in all day. She was
22 crying but the woman just left her for hours. It was
23 cruel. I was in the front room at the time. She picked
24 my younger sister up when she was still trapped in the
25 pram and turned her around and smacked right into her

1 bottom and said 'there's something to cry about'. You
2 wouldn't cross her because she was a big woman.

3 We never got a bath or our teeth brushed. I can't
4 remember any washing or getting clothes.

5 I went to primary school. It was a tiny country
6 school with one classroom. The woman's youngest
7 daughters were going to school too. We weren't given
8 breakfast. She gave me an apple and told me it was for
9 my dinner. I took the apple out one day and the teacher
10 asked if that was all I had. I told her it was, so she
11 gave me her sandwiches. When she asked the woman about
12 it, she lied and told her that she had told me to come
13 home for my dinner. She was just a bad woman. A lot of
14 it was the mental cruelty.

15 My mum came to visit us once. I thought I was going
16 home. The woman asked us if we would like to feed the
17 chickens and of course we were never allowed to feed the
18 chickens so we all wanted to do it. My sister and
19 I went off like a pair of idiots to feed the chickens.
20 When we came back, my mum had gone. I can remember
21 running up the hill screaming after her, but she had
22 left. I was fizzing mad that she had just disappeared
23 again. They had lied. They had planned it together to
24 distract us so that my mum could leave. My mum lying to
25 me was the worst part. I felt betrayed by her.

1 I knew something was going on because we got a bath.
2 The next day MCF appeared in the car. I was
3 never told what was happening, I just went. I was just
4 so happy to get away from there. I think I was six or
5 seven.

6 My brother was taken to Quarriers. When he went to
7 Quarriers, they sorted his drugs out. I went to visit
8 him there once but he didn't want to speak to me or my
9 mum. He had probably forgotten us. I think that was
10 a couple of years later. He just hung onto the carer.
11 I saw him once or twice in 14 years. I actually forgot
12 I had a brother for years."

13 From paragraphs 45, 'Scott' tells of her experiences
14 at Hillyland Children's Home, Perth, spending years
15 flitting between Doune, Hillyland and her mum, her time
16 at Carolina House, Dundee, and Colonsay House, Perth,
17 until she was returned to her mum when she was aged 14.

18 'Scott' describes her life after care. Her mum died
19 when 'Scott' was 19. 'Scott's' younger siblings came to
20 live with her instead of going back into care. 'Scott'
21 also speaks of the impact her experiences had on her,
22 which appear to relate more closely to care in other
23 settings. In the circumstances, I'll move to
24 paragraph 217 on page 45.

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 MS RATTRAY: Where 'Scott' says:

2 "I have no objection to my witness statement being
3 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.
4 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are
5 true."

6 And 'Scott' signed her statement on 23 October 2018.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Ms Rattray.

8 I think it's time for the morning break. You've
9 done well with the statements that we've read through.

10 We've heard names, Mrs LXO JAX/JAY
11 Mrs GBU all of which are protected by my general
12 restriction order and so can't be used outside this
13 room, and otherwise I think we'll break now and return
14 at 11.45?

15 MS RATTRAY: Yes, when we will have an oral witness.

16 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

17 (11.29 am)

18 (A short break)

19 (11.45 am)

20 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

21 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. We now have an applicant who is
22 using the pseudonym 'Rose'. 'Rose' was originally in
23 care with Lanark County Council following the death of
24 her mother in 1972. She was initially with one
25 of her sisters until 1973, when she moved to foster

1 care with her older brother and sister-in-law. She
2 remained with them until [REDACTED] 1975, when she was
3 admitted to Smyllum.

4 She was then placed in foster care in Coatbridge
5 with her aunt and uncle, Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] from
6 [REDACTED] 1976 to about [REDACTED] 1979, when she went to
7 live with her sister.

8 At a fostering panel on [REDACTED] 1979, the
9 placement with her sister and her husband was approved.
10 This was during the time of Strathclyde Regional
11 Council, but as the placement was in Coatbridge and
12 Motherwell district fostering panel was reviewing the
13 placement, it's understood that North Lanarkshire
14 Council is the relevant successor.

15 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

16 'Rose' (sworn)

17 LADY SMITH: We need you to use the microphone, 'Rose', so
18 that we can hear you through the sound system, but you
19 don't have to be absolutely over it. It will pick you
20 up quite well, I think, from where you are. I'll let
21 you know if there are any problems.

22 A. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: That's great.

24 You'll see there's a red folder there. It has the
25 typed copy of your statement in it that you signed and

1 you'll be taken to look at that in a moment or two, but
2 we're also going to bring it up on the screen in front
3 of you, as you might find that helpful, and go to the
4 different parts of it that we want to discuss during
5 your evidence.

6 But, 'Rose', apart from those practicalities, I just
7 want to assure you that I do understand what we've asked
8 you to do by coming here this morning into a public
9 place to talk about your life, and in particular the
10 difficulties that you had in your childhood, some things
11 distressing, some things which in emotional terms might
12 take you quite by surprise when you're giving evidence.
13 People sometimes come in and think that they're sorted,
14 they're organised, they can cope with it all, and then
15 it does get difficult.

16 I understand that, I get that, and there's
17 absolutely no problem if you want a break or even just
18 to pause where you're sitting. You guide us as to
19 anything we can do to enable you to give the best
20 evidence you can, minimising the stress of doing so.

21 All right?

22 A. Okay.

23 LADY SMITH: If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Rattray
24 and she'll take it from there.

25 A. Yeah, thank you.

1 LADY SMITH: Thanks.

2 Ms Rattray.

3 Questions from Ms Rattray

4 MS RATTRAY: Good morning, 'Rose'.

5 A. Morning.

6 Q. 'Rose', you've come today to give evidence and speak
7 about what you've already told us in your written
8 statement. I'm just going to read the reference we've
9 given to your statement out, which is at
10 WIT-1-000000808, and you'll see that that appears on the
11 screen before you, 'Rose'.

12 There's also a copy in front of you, the hard copy,
13 and what I would like you to do first of all, if you
14 could take your hard copy statement in the red folder
15 and go to the back page of your statement, which is at
16 page 31. All I'm asking you here, 'Rose', is to confirm
17 that you've signed your statement.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You see that above your signature at paragraph 118 you
20 say:

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

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. If you put that to one side now.

2 'Rose', what I'm going to do to start with is really
3 look at some background here of the circumstances you
4 were in care.

5 We will then move on and look at your experiences in
6 care, and in particular the experience you had when you
7 were living with your aunt and uncle.

8 Then we will turn and look at the impact that has
9 had on you moving forward in adult life.

10 At page 1 of your statement, 'Rose', you do tell us
11 that you were born in 1965 and you're the youngest of 11
12 children and there were six of the children still living
13 at home when your mum died.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Is that --

16 A. Just counting.

17 Q. Is that right? Do you remember how old you were when
18 your mum died, 'Rose'?

19 A. Seven.

20 Q. Seven years old. In the aftermath of your mum's death,
21 you and your younger siblings, the young children in the
22 family, were then split up and they were living in
23 different family households?

24 A. My sister tried for nearly a year first.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. She was only 16. She tried. There were five of us
2 under her and she tried for nearly a year. She couldn't
3 cope with us all. So then they decided to split us up
4 to different members of the family.

5 LADY SMITH: When you say she tried, she tried to keep you
6 together and look after you?

7 A. Yeah.

8 LADY SMITH: But she was only 16?

9 A. Yeah.

10 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

11 MS RATTRAY: You tell us from paragraphs 5 to 8 at your
12 statement on page 2 that you stayed with your oldest
13 brother --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- for a period of time in Cumbernauld. I think you
16 tell us in your statement there that you were part of
17 the family there?

18 A. I felt happy there, although I missed my brother and
19 sisters, especially ... brother and sisters, but I was
20 coping. They did things for me. They helped. Even
21 although we were different religions, right, but they
22 got me into the church to do -- where I learned music.
23 Not a choir, but playing the recorder and that, so
24 I done that. They got me into the swimming club, where
25 I ended up being one of the top swimmers.

1 So they gave me things. They took an interest.
2 There was definitely an interest there and I was really,
3 really sad when I left. Really sad.

4 Q. Can you tell us why it was you left?

5 A. My brother, he got into trouble and ended up going to
6 jail. I didn't know that at the time, I got told he was
7 on the rigs, and because he wasn't coming back, they
8 thought it would be better for me to go into a home.
9 I think when he came back, for my own safety, something,
10 in case he tried to use me -- they'd fell out and for my
11 own safety it was better if I was out the house so he
12 couldn't use me as a reason for getting into the house.
13 I think that's what it was explained to me.

14 Q. You tell us that you were taken to Smyllum Children's
15 Home in Lanark.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. What do you remember, if anything at all, about being
18 prepared to leave your home with your brother and
19 sister-in-law?

20 A. Say I was told on the Wednesday and we left on the
21 Thursday.

22 Q. How did you feel about that?

23 A. I can still remember crying. I didn't want to go.

24 Q. Whilst you were there, I think obviously today we're
25 focusing on foster care, we aren't looking in any detail

1 at your experience in Smyllum, but if we look at page 11
2 of your statement, paragraph 43 there, you do make
3 reference to two aunts and uncles wanting to foster you.

4 A. My mum's sisters.

5 Q. Can you tell us a wee bit more about that?

6 A. I knew both of them, but the reason I chose one set was
7 because I could remember it was the buses. Going to one
8 auntie, you had to go over this horrible bridge and it
9 terrified me. The other one, I knew it was a bus ride,
10 a bus ride would get me back to my family. To my
11 brothers and sisters. I knew it was the closest or the
12 easiest way to get -- I think it was two buses or
13 something -- because I think we'd even walked it from
14 home one time with my mum, walked it to their area. So
15 I knew with this other aunt it was a bus, then over this
16 horrible, horrible bridge, it was terrifying, always
17 didn't want that, it was just scary for me, so I didn't
18 like that. So that's why I picked to go there.

19 And it upset my auntie and uncle, and it was nothing
20 against them, they were nice people, it was nothing
21 against them, it was only the fact that I felt as if I'd
22 be closer, I'd be closer to my brother and sisters if
23 I went there.

24 Q. You tell us more about that at paragraph 59 of your
25 statement, 'Rose'. I think you tell us that you

1 remember being allowed to choose whether it was one --

2 A. I think so, aye. I think so.

3 Q. And the most important thing to you was to be living

4 closer to your siblings?

5 A. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: Tell me, I'm interested in you remembering this

7 horrible, horrible bridge, as you describe it. What is

8 it now that has stuck in your mind about the bridge?

9 A. I'm not very good with heights. It would go up but

10 there was holes in it and I remember going across

11 a bridge in Glasgow with my mum and it was like slats

12 and it terrified me, because I could see the water.

13 That's what that bridge was like. I could see

14 underneath it. And the same with wee bridges I go onto,

15 I'm still freaked out. Don't like them.

16 LADY SMITH: And you were small at the time?

17 A. Yeah, I was only about six because by the time I was

18 seven my mum was really ill. So I'd only been about

19 five, six going over this bridge. Although the family

20 were really nice, they were a really nice family, they

21 were always kind and we always came home with something,

22 whether it be a sweetie or a toy, they always gave us

23 something, so it was nothing to do with them.

24 LADY SMITH: But you were frightened of the bridge?

25 A. But I was scared of the bridge.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you. That does make sense.
2 Ms Rattray.
3 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, my Lady.
4 I think the aunt and uncle who lived nearest to your
5 siblings, I think you tell us in your statement that was
6 [REDACTED] ?
7 A. Yeah.
8 Q. Is that right?
9 A. (Witness nods).
10 Q. Whereabouts did they stay?
11 A. Coatbridge.
12 Q. You tell us at paragraph 60, 'Rose', that you remember
13 before your mum died something had previously happened
14 to you at your Auntie [REDACTED] house?
15 A. Yeah.
16 Q. What was that?
17 A. I don't know why we were there, why we had to stay, it
18 was me and my sister had to stay there. We were in one
19 bed and my two cousins, the two boys, were in another
20 bed.
21 I don't know how it came about, but we ended up in
22 with one of the boys each. I think I was only maybe
23 five, five year old or something at the time. My sister
24 might have been six. Only a year between us. And he
25 asked me to touch him. And I did.

1 And then we ended up -- I was back in bed with my
2 sister again and we spoke and she says, "He asked me as
3 well", and I was like, "Did you do it? Did you do it?"
4 And she says, "No".

5 Q. When you say he asked you to touch him, whereabouts did
6 he want you to touch him?

7 A. His privates.

8 Q. You and your sister, were able to tell any grownups
9 about that?

10 A. No, we never told anybody, no, because we just felt as
11 though we were probably in the wrong for going into
12 their bed, but their beds were there and there.

13 Q. Generally when you were staying with your aunt and
14 uncle, who else was living in the house at that time?

15 A. Two boy cousins and a sister cousin, my aunt and uncle.

16 Q. Can you remember how old you were when you first moved
17 there?

18 A. I lost a year somewhere, because I celebrated
19 a birthday, I think it was when I came out the home
20 or -- so I used to think I was ten but according to my
21 records I'm 11.

22 Q. Whereabouts were you sleeping in the house there?

23 A. I shared a room with the older cousin, the girl.

24 Q. What was your bedroom like?

25 A. The bedroom was nice. I had my own wardrobe, drawers,

1 and a nice bed.

2 Q. What about your aunt and uncle? Did you have a good
3 relationship with them?

4 A. My uncle, he cuddled me once and I didn't like it,
5 I just didn't like the feeling, right? But I'm not
6 a cuddly person. I am just not -- but it wasn't like
7 that. I think I was in the home at the time and I kind
8 of jumped back. I didn't like it. Because when we were
9 in the home he used to -- when we were going down the
10 street for sweeties, "I'll bring back sweeties and all
11 that", and he'd bring back sweeties for the wee ones.
12 But I didn't really have -- I don't know how you can say
13 a relationship.

14 At one point he did say, "Can you call your aunt
15 something else?" Like my mother, and I was like no.
16 I refused. I was like no. Because that is what I know
17 her as, It was always auntie blah, blah, it was always
18 just auntie. And I was like no. And I was quite hurt
19 with that, because I was like you're no my mum. My
20 mum's my mum.

21 But my auntie used to take me places. Whenever she
22 was going anywhere, I was like tagging along with her.
23 But as I say, when she was going visiting.

24 LADY SMITH: But he wanted you to call your auntie "mum"?

25 A. Mum, yeah.

1 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

2 A. Because it was awful long what I was saying, if we were
3 out anywhere or if I wanted anything, I shouted one of
4 them, it was a big long name, I think he was
5 embarrassed. That's what I think now. He was
6 embarrassed because I wasn't saying "mum", but
7 I couldn't call anybody else mum.

8 MS RATTRAY: What about your Auntie [REDACTED]? Was she wanting
9 you to call her mum as well or was she relaxed about
10 being called "Auntie [REDACTED]"?

11 A. I don't think she minded. I don't think she minded
12 because it was never -- she never -- I can't remember
13 her commenting, "Just whatever you want, [REDACTED] EXG [REDACTED]." Right,
14 so I don't have to. I don't know.

15 Q. From reading your statement, my impression -- and please
16 comment on this and correct me if I'm wrong -- that your
17 Auntie [REDACTED] was quite a kind person and caring about
18 you. Is that fair or is that not your experience?

19 A. She was to an extent, but she was very old-fashioned.
20 She was very old-fashioned, prim and proper, strict.
21 And I think if there were different things, she went
22 along with it. But personal things, it was like -- she
23 was so embarrassed. Between your period and your
24 towels, so embarrassed. And she would give me two or
25 three, "What you doing with them? What you doing with

1 them?" I couldn't talk to her about anything, right?

2 She was just really, really prim and proper and quiet.

3 She was never hurtful or anything like that, nothing

4 like that.

5 Q. You went to school in Coatbridge. Was that primary

6 school or were you already in secondary school by the

7 time you arrived?

8 A. Both.

9 Q. What about school? Did you enjoy school?

10 A. I liked school, yeah. I liked school. I felt safe in

11 school, that's the way it ended up. I felt safe in

12 school, glad to be out the house.

13 Q. Were you able to make friends at school?

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. The friends you had, were you able to play with them

16 outwith school hours or go and see them or they'd come

17 and see you at your home?

18 A. Yeah, yeah, no problem.

19 Q. At paragraph 64 of your statement, 'Rose', you tell us

20 when you were at high school in Coatbridge that you got

21 very good results in the first year you were there.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. What kind of results were you getting?

24 A. I was sixth in the class. We had a class of 30 or 32.

25 Q. So you were getting As for your work?

1 A. (Witness nods)

2 I think it was like 23 As out of 26 or something.

3 The other three were Bs.

4 Q. You also tell us in this paragraph that after the abuse

5 that you're going to tell us about later on started,

6 there was a change in your academic performance at

7 school?

8 A. Skid row, right down. I -- I couldn't -- I couldn't

9 cope with school. I -- I was tired, constantly tired.

10 Getting up for school, I didn't want to be there.

11 I didn't want to be anywhere ... school.

12 Q. You tell us in your statement that after the abuse

13 started, all your marks went down to Cs, Ds and Es.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. What kind of time frame did it change from when you were

16 a top A student to someone who was getting --

17 A. A year. A year.

18 Q. You tell us that you've kept your own school reports.

19 A. I've got them.

20 Q. And you have those in your house and you can see the

21 difference both before and after --

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. -- the abuse started.

24 A. Because there was a part in my records where the social

25 worker had said about I should be proud of my

1 achievement, but there wasn't another one for the next
2 year. There was nothing.

3 Q. You mention next in your statement at paragraph 65 that
4 the housemaster -- is it the housemaster or the
5 headmaster?

6 A. No, the housemaster. You were in different houses in
7 secondary.

8 Q. Got you. You think he may have been called Mr Timmons?

9 A. Timmons or Tinny, I'm not sure, because I couldn't read
10 the report. I can't read the writing.

11 Q. Right, okay.

12 LADY SMITH: Oh, that's you tried to decipher handwriting?

13 A. Yeah. Not good. Clever people don't write well.

14 MS RATTRAY: You tell us that there was a time that he took
15 you into his office?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. What kind of conversation did --

18 A. He wanted to know if anything was going on, what's
19 happening at home, is there anything -- and I couldn't
20 explain, because I didn't understand how to -- how to
21 explain it. I didn't understand myself what was going
22 on. How -- why -- what it was. I was really quite
23 immature. At 13, I was wasn't the same as a 13 year
24 now, aye? Anything to do with sex, anything to do
25 with -- even your body development. Nothing. Really,

1 really immature. I had no knowledge, really.

2 And I ended up just thinking it must just happen to

3 people that lose their mums. That's what I thought.

4 Q. So you attributed the abuse you were experiencing as

5 this is just what happens to people who lose their mums?

6 A. Mm-hmm. Because bad things had happened in the home.

7 And it's just the same. This is what happens when you

8 lose your mum.

9 LADY SMITH: When you talked about the home, you were

10 talking about Smyllum?

11 A. Yeah.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

13 MS RATTRAY: Obviously the housemaster had noticed there was

14 something wrong, otherwise he wouldn't have had that

15 conversation with you. Do you know whether he did

16 anything about it further, other than speaking to you?

17 A. Can't remember anything. I can't remember how long

18 after it that I wasn't there. I can't remember. I just

19 remember going to his office that once. I think after

20 that it was a social work visit, Mrs Blue, but that's --

21 that's all I can remember. In between: nothing.

22 Q. I think you suggest in your statement that he may

23 have --

24 A. Something.

25 Q. -- made some reference to the social work department,

1 because it wasn't long after that you had a meeting to
2 see a social worker?

3 A. I did, yeah.

4 Q. In what other ways did the abuse that you were suffering
5 at the time impact upon your schooling?

6 A. I couldn't concentrate on anything. I wasn't
7 interested. I was just really, really angry inside.
8 And I didn't know what to do. I didn't know how to make
9 it better. I didn't know anything about it. I really
10 couldn't cope with school. It ended up I was even
11 fighting with friends. Attacking them. Easily wound up
12 because -- I don't know if it says, I was drinking as
13 well. I was drunk at 13 and I remember going into the
14 house and nobody says anything, they just thought, "Oh,
15 EXG is doing something bad". But nobody says anything
16 about drink. I was stoating off the walls on the way up
17 to bed.

18 Q. I think you say that you started skipping school as
19 well?

20 A. Aye, docking school, yeah. Writing my own notes.

21 Q. Your own notes?

22 A. I wrote my own notes. I could write fancy, a lot of
23 curls.

24 Q. Those notes, were these notes that you gave to your
25 teacher for a reason that you weren't at school?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Okay. Over the page to page 18, 'Rose', you tell us
3 about, after being taken to your teacher's office at
4 school, you were then told that you had to go to the
5 social work department at one stage in Coatbridge.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Who was it you spoke to there?

8 A. Don't know. Don't know her name. I remember feeling
9 quite anxious about going because I didn't know where
10 the building was, I had to go myself after school.
11 I remember going in and all I remember about her was she
12 was dressed in blue and she took me in her car to my
13 auntie and uncle's house and when I got to my auntie and
14 uncle's house they were angry, because they didn't want
15 anybody speaking to me without them being there. But
16 I never says anything anyway. I can't remember any
17 conversation with her.

18 Q. Can you remember at all whether she might have asked you
19 if there was a problem or anything like that?

20 A. No. I just thought she was weird because of the way she
21 was being.

22 Q. This person who you had to go and speak to, had you ever
23 met her before?

24 A. No.

25 Q. So she was a complete stranger to you?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. What about any other social work visits? Were there any
3 ever visits to your home?

4 A. I remember them coming in a few times, and it was like
5 everybody sitting Sunday best, straight up. They'd go:
6 "How are you doing?"
7 "Fine."
8 "How's school?"
9 "Fine."

10 Q. So it was very formal?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. You say that you were in your Sunday best, so do I take
13 from that that your aunt and uncle were aware in advance
14 when the social worker would be calling?

15 A. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

16 Q. On those visits, did you ever get a chance to speak to
17 this person on your own?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Do you know whether it was the same social worker that
20 came for the visits or were there different social
21 workers?

22 A. I can remember maybe two visits with the one social
23 worker, but I don't even know her name, I can't remember
24 her name.

25 Q. It wasn't someone that you were able to establish

1 a relationship with or a rapport with?

2 A. No. They were more speaking to my auntie and uncle than
3 they were to me. All they were going to get out of me
4 was "yes" and "no" anyway, and "fine", because
5 I couldn't say anything. I was scared. Scared to -- to
6 really say what's going on, because I couldn't explain
7 what was going on because I felt it was my fault.

8 Q. Do you remember whether anyone ever spoke to you about
9 why your school grades had changed?

10 A. Nope. Nope.

11 Q. Did your aunt and uncle encourage you with your school
12 work?

13 A. When I come home from school, I'd go up the stairs, get
14 changed and do my homework. Then after I'd done all my
15 homework then it would be dinner time. Then I'd go out
16 to play. But I'd done my homework. It wasn't as if,
17 "What are you doing? What do you need?" Nothing like
18 that, I done it myself.

19 Q. They weren't showing an interest in the homework you
20 were doing that night?

21 A. No, they didn't no.

22 Q. Or whether they could help --

23 A. No.

24 Q. I suppose they wouldn't have known then whether you were
25 doing your homework or not or how well you were doing

1 it?

2 A. Just the report card that I got.

3 Q. You tell us, 'Rose', that you ran away?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Tell us what happened there.

6 A. It was -- the boys kept tormenting me, mostly the older
7 one. Embarrassing me. Saying words, "Do you know what
8 this means? Do you know what that means?" And things
9 like that, embarrassing me. They got a school photo
10 I took and they put it in a frame on the wall and they
11 made a big joke, they were all sitting there, "Oh guess
12 what, you're framed", and I said "I don't know what
13 you're talking about' and they were all laughing at me
14 because my photo was in the frame. I took the photo and
15 I ripped it up. I don't like my photo getting taken.
16 Right? It was hurtful. It was hurtful things and
17 I didn't understand a lot of the things that they were
18 saying. I just -- I wasn't comfy with them and I ran
19 away and I told them that I didn't want to go back and
20 it was a phone box. I phoned -- I had to phone them at
21 the time and it was my uncle that says, "Listen, I've
22 spoken to them", I don't know if he ever done to them,
23 and he says, "They'll do nothing to you again, **EXG**".

24 Then it was like they were all friendly then, then
25 it went from the friendliness to the touchy-feely stuff.

1 Q. You mentioned that your uncle may have leathered the
2 boys for treating you that way.

3 A. I'm saying that, aye.

4 Q. Generally speaking, when it came to discipline within
5 the house, what was that like?

6 A. Well, it was only when I stole, that's I'd say the first
7 thing I done, was when I stole. I wasn't allowed out,
8 never got any pocket money, then when I did get pocket
9 money I had to pay it back for the money that I stole.

10 Q. I think you tell us that your uncle was quite strict
11 about some things?

12 A. As I say, I was a teenager. I wasn't allowed -- I think
13 I came back from my sister's with nail varnish on, I'd
14 been with her for the weekend, and, "Nail varnish on,
15 get it off". I was lying on the floor watching telly
16 and my legs were swinging, "Stop it, you've got a skirt
17 on, pull your skirt down".

18 Things like that, and I wasn't aware of me, but he
19 was making me feel self-conscious about me.

20 Then it was a boy at school that we all hung about
21 together, I had his phone number. [REDACTED]

22 "Can I phone him?"

23 "Who's that? What do you mean it's a boy, is it a
24 boyfriend?"

25 "No, he's my friend. Not a boyfriend."

1 I didn't even know what a boyfriend was. He was
2 a pal. I wasn't interested in boyfriends and I wasn't
3 allowed. I couldn't phone him again. Just saying what
4 are you doing in school tomorrow, or whatever. It was
5 nothing, or meeting up after school. Nothing else.

6 Q. You mentioned that you'd been stealing and you were
7 punished by not being given pocket money and so forth.
8 Can you tell us the circumstances in which you came to
9 be stealing?

10 A. I shared the room with my big cousin, she had lots of
11 nice pretty things. She had make up and all that. So
12 I opened up her drawer. £20 in it. I thought about it,
13 I thought about it, and I took it. I bought fags,
14 sweeties, ginger and shared it with my pals. Three
15 days. Three days it lasted, fags for everybody else ...

16 Then I think I went to take another one, because
17 I enjoyed it, and when I took the other one, I think
18 that's when I got caught. I can't remember if it was
19 £10 at the time, but I took the money the second time
20 and I remember my big cousin going down the stairs and
21 screaming at her mum, "I've lost money", blah, blah,
22 they kept going "No, no, no", everybody's going,
23 "Where's this money", all the rest of this and the five
24 of them were there and I just said, "I took it". And
25 they were all, "Why? Perfect wee **EXG**". Sorry,

1 'Rose'.

2 Q. You also tell us at a time you were involved in
3 shoplifting --

4 A. That was later on?

5 Q. -- in Glasgow when you were 13.

6 A. That was later on. And for Christmas presents, I was at
7 my big sister's, she was in doing Christmas shopping.
8 She went away to do some stuff and let me with my big
9 brother and went into shops, into Woolies. "Want to get
10 Christmas presents, EXG ?" Sorry I keep saying --
11 'Rose'. "Want to get Christmas presents for everybody?"
12 Went in another shop, more stuff. Back into Woolies,
13 then got ... got caught.

14 Q. You tell us that happened when you were getting
15 Christmas presents, it was just before Christmas.

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. What was your aunt and uncle's reaction to that?

18 A. Disgusted. I know I was there for Christmas. Nobody
19 was like talking to me. Nobody was speaking to me.
20 I was getting the cold shoulder off everybody.
21 Everybody was just not interested. I know it was
22 Christmas. And I got a cardigan. That was my Christmas
23 present. Everything got took off me, whatever it was
24 I was supposed to get. But I got a cardigan.

25 Q. I think you say at paragraph 74 of your statement that

1 your aunt and uncle didn't want you there --

2 A. No.

3 Q. -- after that, and you left that placement shortly after
4 Christmas.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. I'm now going to move on to what was happening to you in
7 your aunt and uncle's home at that time, which perhaps
8 explains the change in your behaviour and your school
9 marks and everything which you've described.

10 You tell us about that from paragraph 75. As far as
11 you're able to, can you tell us what was happening to
12 you at that time?

13 A. First recollection, I woke up in my bed. I could feel
14 somebody touching me. Feel something moving. And
15 I was: what is it? And it was basically: what the fuck?
16 He was down the side of my bed. So he flew out the room
17 and I can still see him going into the hall, I can still
18 see -- I knew who it was. And I was just -- I was up
19 pacing about the room. I'm sure my big cousin was away
20 to Spain.

21 Previous to it, we were becoming more friendly. It
22 was like playing wrestling before dinner, playing
23 wrestling and all that stupid things, but as if he was
24 my best pal. That is the way I felt, as if they were --
25 that was them being nice.

1 So that was my first recollection of it.

2 LADY SMITH: 'Rose', if I can just check, your recollection

3 is that was the oldest of your boy cousins?

4 A. Yeah.

5 LADY SMITH: How old was he?

6 A. I go by age, my sister's age, my brother's age, it's

7 kind of up the scales.

8 LADY SMITH: Roughly?

9 A. He must have been about five -- four -- at least -- my

10 brother's four -- he was older than my brother. My

11 brother's three years older, he's older than that, so he

12 must have been four to five years older than me.

13 LADY SMITH: You were how old when this first happened?

14 A. I think 13.

15 LADY SMITH: Right. So he'd be late teens?

16 A. He'd be 17/18, because he was underage drinking so he

17 wasn't 18.

18 LADY SMITH: Ah, right, thank you, that's helpful.

19 MS RATTRAY: You were telling us that initially he seemed to

20 be friendly --

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. -- and I think if I understand the position, after you

23 boy cousins --

24 A. After I'd run away. After I'd run away they were being

25 nicer, "Do you want to play games? Do you want to play

1 marbles? Do you want to play cards?" Things like that,
2 and being all right.

3 But before he touched me, I remember coming home
4 from school, sitting in front of the dressing table, my
5 shirt was off, I had a bra on, a bra that my pal gave
6 me, a red bra. As I said, my cousin had nice things for
7 a girl and so I jumped onto her bed and she had all
8 these T-shirts with maybe a wee diamond on or a wee
9 flower o it and it was in her cupboard, and I remember
10 going like that to take out a T-shirt and I just looked
11 down and seen a pair of feet and I was like: what?
12 What? Freaked out, what? Next thing his brother comes
13 in, "Have you seen him? We're playing hide and seek",
14 and I was like, "You get the fuck out of my fucking
15 room, you fucking dirty creepy bastard, get out".
16 "We're only playing hide and seek. We're only playing
17 hide and seek".

18 I don't know how many times he'd done it. I don't
19 know if that was just the first time I caught him,
20 because I had the same routine every day what I was
21 doing. I didn't bother with any of them, right? I came
22 and went to my room.

23 And it was after that all the touching stuff
24 started.

25 LADY SMITH: So, 'Rose', you saw his feet?

1 A. Yeah.

2 LADY SMITH: Was he standing up --

3 A. Underneath the bed, lying underneath the bed watching
4 me.

5 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

6 MS RATTRAY: This was a time you had your routine coming
7 back from school --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- so this would be a time when perhaps you were
10 changing out of your school uniform?

11 A. Yes, that's what I was doing. Because after that, maybe
12 the following week, the younger one, he had
13 a skateboard, he liked skateboards, and he opened the
14 magazine up and he goes like that to me, "You're just
15 like that".

16 "The skateboard? What you are talking about?"

17 "Flat, haha."

18 Right? And I was like, oh, you know, you know.

19 LADY SMITH: As in flat-chested?

20 A. Yes. But I was like, "What are you talking about?"
21 I didn't know he was talking about that. Then I say to
22 one of my pals and she told me what it was. And that
23 was like -- that means he'd seen me as well, right? So
24 he'd seen me and his brother had seen me and I don't
25 know how long his brother had been doing it for.

1 I don't know if that was me when I caught him. Because
2 there was nobody else in the house.

3 MS RATTRAY: You realised that you were being watched.

4 A. Aye.

5 Q. And they were creeping into your bedroom. You've
6 mentioned the touchy-feely about the time --

7 A. Aye, it was after that.

8 Q. What happened in relation to the touching, feeling, was
9 that something which happened on more than one occasion?

10 A. Yeah. It happened when my cousin was gone away. She
11 would go and stay with her friends. She was 21 or
12 something. I dreaded her going away. Weekends.
13 Because she was away, I'm sure she was in Benidorm, and
14 I can't remember if it happened again that week, but
15 there was -- I'd wake up, I woke up, I'd wet myself.
16 I'd woke up and all I can smell is Buckfast. I didn't
17 know it was Buckfast at the time. He must have been
18 kissing me. I used to play dead. I thought if I don't
19 wake up, if I don't do anything, if I just lie here
20 dead, I'll be fine.

21 Q. When he was touching you, whereabouts on your body was
22 he touching you?

23 A. Down below.

24 Q. As far as you're aware, was it the one boy cousin that
25 was doing this?

1 A. Yeah. As far as I know, because I kept my eyes shut
2 tight? So as far as I know. Because I only ever seen
3 him going out the room once.

4 Q. You told us before when you were choosing which aunt and
5 uncle to stay with and you wanted to stay with the one
6 who was closer to your siblings --

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. -- about the thing that had happened previously when
9 you'd stayed there.

10 A. Because I'd forgotten about that.

11 Q. Was that the same boy cousin or a different --

12 A. Same boy. The same one. But I didn't connect that.
13 That was out the window. That incident when I was about
14 five year old, that was forgot about. That was not back
15 in my head until everything else started. It wasn't in
16 my head.

17 Q. When everything you have described happened you then
18 thought back --

19 A. It was even later on than that. It was probably later
20 on.

21 Q. For how long did this kind of behaviour last? Did it
22 carry on for days? Weeks? Months?

23 A. If it was for the summer to the December till I left, it
24 could have been six months or it could have been 18
25 months.

1 I do not. I don't know when -- when he physically
2 started or the creepy watching started, I don't know.
3 I know it was only in first year when I had the red bra,
4 right? And I never left there until halfway through
5 second year, so there's 18 months.

6 Q. You've obviously described your aunt and uncle and being
7 quite prim.

8 A. And prude.

9 Q. And prude and strict and so forth. Was there any way
10 you could have told maybe your Auntie [REDACTED] what was
11 happening?

12 A. I didn't understand what was happening myself. As
13 I say, I thought it was what happened. I thought it was
14 what happened. It must be what happens because it's not
15 my mum I'm staying, it's not my dad, it's not my brother
16 and sisters. This must be what happens.

17 Q. During the period when this started to happen, that's
18 when your school work started to slide --

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. -- and you started skipping school?

21 A. (Witness nods)

22 Q. Drinking?

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. Stealing.

25 A. Yeah. I couldn't sleep. Couldn't sleep.

1 Q. If you couldn't sleep, were you in your bed expecting
2 this to happen or ...

3 A. I just -- I would be wakened when it did happen.
4 I would be wakened up for the rest of the night. Then
5 it was time to get up for school, because my auntie was
6 going to work, my auntie went to work before the schools
7 opened, so she would wake us then go to work. So it was
8 only us that was in the house.

9 Q. We know that after the shoplifting episode that you say
10 your aunt and uncle didn't want you there any more.

11 A. (Witness nods)

12 Q. And you left some time after Christmas.

13 A. Aye.

14 Q. I think we know it's early 1979. Where did you go and
15 stay after that?

16 A. I used to go to my big sister's at the weekend, not
17 every weekend, just now and again, and I went on the bus
18 myself, right? When I'd been a wee bit younger my aunt
19 and uncle used to drop me off at my other sister's and
20 I'd stay there for the weekend, or my brother's, but I'd
21 stay with my sister, my nephew and nieces. But I knew
22 the buses, I knew how to get from A to B. I used to run
23 across the motorway, when I ducked school, I'd run
24 across the M8 to get to the area where my family was.

25 Sorry, what did you ask me then?

1 Q. I can understand what you're saying, but what I was
2 talking about was when you were leaving, you were no
3 longer going to be living with your aunt and uncle?

4 A. I asked my big sister, because previously I'd been there
5 before, "Can I come and stay with you?" So I was
6 actually staying there and I remember being on the phone
7 and my uncle telling me, "We don't want you. You've
8 hurt your auntie too much, we don't want you here.
9 You've hurt her too much". So that was that. Because
10 I didn't like in my records when I was saying it was me
11 that didn't want to go back. Maybe there was a part of
12 me that didn't want to go back but it was they told me,
13 my uncle told me.

14 And even after I'd left, he worked near the new
15 school I went to and he'd look at me like a piece of
16 dirt in the street whenever he seen me. He'd just about
17 spit at my feet. But I asked my big sister, "Can
18 I stay?" And I couldn't at that time, so I ended up
19 going to another sister's. She couldn't take me at that
20 time, I had to go to one of my other sister's then and
21 I ended up there.

22 Q. I think from what you describe, you spent much of the
23 remainder of your childhood moving between your sisters?

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. Because sometimes they were able to take you and

1 sometimes they weren't.

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. When you were moving between your sisters during that

4 part of your life, were you still at the same school or

5 did you have to keep changing schools?

6 A. Different schools.

7 Q. Sorry?

8 A. Different.

9 Q. Different schools?

10 A. Mm hm.

11 Q. Presumably changing schools means you have to start

12 making new friends again and ...

13 A. To an extent, the school that I ended up in, that I'd

14 decided I wasn't going to change again, was the school

15 that when I was in primary, my first primary, they were

16 in that school, and my big sister was already at that

17 school. So when I went, there was a lot of people that

18 remembered me from primary. And I'm a smoker, as I say,

19 if you're a smoker, you've always got pals. There's

20 always a smoking bit to go to.

21 So that was -- it got that matter of fact when I was

22 changing schools, "Oh, what are you here for? Where are

23 you from? Where do you stay?" And I just used to ...

24 rattle it off, it didn't matter.

25 Q. I think you say at paragraph 82 of your statement,

1 'Rose', this is when you were staying with one of your
2 sisters, that there were issues there because your
3 brother-in-law was a gambler.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. So he would be using up all the money in the house. You
6 tell us you told your social worker that you had nothing
7 to eat, no clothes to wear, there were no birthday
8 presents?

9 A. He was another one that done that. It wasn't so much --
10 we'd been promised, we'd been promised you're going to
11 get £30 each for your birthday, we were born the same
12 day, so we told our pals, didn't we? They thought we
13 were rich, we were -- oh, we were going to get the best
14 clothes and everything else with this £30. We got
15 nothing. He spent the money as usual.

16 On occasion the electricity get cut off. My big
17 sister would come down with sandwiches and flasks to
18 feed us. We had to go to school. There was no hot
19 water to get washed. No iron for uniforms. Ironed the
20 uniform under the mattress of the bed. No school money,
21 so no lunch money. We had a bus pass so we were
22 supposed to come home. Hopefully there would be
23 something to eat when we came home at lunchtime, then go
24 back to school again.

25 When I told the social worker, he had a wee meeting

1 with my brother-in-law in the pub. They had a pint.
2 And whatever it was he's told him, but then he left him
3 in the pub with a pint. He's came home, said to my
4 sister what I've said, and my sister got me that night
5 by the throat, "Don't ever let them know about anything
6 that happens in this house again". So I didn't.
7 I didn't tell the social worker anything. Didn't tell
8 him much to start with, because I didn't know them. And
9 seeing about how well the social worker -- how he got on
10 with him.

11 I said me and my sister are born the same day. He
12 came in, "Happy birthday, there you go", to my sister,
13 and I was like:

14 "Where's mine?"

15 "What are you talking about?"

16 "It's my birthday as well."

17 I got nothing. I think he even meant to get me the
18 same -- it didn't matter. You're my social worker. You
19 should know my date of birth. You should know
20 everything there is to know about me and you know
21 nothing. You know nothing. So.

22 Q. I think you make the point there we know from your
23 records that during this period when you were moving
24 between various households of your siblings and all of
25 this was going on, that you were still under the care --

1 you were still formally a child in care --

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 Q. -- and you weren't discharged from care until

4 ██████████ 1983 --

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. -- is the date we have.

7 In relation to leaving care, you tell us about that
8 from paragraph 87 in your statement. What do you
9 remember about formally leaving the care system? About
10 anyone explaining to you about adult life or support or
11 anything of that nature?

12 A. Nothing. I used to dream of being 18 so that I would be
13 an equal. Nobody would be able to bully me, push me
14 about or tell me what to do ever again.

15 When I turned 18, I found out I was in the lion's
16 den, down there having to claw up again. There was no
17 support. There was no ... no skills. No budgeting.
18 How to get a house, how to live, how to get a job, what
19 do you get a job for. I didn't know anything. I knew
20 nothing, absolutely nothing, about adulthood and how to
21 behave. I thought when you went to adulthood everything
22 was good. And it wasn't. It wasn't. But no advice.
23 Nothing. I think they were just glad. Tick. Tick the
24 box. That's another one away.

25 Q. I'm going to move on now, 'Rose', to impact, and turning

1 to page 25 of your statement, here you tell us the
2 impact on your life that the experiences you've
3 described to us have had upon you. I think at
4 paragraph 95 you make reference again to the impact it
5 had on your education.

6 A. Mm-hmm. I didn't know about colleges, universities. My
7 grades weren't good enough. I know my grades were bad,
8 because no matter how much I'd promised myself I'll try
9 and get back on track, I could never get back on track.
10 But there was nothing with social work, you can get into
11 education, you can get into training, you can achieve
12 somewhere and get to -- and keep moving and moving and
13 moving. There was nothing. I knew nothing about it.
14 I thought you had to be rich. It was only rich people
15 that got good jobs. Only rich people that got good
16 education.

17 Q. One of the matters you raise, and I know it's a matter
18 you want to speak about, 'Rose', at paragraph 101 of
19 your statement on page 26, and you tell us that you
20 blamed yourself for what has happened to you and what
21 happens in life.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Can you help us understand your thinking, your feelings
24 about that?

25 A. When I was leaving, before I left Coatbridge, I remember

1 the social worker getting into me saying, "It's all your
2 fault, you've done all these wrong things". Then it was
3 when I was moving -- because I actually moved, I didn't
4 stay that long at my other sister's after that, and it
5 was me that was making all this happen. I had to take
6 a look at myself and see how wrong I was. That
7 everything that I was doing that was wrong, it was me
8 that was instigating it all. It was my fault. So from
9 then, everything is my fault. I believed everything was
10 my fault. If World War 3 had happened then, it would
11 have been my fault.

12 It was me. It wasn't anybody else hurting me or
13 doing anything wrong. It was me.

14 Q. You've seen your records, 'Rose', and I think we
15 actually see a couple of examples of that in your
16 records, where it appears that the message is being
17 given to you that you were at fault because of the
18 breakdown of the placement at Coatbridge.

19 Perhaps we can have a look at that just now. That
20 record is at NLC-000000208. I'm going to turn to page 3
21 of this section of the records. We see that these are
22 your social worker's case notes. I'm looking at the
23 entry which is dated 19 January 1979 and I think there's
24 maybe two entries which look like they're dated that and
25 it's the second one and about six lines down there, and

1 we see a quote here and it says:

2 "Her impression was that she was being ignored at
3 Coatbridge and the original theft and then the
4 shoplifting appear to have been an attention-getting
5 ploy. I put forward the idea that interest and
6 attention was a two-way deal and perhaps her own effort
7 has been somewhat lacking but got virtually no response
8 to this. She perhaps has an idealised picture of family
9 life and blames any difficulties that arise on the fact
10 she is a foster child."

11 Is this an example of --

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. -- you being told that you are responsible?

14 A. Yes, and I had to take responsibility for my own
15 actions.

16 LADY SMITH: At that stage you were -- you're not yet 14 --

17 A. No.

18 LADY SMITH: -- in January 1979, you're still 13 years old?

19 A. 13.

20 LADY SMITH: Just thinking back, 'Rose', how many places had
21 you lived by then?

22 A. One, two -- that was my third. That was my third in
23 Coatbridge. But the year on that, that's what I am
24 saying, when it says I left further on in the year. It
25 says Tannochside office. I wasn't staying there, I

1 wasn't staying in Coatbridge then, if I had to go to
2 Tannochside office.

3 LADY SMITH: That was three places in the six years or so
4 since your mum had died?

5 A. Yeah.

6 LADY SMITH: One of which was Smyllum?

7 A. Yeah.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MS RATTRAY: If we look at another entry in those records on
10 page 10 of this particular document, it's the entry of
11 26 January 1979, the second paragraph of that entry,
12 I think it's towards the bottom, but we see in amongst
13 there it says from the social worker:

14 "I attempted to get 'Rose' to examine the various
15 causes of the placement failure in Coatbridge, but she
16 was unable or unwilling to see that she had any direct
17 responsibility for the failure."

18 A. I hadn't done anything wrong. It was done to me.

19 I don't even know that social worker's name.

20 Q. Yet it must have been very obvious from the change in
21 your behaviour and they seemed to recognise that it's
22 attention-seeking in a way, perhaps a cry for help, and
23 yet their view is that you were responsible?

24 A. Mm-hmm.

25 Q. No one asked you further as to what could have been

1 wrong or why you were behaving in this way or --

2 A. No, because I still didn't understand the abuse, the
3 sexual abuse. I still didn't understand what that was.
4 I was 17, brought up Roman Catholic. I didn't know what
5 a virgin was. That's how stupid I was. I wasn't
6 interested in boys or anything like that. All I wanted
7 to do was write and do work. That was all I used to do,
8 homework, homework, homework. I wasn't interested.
9 I would go to play, as I said in the previous places
10 I was into my music, I was into my swimming. There was
11 no help. They were forgot about. I could read music at
12 nine year old and play music at nine year old. I was
13 a champion swimmer. None of it. They didn't
14 encourage -- there was no encouragement to the things
15 that I could do. Nothing. Nothing at all.

16 Q. I'm going to turn now to your statement on page 30,
17 paragraph 115, where I think you are able to help us in
18 relation to lessons that we can learn from your
19 experiences. I think you speak about essentially that
20 children have to be able to trust the people they are
21 speaking to.

22 A. Got to get to know them. I'm an adult and I am
23 struggling, and this is maybe about the sixth time that
24 I've been through my statement and I am struggling.
25 Imagine me the first time. It took my doctor 15 years

1 to get it out of me, because I would not break the rule
2 of silence. I could not do it. For whatever. Whether
3 to hurt my auntie, hurt me, hurt my family, I could not
4 disclose it. And the social worker, like I say --
5 I don't even know their names. I know one. In fact,
6 there might have been one when my mum was still alive or
7 just died, a Mrs Meikle, because she was nice. So it's
8 not that I didn't know who they were, I was in a wee
9 bubble of my own. It wasn't like that. I was there,
10 but I do not know their names because there was nothing.
11 There was nothing. They were just somebody that came in
12 to tick a box. And, as I say, because it was always --
13 especially at Coatbridge, as I say, sitting upright,
14 "Right, here we go", for the event, for them to look
15 good.

16 As I say, when I stayed there, as long as I was,
17 "Yes, sir, no, sir, three bags full, sir", everything
18 was great, I did as I was told. But as soon as I went
19 a wee bit, I felt as if nobody was interested. They
20 just pulled me right down again. They just pulled me
21 right down and they didn't -- they didn't think.
22 Because on the outlook, this is a good family. This is
23 a good family. A good Christian family. They work.
24 They're not on drink, they're not on drugs, whatever.
25 Whether that was even an issue then. I don't know. The

1 house was clean. Tidy. There was food.

2 Q. At paragraph 116, 'Rose', you also tell us that children
3 can tell lies as well, but if an adult thinks a child is
4 telling lies, what do you think the adult's response
5 ought to be?

6 A. Find out why. Find out why they're telling lies. I've
7 got my own family, I've got a mega family, and I know
8 there's problems in certain houses. Maybe there's no
9 sexual abuse or physical abuse, but there's abuse going
10 to. Because I know their bairns when I'm talking to
11 them they're talking a lot of crap. I can see beyond
12 it. But I know why they're hurting, I know why they do
13 it, but I can see beyond it. Because they just make up,
14 "Life is so great", when it's not.

15 Q. I think you make a point at paragraph 117, 'Rose', and
16 you tell us that children are in care because they need
17 help. Help them.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And that you grew up without a cuddle.

20 A. Yeah. I used to meet my sister, the one that's a year
21 older. Have a cuddle. On her birthday we'll have
22 a cuddle.

23 I don't even cuddle -- my children ask me, "Mum, can
24 I have a cuddle", I'm not comfortable, I'm just not
25 comfortable. They're not allowed to sneak up on me,

1 they are not allowed to touch me, or I'll freak. And
2 that's my own children.

3 Q. Over the page, on the final page of your statement, you
4 tell us it is about the importance of love. Tell us
5 what you say here.

6 A. Don't be afraid for them -- they should never be afraid
7 to ask. In one of the houses I was in, they thought
8 I didn't like sweets till I stole one. And I said
9 because I like them. But you've never asked. I didn't
10 feel as if it was my place. Not that they were stopping
11 me from asking, I just felt as if it was not my place.
12 Or maybe it was when I had my mum, I never had to ask,
13 it was there. It was there. Everything that I ever
14 needed was there for me. I didn't need to ask for
15 things.

16 Q. From what you tell us, you felt loved by your mum --

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. -- but there was no love for you when you were in care?

19 A. They were getting on with their life with their own
20 families. I don't mean they didn't love me, but there
21 was nothing like affection shown. There wasn't any real
22 affection shown to me. I was there and I could watch
23 them cuddling their own children, but not me.

24 I remember my sister gave me a cuddle when my dad died,
25 I was 17. I was 17 when he died and she cuddled me for

1 about 30 seconds and that was it. No.

2 Q. You say:

3 "... there was no care, nothing. You were put out
4 there and fed and clothed, but that was it. You were
5 left to wander about on your own. You were still lonely
6 in your head. You got used to it. Children in care
7 need to have love shown to them."

8 A. They need somebody to trust, somebody who shows them
9 love, "Come and sit here a minute", and you should be
10 comfortable with them as well, you should be able to
11 feel comfortable. But that person should be able to
12 feel comfortable giving you a cuddle, now everybody is
13 scared to touch anybody. But there should always be
14 somebody that you can go to, always. There should
15 always be a communication and a connection made with
16 somebody and it should be somebody who's there, maybe
17 hopefully throughout. Maybe not for the full ten years,
18 but for three years, for four years, none of this
19 jumping out every six months not knowing who they are.
20 You can't -- you can't make a connection with anybody
21 like that.

22 MS RATTRAY: 'Rose', I have no more questions for you and
23 I just want to thank you very much for helping me by
24 answering all the questions I had.

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

1 application for questions.

2 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

3 Are there any outstanding applications for questions
4 of 'Rose'?

5 'Rose', that does complete all the questions we have
6 for you, but before I let you go, I want to say a huge
7 thank you to you for all the effort you have put in to
8 engaging with us, both to provide your written statement
9 and I do recognise what you say about the stress of
10 going through it again, going through your history as
11 many times as you have done, but please be assured it's
12 been of enormous value to us. It's a great help to me
13 in the learning that I seek to do here.

14 And go away valuing yourself, would you please.
15 I have heard such careful, thoughtful insight from you
16 that is remarkable in the circumstances of somebody who
17 had such a lack of stability and support as yours
18 growing up. It's not going to be forgotten.

19 A. Thank you.

20 LADY SMITH: So thank you so much, and please go away and
21 rest now.

22 A. (Witness nods)

23 Thank you.

24 (The witness withdrew)

25 LADY SMITH: We'll stop now for the lunch break and I'll sit

1 until [REDACTED] 1981.

2 On that date she moved to the [REDACTED] She was
3 there until [REDACTED] 1982.

4 On which date she was moved to the [REDACTED] which she
5 says in her statement that she'd been with them at
6 an earlier stage for a brief period, and I don't have
7 a record of that, but her final foster care placement,
8 it appears, was with the [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] 1982 to
9 [REDACTED] 1983.

10 'Sadie' also had periods in institutional care,
11 which are covered in her statement.

12 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

13 MS INNES: The relevant successor is the City of Edinburgh.

14 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15 'Sadie' (sworn)

16 A. That's very loud.

17 LADY SMITH: No, that's very helpful to us, 'Sadie'.

18 A. Yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: I was just about to reassure you that's in
20 a great position, if you can stay somewhere around
21 there.

22 A. Yeah.

23 LADY SMITH: The red folder has the hard copy of your
24 statement in it, just to your left, you'll be taken to
25 that in a minute or two to check things in it, but we're

1 also going to put your statement up on the screen in
2 front of you.

3 A. Oh right.

4 LADY SMITH: And move to the relevant parts of it, you might
5 find that helpful.

6 A. Yeah, that's probably better, thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: Yes, it's quite useful. You don't have to use
8 it, but if it's a helpful prompt --

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: -- it's there for you.

11 But 'Sadie', other than that, I know we're asking
12 you to do something difficult.

13 A. Yeah.

14 LADY SMITH: And it's pretty tough coming into a public
15 forum and being asked to talk about not just your own
16 life, but about particularly difficult things in your
17 life --

18 A. Yeah.

19 LADY SMITH: -- some of which may be more distressing than
20 you imagine once we ask you to talk about them here.
21 I get that. I do understand.

22 Anything we can do, whether it's giving you a break
23 or just letting you pause while you're there or
24 something else that I haven't thought of that would
25 help, please let me know, because it's very important

1 that we do what we can to enable you to give the best
2 evidence that you can.

3 A. Thank you, Lady Smith.

4 LADY SMITH: Let me know if there's anything at all that
5 arises. Any questions you have, just ask. Unlike maybe
6 at times when you were a child, you're allowed to ask
7 questions here, we like questions.

8 A. Right

9 LADY SMITH: So feel free.

10 If you're ready, I'll hand over to Ms Innes and
11 she'll take it from there. Is that --

12 A. Thank you, your Ladyship.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

14 Ms Innes.

15 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

16 Questions from Ms Innes

17 MS INNES: 'Sadie', we understand that you were born in
18 1966. Is that right?

19 A. Yes, that's correct.

20 Q. The witness statement that you gave to the Inquiry is up
21 on the screen and we give it the reference
22 WIT.001.001.6345. If we can look, please, at the final
23 page of that statement, it will come up, it's page 25,
24 and we see paragraph 123 there saying:

25 "I have no objection to my witness statement being

1 published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry.

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

4 I think you signed this statement on 24 July 2017?

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. If we can go back to the beginning of your statement
7 again, please.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You tell us a little of your memories of your life
10 before you were taken into care. You tell us there that
11 you're one of seven children; is that right?

12 A. Yes, that's correct.

13 Q. You mentioned three older brothers?

14 A. Yes, that's correct.

15 Q. So there's three older brothers, yourself, and then you
16 have sisters as well?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How many sisters?

19 A. Sorry.

20 Q. It's okay.

21 A. Four.

22 Q. Okay. Were they all children of your father and your
23 mother?

24 A. No. My mother liked to go out dancing and enjoying
25 herself and she met two other men besides my father and

1 she subsequently became pregnant and so they had
2 different fathers.

3 Q. Okay. Is that two other sisters then from what you have
4 said?

5 A. Yes, that's correct. Sorry.

6 Q. Do you have any memories of living at home with your
7 parents and your brothers and sisters?

8 A. Only with my mother at the very beginning, but the
9 problem was she would disappear and go out and leave us,
10 and we were left to cope. One time my sister had her
11 arm burnt because she was left to -- she was left to
12 look after us, basically, and she was I think about 12
13 or something, like quite young herself, and I also burnt
14 my leg and burnt my foot quite badly, where I had to be
15 taken to hospital and operated on. I remember that.

16 But sometimes she would just like leave us and then
17 we would go to the neighbour's, but I didn't know there
18 was such a thing as a father or a dad. And then one
19 time I just went to -- went to see him, but then he hit
20 me.

21 Q. Okay. Was that by the time that you were in care, you
22 think?

23 A. I think that might have been -- must have been in the
24 beginning, I can't exactly remember.

25 Q. Okay, that's fine. Don't worry about that. You can

1 remember living with your mum and you've told us the
2 sorts of things that were going on then.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. You tell us that you had some time in care, perhaps you
5 were put into care temporarily and then back to your mum
6 again?

7 A. Specifically when my mother had one of my little
8 sisters, who didn't have the same father as me, you
9 know, and no way the social work -- there was social
10 work involvement, but she still had custody of us.

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. But she couldn't cope. I mean, I remember social
13 workers came for a visit and it was like a mountain --
14 not quite a mountain, but a big pile of washing. But
15 then she did have so many children, including me, and so
16 it's just like ... you know. And not always being got
17 up for school. I was always late. Not my fault, you
18 know.

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. I always arrived there and, you know, was spoken to by
21 the teacher and things like that.

22 Q. Okay, yes, so you tell us in your statement at the end
23 of paragraph 4 that, as you've said there, that your mum
24 really had too much on her plate, she had too much to
25 cope with with seven children.

1 A. Yeah. I don't know if I'd mentioned in my statement,
2 but I don't know if she had been diagnosed as diabetic
3 at that point.

4 Q. Was that something that you're aware of that happened at
5 some point?

6 A. I think -- I don't know, but she -- she became diabetic
7 and that's what she died of eventually.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. But I wasn't there when she died, but that was later,
10 years later.

11 Q. You then tell us on page 2 that you had some time in
12 residential care and you remember having been at school
13 before you went into residential care.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. But then there came a point at paragraph 9 of your
16 statement that's on the screen there --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- that you went to live in Livingston with a family
19 called the FPC-FPE ?

20 A. Yeah, but the Redhall one, they didn't let me go to
21 school, that was the other thing. For six months I had
22 no schooling and that had an impact on my learning
23 because it turned out years later I was diagnosed with
24 being dyslexic and dyspraxic and dyscalculus, so that
25 made a difference -- it impacted on my education and

1 what happened, you know, after I left school.

2 But yes, I went to live -- you say the [FPC-FPE] ?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. Yes, and I think that lasted quite a number of years,

5 I think about four.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. But I'd have to get you the dates and so on.

8 Q. We have --

9 A. Right, you've got the dates.

10 Q. -- the dates, 'Sadie', so we know it was from

11 [REDACTED] 1973 until [REDACTED] 1977?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So you're absolutely right in terms of your recollection

14 that it was about four years that you were with them.

15 A. And those -- the [FPC-FPE] they should never have been,

16 you know, looking after any children. They were

17 absolutely brutal.

18 Q. Okay, we're going to come to that in a bit more detail.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. You tell us -- I just want to ask about what the

21 [FPC-FPE] were like. At paragraph 9 you say that you

22 think that they were in their 50s?

23 A. Something like that. They were definitely old.

24 Q. Who else was living in the house when you were there?

25 A. They had adopted a boy called [REDACTED] I was told that he

1 LADY SMITH: You'd have been about six years old?

2 A. Yes, that's correct. When I arrived, first of all,
3 I would be about that age.

4 LADY SMITH: So a group of around seven children, starting
5 at a six-year-old and upwards.

6 A. Yeah.

7 LADY SMITH: Really busy.

8 A. Yeah.

9 MS INNES: If we go on over the page to page 3 and
10 paragraph 11, you say that you feel that you got on okay
11 with the other children in the house?

12 A. Well, yes and no.

13 Q. Okay, can you tell us about that?

14 A. Well, there's a -- I saw the brother and sister having
15 sex with each other. That was disgusting. You know ...
16 But mostly it was okay --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- apart from that awful thing.

19 Q. Did you feel able to speak to anybody about what you'd
20 seen?

21 A. One time, my sister was still there and she was at high
22 school, because I remember her reciting German on the
23 bed when she was like doing her homework, and then
24 I couldn't get to sleep so **FPC** the father,
25 he came in and he said, "Are you not getting to sleep?"

1 And I said, "No, I'm having difficulty", and he just --
2 he grabbed my hair and just hit my head off the wall and
3 he said, "That'll put you to sleep".

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And I just ... it was just ... there was also the fact
6 that they made me wear a nappy. I was six. And put me
7 in a high chair. Didn't show me how to use a knife and
8 fork.

9 Q. If we go down to the bottom of this page, please, you
10 talk about the food, that it was --

11 A. Oh, they used to just boil the vegetables like to inch
12 of your life, it was like disgusting. And then they
13 would also -- if you didn't eat something, you were
14 given it for breakfast the next again day.

15 Q. What would happen if you didn't eat it the next day?

16 A. They would give you it again.

17 Q. For dinner, for your tea?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Okay. So eventually did you have to eat it, whatever it
20 was?

21 A. Yeah. Otherwise you'd get a thrashing.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. There was other things about ... to do with toilet and
24 things that they would ... you would -- I would try to
25 go to the loo if I needed during the night, and they

1 would catch me and beat me, and then I was also -- I had
2 a problem with wetting the bed. They were no longer
3 making me wear nappies at this point. I couldn't help
4 it, it's embarrassing, but, you know, I must have had
5 something wrong. And then I was wetting my bed and then
6 because they wouldn't let us go to the toilet and they
7 kept beating ... and then having to do it on the carpet
8 because they wouldn't let me go.

9 And then eventually I figured well, I didn't want
10 any beatings, so I had to do it in a pail.

11 Q. Did the same happen with -- you said you and your sister
12 shared a room together. Did the same thing --

13 A. Ms Innes, this is the thing, is when he banged my head
14 off the wall, my sister ran away.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. My big sister, [REDACTED]

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And the social workers actually turned up and they said,
19 "We want to speak to you", and they took me into a room,
20 right, but I didn't know whether I was going to get
21 another ... beating from them, so I just thought --
22 I didn't know what was going to happen and I just
23 thought I'll just -- I denied it. I said, "No, that
24 didn't happen", but I knew it did. But they didn't say
25 what would happen, whether they'd take me away or

1 whatever. So I just stayed there.

2 Q. Okay, you've told us about this time that Mr FPC
3 came in and hit your head off the wall --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- and your sister ran away --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- just after that. Do you know roughly how old she was
8 at the time or what year she was in in school?

9 A. She was in first or second year of high school, because
10 she was learning German.

11 Q. Okay. How many years younger are you than your sister?

12 A. I don't know, because we didn't live together but
13 a couple of years.

14 Q. Okay. So she's maybe a couple of years older than you,
15 you think?

16 A. Yeah, I was at primary school and she was at high
17 school. I think I was in primary 2 or 3 so I was seven
18 or eight, something like that.

19 Q. Oh right, okay. You say that after your sister had run
20 away, was the next thing that you knew that you were
21 being seen by some social workers?

22 A. Yeah, and she was away.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. They didn't make her come back.

25 Q. Were these social workers that you had seen before?

1 A. I'm not very sure.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Because we -- over my time in care I'd had a number of
4 social workers. Anyway, these social workers turned up
5 and took me into this room and asked me these questions
6 about what had happened and I -- I was just too -- too
7 frightened.

8 Q. Okay. Was this room in the [REDACTED] house or was it
9 somewhere else?

10 A. Yes, it was in the [REDACTED] house.

11 Q. Were either of Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in the room as well?

12 A. No, thank God, but I still feared them because -- you
13 know, every other day -- every other night I was
14 getting ... just ... hit with slippers or hands or
15 whatever, you know.

16 Q. Your sister didn't then come back to live in the house
17 with you?

18 A. No.

19 Q. But you stayed?

20 A. I stayed.

21 Q. Can you remember how you felt about that at the time?

22 A. I was like -- I wished I'd been braver, but I didn't
23 know whether -- what was going to happen, you know.
24 I didn't know where they were going to put me and I just
25 thought, "Right, I'll just say it didn't happen".

1 Q. When you're saying you were saying it didn't happen,
2 were the social workers asking you about --

3 A. Yes. They asked me about the specific accusation that
4 my big sister ██████ had told them. They said, "█████
5 your sister, has said that ..." I think it was FPC ██████
6 FPC ██████ had hit my head off the wall. See, we used to
7 be in bunk beds and she was on the top and I was on the
8 bottom. And he just went and done it just like that,
9 and she saw him coming in and she saw --

10 Q. What he did, she knew what he did?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. So the social workers were asking you about that?

13 A. Yes, they were asking me questions about that. And
14 I just said, "No, no, it didn't happen", and I just --
15 I just denied it. And then they left.

16 Q. After that time did you have any contact with your
17 sister that had been living with you?

18 A. Yes, off and on.

19 Q. Okay. You tell us that there was a time that you ran
20 away, at paragraph 18.

21 A. Yes. That was quite something, you know. I walked with
22 this other girl, ██████ sister, I think it was
23 ██████ sister, and we walked all the way back to Leith
24 from Livingston. I think it was along the motorway,
25 actually. Or some stretchy road that was. It was quite

1 some distance, and we were only about I think ten or
2 something, maybe round about that age.

3 Q. This other girl was fostered as well, was she?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Why were you heading to Leith? Did you have any sense
6 of where you were going?

7 A. Oh yes, that's where her mother lived.

8 Q. I see.

9 A. So we got there, but then her mother phoned the social
10 worker and they came and got us and we were back there.

11 Q. Why had you and the other girl decided to run away?

12 A. I think we were fed up of getting beaten. Well, me
13 particularly. Like to do with my bed-wetting. Every
14 time I did that, which was no fault of my own, they used
15 to put me in a cold bath. Every time I wet the bed.
16 They used to beat me. In the cold bath. So ...

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And then I figured a way of not getting a beating, not
19 getting caught. My sister actually had to -- she was
20 made to give me this cold bath.

21 Q. When she lived there --

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. -- she was made to give you the cold bath?

24 A. Yeah. She said, "I'm sorry", and she tried to put a bit
25 of warm water in, but I think she was caught.

1 Q. Okay. If we just go back up this page, at the top of
2 the page you talk there about school.

3 A. Why he.

4 Q. You've already mentioned the lack of schooling that you
5 had before.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you can remember going to St Andrew's Primary
8 School?

9 A. Yes, that's in Livingston.

10 Q. How did you get on at school there?

11 A. Well, because I'd been moved and then missed some
12 schooling and that, I was -- I was sort of I think
13 deemed slow and things like that, you know. My
14 schooling was all a bit messed up. I was in remedial,
15 I think, set.

16 Q. At this point you weren't aware of there having been any
17 enquiries --

18 A. No.

19 Q. -- or anything to find out that you were dyslexic, as
20 you say that you discovered later?

21 A. It's only just recently in the last couple of -- about
22 a few years ago I got the diagnosis of that through
23 an employment psychologist.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. But in the same week I got a 95 per cent essay, so that

1 was all right. In law, so ...

2 Q. If we can go on, please, you've talked about some of the

3 things that happened at the FPC-FPE

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. If we can move on, please, to page 5, at the top of the

6 page at paragraph 19 you've already told us that because

7 of what happened you had to go to the toilet on the

8 carpet.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. You say that you think the social workers saw this?

11 A. Yeah, they came -- I remember specifically that they

12 came and FPE was showing them, "Look what

13 she's been doing", but she didn't say, well, you know,

14 all about the other stuff, of course, because that would

15 have landed her in, you know, trouble, the police and --

16 you know. She would end up on child cruelty charges,

17 I reckon, for beatings and the like.

18 Q. You can remember the social workers being there and

19 Mrs FPE saying that to them?

20 A. Yeah. She lifted up the carpet, I remember that.

21 I forgot to put -- I think --

22 Q. No, that's okay. You remember her lifting up the

23 carpet?

24 A. Yeah, she was showing the carpet to them. And I felt

25 deep shame. I just -- but they didn't -- I don't seem

1 to remember them asking me why I was doing that.

2 Q. You've told us about the time that you remember being
3 taken into the room by the social workers and then this
4 time as well when the social workers were at the house.
5 Can you remember other visits by the social workers to
6 the [FPC-FPE] when you were there?

7 A. Maybe -- I think maybe, because I had to -- I think
8 I went -- yes, I would have had to because I think they
9 took me to my father.

10 That was the other thing that I couldn't work out,
11 you know, years later on reflection. My sister
12 [REDACTED] had been raped by some guy and then my dad did
13 the same to her, my brothers did the same to her. And
14 then I think she must have said something or they found
15 out that that had -- they had suspicions, and so they
16 took her into care, into foster homes. She ended up in
17 a particular home in Edinburgh.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. And then he did the same to me. You know? That's what
20 I don't get. They knew -- they had enough suspicion to
21 take her away, and then he -- he -- I thought at the
22 time that he'd raped me. But the actual fact is it's
23 sexual assault.

24 Q. I think you had some contact with your father when you
25 were living with the [FPC-FPE] and that was facilitated,

1 you think, by the social work department?

2 A. Yeah, Ms Innes, yes.

3 Q. You're saying that you can't understand why that was

4 allowed to happen?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Given the history of your sister having been taken away

7 from him?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. And that's your older sister [REDACTED]?

10 A. Yes, [REDACTED] my older sister.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. There was just -- I just -- you know, it was one thing

13 if they didn't have any suspicion and hadn't taken her

14 away. But the -- from what I can remember is that she

15 was taken into care and then they let him have access to

16 me. And that's when he did this -- did to me.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. There was also times I had to go in between her and he

19 would get in bed and then he'd -- because he couldn't --

20 I was trying to protect her so that he didn't do it to

21 her, and then he ... then he tried it on with me and

22 then he punched me.

23 Q. I think you had some contact with your father, not only

24 when you were at the [REDACTED] FPC-FPE [REDACTED] but maybe a wee bit later

25 on as well?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Okay. If I can go back to the FPC-FPE if that's
3 okay --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- and just ask you about a couple of other things that
6 we've not talked about yet.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. If we can --

9 A. Can I say about something, sorry?

10 LADY SMITH: Please do say.

11 MS INNES: Please do.

12 A. One time Mrs FPE, FPE said to me,
13 "I gather [words to the effect] you have been sharing
14 a bed with your brother ?" And I said, "Yeah", and
15 then that was the last time I went to visit my dad.
16 I didn't go and -- I don't think I went and visited him
17 after that. Or I wasn't allowed to stay overnight or
18 something like that.

19 LADY SMITH: Was your brother with your dad?

20 A. Yes.

21 MS INNES: Yes, I think you -- you must have spoken to
22 the -- or the foster mother must have become aware of
23 what the sleeping arrangements were --

24 A. (Witness nods)

25 Q. -- and you remember her asking you about that?

1 A. Yes, it was in the kitchen.

2 Q. Then after that your recollection is that it was a while
3 before you saw your dad again?

4 A. Yes, I think so.

5 Q. Yes, okay. On page 6 of your statement at the top of
6 the page you say that you can remember seeing a child
7 being thrown down the stairs at the FPC-FPE ?

8 A. Yes, Ms Innes. What had happened was one of the -- one
9 or two of -- I think the boys, they stole some
10 Haliborange. It's like in the great scheme of criminal
11 activity I don't think it's up there with, you know,
12 great crimes and misdemeanours. But anyway they were so
13 enraged that all I seen was them coming down the stairs
14 and being at the bottom of the stairs and I think it was
15 FPC threw them down.

16 Q. Okay. You talk about something that happened to another
17 child called who you've mentioned?

18 A. Yeah. Me and her were in the bedroom. She was sharing
19 with me at that point, because my sister had left, so --
20 you know. This was at the side of the house. And she
21 was having problems with her teeth, I seem to remember,
22 I think it was a wisdom tooth. Anyway, she was having
23 problems. And I think FPC came in and he
24 said something about the noise or, "You're crying", and
25 just like whacked her one. You know? And then she was

1 more screaming, she was like, "Ah", you know. She did
2 more crying, more screaming because he'd hurt her face.

3 Q. Okay. You also tell us at paragraph 27 about a cardigan
4 and putting a hole in a cardigan by accident?

5 A. Yeah. It was quite -- I think it was quite a nice
6 cardigan. I think it was from like somewhere like the
7 Isle of Skye or something, because it had patterns and
8 things and buttons. I don't know how but I'd got a hole
9 in it and that got me another thrashing. So I was
10 always worried about like wearing clothes and getting
11 another beating.

12 And for some reason she either wouldn't -- I was
13 brought up Catholic and you have to make your Holy
14 Communion and she either couldn't afford it or wouldn't
15 buy me a Holy Communion dress and the nuns, I think it
16 was the nuns or somebody from the school, went to this
17 cupboard and then there was this dress, and I was able
18 to make my first communion and then I got a photo taken.

19 Q. Did the FPC-FPE come with you to your first communion?

20 A. I don't think they were Catholic.

21 Q. So even although they didn't come to see that or
22 anything or mark it in any way?

23 A. No.

24 Q. No? Okay.

25 You said that the FPC-FPE thrashed you or beat you.

1 Did they both do that? Was it both Mr and Mrs FPC-FPE ?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Were they hitting you with their hands or did they have

4 implements?

5 A. Oh, it would be like anything I think they could get

6 their hand on. Whether it was a slipper or a shoe or

7 their hand.

8 Q. Did you see that happen to the other children in the

9 house as well?

10 A. No -- well, apart from --

11 Q. The things that you've told us about?

12 A. Yeah. And mostly me.

13 Q. If we go down to paragraph 29, you describe -- well, you

14 say:

15 "Mrs FPE the mother, was an absolute cow but he

16 was an absolute sadist as well. You couldn't really

17 win."

18 A. Yeah. Because when I tried to go to the toilet you got

19 a beating or you didn't go and I couldn't help it, you

20 know, you got a beating. And then they would give you

21 like Sunday lunch with these like horrible bits of fat

22 on meat and you had to eat it all, so, you know.

23 Q. Okay. You've already said that you didn't know why

24 social workers entrusted --

25 A. No, I just think they -- people would, you know, put

1 themselves forward but I don't think they really, you
2 know, scrutinised or did proper vetting.

3 You know, I think in that time as long as you didn't
4 have a criminal record or didn't say anything too -- you
5 know, making them have alarm bells and, "No, we're not
6 going to give them to them", as long as they passed
7 interview and if they didn't have any convictions,
8 then -- but I don't know if it -- hopefully it's changed
9 now and you have better people.

10 Q. If we go on to page 7 at paragraph 32 you talk there
11 about leaving the FPC-FPE How did it come about that
12 you left the FPC-FPE can you remember?

13 A. That was really bizarre. I don't know whether I came
14 home from school or I'd been out and then all of
15 a sudden FPC-FPE were no longer
16 there, but her sister was there. I think I'd met her
17 briefly the time before, something, been introduced to
18 her, you know, very briefly. And there she was there
19 and she looked after us for the rest of the time we were
20 there.

21 Q. How long did that go on for?

22 A. Weeks. It was weeks or maybe a month or two.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And it wasn't -- like social workers didn't turn up and
25 say, "Oh, Mrs FPE and Mr FPC have decided to

1 give us fostering and her sister's going to be looking
2 after you", it's just that that's what happened,
3 Ms Innes.

4 Q. Did you know where the FPC-FPE had gone or --

5 A. No, it was like that they magically disappeared and this
6 woman -- she was actually -- I don't -- I couldn't
7 believe that they were the same -- like from the same
8 family, her sister and her, because she was much -- she
9 was a much nicer person.

10 Q. Was she looking after you and some of the other children
11 that remained in the house?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. After she'd been looking after you for a while, did you
14 then leave?

15 A. Yeah, I was taken -- I can't remember, either the social
16 workers come and told me -- just got took ... be
17 Ferniehill Children's Home. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

18 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

19 Q. Yes. As you know and as you've mentioned we're not
20 talking about that today.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. It is all part of your evidence to the Inquiry, though,
23 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

24

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. -- taken into account by us.

2 A. (Witness nods)

3 Q. After you were at Ferniehill --

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. -- you went to a number of other foster care placements.

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. I want to ask you a little bit about each of these and

8 what they were like, what the people were like.

9 If we can move on, please, to page 15 and

10 paragraph 73.

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. You talk here about the [REDACTED]

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. You say Mrs [REDACTED] was a single mother.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. She had three daughters, one who'd left home and then

17 two other daughters.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. What was living with Mrs [REDACTED] like?

20 A. Oh, she was a bit too religious for me, even though

21 I was brought up a Catholic, it was like -- and she had

22 an eating disorder and she lived on Ryvitas. That was

23 her diet, of Ryvitas.

24 Q. You say it was all right there, it wasn't a very nice

25 area.

1 A. Oh, it was Niddrie.

2 Q. You think you were there for about a year?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Do you know why it was that you had to leave the

5 [REDACTED]?

6 A. I don't know. They just decided to move me on and --

7 Mrs [REDACTED] was -- she was a nice woman, she was a nice

8 woman, and her daughters were nice girls, you know, but

9 it was a bit frightening -- one time we got -- somebody

10 broken into the house and took a loaf of bread. I know,

11 like of all the things they could steal, but there you

12 go. That's what they were interested in, the bread.

13 Q. Where did you go to school when you were living with

14 Mrs [REDACTED]? Can you remember?

15 A. Let's see. I think I would -- I had been at Liberton

16 High, I only was there for a very -- like a term, and

17 then I think I'd started at St Thomas Aquinas.

18 Q. Did you stay at St Thomas' for the rest of your

19 education?

20 A. Yes, the teachers insisted. They said, "[REDACTED] s been

21 moved on too many times". I think that was my sixth

22 school, you know. And they insisted and they fought for

23 me, which I really appreciated, you know?

24 Q. Yes, so I think you'd moved quite a number of times in

25 school as well?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Until you went to St Thomas', and then you stayed there
3 for the rest of your education?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The next people that you talk about on page 16 are the
6 GBV-SPO

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You tell us that they had five of their own children and
9 were the five children all at home with them at the time
10 that you lived with them?

11 A. No. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] went into the RAF and
12 [REDACTED] had -- was in the Navy. So there was [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I think that was it, and me.

14 Q. I think that is all of them.

15 A. And me.

16 Q. Yes. What were the GBV-SPO like to live with?

17 A. Good in a lot of ways, because I wasn't being beaten
18 or -- like GBV [REDACTED] my foster dad, he wasn't a creep, you
19 know, he wasn't a paedophile. He didn't try to, you
20 know, rape me or that. But one time he did hit me and
21 call me lazy.

22 Q. And why was that?

23 A. Pardon?

24 Q. Why was that? Why did that come about?

25 A. I don't know, he said that I hadn't done the housework

1 or something. But neither did he, so, you know.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. My foster mum, she was -- even her own sister said, "You
4 couldn't breathe, FOV [REDACTED] without her say so". A bit too
5 controlling really. So -- but she had got a good heart,
6 you know. I still actually keep in contact and have --
7 you know, go and see her and GBV [REDACTED] and the rest of the
8 family and spend Christmases, that sort of thing, and
9 birthdays --

10 Q. With them?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Do you know how it came about that you moved from them?

13 A. Well, it broke down because I was fighting with her son
14 [REDACTED] who was round about the same age as me. But the
15 problem for me was that I'd been moved about so many
16 times and I just couldn't cope with being in a family.
17 I know it was probably the best thing for me. Just that
18 I'd been used to these homes and -- you know, and all
19 this -- the traumas that I'd -- what I'd seen and had
20 inflicted on me and so it was difficult.

21 Q. Okay. You talk about at paragraph 78 that you remember
22 your social worker, Hilary, asking you what sort of
23 place you would like to live in?

24 A. Yeah. I said, "I want lots of siblings and a pet and
25 a mum and dad and a nice house".

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And she got it. I was like absolutely astounded, you
3 know, because I was like -- I just have this fantasy
4 list, you know, and then she like got me and we went to
5 visit them and I could actually see whether I could, you
6 know, want to live with them.

7 Q. And who was that?

8 A. And that was the [REDACTED]

9 Q. Okay. You talk about that at paragraph 79.

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. What were the [REDACTED] like?

12 A. They were great. They were fantastic. Unlike others
13 who would say, "Oh, I'm a kind person", you know, [REDACTED]
14 was just the nicest man you could have ever met. And he
15 wouldn't say, "Oh, I'm kind" and then not be kind.
16 He'd -- he wouldn't say that, he would demonstrate by
17 the way he treated us, and very loving and committed to
18 his wife and his children. And it was just like the
19 best place.

20 Q. What was Mrs [REDACTED] like?

21 A. Oh, she was very kind. We also had the grandmother
22 living with us. She was -- she used to phone up the
23 social work, "She's not taking me out" -- she did get
24 taken out but she had dementia so she'd go, "I'm getting
25 shopped to the social worker, [REDACTED] FOV [REDACTED]", I would say,

1 "Well, I don't think so".

2 Q. You mentioned that they had children. Were their
3 children still living --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- at home with them when you moved there?

6 A. Yes. I just want to say as well, when you were asking
7 me about Mrs ██████ she was very firm, fair and very
8 kind. And I hadn't had that before. So ... (Pause)
9 Anyway.

10 Q. It's okay. Just take your time.

11 A. Yeah, there was ██████ and ██████ and ██████ and ██████
12 Let's see. And ██████ I think they had -- I think
13 there was five of them.

14 Q. Okay. Were any of them living at home still or had they
15 moved out?

16 A. Yes, most of them -- but eventually ██████ went off to
17 Aberdeen to study occupational therapy. And she would
18 come back every other weekend. But I missed her a lot
19 because she ... and then ...

20 Q. So you got on well with ██████?

21 A. Yeah. And then ██████ was studying -- I think she would
22 have been like first year or second year in law school,
23 so ... but the others were still at school. And they
24 used to rib ██████ because she'd gone from Watson's to
25 Fettes. And they were like:

1 "When you were at Watson's you used talked just like
2 us, and then when you went to Fettes you weren't talking
3 like us."

4 It was like:

5 "And when you were at Watson's you were like, 'Are
6 we on the motorway?' And then when she went to Fettes
7 it was, 'Are we on the motorway?'"

8 It was all that sort of ribbing, you know, good fun.

9 Took me to France and -- and then we went north and
10 they introduced me to their grandad and they said, "This
11 is (unclear)".

12 "All right, okay."

13 And he said:

14 "That's okay, dear, you can just call me grandad."

15 He was lovely. A lovely man.

16 Q. Okay. I think you would probably say from what you've
17 been telling us that the [REDACTED] were an example of
18 what foster parents should be like?

19 A. Yes, because I want to say to people that not all foster
20 parents and even homes are bad. It's just that a lot of
21 mine were bad. But with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] they were just the
22 best, you know. And like having those kind of
23 experiences and lovely food and -- but just very kind
24 and things like that.

25 But we had -- like at the beginning it was great,

1 and then there was like problems because we were arguing
2 with each other and fighting -- a couple of fights and
3 stuff like that because we were -- me and █████ were
4 quite close in age. But we all went to family therapy
5 and then everything was better after that.

6 Q. You're not saying that there were no problems, there
7 were problems, but you were able to get them sorted out?

8 A. Yes, and that helped a great deal and made things a lot
9 better after that.

10 And just like -- I think like any family, there
11 might be squabbles and things like that. And even if
12 I'd lived with my own parents -- I don't think that
13 would have been a good idea, but all parents not
14 necessarily have good experiences, even if you live with
15 them the whole time. But with █████ and █████ it was just
16 brilliant, you know.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Even like when I left, unlike other kids that I've
19 known, they were just like pushed out and they had no
20 support, whereas even though tragically █████ got killed
21 by the drunk driver, I still kept in touch with them.
22 And I was talking to █████, my foster sister, last
23 night, and I said, "You and your family were the best",
24 and she said, "Oh, thanks, FOV █████", she said, "I'm
25 sorry", she said -- I said, "Somebody told me that your

1 mum and dad wanted to adopt me and I was astounded", and
2 then that horrible man just decided to have -- you know,
3 have like Christmas drinks, extra Christmas, you know,
4 and then he not only killed [REDACTED] he made the other
5 passenger a paraplegic for life and killed someone else
6 in the car besides [REDACTED]. Not only did the [REDACTED] lose
7 their mother, [REDACTED] lost the love of his life. And then
8 I had to move.

9 That was the other horrible thing that happened.

10 Q. Yes, you tell us that because [REDACTED] had died, you were
11 taken away.

12 A. Yeah. [REDACTED] -- I didn't know this. She said, "FOV [REDACTED]
13 dad wanted to keep you, but the social workers wouldn't
14 let him", and she did it, but also, I agreed, he wasn't
15 in any fit state because he was grief-stricken and he
16 had all his kids to look after and then I -- had to go
17 to this other -- the [REDACTED] back to the [REDACTED] where
18 I first went when I was little.

19 Q. Yes, so earlier in your statement you mentioned that you
20 were with the [REDACTED] when you'd been little, as you say,
21 and at paragraph 80 you tell us that you went back to
22 the [REDACTED] house again.

23 A. Yeah, that was a horrible place because it was [REDACTED] --
24 I mean, I don't know why they didn't figure out that
25 [REDACTED] was going to be cremated and I was

1 going to be living [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]. I don't think that was the
3 greatest, you know -- being very sensitive -- I was
4 just -- I just found it awful that I'd been sent [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 And also because the place -- like they had no
7 heating on. Like I would go "huh" and you could see
8 your breath. That's how cold it was, Ms Innes.
9 Q. Okay. You say that it was freezing, and of course it
10 was the middle of winter as well.
11 A. Yeah. It was like [REDACTED].
12 Q. You say that there were other children --
13 A. Yeah.
14 Q. Who were they?
15 A. I know [REDACTED] or something her name was, and there was
16 other -- an older guy, he was like -- he had started
17 working in a jewellery store, I remember for some
18 reason, and he was a big black guy -- because all the
19 other kids were white, you know, so he was going to be,
20 like, the same as us. As in colour.
21 Q. The other children, were they all fostered or were they
22 the [REDACTED] own children?
23 A. I think she had -- her and her husband had maybe one or
24 two of their own, but they were mostly fostered.
25 Q. We're on page 17 now, paragraph 81.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. You've already mentioned the issue about being sent to
3 [REDACTED].

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did anybody try to give you support or counselling or
6 recognise that you were grieving the loss of
7 Mrs [REDACTED]?

8 A. No. Like -- I couldn't believe one of my teachers, when
9 I said to her what happened, I said, "My foster mum
10 killed by the drunk driver", she goes, "Don't know why
11 you're upset", she goes, "It's the [REDACTED] that have
12 lost their mother", and I thought, "Oh, right, okay,
13 I'll just get on with it then".

14 No, nobody sat down with me.

15 Q. Not the social worker or anybody?

16 A. No. And they did think -- they said, I think it was to
17 the social workers, "Oh, [REDACTED]'s taken a long time to
18 get over it", and I just thought, "Well, you're not
19 giving me any help".

20 But also, not just that, Ms Innes, it was -- the
21 fact is that I'd been moved about so many times.

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. And my own parents were just, you know, not great. My
24 mother was an alcoholic and my dad was an absolute awful
25 horrid man.

1 Q. There's one other foster placement that I wanted --
2 A. Remember.
3 Q. -- to ask you about and it's on page 19 at paragraph 95.
4 This is people called the GBW-SPO?
5 A. Oh yeah.
6 Q. Can you remember --
7 A. There's another two that shouldn't have ever had any --
8 not even their own children, but being fostered, letting
9 children be fostered by them.
10 He was -- I think he's probably still a policeman,
11 but he worked in the botanic gardens, right, and he's --
12 it was like I was their slave or something, because
13 I was made to do all the ironing, right. Okay, getting
14 on with the ironing. But I didn't do it correctly, so
15 he -- he got out his truncheon and whacked me across the
16 legs. I eventually told my social worker and he said,
17 "Right, you're not there to do their ironing and he
18 shouldn't have whacked you across the leg with
19 a truncheon", so I got moved again and then I was told
20 by my social worker, he said, "FOV they tried to
21 apply to be fostering -- foster parents up in Aberdeen",
22 and the foster -- the social work department just
23 thought, "Oh, that's a bit bizarre, they're trying to,
24 you know, get fostering here when they're living in
25 Edinburgh", and then they were barred.

1 Q. It was your social worker that told you that?

2 A. Yeah.

3 MS INNES: I don't have very much more to ask you about in
4 terms of your evidence, but we normally take a break in
5 the middle of the afternoon so would that be
6 an appropriate moment for a break?

7 LADY SMITH: If it would work for 'Sadie', what do you think
8 if we took a short break now?

9 A. Yeah, that would be fine.

10 Thank you, your Ladyship.

11 LADY SMITH: Very well. Let's do that.

12 (3.01 pm)

13 (A short break)

14 (3.12 pm)

15 LADY SMITH: 'Sadie', are you okay for us to carry on now?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

18 Ms Innes, when you're ready.

19 MS INNES: Thank you, my Lady.

20 If we can move, please, to page 20 of your statement
21 and to paragraph 98.

22 A. Mm-hmm.

23 Q. You talk there about reporting abuse.

24 First of all, you say:

25 "I didn't feel there was any point in reporting

1 abuse at the time."

2 You talk about other kids trying and they didn't get
3 anywhere and you were too scared.

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Does that apply to your sister, for example? Your
6 sister, you say, had reported to the social work
7 department what had happened at the FPC-FPE but --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. -- that didn't mean then that you were moved?

10 A. No.

11 Q. The fact that stayed there and your sister was moved --

12 A. For about maybe a year or two I was left.

13 Q. Did that have an impact on you feeling able to speak to
14 the social worker about --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- what was going on?

17 A. Because just getting more beatings and you think, well,
18 better the devil I know, just because I didn't know
19 eventually when they got -- they moved me, it was going
20 to get worse Secondary Institutions - to be published later

21 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

22 Q. Yes.

23 Secondary Institutions - to be published later

24

25

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

1

2 A.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13 Q.

14

15 A.

16 Q.

17 A.

18

19

20 Q.

21 A.

22

23

24

25

1 Q.

2 A.

3

4

5

6 Q. Have you ever reported to the police the abuse that you
7 suffered at the FPC-FPE, for example?

8 A. No, I have just thought: what's the point?

9 Q. If we can move on --

10 A. Oh, Ms Innes, can I just interrupt you, sorry?

11 Q. That's okay.

12 A. When I -- years after I left care, I'd been in a hostel
13 for homeless people and I disclosed all my abuse and
14 that was the first time I was able to be -- felt that
15 I'd been heard. And they suggested I go to therapy and
16 that therapist and me went to see the head of social
17 work. I don't know if I put that in my thing? But
18 that's what happened. And we had a meeting with him,
19 John Gaunt(?). And he said, "I can't say that I'm
20 sorry, I won't say that", he said, "Because then you
21 could sue me". And I thought, "You're a prince among
22 men, you are!"

23 Q. Okay. I think you tell us in your statement at page 22,
24 paragraph 106, you talk there about telling your
25 counsellor about the abuse.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Is that what you're talking about there?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. That you told her and then she went with you to see the
5 head of social work in --

6 A. Yes, John Gaunt, who was the social worker at that time,
7 he was the head overseer, he was director -- I think he
8 would be the director of social work. And he said,
9 "I can't say I'm sorry, because you'll sue me" and that
10 was it, basically, that was the end of that
11 conversation. And I thought what a waste of time.

12 Q. Did he listen to what you had to say about the abuse
13 that you had suffered?

14 A. Not really. Well, it wouldn't have mattered anyway
15 because I just felt like it just wasn't going anywhere
16 and I didn't feel that he was interested enough or --
17 you know.

18 Q. Okay. If we move on from there to page 24 and
19 paragraph 117 --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- you talk there about asking the social work
22 department for your records.

23 A. Yeah. And all I got was about eight pages and then
24 subsequently, because I'm going for the redress scheme,
25 you know, for what happened to me, and my solicitor,

1 she's very nice, she said, "FOV [REDACTED] the other clients
2 I've got", she said, "they have about 90 pages and
3 you've got 900", so I said, "Oh, I'm really sorry,
4 you'll have your work cut out for you with all that
5 reading". I said:
6 "Have you not got that new software?"
7 "Not when it's handwritten, no, it doesn't work on
8 that."
9 Q. You said you only got a few pages?
10 A. Yeah, when I first got -- at the time when I tried to
11 sue the first time and I asked for my records, I got
12 about eight pages.
13 Q. And were these pages --
14 A. And it wasn't even all of the places that I'd been in,
15 it was a couple of them.
16 Q. Right. Were the eight pages that you got redacted?
17 Were they blanked out, can you remember?
18 A. One or two words I think were redacted. I've got them
19 at home.
20 Q. And now your solicitor's got 900 pages?
21 A. Actually she's waiting for them to come -- I'd left it,
22 the first time I'd contacted her and she goes, "We'll be
23 getting them", and I thought she'd already got them and
24 read them and then I have telephoned her and I left
25 a message and I said, "When you've got a moment, please

1 give me a ring, hope you got through all that reading",
2 and she phoned me and she said, "No, we've not even got
3 them, they've not even redacted them", and I thought,
4 "Oh God, she's got all that to go".

5 Q. She's waiting for them from the Local Authority?

6 A. Yeah. I thought they hadn't -- like they didn't have
7 them. That's what -- I'm sure I was told the last time
8 that I think they said they had lost them or -- you
9 know, because like how many children did they have to
10 look after and years and years of children being in
11 Local Authority care. And I just thought, oh, right.
12 And then she tells me that there's 9 -- she said, "Most
13 of my clients that are applying through this scheme: 90
14 pages. FOV 900".

15 I thought dear God, she's got her work cut out for
16 her, poor woman.

17 Q. You go on at paragraph 118 to talk about some lessons
18 that we should learn from your experience. One of the
19 things that you have mentioned in your evidence is that
20 you were moved about a lot?

21 A. Yeah, even one of my foster sisters, the GBV-SPO we
22 were out and she goes, "FOV you should have been
23 adopted". I thought: if only, that would have been
24 great. Or even put in boarding school I think might
25 have been, you know, a solution. Where at least I would

1 have been in one place.

2 Q. How did you feel about moving from one place to another,
3 new people, new --

4 A. New rules. New ways of relating. Different routes
5 and -- like, you know, it was like -- like go to a new
6 family and you go, "All right, you're so-and-so and
7 so-and-so, and this is like this ..."

8 I talk to people about my two families and they go,
9 "And who are they?" And nobody can keep up. I think
10 maybe I should just put up a big chart or something like
11 that and say, "This is this person and this is how
12 they're related", that kind of thing.

13 Q. So each time that you had to move to a new family, you
14 were saying that you had new -- well, they're new
15 people --

16 A. New rules.

17 Q. So you had to work out who was who in the family?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. New rules?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Even things like new food?

22 A. Yeah. Like giving me -- I thought they had -- the
23 ██████████ they had given me a cup of tea and I was
24 drinking and I was thinking, "Have you watched the cups
25 out?" And they said, "What's wrong?" and I said, "It

1 tastes like you've not washed it out properly and it's
2 got soap", and they go, "No, that's Earl Grey tea".
3 I was used to Tetley or Scottish Blend or those kinds of
4 cups of tea, I wasn't used to -- and all sorts of
5 different kinds of food and the way that they talk to
6 each other and things like that.

7 Like when my foster sister [REDACTED] she was second,
8 I think she was like second oldest, she said, "Come and
9 meet dad". So I went, "Okay", so we went into his study
10 and she goes, "This is [REDACTED], so right he's not called dad,
11 he's called [REDACTED] "... or [REDACTED]". One time she dived
12 on him in John Lewis and went, '[REDACTED]', and
13 everybody was just looking, going: Who's this woman?
14 So funny.

15 Q. You also have mentioned the number of changes of school
16 as well --

17 A. Yeah, six.

18 Q. -- and that had an impact on your education and your
19 ability to --

20 A. Well, it's difficult. I found -- I was reading
21 a report, I thought bloody -- excuse my French, but
22 cheek, they said that I was not very intellectually
23 bright. I thought, well, if you had creeps/perverts
24 trying to interfere with you the whole -- you know, most
25 of the time or from time to time and you didn't know who

1 was a good person, who was not going to -- you know,
2 trying to interfere with you or beat you, then, you
3 know, you might have great deal of difficulty retaining
4 any information at school.

5 Q. Just to pick up on something that you said there, you
6 mentioned people that are creeps and you've said, you
7 know, Mr GBV you established he wasn't a creep.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. So each house that you went to, you would be
10 assessing --

11 A. Oh, you have to be -- it was like I was being in the SAS
12 without being in it, you know. You had to be like:
13 who's going to be a threat? Who's not going to be
14 a threat? Who's going to be kind? It was just like ...
15 you know.

16 Q. You've talked in your evidence already -- at
17 paragraph 120 you talk about vetting and you mentioned
18 that already and you say --

19 A. Oh, I was going to say -- sorry, Ms Innes.

20 Q. That's okay.

21 A. That when I was at the FPC-FPE and I'd wet the bed
22 once, Mr FPC just grabbed my hair and he just like
23 rubbed my -- and he said, "You're like an animal" or
24 something like that and he rubbed my face in the wet
25 sheet. He also used to tell me I was thick as two

1 planks of concrete, because that's what he worked with,
2 you know. And he used to say to me every other day like
3 that.

4 Q. That was how he spoke to you?

5 A. That's how he spoke to me.

6 Q. You talk here at paragraph 120 about people presenting
7 themselves as having a good job or being religious --

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. When they're being vetted to be foster parents, I think
10 you're meaning. You say there that you hope that the
11 social work department will be able to ascertain whether
12 they have the best interests of the child at heart and
13 won't do harm.

14 A. Yeah. I hope that children now or in the near future,
15 that they get better calibre of people who are going to
16 be kind to the children that they look after.

17 I'm not saying it's easy. It is difficult. And,
18 you know, kids who have been traumatised because of
19 being on other places, it's not easy and you need to
20 give them better training and choose better people.
21 A combination of both, I should surmise. I should
22 think.

23 Q. At paragraph 122, you also talk about you needed extra
24 help because of what you were going through and what
25 you'd been through.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Again from your experience, do you think that that's
3 something that's important for children who are in care?

4 A. You should have -- when they've been through various
5 moves and everybody just goes -- they should be given
6 psychological help.

7 Q. You say there that children should have somewhere to go
8 so that they can tell and be believed.

9 A. Yeah. Some -- I don't know. Somebody that the children
10 know that they can go and talk to people that's
11 independent, kind of sort of thing. Because otherwise,
12 you know, they eventually grow into adults and they
13 either perpetrate crime or sexual crimes -- like my
14 brother, you know, tried to rape me and then only years
15 later I found out that my dad had done it to him.

16 So, you know, all these children who have got
17 various traumas. You want people to grow and thrive and
18 fulfil their potential, whatever that is, you know, and
19 not visit the trauma that they've, you know, accumulated
20 in life on others.

21 Q. When you're talking about them having somebody
22 independent, do you mean somebody independent of the
23 social work department?

24 A. Yeah. Sort of a charity or an organisation that have
25 people who are experienced and they've got the best

1 interests, that children is at the heart of what they're
2 about, and helping them to heal, helping them to grow
3 and thrive and -- they can't undo, like just what
4 happened to me. The reason why I'm here is to tell for
5 all the kids that haven't been able to talk about what
6 happened.

7 Q. Mm-hmm.

8 A. No.

9 Q. You talk in this paragraph about maybe a combination of
10 kids who have been in care or a panel, so --

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. -- you think it might be helpful to have people who have
13 experienced care to be part of this organisation or --

14 A. Yeah, but I also think like -- unlike me, I mean some of
15 it's been rubbish, right, but some of it's been like
16 really excellent. I still am in touch with my foster
17 family, the GBV-SPO, [REDACTED] and GBV, and even
18 though [REDACTED] died in tragic circumstances, I still have
19 contact with all the [REDACTED] I texted [REDACTED]
20 yesterday and I said that she and her family had been
21 the best, you know.

22 And then, you know, before [REDACTED] died, he was then
23 a judge and I used to phone him up. One time I went up
24 with my dad's will and he said, "Yes, that's all correct
25 but you can ask for somebody else's legal opinion", and

1 I said, "No, it's all okay, [REDACTED] I think we'll be fine
2 with yours".

3 He was a very bright man, but he was very humble at
4 the same time and had humility that, you know, he didn't
5 know it all or -- but occasionally I would phone him up
6 with an essay question and he would give me something
7 and I thought, "Oh, that's quite good", but also I'd
8 just phone him up and go up and see him and he'd go,
9 "All right", and he'd call me "chicken" or "sausage".

10 He was still there, even though that [REDACTED] had died in
11 tragic circumstances. And I still go and see my foster
12 mum [REDACTED]'s sister and we have chats on the phone or I'll
13 go and see her. She's a farmer.

14 Q. Yes, so your positive experience during childhood has
15 also given you contacts throughout your life.

16 A. Yeah, unlike a lot of kids. They're just, "Off you go,
17 that's you, you're into the" -- like my sister, my
18 own -- I met her just recently, though I can't have
19 anything to do with them, it's just too traumatic.
20 There's always a drama or someone's crisis, you know.
21 And she said that when her care place -- her foster
22 parents, you know, she was moved from one to another and
23 she said that they just gave her a bag and she was put
24 into this flat in a high rise and she was just left to
25 get on, you know, with -- you know, without making sure

1 she paid the bills and all that sort of thing that goes
2 on with when you have a flat, you know, and just I think
3 that needs work.

4 Q. Yeah, that there needs to be support to transition to
5 independence.

6 A. Yeah. Because when you, like, have your own parents in
7 other circumstances, you're not just, "Off you go". You
8 know, they will phone up and say, "Can I come down and
9 do my washing?" Or, "This has happened", or whatever.
10 You know, problems happen. Or, "Oh, I passed my exams",
11 or whatever it is you phone up your parents about.

12 MS INNES: Okay, thank you very much --

13 A. Thank you very much.

14 MS INNES: - 'Sadie', I do not have any more questions for
15 you and there are no applications, my Lady.

16 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for
17 questions of 'Sadie'?

18 'Sadie', that completes all the questions we have
19 for you, but I don't want you to go without taking the
20 opportunity to thank you so much for engaging with us.
21 You told us about when you got 95 per cent for a law
22 essay. Well, I'm more than happy to award you
23 95 per cent for the quality of your engagement with
24 us --

25 A. I am not putting that on my resume.

1 LADY SMITH: -- and your commitment -- you've seriously been
2 committed to the task and very fair, which is so
3 helpful, that you've pointed out what you want to
4 describe that was really bad and distressing, but also
5 that you've been at pains to make clear to us what was
6 good, that there can be good fostering.

7 A. Yeah.

8 LADY SMITH: And that's also valuable.

9 You've done a lot for us by not just giving us your
10 written statement but by coming here today. Thank you
11 so much.

12 A. Thank you very much.

13 I'd just like to say thank you to all the people who
14 are working on this, because without you, lots of
15 people who haven't been heard are getting their
16 experiences heard -- and not just one person saying what
17 happened to them in a court case or, you know, if
18 they're suing, but because hopefully together all cases
19 ... and not just the ones who are in the private schools
20 or an institution, but fostering and other placements,
21 you know, it will hopefully make a great deal of
22 difference to children and young people going forward.

23 So thank you very much, everybody.

24 LADY SMITH: Not at all.

25 A. It can't be easy listening to it day in and day out, so

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Friday, 8 July 2022)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

'Steven' (read)1
'Yvonne' (read)25
'Deborah' (read)36
'Scott' (read)54
'Rose' (sworn)64
 Questions from Ms Rattray66
'Sadie' (sworn)112
 Questions from Ms Innes114

