

<p>1 Tuesday, 2 October 2018 2 (10.00 am) 3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Day 2 of 4 this public hearing. 5 Mr Sadd? 6 Housekeeping 7 MR SADD: Chair, may I start with some short matters before 8 we go on to continue with the opening statements from 9 some core participants? 10 First, a couple of corrections to yesterday's 11 evidence. I referred yesterday in my opening statement 12 to Chief Superintendent Helen Chamberlain asking 13 DCI Rob Griffin to provide some practical advice to the 14 senior investigating officer in relation to the approach 15 to Operation Daybreak. Chair, this is at page 102 of 16 yesterday's transcript. I've been informed by 17 Nottinghamshire Police that it was in fact Chief 18 Superintendent Helen Jebb who asked DCI Griffin to 19 provide this advice. 20 So the correction there is Helen Jebb, please. 21 Secondly, at the end of my opening, I set out some 22 practical issues in relation to witness evidence. 23 I said that in the case of witnesses whose evidence is 24 to be read, their witness statements will be available 25 at some point on the website.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 We won't, in fact, be publishing the witness 2 statements of those witnesses whose evidence is to be 3 read. The evidence as read on to the transcript will 4 stand as these witnesses' evidence. 5 Chair, I also wish to clarify my reference to 6 witness statements that are neither given live nor read 7 being placed upon the website at some point. This 8 doesn't my to all witness statements and won't, for 9 example, include complainant witness statements. 10 Chair, one more thing. We're very conscious that 11 during the course of yesterday's hearing we had a number 12 of serious failures over many years that led to sexual 13 abuse of children and we completely understand that 14 emotions can run, and do run, high. However, chair, 15 it's important that everyone seated in the public 16 gallery in the hearing room allows the opportunity for 17 witnesses and core participants to be heard and avoids 18 interruptions. 19 This isn't just out of respect for you and for the 20 inquiry's proceedings, but it's also so that everyone in 21 the hearing room, including others seated in the public 22 gallery, can hear the proceedings properly and 23 uninterrupted. 24 I should say that you're used to hearing and 25 weighing submissions and evidence carefully, and it's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>
<p>1 not necessary for additional emphasis to be given to 2 them from the public gallery for you to hear everything 3 that is said. 4 Chair, as Mr Smith pointed out a moment ago, there 5 are two annexes available and, perhaps in those annexes, 6 where, if people feel that the evidence they're hearing 7 requires them to let out a sense of grievance or 8 unhappiness, in those annexes may be the perfect 9 location to do so rather than the public hearing room. 10 Thank you very much, chair. 11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Sadd. I endorse everything you've 12 said. 13 Before going on to hear further opening statements, 14 could I just ask counsel to please introduce themselves 15 and whom they represent when making their statements for 16 the benefit of those who may be following the hearings 17 for the first time or outwith this room. 18 Thank you. 19 Mr Jacobs, would you please go ahead? 20 Opening statement by MR JACOBS 21 MR JACOBS: Thank you, good morning, Madam Chair. I'm 22 instructed by Howe & Co on behalf of F37, F38, F39, F40, 23 and F46, by Switalskis for C21, and by Farleys for N1. 24 Before I start, there's a public gallery point that 25 I have been asked to make and that is a number of core</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>	<p>1 participants have expressed concern that there aren't 2 enough seats available for them. I know that quite 3 clearly this has been arranged very well, but could we 4 perhaps make sure that at Pockock Street -- I'm asked you 5 to ask you that more space is available for them. 6 I'll move on. 7 The core participants whom I represent have 8 indicated that they were happy with the opening 9 submissions that Mr Sadd made yesterday. This is 10 because there's been clarification from the outset of 11 this investigation of the sheer volume of abuse visited 12 upon children in care in Nottingham over the last 13 40 to 50 years and, importantly, of the all-embracing 14 inadequacy of the institutional responses to that abuse. 15 Of the core participants I act for represented by 16 Howe & Co, number F37 will give evidence to this inquiry 17 tomorrow. She was taken into care aged 2 and a half, 18 this is back in the early 1960s, and she and her sister 19 were raped and assaulted by their foster carer. Her 20 evidence is important in that it demonstrates the 21 responses of Nottinghamshire Social Services to 22 allegations of abuse made by children. 23 F37, and this is significant, did disclose the abuse 24 to her social worker but she was told that she had an 25 overactive imagination.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 When, in 1975, the allegations were put to the 2 foster carer who was concerned, the abuser, he falsely 3 told Social Services that F37 was a liar and a thief. 4 No action was taken because -- and this seems to be 5 a thread consistent throughout most of the evidence -- 6 the word of an abuser was believed over that of a child 7 in care. 8 F37 says: 9 "There was never any investigation, as Social 10 Services believed that I, and children like me, were all 11 liars and therefore not worth investigating." 12 There was, in my submission, in effect, a culture of 13 disbelief within the local authorities in 14 Nottinghamshire in respect of children in care. 15 It cannot be stressed strongly enough how this 16 approach routinely applied to those children in care has 17 affected the children concerned, both whilst they were 18 victims of abuse, and later as survivors. It has stayed 19 with them in their adult lives. 20 It is a consistent theme across these investigations 21 that victims will say, "I couldn't tell anybody. Who 22 would believe me? Who would believe the word of a child 23 in care?" 24 F37's case raises another issue which causes 25 concern. Some years after the abuse took place, her</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 social worker confided in her that she had known about 2 the abuse all along, but no action had been taken 3 because that social worker had been overruled by more 4 senior individuals within the Social Services. 5 So, we say, even in cases where an allegation was 6 accepted, nothing was done. 7 The evidence before this inquiry demonstrates, 8 I submit, that there was a permissive culture in 9 Nottingham. Child abuse was endemic across the care 10 system. Social Services, individual social workers, 11 care home staff and police were aware of the problem, 12 yet no action was taken. This was a feature in the 13 Rotherham Inquiry, chair, where you may recall evidence 14 showed that young girls were thought to be undesirable 15 and not worthy of protection. 16 We submit that children in care in Nottinghamshire 17 were seen in the same way. 18 Children in care were routinely disbelieved and 19 disregarded, even when the abuse was conducted openly. 20 An example of open abuse is that of Dean Gathercole. 21 His activities were not secret. You may recall Mr Sadd 22 referring yesterday to F46, who, at the age of 15, was 23 groomed, sexually abused at Amberdale Assessment Centre 24 by Gathercole. F46 gives evidence of two other girls 25 who made serious allegations against Gathercole in 1986</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>
<p>1 and 1987, yet no investigation was undertaken and the 2 girls were accused of having made the matter up. 3 When, and this is important, F46 reported the abuse 4 to the police in 2000, she was told that it was his word 5 against hers. When she asked the police why Gathercole 6 was permitted to take her to his mother's house, she was 7 told it was okay to do that back then. 8 Gathercole is now serving 19 years' imprisonment for 9 his actions but he should have been imprisoned decades 10 ago had the system worked at all. 11 Howe & Co have repeatedly submitted that there 12 should not be an overly narrow focus in this 13 investigation. There were a range of institutional 14 settings. It's not just the three focus areas that are 15 relevant to this investigation. That range includes 16 foster care, private care homes, assessment centres, and 17 linked custodial institutions. 18 Children were often treated like human pinballs, 19 bouncing around an abusive and uncaring system. It's 20 important to recognise that the whole system was 21 a dangerous place for children, and that this was widely 22 known. 23 F40 was taken into care aged 18 months and sexually 24 abused at Ockbrook School. She was transferred to 25 Sycamore House and then the Leeds Children's Home where</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>	<p>1 she was repeatedly raped by the manager there, in front, 2 often, of other children. Similarly, F38 was at four 3 locations before she went to Beechwood: Crabtree Farm 4 Estate; Little Acres, Nuthall; and then Bracken House 5 and Woodnook. 6 Whilst at those last two locations, she was groomed 7 and forced into child prostitution in the full knowledge 8 of care home staff, Social Services and Nottingham 9 Police. 10 The issue of grooming children in care into 11 prostitution is one which must be addressed by this 12 inquiry. F38 was, as a 14-year-old child, allowed by 13 a police inspector to play at a typewriting machine in 14 the office of the police station instead of sharing 15 a cell with adults. She was seen as a child prostitute, 16 but never as the victim of crime and abuse. 17 Furthermore, F40 was known by care home staff, and 18 apparently Social Services, to have been engaging in 19 a sexual relationship with an adult at a time when she 20 could not have consented. She has stated in her 21 evidence that she cannot understand why Nottingham 22 Social Services did not take steps to prevent or address 23 her sexualisation from an early age. 24 Similarly, F39, although not a child in care, was 25 known by the authorities, whilst still a child, to have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 been in a sexual relationship with a man in his late 2 20s. A heavily pregnant 16-year-old girl attending 3 hospital in the company of a much older man should have 4 caused alarm bells to ring, yet Social Services, police 5 and medical agencies all stayed silent.</p> <p>6 The sexualisation of children is another important 7 issue which must be addressed by this inquiry in a more 8 broadly focused investigation.</p> <p>9 Howe & Co are grateful to Mr Sadd for referring to 10 F46 in his opening submissions. They have raised the 11 issue that the voices of the victims and survivors must 12 be heard, as they are too important not to be included 13 if there is time in this inquiry to include them.</p> <p>14 We would suggest that ten minutes is allocated every 15 day to reading extracts from core participants' 16 statements to maximise their participation over the 17 three weeks.</p> <p>18 I now turn to C21 who will give evidence this 19 afternoon. He was taken into care in March 1977, aged 20 14 years. He was not permitted to take part in the 21 process of assessing whether he was to be taken into 22 care. He maintains that his social worker and the local 23 authorities were simply uninterested in him.</p> <p>24 Detective Inspector Yvonne Dales will tell the 25 inquiry that Beechwood Assessment Centre, as we have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 heard from Mr Sadd yesterday, was riddled with abuse in 2 the 1970s. We would highlight ten particular 3 institutional failings which facilitated and perpetuated 4 this situation.</p> <p>5 Firstly, as we heard yesterday, the absence of 6 effective record-keeping and logging of complaints. 7 Secondly, lack of staff training in respect of 8 safeguarding and child protection.</p> <p>9 Thirdly, lack of supervision of staff.</p> <p>10 Four, no checks on oversexualised members of staff, 11 and I'll refer to Mr Logins later in my submissions.</p> <p>12 Five, absence of pastoral care.</p> <p>13 Six, prevalence of corporal punishment and savage 14 beatings and, of course, the fight club that we heard 15 about yesterday.</p> <p>16 Seven, inadequate checks and inter-agency 17 cross-referencing for the prevention of recruitment of 18 abusers.</p> <p>19 Eight, there was no understanding of barriers to 20 disclosure.</p> <p>21 Nine, inadequate disciplinary measures in relation 22 to staff who ill-treated children, and we heard 23 yesterday there were cases where they were just 24 reinstated.</p> <p>25 Ten, the lack of independent monitoring or visiting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>
<p>1 at children's homes and other institutions.</p> <p>2 C21 was abused by F029 who worked and lived at 3 Beechwood in a senior position from 1967 to 1979. He 4 has been described in the evidence of Jim McLaughlin as 5 a strange personality who maybe had an unhealthy 6 interest in particular individuals. Mr Sadd showed 7 a schedule of abuse in residential care to the 8 investigation yesterday. That schedule, on examination, 9 establishes that 25 complainants made allegations 10 against F029.</p> <p>11 Furthermore, a police intelligence analysis report 12 dated 25 May 2018 describes F029 as the most prolific 13 former member of Beechwood staff, with 34 individual 14 allegations of sexual abuse from 33 former residents, 15 all of whom are male.</p> <p>16 The report suggests that from 1974 to 1979, F029, 17 H049 and John Dent were working together.</p> <p>18 And collusion, again, is an important issue which the 19 inquiry, we submit, should consider.</p> <p>20 F029 died in 1980 and C21 was denied the chance to 21 assist in the prosecution and incarceration of this man.</p> <p>22 We invite the inquiry to make findings in relation to 23 this individual.</p> <p>24 Firstly, we say his open and prolific abuse was 25 never satisfactorily investigated because he was part of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>	<p>1 a culture which inhibited the proper prevention, 2 exposure and investigation of child sexual abuse.</p> <p>3 Secondly, we say F029's seniority within Beechwood 4 amounted in itself to a barrier to disclosure. A point 5 that was made yesterday.</p> <p>6 Thirdly, we say there was simply no mechanism at 7 Beechwood to enable a child to complain about physical 8 or sexual assault. The environment there was always 9 highly intimidating.</p> <p>10 Fourthly, social workers failed to establish 11 relationships of trust with children in care so as to 12 give rise to any expectation of belief or protection.</p> <p>13 Fifthly, abusers and institutions relied on the 14 stigma attached to Beechwood. C21 will say he was 15 a juvenile delinquent or a Beechwood bad boy, someone 16 not likely to be believed. C21 says that when he was 17 contacted by police in 2015, he was profoundly 18 emotionally affected by the acknowledgment that he had 19 been wrongly treated. It is highly important to former 20 victims of child sexual abuse that they are believed, 21 even if the official acknowledgment takes place decades 22 after the abuse. C21 says he would not have disclosed 23 the abuse had he not been contacted by the police.</p> <p>24 He states he has been treated well by police. He 25 appreciates the public apologies made by Nottingham</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 County Council but is critical of the stance taken by 2 the city council. Mandy Couplan will deal with this in 3 her evidence to the inquiry. C21 still lives in the 4 Nottingham area and has to pass the Beechwood building 5 on a regular basis. This building acts as a constant 6 reminder of the treatment he suffered there, and its 7 presence has inhibited his recovery. C20 -- my client 8 would like to see the building pulled down.</p> <p>9 We understand it is no longer in council ownership, 10 so this might not be possible. But we would urge the 11 inquiry to give serious consideration to C21's views. 12 No victim of child sexual abuse should have to endure 13 daily reminders of that abuse. Where the abuse was as 14 egregious as that at Beechwood, the inquiry should 15 recommend demolition of the building, the constant 16 reminder, wherever possible.</p> <p>17 Now I turn to core participant N1 who gives evidence 18 tomorrow. N1 was taken into care when she was 18 months 19 old and sent to Beechwood in 1982, aged 12 years. She 20 was a highly vulnerable child at the time because she 21 had previously suffered abuse at home. She disclosed 22 the abuse by her stepfather to police and Social 23 Services aged 11 but was not believed.</p> <p>24 This man has now been imprisoned as a result of N1, 25 as an adult, assisting police with bringing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 a prosecution. N1 was sent to the Beechwood home as 2 a 12 year-old and groomed by Andris Logins, 3 a residential carer who groomed her into forming 4 a sexual relationship with him. Logins had 5 responsibility for the welfare of children. So his 6 conduct was particularly egregious.</p> <p>7 I repeat the point made by Ms Gallagher yesterday 8 that children who have been abused in the past are more 9 likely to be targeted by predatory abusers in the care 10 system and are less likely to disclose that abuse. It's 11 right to say that N1 told Logins about her previous 12 experience and that, I submit, is an aggravating factor 13 and a further bar to disclosure.</p> <p>14 N1 was one of the witnesses who gave evidence for 15 the prosecution at Logins' trial. We heard yesterday 16 that Logins now serves a 20-year sentence of 17 imprisonment, 15 counts of indecent assault and four of 18 rape. N1 was aware of other children who were groomed 19 by Beechwood staff members. One particular girl, 20 aged 15, became pregnant as the consequent of such 21 abuse. It's important to note that N1 made partial 22 admissions relating to Logins' behaviour to Mr Clark, 23 a senior member of staff at Beechwood. And to 24 Mr Lincoln at Skegby Hall, but no investigation was 25 undertaken.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>
<p>1 Upon disclosing Logins' conduct at Beechwood to 2 staff members there, she was transferred to Skegby Hall. 3 The inquiry should consider whether there was a policy 4 of transferring children who made allegations rather 5 than actually dealing with the allegations. This would 6 conform with the practice of transferring abusers rather 7 than taking formal and appropriate disciplinary action. 8 Logins' case is illustrative of the permissive culture 9 that I described earlier. The authorities must have 10 been aware of Logins' conduct on the evidence before 11 this inquiry. Not only was no action taken, but he was 12 permitted, we heard yesterday, upon leaving Beechwood, 13 to work in private fostering and adoption. The inquiry 14 should take the equivalent of judicial notice, the 15 inquiry equivalent, to the gasps of disbelief that met 16 the disclosure of that fact yesterday.</p> <p>17 N1 did not receive an education at Beechwood. This 18 is another consequence of the abusive system for 19 children in care. She has, however, thrived 20 educationally as an adult, and in 2015 obtained a degree 21 from Derby University in community and youth work and 22 has spoken recently about her experiences at Women's Aid 23 conferences.</p> <p>24 N1 makes an important point that she received no 25 assistance upon leaving care. This is another</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>	<p>1 institutional failing which should not be overlooked. 2 N1 is happy with the police handling of her case 3 after she was contacted in 2012. She states, like C21, 4 that had she not been contacted, she would not have 5 disclosed the abuse.</p> <p>6 Her evidence illustrates another important bar to 7 disclosure. Many children are unable to accept that 8 they were actually groomed. This is because abusers 9 will make those children believe that they have a degree 10 of control and complicity in what is going on. 11 Psychological manipulation was used by Logins and his 12 abusers. The authorities appear to have been completely 13 of this modus operandi, that the nature of the grooming 14 itself is a bar to disclosure.</p> <p>15 N1 was in more recent years failed by Nottingham 16 City Council, when the council failed to take steps to 17 prevent its employee, Helen Logins, Logins' wife, from 18 accessing her records in the build-up to Logins' trial. 19 Helen Logins has since been dismissed and received 20 a suspended sentence and imprisonment for these actions.</p> <p>21 N1 is highly committed to assisting the inquiry. 22 She wants to use her experiences and professional 23 training and even the money she has received by way of 24 compensation to help fellow victims and survivors and to 25 be involved in the implementation of this inquiry's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 recommendations.</p> <p>2 She will conclude her evidence tomorrow by setting</p> <p>3 out her proposed recommendations. These include the</p> <p>4 setting up of a ringfenced fund to provide support and</p> <p>5 counselling to victims and survivors, and my clients all</p> <p>6 tell me that they take the view that counselling is</p> <p>7 extremely important in this process. She will recommend</p> <p>8 independent visitors to children's homes, CCTV in all</p> <p>9 communal areas and the protection of privacy in</p> <p>10 noncommunal areas.</p> <p>11 F37 will make a similar statement at the end of her</p> <p>12 evidence. She takes the same view, that survivors of</p> <p>13 abuse could, and should, play a vital role in preventing</p> <p>14 further abuse.</p> <p>15 Madam Chair, you will be aware of this scheme for</p> <p>16 reparations now being implemented by Lambeth Council.</p> <p>17 We would urge that the inquiry takes those proposals</p> <p>18 into account. These include one-to-one meetings with</p> <p>19 councillors, although they're not necessarily the same</p> <p>20 councillors who were present at the time, but it's</p> <p>21 important. Formal apologies being made, personal formal</p> <p>22 apologies being made to the individuals. Harm's way</p> <p>23 payments. If you put a child in harm's way, regardless</p> <p>24 of whether they were abused or not, that is a failing.</p> <p>25 Then specific reparations payments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 Chair, this inquiry can improve --</p> <p>2 MR SADD: There's nothing worse than being interrupted.</p> <p>3 It's just to let you know, though, that time is running</p> <p>4 out.</p> <p>5 MR JACOBS: I'm coming to the end, and I do apologise. I'll</p> <p>6 conclude and I'll be less than a minute, I hope.</p> <p>7 This inquiry can improve on those measures because</p> <p>8 it now has focused proposals from the most important</p> <p>9 people in this process, the victims and survivors.</p> <p>10 I conclude by paying tribute to the bravery and dignity</p> <p>11 of my clients. Their personal accounts are distressing</p> <p>12 and make for agonising reading. My clients are entitled</p> <p>13 to know why they were allowed to be abused and why the</p> <p>14 system failed to stand in the way of prolific and</p> <p>15 relentless child sexual abuse in Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>16 Of equal importance to my clients is the welfare of</p> <p>17 children today. I echo the comments made yesterday that</p> <p>18 this inquiry should be highly sceptical of witnesses who</p> <p>19 may seek to assert that the experiences of the core</p> <p>20 participants do not give rise to very real concerns for</p> <p>21 the safety of the current generation of children in care</p> <p>22 in Nottingham and elsewhere. Those are my opening</p> <p>23 submissions. Thank you.</p> <p>24 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Jacobs.</p> <p>25 Mr Hollas?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>
<p>1 Opening statement by MR HOLLAS</p> <p>2 MR HOLLAS: Madam Chair, I'll stand from here, rather than</p> <p>3 move forward, so I can address you. And if nobody else</p> <p>4 has said so, to you and the panel, welcome to</p> <p>5 Nottingham.</p> <p>6 NO-F163, minded by the comment by CPS counsel that</p> <p>7 he seems to have led a charmed life, and we wonder</p> <p>8 whether it can be right that, as the counsel says, one</p> <p>9 is placed in the invidious position of knowing a great</p> <p>10 deal about the alleged offender than will ever be</p> <p>11 permissible before a jury, and therefore sure the</p> <p>12 offences have been committed. But he, unfortunately, is</p> <p>13 not alone.</p> <p>14 Dales' initial NFA against Logins and, as DC Johnson</p> <p>15 says in his evidence, no subsequent internal enquiry, no</p> <p>16 warning, just reinstated.</p> <p>17 NO-F1, how many times does this bloke have to have</p> <p>18 allegations made against him? Again, not alone. We</p> <p>19 know Dent, Gathercole, Pick, Campbell, Gallagher,</p> <p>20 Preston, Tucker, Burbridge and Wheater had numerous</p> <p>21 allegations previously made against them. Some</p> <p>22 investigated by the police, some internal, which were</p> <p>23 all closed down and NFA'd only for more allegations to</p> <p>24 be made and eventually the abuser brought to justice.</p> <p>25 In this regard, DS Sarah Palmer should look at what</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>	<p>1 she missed when she referred Dent and Gallagher</p> <p>2 allegations initially back to the council for single</p> <p>3 service disposal.</p> <p>4 Allied to this, of course, is the position of Labour</p> <p>5 councillors and their unions, who were more prepared to</p> <p>6 put the rights of workers before the interests of</p> <p>7 children.</p> <p>8 On numerous occasions, appeals against sanctions,</p> <p>9 supported by unions, were upheld at appeals committee,</p> <p>10 and the workers reinstated and put back to work with the</p> <p>11 children.</p> <p>12 We will see from the testimony from senior</p> <p>13 directorate staff that this was a known issue, along</p> <p>14 with an unwillingness to challenge a group called the</p> <p>15 Black Social Workers' Association for fear of the race</p> <p>16 card being played, as identified clearly in Rod Jones'</p> <p>17 evidence.</p> <p>18 Stuart Brook called the trade unions unhelpful,</p> <p>19 obstinate and did not share the agenda for change.</p> <p>20 David Fisher is critical of their role in defending</p> <p>21 staff.</p> <p>22 Margaret McKechnie despairs of workers' rights put</p> <p>23 before the safeguarding of children, as is Denis Watkins</p> <p>24 equally critical.</p> <p>25 Yvonne Dales argues that she was operating within</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 the confines of the operational directions she was given 2 and that communicated to her by Helen Chamberlain. Her 3 testimony still comes across to me as, "Not me, Chief, 4 I'm airframes". But at least she is not inflicted by 5 inquiry-induced amnesia as many of the senior doctorate 6 staff seem to be.</p> <p>7 Michael Morris, Alan Breeton, who just wants to blow 8 his own trumpet. Jayne Austin, who says that many 9 thought the children's services were run wonderfully, or 10 Callum McBride, who states Beechwood was a model 11 children's home. In his management, no action was 12 taken, although he did report Asian men driving up to 13 the home to pick up girls and reported it to the police. 14 And Ken Rigby, in his number of statements, who is the 15 model of the three wise monkeys.</p> <p>16 None of the above saw any of the abuse, heard any of 17 the abuse, and of course did not speak of any of the 18 abuse.</p> <p>19 The statement of James Fenwick is a core example of 20 everything being rosy in his garden.</p> <p>21 Arguably, the constraint on the inquiry has led to 22 many cases only being dealt with superficially and 23 survivors quickly got the message, "Available evidence 24 not sufficient for a pre-trial decision", which is 25 exactly what NO-A55 contends. This despite the vast</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 experience of Nottinghamshire Constabulary, who had had 2 from their successful inquiries into Dent and Gallagher, 3 where they had pro-actively trawled children who were 4 also in the home or had been fostered in Gallagher's 5 case.</p> <p>6 This comes across very clearly from the testimony of 7 Julie Balodis, who was a key investigator and from whom 8 you will hear. Yet Chamberlain decided, no doubt 9 supported by chiefs, to limit the scope and depth of 10 Operation Daybreak. The answer as to why comes from the 11 examination of strategic management group meetings where 12 the tripartite grouping sought to restrict media 13 awareness in order not to bring survivors forward.</p> <p>14 Anthony May is unhappy that the Police and Crime 15 Commissioner was speaking to the media without 16 consulting the SMG. As an aside, it was this that did 17 for Adrian Pearson when he communicated direct to 18 survivors on his own behalf, much to the angst of the 19 council chiefs.</p> <p>20 It was also this limitation that survivors had to 21 press Rob Griffin for, to put charging decisions back 22 into the public domain.</p> <p>23 And the reason for all this is exemplified by the 24 response of the councils to the litigation. The 25 evidence will clearly demonstrate the real position of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>
<p>1 the council, notwithstanding what they say in their 2 terms of reference, to support survivors, where they 3 deny everything and put the claimants to proof of each 4 and every allegation of sexual and physical abuse or 5 other mistreatment.</p> <p>6 Of course, that firm also gave a very comprehensive 7 dos and don'ts of making an apology. But this wasn't, 8 unfortunately, the end of it. The whole sorry episode 9 of attempting to run an internal review in lieu of 10 a proper enquiry into the allegation just continued to 11 set the councils and the survivors on opposite sides.</p> <p>12 Worse that their view of "independent", and their 13 interpretation of that word, was to ask someone who had 14 previously worked for both councils in a senior service 15 role to undertake it. Sue Gregory.</p> <p>16 To cap it all, following an internal review, 17 a number of staff were quietly sanctioned. Hardly the 18 actions of contrite authorities wanting to get to the 19 truth and support victims.</p> <p>20 Survivors have long held the view that the early 21 days of Daybreak was flawed. The operational direction 22 clearly limited police enquiries. More than this, they 23 were subject to peer reviews on numerous occasions. It 24 is clearly insufficient to rely on a statement that 25 a peer review has been conducted to justify the proper</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>	<p>1 management of the enquiries. Not least when the 2 Leicester review identified 18 strong management 3 recommendations and acknowledged that it did not have 4 the time to actually examine the investigation.</p> <p>5 Rob Griffin's review recommended dip sampling and 6 trawling, which wasn't done. And in a final Beechwood 7 abuse report, it finds disappointment that a significant 8 number of previous recommendations continued to be 9 replicated.</p> <p>10 The early investigations were not proactive. There 11 was no sampling. And there were no approaches made to 12 any individual unless they had been specifically named.</p> <p>13 Hardly surprising, therefore, against this context, 14 that few charges were brought.</p> <p>15 Authorities were also well aware of Article 8 of the 16 Human Rights of Survivors, and their requirement to gain 17 the informed consent before sharing records. Even 18 Steve Edwards acknowledges this in his statement, but 19 they, the tripartite organisation, purposely rode 20 roughshod over this. We can see from the minutes of the 21 SMG even asking senior officers to agree to ignore 22 consent and sign off a policy accordingly.</p> <p>23 At one stage, Sue Gregory believes in her evidence 24 she has found a work-around for this difficulty. We 25 even had the evidence of Alison Michalska demanding the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 police provide copies of three witness statements, else 2 threatening them to go direct to the Chief Constable. 3 In this, I believe they broke the law. 4 But it wasn't the first time the councils broke the 5 law. They were told time and time again that they had 6 breached regulation or had purposely broken the law by 7 not meeting the statutory guidance for child protection, 8 or failing to adhere to the Children's Act in relation 9 to the number of children held in establishments above 10 that of the registration category, or putting 11 15 year-olds in bed and breakfasts, or failing to comply 12 with conditions of the homes. 13 The raft of Ofsted reports and evidence supports 14 this proposition, but the question left for me was: was 15 anybody ever held to account? 16 David White's written evidence reflects an 17 inward-looking department, that they had lost the field 18 force. Social Services were not well managed, were 19 isolated and certainly not corporate. This is 20 reinforced in the written testimony of David Fisher, who 21 describes the relationship between the officer in charge 22 at Amberdale and the directorate. 23 The field force exasperation, meanwhile, is echoed 24 clearly in Andrew Bosworth's testimony where he talks of 25 little or no support from the top.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 Policies were written in isolation. Almost 2 a re-enactment of Hitler's last days in the bunker, 3 issuing orders to non-existent units. Denis Watkins' 4 written testimony delivers the clarity. The enthusiasm 5 for writing a report and its comforting recommendations 6 are in inverse proportion to any enthusiasm for 7 implementing its recommendations. 8 It wasn't as if the department did not know of the 9 concerns for child protection. Evidence clearly shows 10 that Nottingham's child protection measures were deeply 11 flawed and the Department of Health even said that their 12 own inspectors should veer off in fear of being tainted 13 by the failure and lack of action. 14 Even after the death of a child in its care at 15 Beechwood, Whitehall regarded Nottingham's response as 16 complacent, crass, glib, condescending, and an example 17 of hopelessly weak case management. 18 It is clear councillors were aware of these very 19 real concerns and Whitehall accuses the culture in 20 Nottingham as resistant to strong management and proper 21 systems of accountability. Yet the message was clearly 22 not getting through and the Department of Health 23 suggests David White's comments on his press release, in 24 response to the joint inspection of Nottingham's child 25 protection measures, stretched the gloss to a point of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>
<p>1 distorting the accuracy of the statement. 2 At the other end of the spectrum, what was happening 3 in the homes was plain for all to see. The culture will 4 be accurately described by Helen Ryan, Bronwen Cooper. 5 Sallyann Johnson, Anna Saines, Carolyne Willow, 6 Rachel Morton, Margaret Stimpson and Glynis Storer. 7 Thankfully, these brave people are prepared to talk 8 about the culture in place in the homes and their 9 testimony speaks for itself, as does the testimony of 10 each and every victim and survivor that has come forward 11 to tell of their experience. 12 It is not restricted just to Beechwood. Enderleigh, 13 Hillcrest, The Ridge, Greencroft, Amberdale, Hazelwood, 14 the list of homes that have been previous recipients of 15 internal enquiries is endless, but nothing happened. 16 The report into Sandown Road probably summarises 17 everything where it talks of serious and persistent 18 concerns about the quality of childcare offered by staff 19 and in one 12-month period every child admitted was to 20 become involved in a sexual abuse incident. And there 21 was a sense of inevitability that any child admitted was 22 subject to sexual abuse. 23 How can it be right that in the execution of this 24 complex criminal investigation the councils are 25 intimately involved in its direction? Section 47</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>	<p>1 investigations may well be appropriate for 2 a contemporaneous enquiry for the protection of a child, 3 but once it was established there was no child at risk, 4 that the complaints were now all adults, section 47, in 5 my contention, no longer applied. 6 We are reminded that the Department of Education 7 stated in their response to the Rotherham review and 8 tackling child sexual exploitation under accountability 9 to the leadership, those who fail in their duties to 10 protect children must be held accountable. 11 One must doubt that any review run by the council 12 where they are marking their own homework is ever going 13 to hold themselves accountable. The IRO handbook, 14 whilst its functions are applauded, how can that 15 independence ever be delivered when they sit within the 16 council chain of command? 17 Even the ACPC remains chaired by themselves. And 18 the LSCB review by Alan Wood called for collective 19 accountability. That would, in effect, hamstring every 20 agency into accepting a decision possibly made by one or 21 two people. 22 Collective accountability drives out challenge, and 23 therefore how will an SCR, as a result, really deliver 24 qualitative insights when vested interests abound? 25 I'm left, madam chair, with a series of questions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 that I hope this inquiry will be able to answer. Why 2 did the authorities seek to apply constraints to the 3 media, to the police operations, to the litigation, to 4 any external enquiry during the period 2010 to 2015, and 5 only changed when the IIC announced Nottingham as 6 a strand of its national enquiries into child sexual 7 abuse and, coincidentally, when there was a change of 8 police leadership at almost every level of 9 Operation Daybreak? 10 Why did the councils and police adopt a dismissive 11 attitude to survivors who came forward looking for 12 answers as to what happened to them as children? 13 Why did chiefs allow the operational direction to 14 limit the police enquiries which then negatively 15 impacted the ability of detectives to bring alleged 16 abusers to justice, despite their recent experience in 17 the Dent and Gallagher enquiries? 18 Why is section 47 thought to be a suitable platform 19 for managing non-recent abuse when those involved are 20 all employees of the council and the victims were in 21 their care, an effect of which was the police to 22 effectively cede operational independence? 23 Why is the independent role of ACPC, the LADO, IRO, 24 thought to be best exercised within the council chain of 25 command, so allowing them to be unchallenged and marking</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 their own homework? 2 Why was political ideology allowed to drive the 3 decisions, to put workers' rights above those of 4 children which saw staff facing sanction, have them 5 quashed and the staff allowed to return to work with 6 children? 7 Why did Central Government not intervene earlier 8 when it's found that the Social Services Directorate was 9 incapable of delivering a safe environment for children 10 in care? 11 Why did the authorities ride roughshod over the 12 victims' Article 8 rights? Why was little done to 13 prevent children from being exploited and ending up as 14 child prostitutes? 15 Why is there a continuing appetite to rely on social 16 service and HOLMES records when they have been found to 17 be in incomplete, inaccurate, purposely deceptive or 18 just non-existent? 19 Why is there a reluctance to hold people to account 20 for incompetence at the time or since, criminality at 21 the time or subsequently enquired into, or failure to 22 safeguard children through inaction at the time or as 23 a result of current enquiries? 24 Finally, madam chair, why are survivors at the 25 bottom of the monetary mountain and, accepting that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>
<p>1 money can never restore them to where they could have 2 been, their compensation payments, such a small 3 percentage of the available monies? Is there not 4 a simpler, more non-confrontational process such as 5 a tariff system, once the crime complained of has of 6 course been reported to the police in the first 7 instance? 8 Thank you. 9 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Hollas. 10 Mr O'Neill. 11 Opening statement by MR O'NEILL 12 MR O'NEILL: I'm obliged, Madam Chairman, members of the 13 panel. 14 My name is Aidan O'Neill QC. I appear with 15 Haafiz Suleman on behalf of John Mann MP and a core 16 participant Q1 who is a survivor. 17 We're here on the instructions of the designated 18 legal representative who is Jessica Gladstone of 19 Clifford Chance. 20 On behalf of each of our clients, I would like to 21 thank the chair, the panel, the inquiry, for affording 22 us the opportunity of making this opening statement. 23 Q1 was a child in long-term foster care in 24 Nottinghamshire, during which she suffered multiple 25 abuse, and much of it was actually documented or alluded</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>	<p>1 to in contemporaneous records, yet nothing was done. It 2 was not acted upon. That evidence was left only to be 3 discovered years later. 4 John Mann, by contrast, is perhaps unusual as being 5 designated a core participant. He appears in this 6 inquiry not qua as survivor or not as a representative 7 of any institution who might be potentially answerable 8 for the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of 9 children, instead he appears in his capacity as an MP. 10 Frankly, John Mann would much prefer to be giving this 11 opening statement himself and in his own words, but 12 because of the inquiry rules, because he has designated 13 legal representatives, it is required to be done through 14 me. 15 But the basis upon which John Mann was given his 16 core participant status was because of his expertise and 17 experience gained as an MP and for his campaigning work. 18 That is what informs these submissions and his overall 19 participation in this inquiry, and that was recognised 20 by yourself, chair, in granting core participant status 21 to John Mann that he was going further in his work than 22 might be expected as being part of the normal public 23 duties of an MP. 24 The purpose of inquiry has been designated, 25 described, as having six possible aims and all of those</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 should be at the forefront, I think, of this inquiry. 2 First of all, there is the issue of establishing 3 facts. What actually happened? People need to know, 4 and uncovering of that which happened in the past. 5 That's one aspect. 6 A second aim, however, is the idea of a catharsis, 7 of a therapeutic experience of people who have been 8 unheard for so long actually having their voices 9 listened to. 10 A third and incredibly important aspect is 11 establishing accountability and blame, both 12 institutionally and individually. 13 There's also an aim of establishing reassurance of 14 letting the public know, the people of Nottingham, 15 Nottinghamshire, and further afield, that matters are 16 being now looked at, that we're turning a corner, that 17 public confidence can be rebuilt. 18 But another aim is of course learning from events, 19 so that nothing like this can ever happen again. 20 Finally, there are wider political considerations 21 that an inquiry such as this can provide in the way in 22 which it establishes matters, in which it approaches 23 matter, a leverage for change, for allowing the wider 24 public to appreciate the issues and for politics to do 25 its course and for changes to be made.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 Now, clearly for Q1, the core participant survivor 2 whom I represent, the primary concerns are establishing 3 the facts and, frankly, establishing accountability of 4 individuals and institutions. And John Mann of course 5 shares those aims, but he is a legislator. He's 6 a parliamentarian. So he's also interested in those 7 broader aims of the inquiry, allowing us all to learn 8 from events and to provide that necessary leverage for 9 change. 10 Now, we have with Q1 a statement which recounts his 11 individual experience of the time while he was in care 12 of Nottinghamshire Council. But John Mann's statement, 13 which is also before the inquiry, sets out his 14 understanding of the broader scale overall of the 15 levels, the incidence of abuse more clearly across the 16 four decades in both Nottingham City and 17 Nottinghamshire. 18 He has achieved that understanding, that 19 perspective, precisely from his role recognised by the 20 inquiry as a public figure well-known for his active 21 campaigning on this issue. 22 So he has heard numerous accounts. People have 23 approached him, constituents and others have approached 24 him, giving their accounts of their experiences of 25 abuse, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation in their</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>
<p>1 childhood while in the care of the councils. 2 In 2002, he held an enquiry into heroin addiction in 3 the area, in the constituency, and found that there were 4 around 600 persons who were involved in that, at least 5 300 were spoken to directly. All of them experienced 6 major trauma in childhood. Most of them spoke of having 7 suffered abuse while children, sexual and physical 8 abuse. None of them is pursuing a civil action. None 9 of them is a core participant in this inquiry. 10 Indeed, of all the individuals of whom John Mann has 11 spoken to and shared experiences with over the years, 12 only one of them, Q1, whom we represent, has applied for 13 core participant status. 14 So that's an important part. This is the iceberg, 15 as it were. Those who have found the strength, the 16 ability. We've heard from so many that people didn't 17 report on matters until they were actively approached by 18 the police. There are so many others out there who have 19 not spoken of this. This is a much, much bigger issue 20 than simply the great numbers who have, in fact -- of 21 the survivors who have come forward to this inquiry, but 22 there are many, many more out there. 23 As I say, John Mann is particularly aware of that 24 because he has been approached not because people wish, 25 for example, to take a legal case, as they might do, as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>	<p>1 they might approach lawyers, so therefore one has to 2 have a certain savvy and understanding of what one's 3 rights might be. 4 They didn't approach him as they might approach the 5 police, who would, in any event, treat the matter, 6 perfectly understandably, as a potential criminal 7 prosecution, seeking statements and perhaps the 8 possibility of having to give evidence in a criminal 9 trial. 10 They didn't approach him as they might approach 11 Social Services, when people, reaching a crisis, are 12 needing specific support. They didn't approach him as 13 they might approach a GP, because there's a particular 14 acute issue in terms of their physical or psychological 15 health. 16 They approached him because they knew he would 17 listen. And in so many cases, that's just what people 18 wished, to be listened to, to be heard. 19 So, as I say, his experience, as a result, is one 20 which in many cases will be far broader than the other 21 agencies who are here. 22 He knows of people then who have come and who cannot 23 and will not wish to take matters further, who cannot 24 take the strain of perhaps taking a case whether in 25 a civil or criminal context. They want to put matters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 behind them, but that doesn't mean to say that their 2 lives have not been indelibly marked by this whole 3 matter. They are still, however, invisible people; and 4 they're still coming to John Mann and speaking to him. 5 He has one instance of somebody who has flown over 6 specifically from Canada to speak to him, just so he 7 would know, and because he thought it would be useful 8 and to support him in all that he was doing in this 9 issue. 10 That's just one example among many. 11 So, as I say, what this inquiry has to be aware of 12 is that there have been many who have found the strength 13 and the willingness to bring themselves before this 14 inquiry, but that is a very, very small fraction of 15 those who will be directly affected by the issues. 16 John Mann has had the privilege and has borne the 17 responsibility of hearing from those unheard people, 18 those invisible people. 19 So that category, the unheard, the still invisible, 20 has to be borne in mind when any recommendations are 21 made. 22 Continuing with that theme of the unheard many, one 23 of the issues which we would wish to underline is the 24 central role of schools in detecting those children in 25 care at risk of abuse or who are already experiencing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. It's perhaps 2 stating an obvious, but schools are the one constant 3 interface that children have outside of their home or 4 care environment. 5 As one knows, police are only going to be involved 6 when a disturbance is alleged, Social Services contact 7 with children in care might be relatively sporadic. GPs 8 only if there's an issue of illness, but schools are 9 there daily. They are a constant. It's a commonplace 10 that those who are subject to sexual abuse and sexual 11 exploitation might well express that trauma through what 12 might be termed disruptive behaviour at school or, 13 indeed, through prolonged absences from school. So that 14 issue of how schools are to be sensitised to this issue 15 really must come to the forefront, that they have to be 16 aware of the red flags, that disruptive behaviour, as 17 it's called, is not to be dismissed as, "This is 18 a difficult child" or "This is simply systematic of 19 their home background or their ethnicity or the like". 20 It's all too easy to put down behaviours which are 21 considered disruptive as simply bad behaviour, rather 22 than expression of unmet needs. 23 One of the proxy measures therefore, which one 24 should be looking at, for example, is the issue of 25 exclusions, the rate of exclusions from schools.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>
<p>1 Because the exclusions so often can be the easy 2 answer for schools, particularly in John Mann's view, 3 for academies, the supposedly free but independent, but 4 totally publicly funded schools which now exist under 5 our current provision, which are not integrated into 6 local authority provision of services and Social 7 Services, who have no incentive to look into the whys of 8 disruptive behaviour and whose incentive, if anything, 9 is simply to exclude a child, make them someone else's 10 problem. 11 The problem with that is, of course, that the 12 possibility of a sexually abused child falling through 13 the cracks of their being -- because they're excluded 14 because they are not attending school, then they 15 disappear. 16 That certainly was the experience of Q1, the core 17 participant whom we represent. He had numerous 18 unauthorised absences from school, from the age of 7 or 19 8 onwards, such that he's been left functionally 20 illiterate, because he was hired out by his foster 21 carers instead of going to school from the earliest of 22 ages. 23 The response of the services to date has been 24 incredibly poor. That issue, that liability of this man 25 being left functionally illiterate and therefore in some</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>	<p>1 senses unemployable is an issue which was only addressed 2 once John Mann pursued the issue and took that problem. 3 We've also got this other issue of, if schools are 4 the interface and the ones -- the first responders, 5 potentially, the ones with the red flags should 6 immediately be noticed by, then home schooling is 7 potentially allowing the possibility -- children 8 involved in that to fall through the cracks. 9 So what we say, it should be absolutely plain made, 10 in case it should happen at all, that children in foster 11 care should never be permitted to be home schooled. All 12 matters have to be sent to the local school so that 13 those children cannot disappear. 14 The other issue which we wish to look at or wish to 15 raise with the inquiry is the issue of confidentiality 16 and legal settlements. 17 Abuse thrives on secrecy. That much is absolutely 18 clear. From John Mann's experiences in his assisting 19 with children in care, a common theme which has arisen 20 is that those who have had the strength and ability to 21 take legal cases invariably these cases have settled out 22 of court. 23 The standard procedure, as the inquiry is aware, is 24 that a sum of money will be generally offered by the 25 defending party, whether that's the council or their</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 insurers, the sum of money will be usually substantially 2 less than is sued for, than the case might be worth. 3 The explanation will be, "Well, it's cheaper for us to 4 give you some money rather than fight the case. So we 5 are not admitting any kind of liability at all and we're 6 just giving you this nuisance value settlement". But 7 the settlements are always with the costs of the lawyers 8 on top. 9 So there's an incentive, actually, from the lawyers 10 who are apparently taking the case, to encourage the 11 clients to settle, even for the strongest case, rather 12 than have them heard in court, because it means then 13 they will be paid for acting for them. 14 That's been highlighted in the statement of 15 Colin Pettigrew in his first statement at paragraph 7c5, 16 he says: 17 "The rules as currently drafted allow claimant's 18 representatives to recoup considerable fees. This is 19 not insignificant bearing in mind the financial 20 pressures facing public bodies. In essence, the amount 21 paid by way of settlement of compensation can be dwarfed 22 by the totality of fees claimed by representatives." 23 Now, that's an issue that has to be looked at. 24 Further, in many cases, offers are made to settle on 25 a confidential basis, that you effectively are paid</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 money in return for your silence. Silence means 2 isolation, means that people cannot realise the extent 3 of the issue, means that lessons cannot be learned 4 institutionally. 5 The threat, even if unenforced, is, if you break 6 your silence, then you can be sued yourself and any 7 money which you settled for taken from you. 8 So what you then have is a vicious circle of imposed 9 silence, and that is something that needs to be broken. 10 Otherwise, the stories are lost. The people again 11 become invisible. No patterns can be drawn and no 12 lessons learnt. And the cycle and patterns of abuse 13 which were established before can continue unabated. 14 So what we suggest is a simple practical point that 15 a recommendation might be that confidentiality clauses, 16 even if imposed by insurers and the like, should not be 17 enforceable, at least as against the claimants. 18 If the claimant wishes to tell their story, they 19 should still be able to do so and not be silenced yet 20 again by the threat of potential legal action for them 21 simply telling what happened to them. 22 So, in conclusion, John Mann notes that in his 23 experience victims, survivors, are still coming forward; 24 that this is a much, much bigger problem than people 25 realise; that Bassetlaw, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>
<p>1 are not unique; the issue of the abuse of children in 2 care is endemic across the country. 3 So both Q1 and John Mann would like to repeat their 4 thanks to this inquiry for listening to them and to hear 5 from them the stories of the children who would 6 otherwise be unheard. Their hope is that the inquiry 7 will continue its important work, carrying out its 8 duties to ensure that all the relevant facts are fully, 9 fairly and fearlessly investigated and exposed to public 10 scrutiny, and that the relevant evidence is followed all 11 the way, no matter where it may lead. 12 Thank you. 13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr O'Neill. Thank you. 14 MR SADD: Chair, I wonder -- sorry to interrupt you. 15 I wonder if I might suggest at this stage, ordinarily we 16 would be breaking at 11.30. There are three more core 17 participants who are designated to give openings. That 18 would take us a little further than 11.30. 19 I wondered if you would consider breaking when they 20 finish, if only because the room then needs to be 21 rearranged for the anonymous witness. I'm conscious of 22 the shorthand writer who won't have had that break, but 23 if she was able to bear for another ten minutes or so 24 after 11.30, that might work very well. 25 Thank you very much.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>	<p>1 THE CHAIR: Go ahead, Mr Ford. 2 Opening statement by MR FORD 3 MR FORD: Chair, panel members, my name is Steven Ford 4 and I appear for Nottingham City Council. 5 On 14 September of this year Nottingham City 6 Council's Chief Executive Ian Curryer made the following 7 public apology. I quote: 8 "We have apologised in private to individuals and 9 have always said that we would apologise publicly at 10 a time where there was substantive evidence to show this 11 would be appropriate and not a hollow gesture. In 12 preparing for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual 13 Abuse information has come to light that shows instances 14 where the standard of care fell seriously below what we 15 would now demand and what children in the council's care 16 should have been able to expect. It is now clear that 17 on inheriting the responsibility for children's services 18 from the county council 20 years ago, there should have 19 been swifter and more robust action taken to address the 20 issues which began to emerge about the way some 21 children's homes were run and the impact this was having 22 on children. Changes we made to children's residential 23 care did not have an immediate impact in terms of 24 improved standards, but over the last decade we have 25 overseen consistently improved standards including much</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 smaller, family-home-like units. 2 "We now wish to state publicly that we are deeply 3 sorry and offer our heartfelt sympathy to survivors who 4 should never have suffered whilst in our care. We 5 apologise unreservedly for any failures and shortcomings 6 which allowed such abuse to take place. Being in the 7 care of the local authority should provide safety for 8 children and, sadly, this was not always the case. 9 Abuse of a child is an abhorrent, unforgivable crime 10 which has a devastating impact on the lives of victims. 11 We hope that the independent scrutiny of the inquiry and 12 having their voices heard as part of that process will 13 give survivors a sense of justice. We will continue to 14 provide any support we can and will encourage anybody 15 aware of or affected by abuse, current or historical, to 16 come forward and speak confidentially to us or the 17 police. We can assure anyone who suffered in the past 18 or is suffering now that they will be listened to, taken 19 seriously, and appropriate action will be taken." 20 Chair, some criticism of the terms of that apology 21 have come to the attention of the city council since it 22 was published. That criticism is to the effect that the 23 apology still fails to accept unequivocally that abuse 24 of children in care took place, or to take 25 responsibility for the fact that it did.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 I am asked on behalf of the city council to make it 2 absolutely clear, both that the city accepts that 3 children who were in care suffered sexual abuse, and the 4 city accepts that it is responsible for that abuse. 5 As you have heard, chair, responsibility for Social 6 Services in Nottingham City has changed over the period 7 of time with which the inquiry is concerned as a result 8 of local government re-organisation. In short, the city 9 was responsible for Social Services in Nottingham before 10 1 April 1974 and after 31 March 1998. 11 Just so the position is clear, the city has never 12 been responsible for the provision of Social Services 13 within Nottinghamshire other than within the boundaries 14 of the city. 15 So a number of the residential children's homes 16 about which this inquiry has already heard and will hear 17 evidence were situated outside the bounds of the city 18 and so have never been the city's responsibility. 19 However -- and of course, I make this clear and it is 20 accepted -- Beechwood, which is obviously one of the 21 inquiry's case studies, is an example of a residential 22 home for which the city was responsible between 1974 and 23 1998. 24 Again, I make it clear, the city accepts that 25 children resident at Beechwood were subject to sexual</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>
<p>1 abuse, as indeed they were at other homes, and whilst 2 placed in foster care. 3 Chair, the city welcomes the opportunity to take 4 part in this inquiry and to assist the inquiry in its 5 task of addressing the issues raised by these case 6 studies and more widely by this investigation. The 7 council has co-operated fully with this inquiry so far. 8 It has devoted considerable resources to producing the 9 corporate statement and to marshalling the mass of 10 documentation which has been generated over many years 11 and it will continue to assist and support the inquiry 12 and the inquiry team in its work. 13 The council recognises the importance of the 14 inquiry's work to victims and survivors, both generally 15 and in particular in relation to this investigation. It 16 is committed to continuing to learn lessons from the 17 past and participating fully in any process which will 18 improve the safeguarding and protection of children in 19 the future. 20 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Ford. 21 Mr Sharland? 22 Opening statement by MR SHARLAND 23 MR SHARLAND: Good morning, chair and panel members. I act 24 for Nottinghamshire County Council with my junior, 25 Mr Chris Parkin.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>	<p>1 Chair, the county has publicly acknowledged that it 2 failed a significant number of the children it cared 3 for, particularly, although not exclusively, in the 4 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. The county fully recognises 5 this. 6 It comes before this inquiry with every intention of 7 assisting it to understand how those failings occurred 8 and how we responded, plus, as importantly, how such 9 failings can be avoided in the future. 10 It views this inquiry as an opportunity for 11 learning, not just for the Nottinghamshire Councils, but 12 for all local authorities. 13 It's also an opportunity to listen. 14 Mr Colin Pettigrew, who has been the corporate director 15 for children's services since late 2015, will attend 16 every day this week to listen to the testimony of those 17 who have suffered whilst in the care of the county and 18 city councils. 19 Before I go any further, the county wishes to 20 reiterate at the outset its deep regret for the abuse 21 that certain children have received in its care. On two 22 occasions, leaders of the county have made public 23 apologies for the abuse that those children suffered: 24 firstly, in March 2016; and, secondly, in January of 25 this year. When it made both its apologies, the county</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 invited members of the media, both print and television, 2 to attend. 3 Importantly, victims and survivors were also invited 4 to attend so they could hear the apologies in person. 5 I want to repeat before the inquiry part of what 6 Councillor Kay Cutts, the county leader, said in 7 January: 8 "One of the greatest duties that can be bestowed on 9 a person or an institution is the responsibility for the 10 safety and upbringing of another's child. That is not 11 something that we at Nottinghamshire County Council 12 treat lightly, and I know that today we are doing a lot 13 of good work to keep children safe and to ensure that 14 they have every chance to reach their full potential in 15 life. Sadly, there is a dreadful stain on the history 16 of the council that we must neither refute nor excuse. 17 Some children were entrusted to our care and we failed 18 them. We know that they were subjected to horrible and 19 heinous abuse that left many of them damaged and scarred 20 for life. They suffered at the hands of devious people 21 who had malice in their mind. The fact that this 22 happened is something that leaves me personally feeling 23 deeply saddened and ashamed. 24 "Whilst we cannot eradicate the evil that lurks in 25 our society, we need to be taking every step to keep</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 this away from our children." 2 The council's apology recognises that was not simply 3 a case of one or two bad apples. It clearly went 4 further than that. 5 For example, in Beechwood, it is clear that the 6 culture at this residential home for a number of decades 7 was fundamentally wrong. Such problems were clearly 8 systemic and not merely a result of one or two evil 9 individuals. 10 The depth of the county's genuine remorse for the 11 abuse suffered by some of those children in its care 12 cannot be overstated. But the county council accepts of 13 course that words alone can only achieve so much. 14 Actions are necessary to protect children in our care 15 from sexual abuse, both now and in the future. 16 We welcome the inquiry's scrutiny of the actions 17 that the county has taken to try to improve safeguarding 18 in recent years. 19 There are three further matters the county would 20 like to address in this brief opening statement. 21 Firstly, the county wants to re-affirm our commitment to 22 assisting the inquiry and explaining the approach we 23 will be taking in the public hearings. Secondly, the 24 county wishes to emphasise the importance of remembering 25 the importance of the inquiry and taking into account</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>
<p>1 contemporary practice. And, thirdly, the county will 2 briefly address the issue of civil claims. 3 The first of those topics: approach. 4 The county's approach to this inquiry has been to 5 assist it as best it can. To date, the county has 6 disclosed over 1,000 documents, exceeding more than 7 50,000 pages. Many of those documents have been shared 8 by the inquiry with other core participants. 9 The county has also attempted, through its corporate 10 witness statement, to provide a history of child 11 protection policies and procedures and how they have 12 evolved. 13 The county remains committed to providing this 14 assistance throughout the coming weeks of the public 15 hearings. 16 This week, a number of complainant core participants 17 will be giving evidence of their abuse whilst in the 18 care of the county. As the county's corporate director 19 of children's services, Mr Pettigrew, said in his first 20 witness statement: 21 "We sincerely hope that, insofar as this inquiry 22 can, it provides some measure of comfort to those who 23 have suffered, that their experiences are heard, 24 acknowledged and, where appropriate, lessons learned and 25 failings addressed."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>	<p>1 In light of the purposes of this inquiry, and in the 2 spirit of ensuring complainants' voices are heard, the 3 county will not be applying to question any complainants 4 either directly or indirectly through counsel to the 5 inquiry. 6 We recognise that it takes great courage for 7 a person to come forward and speak publicly about being 8 sexually abused. Our society is indebted to those 9 survivors who have done so. Without their bravery, the 10 widespread sexual abuse of children would have remained 11 hidden. The same observation applies to those who are 12 giving their accounts to assist this inquiry. These 13 accounts, we hope, will provide an important foundation 14 for the inquiry to make recommendations informed by the 15 survivors' perspective. 16 We recognise that the function of this inquiry is to 17 consider broader systemic problems and how they can be 18 addressed. We are not here to challenge and probe. We 19 are here to listen, to contribute, and to learn. 20 Turning now to the second matter I want to address: 21 purpose. 22 The county is of the view that the following matters 23 should be remembered by the inquiry in discharging its 24 terms of reference. Firstly, one of the purposes of 25 this inquiry is to improve the safeguarding of children</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 by learning from the mistakes of the past. This public 2 hearing will scrutinise the conduct of the 3 Nottinghamshire Council specifically. We are going to 4 hear a significant number of examples where the county 5 has fallen well short of its responsibilities. 6 It is right that the events of the past should be 7 looked at critically and appropriate criticisms made. 8 It is also right that those who have suffered are 9 given an opportunity to be heard. 10 But this valuable opportunity to improve the 11 safeguarding of children by local authorities must not 12 be squandered. 13 The county wishes to emphasise that for the inquiry 14 to develop useful recommendations, a good hard look 15 needs to be taken at what is happening today. The 16 inquiry is going to hear a lot of evidence of awful 17 things that have happened some time ago and the county's 18 failures in preventing and dealing with them. In most 19 cases, these events took place some decades ago. The 20 passage of time does not, and should not, diminish the 21 significance or horror of those events for the 22 survivors. We would never wish to suggest otherwise. 23 But this fact does have a particular significance for 24 the inquiry. 25 The inquiry's recommendations will need to build on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 current safeguarding practice. Ms Gallagher and 2 Mr Jacobs in their opening statements suggested that the 3 inquiry should consider the council's statements as to 4 present practice sceptically. We understand why they 5 say this. We would welcome such scrutiny. Unless 6 present practice is scrutinised in such an exacting way, 7 this inquiry will not be in a position to make useful 8 recommendations. 9 However, when scrutinising current practice, it's 10 important to bear in mind that a number of things have 11 changed since the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. In 12 particular, our collective awareness and understanding 13 of the risk of sexual abuse for children in care, and in 14 general, has increased hugely both in the UK and 15 worldwide. 16 Secondly, the pervading culture of disbelief of 17 children referred to by Mr Jacobs is no longer what it 18 was. The starting point is no longer to assume that 19 children tell stories, but rather they have an account 20 to give, that they should be provided with an 21 environment in which they can give it freely, and that 22 they should be listened to. 23 Thirdly, safeguarding practices in place locally and 24 nationally bear little resemblance to the darker days. 25 Fourthly, the attitudes of carers, social workers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>
<p>1 and decision-makers are now, we believe, more 2 risk-focused and child-centred. 3 Over the past decades, it has become glaringly 4 obvious that children are not as safe in the hands of 5 adult carers as we once assumed they were. Our 6 collective realisation as a society has developed 7 gradually and far too slowly. As an institution very 8 much at the front line, the county accepts that it 9 should have done more and it should have done it sooner. 10 We are now better informed about the risks than ever 11 before. 12 As we have, as a society, come to acknowledge the 13 risks of children, safeguarding practices have 14 proliferated. This story is told by a document produced 15 by the Department for Education for this inquiry. It's 16 reference DFE000961. There's no need to bring it up. 17 It's a list of relevant, publicly available policies, 18 procedures and guidance concerning child abuse with the 19 relevant years of publication. As of 1951, there was 20 one such document published. By 1970, two had been 21 published. By 1991, there were eight. 22 But in the last 20 years, there have been no fewer 23 than 66 such documents. 24 At the county level, Mr Pettigrew's statement tells 25 the story of a local authority which has grappled with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>	<p>1 the challenge incrementally. Since the 1980s, the 2 county has undertaken a number of investigations of its 3 failings in the child protection area. We fully accept 4 that the reform which followed from those investigations 5 came too late for many. 6 However, the mechanisms in place today have led to 7 a safeguarding regime at the county which is well ahead 8 of what existed in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. The 9 county has also developed specialist training for its 10 staff and foster carers, focusing on, amongst other 11 things, harmful sexual behaviour by children and young 12 people, sexual abuse and risk assessment and 13 safeguarding children procedures. 14 Training is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure 15 that staff and foster carers are up to date. Child 16 safeguarding regulations also transformed at the 17 national level. Since 2014, local authorities have been 18 required to designate certain councillors and officials 19 as responsible for safeguarding. 20 The children's services run by local authorities are 21 subject to inspection and rating by Ofsted. All 22 incidents or suspicions of sexual abuse of children in 23 care homes must be reported to Ofsted. There is now an 24 effective national list of persons barred from working 25 with children, with a Central Government agency</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 dedicated to maintaining it. And foster carers must be 2 regularly scrutinised in annual reviews. These are just 3 some of the measures that did not exist 20 or 30 years 4 ago. 5 The county does recognise that safeguarding 6 practices cannot guarantee a child's safety completely. 7 Such a guarantee cannot be given by any local authority 8 responsible for looking after children. 9 We are confident, however, that children in county 10 children's homes or foster care are far better protected 11 and safer today. Their situation is incomparable to 12 those of children in the past. 13 In the most recent inspection of the county's 14 services for children in need of help, and protection, 15 and looked-after children, Ofsted rated their services 16 as "good". This means that Ofsted were satisfied that: 17 "Children and young people are protected. The risks 18 to them are identified and managed through timely 19 decisions, and the help provided reduces the risk of or 20 actual harm to them." 21 This rings true with the county's current 22 experience. Allegations against current carers are 23 still made, but thankfully they tend to be rare. 24 We understand that this may be cold comfort for 25 those the county has already failed, but the county is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 taking steps to address these historic abuses. The 2 county has set up the historical abuse team to assist 3 with providing access to documents and information 4 necessary to investigate allegations of abuse by 5 children formerly in its care to both police and those 6 dealing with civil claims. That team addresses any 7 current safeguarding issues raised by allegations and 8 considers the need for support for victims and survivors 9 in conjunction with a more recently developed survivors' 10 support service. 11 In addition, the county has jointly established 12 a survivor support group with survivors which involves 13 partner agencies and meets every six to eight weeks 14 ensuring that effective lines of communication are open 15 between survivors and their representatives. 16 The county is also pro-actively involved with 17 partnership agencies to ensure that appropriate 18 therapeutic services and treatment are available to 19 victims of abuse. We have read the complainants' core 20 participant witness statements, and it's clear from 21 those that more could still be done to support victims 22 of abuse. The county will continue to look at that 23 issue. We would encourage any survivor in need of 24 support who has not made themselves known to the county 25 to get in touch.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>
<p>1 Thirdly and finally: civil claims. 2 With regard to civil claims, the county has tried to 3 resolve them in the spirit of the public apologies that 4 have been made. 5 We have tried to be proactive in resolving claims. 6 In practice, this has not always been that 7 straightforward. The panel is of course aware of the 8 complexities involved. Those complexities are being 9 explored in a separate accountability and reparations 10 investigation. 11 The county knows that there have been difficulties 12 in the past. Mistakes have been made for which we 13 apologise. We have learned and continue to learn from 14 those mistakes. 15 Over 200 claims have been identified by the county 16 as falling within the scope of this investigation. Of 17 those, 20 remain ongoing and they are presently under 18 consideration by the county and its insurers. 19 It is hoped that these remaining claims, some only 20 recently made, will be resolved in the near future. 21 One claim made against the county arising out of 22 sexual abuse has needed to be decided by court. That 23 particular case involved a difficult, complex and 24 important question of law which was ultimately decided 25 by the Supreme Court. As the inquiry is aware,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>	<p>1 sometimes difficult issues of principle, particularly 2 those of national importance and implication, require 3 judicial determination. 4 In conclusion, we hope it is clear to the inquiry 5 and survivors that the county's two apologies, made in 6 public by two different county leaders in 2016 and 7 earlier this year, were not just empty words. 8 The county is committed to ensuring the mistakes of 9 the past are not repeated and welcomes this 10 investigation. 11 It is hoped that this investigation will provide 12 a foundation for useful recommendations to improve the 13 safeguarding of children in the care of local 14 authorities. It is hoped that it provides helpful 15 recommendations as to how we and other councils can 16 alleviate or otherwise address the effects of the abuse 17 of those who suffered. 18 The council agrees with the submissions made by the 19 representatives of the complainants that it is essential 20 that the inquiry's recommendations are precise, definite 21 recommendations, with tangible deadlines. They do have 22 to have real teeth. 23 We will be participating in these public hearings in 24 the spirit of facilitating just such an outcome. Thank 25 you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Sharland. 2 Finally, Ms Leek. 3 Opening statement by MS LEEK 4 MS LEEK: Chair, panel members, core participants, my name 5 is Samantha Leek and I appear on behalf of the 6 Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police who reiterates 7 his commitment to supporting the inquiry in its work and 8 its aims. 9 The Chief Constable recognises with deep regret that 10 so many children who were in the care of Nottinghamshire 11 Councils were subjected to sexual abuse and 12 exploitation. As counsel for the complainant core 13 participants said yesterday, this abuse happened when 14 they were at their most vulnerable and should have been 15 cared for, listened to and protected. 16 It is clear that the institutions and systems in 17 place did not protect those children from abuse. Where 18 abuse did happen, in many cases there were barriers to 19 disclosure by complainants, and where disclosure was 20 made, institutions, including the police, did not always 21 respond appropriately. 22 The chief constable recognises the courage of the 23 victims, survivors, and complainants who have come 24 forward and spoken about their experiences, including 25 those who will give evidence or whose evidence will be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 read this week. 2 The consequences for the survivors have been serious 3 and lifelong. Where the inactions or actions of the 4 police have in any way exacerbated or prolonged the pain 5 suffered by any complainant, the chief constable would 6 like to apologise sincerely and deeply on behalf of 7 Nottinghamshire Police. 8 The chief constable welcomes the public scrutiny of 9 the allegations and the institutional responses to them. 10 The purpose of this inquiry, in addition to giving 11 public voice to those who were abused, must be to learn 12 lessons for the future. 13 Plainly the police, even if they have learned some 14 lessons, still have much to learn, and will take on 15 board the experiences of those who have given evidence 16 to this inquiry. 17 Rob Griffin and Rob McKinnell are here all week 18 listening to your testimony and will take on board what 19 you say and hope to learn lessons from it. 20 Nottinghamshire Police have had both 21 a contemporaneous and more recent role in investigating 22 and responding to allegations of sexual abuse involving 23 children in the care of Nottinghamshire Councils. Prior 24 to 2010, there were various investigations into 25 individuals connected with the councils, resulting in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>
<p>1 a number of convictions, including the 1991 conviction 2 and sentencing of Norman Campbell to six years 3 imprisonment for offences committed at Wollaton House 4 during the 1980s. In connection with Beechwood, 5 Operation Harpoon led to the 2002 conviction, 6 the 19-year sentence of John Dent for offences committed 7 at Enderleigh and at Hillcrest between 1976 and 1978. 8 Since January 2010, Nottinghamshire Police have 9 received several hundred allegations of non-recent 10 sexual offences against children in homes connected with 11 this strand of the inquiry and in foster care. 12 It is clear that these allegations and the 13 convictions that have followed are, as was said by 14 Mr Simblet yesterday, only the small tip of a very large 15 iceberg. 16 Chair, Nottinghamshire Police has dedicated specific 17 resources to investigating the allegations. A number of 18 officers were taken from their general duties and formed 19 dedicated teams under Operations Daybreak and Xeres 20 which were later amalgamated as Operation Equinox. 21 As Mr Sadd said yesterday, in 2011, a Gold Command 22 Group was formed to provide strategic governance and 23 oversight for the investigation, chaired by the 24 assistant chief constable. It continues to meet 25 quarterly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>	<p>1 These investigations, albeit too late for some, have 2 led to a number of convictions, including those of 3 Andris Logins, sentenced to 20 years in 2016, and 4 Barry Pick, sentenced to six years in 2017, in 5 connection with offences committed at Beechwood. 6 Most recently, on 4 May 2018, Dean Gathercole was 7 sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment for offences 8 committed at Amberdale in 1987, and on 29 May 2018, 9 Myriam Bamkin was sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment 10 for an offence committed at Amberdale in 1984. 11 As many in this room will already know, last week, 12 following a retrial, Christopher Metcalfe was convicted 13 for offences of indecent assault and will be sentenced 14 next week. 15 Nottinghamshire Police, through Operation Equinox, 16 are continuing actively to investigate allegations of 17 non-recent sexual abuse involving children who were in 18 the care of Nottinghamshire Councils. A number of 19 suspects are currently still under investigation or 20 awaiting trial. 21 Chair, core participants, the chief constable hopes 22 that the inquiry's hearings, together with 23 Nottinghamshire Police's own criminal investigations, 24 will provide a fuller understanding of the nature and 25 extent of the abuse, the circumstances in which this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 arose, and the reasons for non-disclosure.</p> <p>2 This will enable the inquiry and institutions, both</p> <p>3 locally and nationwide, including</p> <p>4 Nottinghamshire Police, to identify changes required to</p> <p>5 ensure that children in care are better protected in the</p> <p>6 future and to address, importantly, barriers to</p> <p>7 disclosure.</p> <p>8 As Ms Gallagher said yesterday, the preservation of</p> <p>9 reputation and the desire to avoid scandal must not be</p> <p>10 allowed to override the protection of children.</p> <p>11 The chief constable recognises that in some cases</p> <p>12 complainants have raised concerns about the way in which</p> <p>13 their allegations were handled by the police. Again,</p> <p>14 where those were not handled as complainants might have</p> <p>15 wished, the chief constable apologises and welcomes the</p> <p>16 opportunity to learn lessons for the future.</p> <p>17 One such example was highlighted yesterday in the</p> <p>18 submissions of Ms Gallagher and Mr Brown, and that</p> <p>19 concerns the question of how to approach someone, years</p> <p>20 after traumatic events, and often out of the blue. Some</p> <p>21 are happy with this and some plainly are not. Whilst</p> <p>22 there is some guidance on this issue, the police are</p> <p>23 constantly grappling with the best and most sensitive</p> <p>24 way in which to approach a victim.</p> <p>25 Should it be a phone call? Should it be a visit?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 Should it be a visit by one person or more? Should it</p> <p>2 be a card through the door? There is plainly no</p> <p>3 one-size-fits-all template, but the chief constable will</p> <p>4 listen to the experiences of the victims and genuinely</p> <p>5 welcomes further guidance from the inquiry as to how to</p> <p>6 deal with challenging and complex issues such as this.</p> <p>7 Chief Superintendent Rob Griffin will address in his</p> <p>8 evidence the development of Nottinghamshire Police's</p> <p>9 policies and procedures with regard to the investigation</p> <p>10 of allegations of child sexual abuse. Significant</p> <p>11 changes have already been made to internal systems and</p> <p>12 processes during the period which this inquiry is</p> <p>13 examining. However, Nottinghamshire Police continue to</p> <p>14 review and continue to strive to improve these and have</p> <p>15 continued to do so during the course of the</p> <p>16 Operation Equinox investigations.</p> <p>17 Core participants, in conclusion, the</p> <p>18 chief constable wishes me to convey personally that he</p> <p>19 and his officers are not complacent about having learned</p> <p>20 all of the lessons that are to be learned. This inquiry</p> <p>21 will provide further opportunity to learn lessons and,</p> <p>22 where appropriate, to make changes moving forwards.</p> <p>23 We are determined to ensure that child protection</p> <p>24 systems continue to be improved and to ensure that there</p> <p>25 are no gaps through which any child, victim, survivor or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>
<p>1 complainant can fall in the future. Thank you.</p> <p>2 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Leek. We will now take a break</p> <p>3 and return at 11.55.</p> <p>4 MR SADD: There's just one matter very quickly. I just</p> <p>5 wanted to reassure Mr Jacobs and his clients that we do</p> <p>6 have more seats available in the public gallery in</p> <p>7 Pocock Street than are available here. Seating here is</p> <p>8 limited by the size and layout of this room, but there</p> <p>9 are, as I've already said, the two annexes available, so</p> <p>10 that as many people as possible can watch.</p> <p>11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Sadd.</p> <p>12 (11.39 am)</p> <p>13 (A short break)</p> <p>14 (12.03 pm)</p> <p>15 MR SADD: Chair, we now hear from NO-A50, otherwise known as</p> <p>16 D7, and I'll be referring to the witness as D7</p> <p>17 throughout her evidence.</p> <p>18 WITNESS NO-A50 (affirmed)</p> <p>19 Examination by MR SADD</p> <p>20 MR SADD: Good afternoon, D7. Sorry that we have delayed</p> <p>21 things a little and thank you for your patience.</p> <p>22 You have provided a statement --</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- to the inquiry. That statement, the panel has. What</p> <p>25 we're going to do is look at the evidence that comes out</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>	<p>1 of that statement together.</p> <p>2 I imagine you've read the statement again recently.</p> <p>3 Are there any corrections that you would want to make?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. When we're looking at passages together in the</p> <p>6 statement, you will remember that parts of the statement</p> <p>7 will have been blocked over in different types of ways,</p> <p>8 and that process has been explained to you and you</p> <p>9 understand. It means of course that when you're talking</p> <p>10 to the panel, if you suddenly find yourself about to say</p> <p>11 a name, that will help you remember not to do so.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Thank you very much.</p> <p>14 Remember also that you can take your time and that</p> <p>15 if at any point you need a break or you just can't go</p> <p>16 on, let me know.</p> <p>17 A. Okay, thank you.</p> <p>18 Q. Barristers have a tendency to ask questions that are far</p> <p>19 too long. So if my question to you isn't clear, ask me</p> <p>20 to repeat it. I'll put it again in a different way. It</p> <p>21 will be my fault, not yours. It's important you know</p> <p>22 that.</p> <p>23 It's also important you know, D7, that this isn't</p> <p>24 a test of memory. You're not in any way being asked to</p> <p>25 remember things properly or rightly. All right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 A. Okay. 2 Q. Finally, along the long list of things, know to draw the 3 panel's attention to anything that I may have overlooked 4 when we're going through the evidence together. All 5 right? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. I have your statement in front of me and in the first 8 five paragraphs you provide the family structure. It's 9 right to say that you're now 55 and were born in 1962? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. You set out who your family members were? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Your childhood was spent growing up in Mansfield? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. You say you had a relationship with your father whom you 16 tell the inquiry that you loved? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. But we then read about the relationship that you had 19 with your mother. This you set out in paragraphs 6 and 20 7, and although I'm going to ask you questions about 21 that, it's fair to summarise it as an unhappy and 22 difficult relationship with her; is that right? 23 A. That's right. 24 Q. How did your mother treat you? 25 A. She didn't like me, clearly, from being a very small</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 child to the fact that she would lift me up by the roots 2 of my hair and take me upstairs to put me in a cot and 3 swing me over and my feet never touched the ground. 4 That was one of my earliest memories. 5 I was afraid of her and my grandmother when they 6 were together. They seemed to feed off each other not 7 liking me. 8 My mother used to say that -- well, I don't know 9 what I'd done wrong, but she used to put her coat on and 10 say that she was leaving and she used to leave me by 11 myself in the home and I didn't know where she's gone. 12 Q. From your earliest memories of how your mother treated 13 you, how did that make you feel? 14 A. Unloved. Different from my friends. I didn't have 15 a mum that I could talk to or -- it was quite isolating, 16 even at a young age. 17 Q. You had siblings? 18 A. Yes, I had a brother and a sister. 19 Q. How were they treated by comparison to you? 20 A. They were treated differently. They were -- they were 21 treated all right. My sister was a spina bifida baby, 22 and my brother was the youngest and the only son. 23 Q. May we move on, D7? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. We go to paragraph 9, please. You say there:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>
<p>1 "I remember longing for love and affection that 2 I was missing at home." 3 In the way that you led your life as a child and 4 your early teens, how did that longing for love and 5 affection work its way out? 6 A. It worked its way out with boyfriends. You know, 7 I had -- my first relationship started in 1976. I got 8 on well with his family and it did develop into a sexual 9 relationship. 10 Q. Indeed it's right, isn't it, that when we look at 11 paragraphs 9 to 18, you set out a series of 12 relationships that you had? 13 A. That's right. 14 Q. Are you happy that I use the word "relationship"? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Can we look, for instance, at paragraph 11. There you 17 describe what appears to be an older male. 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Can you tell us a bit about what happened, that you 20 describe in paragraph 11, please? 21 A. Yes. I was in a pub in town where I used to meet 22 friends and we used to play pool, and there was a man 23 that lived on the same street as where I lived, and he 24 came into the pub and says, "What are you doing in here?" 25 You shouldn't be in here. You'd better come with me",</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>	<p>1 and I just thought he was going to take me home, back to 2 my mum and dad's, and I got in the car and he started 3 driving a different -- you know, a different way, and he 4 took me to the local woods and he asked me if I was 5 a virgin, and he said that there was ways that he could 6 tell. And he got out of the car and he -- I presume 7 that he was putting some contraception on. I kicked and 8 screamed and bit and punched and he drove me home 9 without ... 10 Q. I think, D7, you then describe how you went into a pub, 11 you described what had happened to you, that some older 12 boys took it in their hands, you think, then to go and 13 see him? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. And then he turns up at -- 16 A. Turned up at my mum and dad's house, yes. 17 Q. At paragraph 13 you say there: 18 "I then told my parents what he had done to me 19 earlier that day." 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. How did they respond to that? 22 A. They didn't believe me. They just thought I was being 23 rebellious and causing trouble. 24 Q. May we go over the page, please? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 Q. You set out subsequent relationships. You say at 2 paragraph 15 -- you talk about one particular 3 relationship there. You say your mother disapproved of 4 that one. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Was that the same person whom you describe at 7 paragraph 16 as the love of your life? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. It was. You say this -- if you are happy for me to read 10 it? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. "I got no attention at home but he gave me attention 13 and I felt he really cared for me. I spent as much time 14 with him as I could." 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Then at paragraph 19, D7, you describe your behaviour 17 going downhill? 18 A. That's right. 19 Q. You were how old about when that -- 20 A. 14. 21 Q. By "going downhill", what do you want the panel to 22 understand? 23 A. I was staying out late, getting up early when my father 24 went to work, and I was spending as much time with the 25 person that was the love of my life as I possibly could.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 Q. Then we look at page 5, please, and paragraph 20. You 2 say there -- again, with your permission, can I read 3 that? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. "I was admitted to care in 1977, one month before 6 I turned 15. I was taken into care because I was beyond 7 parental control." 8 Can you remember the experience of actually being 9 taken into care? 10 A. Yes, very vividly. I came home from school to find 11 a case packed in the -- in the lounge and a social 12 worker there, a male social worker, and I was informed 13 that I was being taken into a children's home. 14 Q. Where was that home? 15 A. It was at Enderleigh on Alexandra Park, Nottingham. 16 Q. We are going to go back to those events, but just 17 completing the picture, at that age, taken into care, 18 being placed in a home, you have described how you had 19 two siblings? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Paragraph 26, you say: 22 "None of my siblings were ever in the same placement 23 as me." 24 A. That's right. 25 Q. What happened to your siblings?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>
<p>1 A. They stayed at home with my parents. 2 Q. Going back, if I may, then, to paragraph 21, you say you 3 were taken to Enderleigh Children's Home and stayed 4 there until 1977. I think later on in your statement 5 you say how long the period was? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. It was a relatively short period; is that right? 8 A. It was, yes, it was just short of three weeks. It was 9 two weeks and something. 10 Q. It's whilst you are there for that period of time that 11 you were sexually abused? 12 A. That's right. 13 Q. We will come back to what happened after you left 14 Enderleigh, if I may, but let's go, if I can, to page 6. 15 This is where, D7, you set out for the panel the details 16 of the abuse. 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. In a moment we'll come on to those, but I just want to 19 reassure you, if at any point you simply can't go 20 through that account, may I suggest that I might read it 21 and then you can say to me if I've got it right or not? 22 A. Okay. 23 Q. But that's only if you can't go through the process? 24 A. I will try. 25 Q. Okay. So paragraph 27, how did you feel at that age,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>	<p>1 14, 15, about being placed in a home? 2 A. I felt -- well, I was -- I felt totally abandoned. 3 I couldn't believe that I was there. I couldn't believe 4 that my father had allowed it, but I think his input on 5 that was very little. And I was absolutely heartbroken. 6 Q. What were your first impressions of the place? 7 A. It just seemed a strange place. 8 Q. In what way strange? 9 A. It was -- it was just a strange atmosphere. I was told 10 there was two other girls there, an older girl and 11 a younger girl, and I think while I was in the process 12 of being booked in, the older girl -- my case had been 13 taken up to a dormitory and the older girl ran off with 14 all of my clothes, or a lot of them. 15 Q. You say you were in the process of being booked in when 16 that happened? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. How many members of staff were -- 19 A. There was a social worker that took me there, and 20 John Dent. 21 Q. John Dent being -- did you understand what his role was? 22 A. He was the -- the head of the home, as I understood. 23 Q. You talk about him at paragraph 28, please. 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. You say there that he lived on the premises in a flat?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Where was that flat located in relation to where your
 3 dormitory was?
 4 **A. It was upstairs and there was a corridor that went from**
 5 **the flat, that went through to the upstairs dormitories.**
 6 Q. Right. D7, in the same paragraph you say:
 7 "After a couple of days, Dent became very friendly
 8 to me."
 9 What do you want the panel to understand by that?
 10 **A. He was giving me cigarettes, allowing me to smoke. He**
 11 **was telling me that if he wasn't in his office, then he**
 12 **didn't know that I was not using the phone and, you**
 13 **know, sort of giving me the go-ahead to phone the person**
 14 **that I was sort of taken into the care home to be away**
 15 **from, because I was on a place of safety order.**
 16 Q. At paragraph 30, please, apart from John Dent, and you
 17 have described a social worker who accompanied you to
 18 the home, was there anyone else in the home at the time?
 19 **A. Yes, there was a -- there was a female worker. I can't**
 20 **remember her name. But she took myself and the younger**
 21 **girl on a couple of occasions to a pub by a river, and**
 22 **I don't know where exactly --**
 23 Q. It doesn't matter.
 24 **A. But she did that, and she did buy me alcohol.**
 25 Q. Right. Then we come to paragraph 31. You say there:

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1 **scared. I did say no and I pushed him away.**
 2 **I couldn't believe what had happened. I really just**
 3 **could not believe what had happened and I couldn't tell**
 4 **anybody. I had nobody to tell. I had nobody to talk**
 5 **to. I just felt that people would just think I was**
 6 **a rebellious teenager and making excuses, that I was in**
 7 **a care home and I wanted to get out. So I just**
 8 **couldn't --**
 9 Q. May I take up --
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. -- the story for you? I'm not going to stop you talking
 12 but just to help you.
 13 You say at paragraph 34 Dent then arranged for the
 14 person you were sharing a room with to move?
 15 **A. That's right, he moved the other girl into the**
 16 **dormitory.**
 17 Q. You found yourself sleeping alone?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. With what consequence? What happened?
 20 **A. With the consequence that at every available opportunity**
 21 **he was coming again into the dormitory on the same**
 22 **format and, you know, he did sort of pull my clothes and**
 23 **tried to kiss me and -- he was -- again, he got an erect**
 24 **penis and he was trying to digitally penetrate me. And**
 25 **I was crying and I asked him to stop. But he didn't,**

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1 "Dent sexually abused me at Enderleigh on several
 2 occasions throughout the two weeks that I was there."
 3 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 4 Q. Then you go on at paragraph 32 to describe the first
 5 incident?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Are you happy to do so now?
 8 **A. Yes. Do you mind if I use my notes?**
 9 Q. No.
 10 **A. Yes, the first day was on the Saturday, and there was**
 11 **an FA Cup Final match on. And he told me, again, if**
 12 **I wanted to ring my boyfriend, I could use the phone in**
 13 **the office, and he went and he bought some stout and**
 14 **cigarettes and, you know, I was allowed to have a drink,**
 15 **and he was being very -- very friendly.**
 16 **Do you want me to continue on from that?**
 17 Q. Please do, if you're happy to do so.
 18 **A. That same evening he came -- he did come up to the**
 19 **dormitory in the middle of the night and this was the**
 20 **first occasion that I woke up with him on top of me and**
 21 **he was -- he got his mouth over my mouth and just -- he**
 22 **says, "I'm not going to hurt you. Please be quiet, I'm**
 23 **not going to hurt you". And I was just rigid and then**
 24 **I got -- I said no, and when I realised I could feel his**
 25 **erect penis rubbing against me, I was really, really**

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1 **and he carried on. But it did stop eventually.**
 2 **I think, had I not struggled so much, it would have**
 3 **ended up in a full sexual intercourse.**
 4 Q. D7, may I go on to paragraph 36, you remember him saying
 5 to you one day in the dining room, "I'm going to shout
 6 at you because people mustn't see me treating you
 7 differently, and you are my favourite"?
 8 **A. That's right.**
 9 Q. Was there a sense that when he was with you, that he was
 10 treating you as his favourite?
 11 **A. Yes, he was always very nice to me. Yes, he was**
 12 **always -- yes. He was. Yes, he was trying to be --**
 13 Q. All right. You say, at paragraph 37, he then did shout
 14 at you and asked you to do something. What did he ask
 15 you to do?
 16 **A. Yes, as a consequence of whatever he was shouting at me**
 17 **for, for the bumped up thing, he said that my punishment**
 18 **was to go and Hoover the flat out upstairs before lunch,**
 19 **and I went upstairs to start doing it and I got a Hoover**
 20 **running and the next thing I knew, he was behind me, and**
 21 **he grabbed me from behind and he pulled me onto the bed.**
 22 Q. And what happened?
 23 **A. Again, he was pulling my clothes. He was fondling my**
 24 **breasts. He was trying to pull away my lower clothing**
 25 **and I was really fighting with him. And he seemed**

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<p>1 really angry and he just -- he just went and I was 2 scared then of what would happen. You know, because he 3 was -- he was so angry. 4 Q. If you're able to do so, may we move on? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Is that all right? 7 A. That's fine. 8 Q. If you go over the page, please, to page 8, at 9 paragraph 39 you describe writing a letter to an 10 individual? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. Because you say you were worried about her? 13 A. I was very worried about her, yes. She was such a young 14 girl and I know that letters used to be opened and read 15 before you got them. So I didn't know whether it would 16 ever reach her or not, but I do remember writing in the 17 letter, asking about staff members, and I asked about 18 John Dent, and I says, "He's nice, isn't he?", trying to 19 lead something maybe from her, whether she was in 20 trouble or anything, but I never heard from her. 21 Q. We then go on, in fact you've already told the panel in 22 part why it was you weren't able to tell anyone at the 23 time. You say at paragraph 40: 24 "I didn't think anyone would believe me." 25 As you've already told the panel a moment ago, D7,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 you put it slightly differently, but here you say: 2 "I was a rebel teenager." 3 But you also include there one other reason. What 4 was the other reason? 5 A. The reason was he always used to say that, you know, 6 "You behaving, you know, you'll go home. It's my say-so 7 whether you go home at the end of this term", you know, 8 and he made that really, really clear on lots of 9 occasions. And he was at my case -- 10 Q. And -- 11 A. Sorry, he was at my case conference and involved in it, 12 and I was still scared on the day. 13 Q. So at the time that he was involved in the case 14 conference, had he already assaulted you? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Paragraph 41, please. You say: 17 "I felt very alone at Enderleigh." 18 You've already expressed to some extent why that 19 was. 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Is there anything you want to add about how alone you 22 felt? 23 A. Well, I didn't even tell the love of my life because 24 I thought he wouldn't want me after -- after that. 25 I didn't trust anyone. I couldn't tell my mother. And</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>
<p>1 there was just -- there was just nobody. 2 I was supposed to be in a place of safety and I was 3 actually more -- more danger than I was before I went in 4 the home. You know. 5 Q. Then you come on to say, from paragraph 42 onwards, when 6 it was you were able to report? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. But before that time, so I think you give a date there, 9 1997? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. We know that you will have left Enderleigh. You were 12 there for three weeks. You will have left Enderleigh in 13 1977; is that right? 14 A. That's right. 15 Q. So there's a 20-year period? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. In that gap between, how did you feel about your 18 experience that you'd had at Enderleigh? 19 A. I felt awful. I felt -- I just didn't know anywhere to 20 go. I felt that when my daughter, she hit the age that 21 I was when my abuse took place, and I thought that 22 maybe, you know, I thought I could handle it, that, you 23 know, it had happened and I could handle it. And then 24 when I saw my daughter one day, just coming down the 25 stairs, a normal act, and it just hit me like a ton of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>	<p>1 bricks that, you know, she's only still a little girl. 2 And that's when it hit me hard, and also the reporting 3 of all the Jersey abuse had been on television and I was 4 foolish enough to think that there was only one 5 paedophile, that it might be him, and had I not said 6 anything, you know, if I had had said something, I could 7 have stopped it, and the culmination of that. 8 Q. You also give an instance, D7, in paragraph 42, where 9 you describe reading in 1997, which is why I took that 10 date span, that you read an article about childhood 11 sexual abuse? 12 A. I did, yes. 13 Q. You decided to act on reading that. What did you do? 14 A. Again, very naively, I found a number -- I rang for some 15 advice, an advice line. I also rang the Samaritans. 16 And then I rang Enderleigh to try and locate John Dent, 17 and I told somebody that I wanted to make a serious 18 allegation, but I was told that he was not there and 19 there were no records of him. 20 Q. Then you give us the account that you've spoken of 21 a moment ago, which is at paragraph 44 in relation to 22 your daughter being about the same age. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Then, again, something you've just mentioned now about 25 the Jersey cases.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. You say this. This is at the top of page 9, the first 3 two lines: 4 "I felt so bad, I kept thinking: what if Dent has 5 been doing it to other people?" 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Who else did you or did you feel you were able to tell 8 from that point? 9 A. I told my husband at the time, yes. 10 Q. What was his response? 11 A. He has a -- had a solicitor friend and he said that, you 12 know, we'll give him a call and, you know, have a chat 13 with him. And he asked if I was going to report it, my 14 husband, and he said that I hadn't done -- the solicitor 15 said I hadn't done anything wrong, that I didn't need 16 a solicitor, but he would send one of his colleagues, 17 female colleagues, to accompany me to the police 18 station. 19 Q. What had been your husband's reaction when you told him? 20 How -- where did you find the ability to tell him, 21 having not told anyone for 20 years? 22 A. I think it was the fact that I was so upset of seeing my 23 daughter and the whole -- everything just -- I had to 24 explain -- this relationship, by the way, was a very, 25 very severe domestic violence relationship. So like</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 I had to explain quite a lot of things. So I had to 2 explain why I was upset and -- 3 Q. And when you say "this relationship", that's with your 4 then husband; is that right? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Paragraph 46, please, D7: 7 "I went to the police station in March 1998 and 8 disclosed the abuse. I think I went alone." 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. What prompted you to go to the police? Was it the fact 11 of what the solicitor had said to you or something else? 12 A. I just had to do it. I just had to -- I had to tell 13 somebody. 14 Q. When you got there, how did you then feel? Were you 15 able to go through with the disclosure? 16 A. Yes, I was, to a certain degree. It was a male. A male 17 officer that I spoke to, and I gave him very basic 18 information. I felt quite uncomfortable, you know. It 19 wasn't ideal. Can I just have a minute to ... 20 Q. Yes, of course. (Pause). 21 Would you like me to help you by reading and you 22 comment or ...? 23 A. No, I'm okay now. I'm where I am. 24 Then after that, they said that somebody would 25 contact me from the child sexual abuse team, and then,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>
<p>1 in April, DC Balodis came to see me at my home to take 2 a formal statement. 3 Q. What was that experience like? 4 A. She was really, really nice. She told me she believed 5 me and that -- that was absolutely, you know, joy to my 6 ears, that somebody from the police believed what I was 7 telling them. She spent, you know, the whole day there. 8 She was very patient. She helped me, you know, back up 9 my statement and did it in portions that were very easy. 10 You know, lots of breaks. 11 She did give me the chance to go to the rape suite 12 in Worksop, but I said I would rather stay at home, and 13 she made me feel very comfortable. 14 Q. Then you say this at paragraph 48: 15 "DC Balodis kept in regular contact after that. She 16 was brilliant at updating me about what was happening 17 with the investigation." 18 How did she update you? How did she go about doing 19 that? 20 A. That's right. She used to phone me very regularly to 21 see that I was okay or if there was a new person come on 22 to the team, she would ring up and say, you know, "We 23 have got such and such", and you know, "They're very 24 nice. You know, when I come out next ...", you know, 25 she would bring the person with her.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>	<p>1 I felt that -- if they got any updates, sometimes 2 she would ring to say, "I need to come and see you". 3 Sometimes it was a phone call. But she always followed 4 up. She was very, very good. 5 Q. How did that overall experience make you feel about 6 having come forward? 7 A. Very good. I felt -- I did feel believed. I felt 8 understood by the police. They made it very good. 9 A lot different to what it is now. 10 Q. And then, D7, you found yourself, as we read from 11 paragraph 49 through to 58, I'm not going to skip over 12 it, but I'm just explaining in summary what you say 13 there. This is -- you became part of a wider 14 investigation into John Dent? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Which eventually led to a trial? 17 A. That's right. 18 Q. If we go, please, to page 10, paragraph 51, please, we 19 read there that Dent denied all the charges against him 20 which meant that you had to give evidence -- 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. -- at the trial. How did you find that? 23 A. It was traumatic. It was horrible. I didn't have 24 a screen. I didn't want one. So I saw Dent and he made 25 me feel sick and he looked so evil. And when I got eye</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 contact from him, he looked at me like he could do me 2 some serious harm. 3 Q. During the course of the trial, did you receive any 4 support? 5 A. I got some support from the Victim Support in the Crown 6 Court. 7 Q. Might I ask you, the outcome of that trial, what in fact 8 happened? 9 A. He was acquitted on my charges. And I was the one that 10 blew the whistle on him. 11 Q. Paragraph 53, please, D7, you say -- with your 12 permission, may I read what you say there? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. "I was totally numb when Dent was acquitted on my 15 charges. I couldn't believe it." 16 What was the response of -- were you still in 17 contact with Police Officer Balodis? 18 A. Yes. Yes, we was -- I was in court and she couldn't 19 understand it because she said that my evidence was 20 good, the evidence overall was overwhelming. And it was 21 maybe just down to the jury on the day. 22 Q. As you tell the panel, there was then a second trial. 23 A. There was, yes. 24 Q. Did you give evidence at that trial? 25 A. No, I didn't, but I did go to the trial every day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 because I felt that I needed to get my satisfaction from 2 seeing him get a prison sentence. 3 Q. In fact, again, you tell the panel at paragraph 56 that 4 on this occasion he was convicted? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. He went to prison for seven years? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. And you were in court for his sentencing. How did 9 that -- how did that process make you feel? 10 A. Well, it was -- I think he got away very lightly. 11 Because of all the things happening together and the 12 sentence running how it did, you know, concurrently with 13 each other, I think it made it that he got seven years, 14 and he was back out in June 2005, you know, so I think 15 he did very well there. But I just had the gut feeling 16 that there's more to come from this man. 17 Q. Paragraph 55, you tell the panel how there was a report 18 of the trial and the conviction, and I wondered if we 19 could have up on screen, please, Paul, INQ002436. 20 This is the first page of that article and we can 21 see that there's a sub-heading there which starts more 22 than two decades ago. Do you have that? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. May I read this out? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>
<p>1 Q. "More than two decades ago, care worker John Dent 2 betrayed the trust of teenagers in his care by 3 subjecting them to a catalogue of abuse. His crimes lay 4 uncovered until one woman finally plucked up the courage 5 to go to the police. Yesterday, he was convicted of 6 11 sex offences involving four children." 7 I know it's underlined in the article, but that one 8 woman, who was that? 9 A. That was me. 10 Q. We're going to go to the process of the civil 11 litigation, the claim that you brought. We don't need 12 to go through it in any detail. 13 A. Okay. 14 Q. Except to say that how -- what was the -- the eventual 15 outcome, so looking right at the bottom of page 11, and 16 you find a firm -- 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. -- to help you? 19 A. Right. 20 Q. As a result of finding that firm, what happened? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Was there -- 23 A. There was -- 24 Q. Was it resolved? 25 A. No, it wasn't resolved, no. I went to Uppal Taylors.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>	<p>1 Q. If I can stop you there. It's all right. 2 Let's just deal, if I may, with the very last 3 sentence? 4 A. Okay. 5 Q. So that you had -- you'd been to some lawyers? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. But you talk -- right at the bottom there, do you see 8 where you say: 9 "I went to a firm." 10 Right at the bottom there? 11 A. What page number are we on? 11? 12 Q. We're on page 11. All I want to hear from you, to help 13 us, is -- there was eventually a resolution of your 14 civil claim; is that right? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. That resolution resulted in a payment? 17 A. That's right, yes. 18 Q. All right. Thank you very much. 19 Can we then go to page 12 and paragraph 61, please. 20 There you summarise your overall experience with the 21 police. Would you like to say what you still feel about 22 that? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Thank you. 25 A. Yes, I do feel I had a very, very good positive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 experience with the police when I reported my abuse back 2 then, and I feel very privileged to have had that 3 because through the survivors' group that I now attend, 4 you know, I have seen such a different story. It is so 5 different. They don't feel believed. You know, they're 6 not approached appropriately. You know, it's terrible. 7 Q. D7, again, if it's all right with you, I'll move to the 8 next paragraph, 63, please. You say there: 9 "I don't have a good word to say about Social 10 Services. I feel let down by them." 11 Why is that? Why do you have that feeling? 12 A. Well, there was -- there was nothing in place then. 13 There was -- there was nowhere or nobody in the whole of 14 the Social Services that I could talk to, that I could 15 say, "Can you help me, please help me?". There was 16 nothing. 17 Q. You describe -- sorry -- I hope I'm not interrupting 18 you? 19 A. No, that's fine. 20 Q. You describe when you were first taken to Enderleigh -- 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. -- that you were brought there by a social worker? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. And you describe the booking in process. That social 25 worker who brought you there, was it a man or a woman?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 A. It was a man. 2 Q. Was that someone that you saw again? After you were 3 there, while you were at Enderleigh? 4 A. I don't know. I don't think I saw him until the case 5 conference. 6 Q. What was your relationship with that social worker? 7 A. Oh, it was terrible. I didn't like him. No, I really 8 didn't like him. 9 Q. Did you have contact with any other social workers 10 whilst you were in care? 11 A. Not while I was in Enderleigh, no. 12 Q. After that time, I think you describe here going to 13 South Collingham Hall? 14 A. Yes, I did. 15 Q. Was it the same social worker that you had, as far as 16 you can remember? 17 A. Yes, it was, yes. 18 Q. Did at any point that you had or that he was allocated 19 to you, was there any point at which you felt able to 20 talk to him about what had happened? 21 A. No, no, no. 22 Q. At paragraph 64, D7, you expand on something you touched 23 on a moment ago, which was the -- your views of the 24 support available for victims. 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>
<p>1 Q. That you considered that to be poor. 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Can we distinguish between two things, if possible. 4 First, the support that you've received as a victim, how 5 do you -- how do you rate that? Has that been good, 6 adequate, indifferent? 7 A. No, there was no support that, you know -- I found my 8 own counselling through ISAS. I got the generic support 9 of six counselling sessions from here, there and 10 everywhere, but the ISAS people, it was a free service. 11 You could donate if you was able, which I wasn't at the 12 time, and they saw me every week and they got me through 13 the court process. There was times when I turned up in 14 my nightdress and dressing gown because I just didn't 15 want to go. I couldn't -- I just didn't want to 16 actually go through things that were coming up through 17 the counselling, but I did go. I think that was a bit 18 of a stand, to say, "I'm here, but I don't really want 19 to be". 20 I saw that advertised. I think that there should be 21 some better long-term support for survivors and victims 22 of abuse. You can think you're fine for months and then 23 you can be in a supermarket and there's a song on the 24 radio from 19-whenver and it just cuts you, and just 25 gone.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>	<p>1 Q. You then set out in two full pages the impact the abuse 2 has had on you. We're going to look at some aspects of 3 that. But I want to take you, if I may, straight away 4 to paragraph 67. I nearly said 57. 5 A. 67. 6 Q. This is something you've already touched on, about how 7 you told your daughter in 1998. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. What was the effect of telling your daughter on her of 10 what had happened to her mother? 11 A. She had -- she had took an overdose. 12 Q. Are you all right? 13 A. Yes. She felt that it was her fault that I disclosed 14 because, you know, she was the one that reminded me 15 about -- you know, about what happened because she was 16 14. So she began then feeling guilty and, you know, she 17 went through that abuse with me, if truth be known. 18 Q. How has it affected, from there on, your relationship 19 with her? 20 A. We have a very, very strong bond. We have a fabulous 21 relationship. Yes. 22 Q. In the other paragraphs you talk about the impact of the 23 abuse on you. 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Whilst it's right the panel can read that, what in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 particular would you like to draw their attention to 2 about that impact? 3 A. There's just so much. 4 Q. All right. 5 A. I did take an overdose in July of 1977, yes. 6 Q. So to remind the panel, that's the year in which you 7 were at Enderleigh? 8 A. Yes, it was in between -- coming out of Enderleigh and 9 going back into care in Collingham Hall, but I didn't 10 disclose because there was nobody really to disclose to 11 there. 12 Q. Then, if it helps you, I'll go to some of the paragraphs 13 and then you can comment on them. 14 So paragraph 70, you say you were diagnosed as 15 suffering from depression at the age of 20. 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. And that you've been taking antidepressants since then? 18 A. That's right. 19 Q. You were diagnosed with PTSD in 2004? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. That's led you to comfort eating for a number of years. 22 Then tell us, if you can, about paragraph 71, what you 23 set out there. 24 A. Yes. I have flashbacks of my abuse which can happen, 25 and I feel that scared isolation again, and I see myself</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 back in the room. I can just see it so clearly, the 2 room with the metal bed frames and the bars on the 3 windows. And it happens when I have had, you know, 4 a reminder, you know, a song on the radio, as I said 5 before, or a film that was popular at the time. The 6 FA Cup Final every year does for me. And then I have to 7 go through the whole rigmarole of the sleep paralysis, 8 and that is horrendously frightening, you know. 9 Q. Then at paragraph 73 -- I should say at 72, you had the 10 experience of seeing a man who looked like Dent? 11 A. Yes, I did. 12 Q. You say what that was like, and then, at paragraph 73, 13 what has been the impact on your ability to stay in work 14 or get work? 15 A. Well, I got a job with a women's organisation and I won 16 that job from 100 people and then I was interviewed on 17 a panel and I got the job and I was very, very happy. 18 I loved the job. It was my dream job. And because of 19 Dent, I lost it, because I had to have time off for the 20 trial, and my actual trial, and then I had the time off 21 for the second trial, and all the -- I had to have the 22 recovery time after because I couldn't make clear 23 decisions on somebody else's life when, you know, I was 24 in a state of, you know, emotion myself. It was 25 a professional, you know, stance that I had with my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>
<p>1 doctor, and he said, you know, "You need to take some 2 time out", and they replaced me then. They said they 3 wasn't renewing my contract. They replaced me, 4 and I could have had a claim for unfair dismissal, but 5 I was too weak after everything. I couldn't do it. 6 Q. You end your statement, D7, by paragraph 74. Again, 7 with your permission, may I read what you say there? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. "I also have trust issues with getting to know new 10 people, which I feel is because I was abused by the man 11 who should have been looking after me. I don't have 12 very many friends because of that. My circle is very 13 small." 14 Can you read out that last sentence there, in 15 paragraph 74? 16 A. Yes: 17 "I can feel quite isolated because of this, 18 especially now as my partner is unwell." 19 Q. What in particular, D7, the panel having the opportunity 20 to read your statement, having the opportunity to listen 21 to you today, give your account, would you like the 22 panel to understand about the impact? 23 A. I have made some notes, if I could read them, it will 24 take five minutes. 25 I have mentioned the better long-term support for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>	<p>1 survivors and the crisis teams within the mental health 2 working, because we have people with PTSD, we've lost 3 survivors because the service is so poor. 4 Compared to the criminal court, this has been a very 5 much more personal experience for me. It was quite 6 horrible in the criminal court. I was spoken to by 7 the -- the people, you know, in a group of people. It 8 was not personal, tailored to me individually, like it 9 has been today. And for that I'm very grateful. 10 And you didn't get to say anything that you wanted 11 to say. You was asked questions, cross-examined and 12 that was it. 13 I think if found guilty, it should be allowed, the 14 victim impact statements to be read out before 15 sentencing to understand what child sexual abuse does to 16 someone. That they have to live it every day for fear, 17 self-loathing, depression, not worthy, shame, guilt, the 18 list goes on. 19 During opening statements yesterday, hearing things 20 read out yesterday, I realised that my abuse and others' 21 could have been prevented and wasn't, and I feel very 22 angry about this. 23 My recommendation, I thought, was for frontline 24 police to have intense, appropriate training for 25 survivors. Also an independent safe person for a child</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 to get in touch with when they are in a care home and 2 they have a problem to disclose, whatever that may be 3 and, if there is a problem, they're removed immediately, 4 not even going back for their clothes. Just get them 5 away. 6 Independent bodies that deal with records, so 7 they're not lost, destroyed. 8 And another thing that angers me very much is the 9 Children's Home Inspectorate that blew the whistle many 10 years ago, trying to do her job for Nottingham, and this 11 could have prevented some abuse if she'd not been shut 12 down. 13 And I recommend this lady should be in a position of 14 work in an independent body as she obviously has 15 the children's interests at heart, and it makes me very 16 sad that that lady's job was destroyed for trying to 17 tell the truth. 18 And support workers like Mandy Couplan, who have 19 supported me for three years, emotionally, but also 20 practically, to introduce survivors back into social 21 situations, building confidence back up and learning 22 life skills again. 23 I have had to explain to my neighbours, 24 embarrassingly enough, about the night terrors that 25 I get, because I call out, "Help me, please, somebody</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 help me", and I'm wailing, and it's very, very loud. We 2 live in a small semi that's not got very thick walls. 3 So I have had to explain to my neighbours so they don't 4 think I actually need help, which is very embarrassing. 5 This inquiry means a lot to me, and my hopes are 6 that it makes things safer for our future children. 7 Hopefully, this is the last time of recall of my abuse. 8 It will always be with me, but maybe a few rows back in 9 my mind now, as I continue to survive. Thank you. 10 Q. You will be very pleased to know that I'm finished with 11 all my questions. 12 A. Thank you. 13 MR SADD: Thank you very much for your time and for your 14 patience. It may be that the panel have one or two 15 questions to ask you. So if you wait there a moment. 16 Questions from THE PANEL 17 MR FRANK: First of all, thank you for the clarity of your 18 evidence so far. Just one thing to bring out. The 19 issue about the control that Dent had over your 20 future -- 21 A. Yes. 22 MR FRANK: -- when you were considering whether to make 23 a report about him or not. One of the things I think 24 that he said to you was that he had control of your 25 future.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 MR FRANK: In fact, he could have arranged for you to be 3 sent to somewhere even worse; is that right? 4 A. That's right. 5 MR FRANK: Do you have an idea what he was referring to in 6 that way? 7 A. Yes. He said he could make things difficult and he 8 could make it that I went to somewhere like Risley Hall 9 where it wasn't so cushy, and sort of put the big 10 frighteners on then. Because, even as a child, once you 11 sort of knew people that had been into care, you know, 12 it was quite a reputation back then. 13 MR FRANK: Thank you very much. 14 THE CHAIR: We have no further questions, but just to say to 15 the witness, we're very grateful to you for coming here 16 today and telling us about your experiences and we do 17 appreciate how distressing it could be for you. So 18 thank you very much. 19 A. Thank you. 20 MR SADD: Chair, there's no -- I think we have finished now. 21 D7, you can now stand down, if you would like, and you 22 will be escorted -- sorry, I should know what to do. 23 I'm sorry, D7. It's my mistake. 24 I've got it the wrong way round. It's for the panel 25 to leave now. If you wait there for a moment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>	<p>1 Chair, we resume again at 2 o'clock. 2 THE CHAIR: Thank you. 3 (12.59 pm) 4 (The short adjournment) 5 (2.00 pm) 6 THE CHAIR: Mr Sadd. 7 MR FRANK: I wonder, Mr Sadd, if I could ask one question 8 arising partly out of the evidence we've heard already 9 today. 10 May I make it clear that the question I ask, I'm not 11 expecting an instant answer to it. It's really a matter 12 of law which I shall be glad for some assistance on in 13 due course, but please don't feel any under any pressure 14 to answer immediately. 15 The question really arises in this way. Where 16 a child in care, as our last witness was, is in an 17 inappropriate or unsatisfactory placement, today, under 18 the Children Act 1989 we might think of a remedy under 19 section 8 of the Act. 20 In fact, of course, we know that section 9 of the 21 Act precludes a child in care from making any such 22 application. 23 As far as I know, though I don't know for certain, 24 although this witness's evidence was pre the 25 Children Act 1989, in terms of her experience in care,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 the same situation would have obtained then. 2 So we have a situation where a child is in a wholly 3 inappropriate placement, but there is no legal remedy 4 for removing that child from that inappropriate 5 placement. I would be glad at some point to have some 6 understanding as to whether there is a remedy, if it's 7 not under the Children Act 1989, what that may be, or 8 are we in fact in a situation where there is no legal 9 remedy for a child in care who is inappropriately 10 placed? I would be very interested to hear some 11 submission on that at some point in the future, if we 12 may. 13 Forgive me for interrupting the afternoon, but it's 14 a matter that's arisen not just in this -- 15 MR SADD: Mr Frank, thank you very much. It will be 16 something that we will take on board and consider and 17 come back to you. 18 MR FRANK: Thank you very much. 19 MR SADD: May we then have, please, L17? 20 WITNESS NO-A55 (affirmed) 21 Examination by MR SADD 22 MR SADD: Hello. In this rather artificial setting I have 23 to call you by L17. 24 A. Okay. 25 Q. I wondered if you can either move the microphone closer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 to you -- that would be great -- and when you're giving 2 your answer, if you're able to speak into the 3 microphone? 4 A. Okay. 5 Q. There's that artificial situation where I'm asking the 6 questions, but if you're able to direct your answers to 7 the panel, that would be very helpful. 8 You've provided a statement to the inquiry and what 9 we're going to do today, the panel have a copy of that 10 statement, but what we're going to do is go through the 11 statement and elicit some of the evidence from that 12 statement. 13 As we're looking at the passages, you will see, as 14 you already know, that some of those passages, some of 15 the words, will have been blanked out, and although the 16 temptation is strong, when you're reading it or being 17 taken somewhere, to actually name the individual or read 18 through, as it were, the blank out, try to resist that, 19 and I will help you do so. But it's very easy to do, 20 and don't worry if you do do it. 21 You must take your time and, if you need a break, 22 you must let me know. All right? 23 A. Okay. 24 Q. Ask me to repeat a question if it's not clear to you. 25 If it's not clear to you, it's because I haven't asked</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>
<p>1 it properly. It's important you know that. All right? 2 You need to be reassured that this isn't a test of 3 memory. The inquiry wants to hear your account of your 4 childhood and the impact of that account on your life 5 thereafter. 6 Sometimes I will summarise what's in your statement 7 and I'll ask you whether you're happy with the way 8 I have summarised it, and if you're not, or if there's 9 something you want to add, do let me know. 10 A. Okay. 11 Q. Then finally, when we come on to passages that you 12 suddenly find very difficult, perhaps, do let me know 13 and I will read out the passage for you and you can tell 14 me whether or not you agree with what I have read or if 15 there's something you want to add? 16 A. Okay. 17 Q. Thank you. 18 If we go, please, first, L17, to pages 1 and 2. You 19 tell the panel you were born in 1968 and that you grew 20 up in Nottingham. You say at paragraph 2: 21 "I grew up in a house with no love." 22 Can you describe what that was like for you? 23 A. As in the lack of love or the conditions that -- 24 Q. The lack of love. What was that? 25 A. Well, we didn't really see much of our parents. We</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>	<p>1 didn't have any furniture. We only had mattresses. 2 Just didn't really -- our parents didn't actually 3 interact with us. So they'd wait -- we would wake up 4 and they wasn't even there. If it's on a school day, 5 just get yourself ready and go. You come back from 6 school. You never saw them until around 9 o'clock at 7 night, but I worked out where she was going, to bingo, 8 and it was just down the road. 9 So I used to just go outside and wait, ask someone 10 to go and call her, so we can get the key to get in. 11 That's how we used to get in. 12 Q. How old would you have been when you were going to 13 get -- by "her", do you mean your mother? 14 A. Yes. About 4. 15 Q. You say at paragraph 4 of the statement that you were 16 sexually abused early in life between the ages of 3 and 17 5. Who by? 18 A. My brothers, because my mum was never in and my dad was 19 never in. The door was -- obviously, we're in. People 20 knew that there was no adults there. So they'd just 21 come in. My brothers would let them in. We'd let them 22 in. There would be other kids from the neighbourhood. 23 We would just let them in, and some of them -- one -- 24 two boys in particular always used to come round there 25 and take me and my sister under the stairs. It was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 always that hide and seek, but then my brothers used to 2 do it as well. So just literally got used to it. 3 Q. In fact, L17, in the last sentence of paragraph 4, you 4 say this, and with your permission, may I read it out? 5 A. Of course. 6 Q. "I was very confused about what was happening, but as 7 I say, these events became a natural part of life." 8 For how long did they remain a natural part of your 9 life? 10 A. Until I went into care, and -- well -- yes, until I went 11 into care. You know when you start getting sense, and 12 when you see certain boys coming around the house, 13 I used to start leaving out the back door because it was 14 just that typical pattern. You know why they are coming 15 around, kind of thing. 16 So yeah, up until I left home. 17 Q. How old were you when you went into care? 18 A. 11. 19 Q. If we go over the page, please, to page 2, at the top of 20 that page you describe how you started to get into 21 trouble. What sort of trouble were you getting into? 22 A. A lot of the time, you know, when your parents aren't 23 there, and you've got to go to school and you haven't 24 eaten from the night before, and then you've got to go 25 to school without eating, I would -- at break time at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 school, they used to have -- they called it "biscuit 2 time", where, like, 11 o'clock, you were allowed to go 3 and buy biscuits and a drink, but, I never, ever, ever 4 had any money, and one day I stole -- I just started 5 stealing money out of the biscuit tin so that I could 6 buy biscuits. 7 And then sometimes, if I didn't -- if I wasn't able 8 to do that, I just didn't go to school sometimes. 9 I would just end up going to the Co-op and stealing from 10 there. Just food. 11 Q. Paragraph 6, you say: 12 "There was no one to teach me right from wrong." 13 What were your -- what was your school doing? What 14 were the teachers doing? 15 A. The teachers -- you know, I was really -- really was 16 dying to go to school. I couldn't wait to turn 5 and go 17 to school. Because obviously I'm the youngest, everyone 18 is going to school, I'd be left on my own until they got 19 back. But I found that my sister had to take me on my 20 first day, you know, to register me. When she 21 registered me, the teacher was really, really nice. Her 22 name was Ms Friend. I remember her. That name was 23 appropriate. 24 But then, when I started school, she was horrible. 25 But it was -- you know when you're young and someone is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>
<p>1 nice and then they're not nice, I didn't know how to 2 compute that. So I decided I'm not going back there. 3 So I used to play truant. Even though I was 5, I didn't 4 want to go to school. 5 Q. How old was your sister when she took you to the school? 6 A. She's the oldest. So she would have been about 8. 7 Q. You say this. You say, at the end of paragraph 6: 8 "In my view, I should have been removed from my 9 family in my early years and properly cared for." 10 At the time that you started school, were Social 11 Services involved in your family? 12 A. I have no idea. I wouldn't know that. I just wouldn't 13 know that. If I'd have saw a social worker, I wouldn't 14 have realised who she was. So I don't know that. 15 Q. Then we learn from paragraph 7 that at 11 years old you 16 were placed in the care of the local authority for 17 observation and assessment. You go first to Woodnook 18 Children's Home. And you say here -- again, are you all 19 right with my summarising? 20 A. I'm fine. 21 Q. You say: 22 "I was 11 years old." 23 This is paragraph 8: 24 "I found Woodnook a strange place, I didn't make any 25 friends and just remember sitting on my bed for most of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>	<p>1 the time." 2 And: 3 "It was recognised that Woodnook was not a suitable 4 placement for me." 5 How long were you at Woodnook for? Do you have any 6 idea? 7 A. When I first got sent there, I was told it was for six 8 weeks' assessment, and then I had to go back to court, 9 and that's literally how long it was, just for the six 10 weeks. 11 Q. Then paragraph 10, please: 12 "I was placed at Beechwood in 1979." 13 You were placed in the Redcot unit which was a mixed 14 unit. What was that like? 15 A. I didn't like it. It just wasn't -- it was too weird. 16 You know when kids are grown and you're supposed to be 17 the same age but they're more grown than you. I just 18 didn't -- I had never met kids like that before. So it 19 was just very strange. 20 Q. You'd never met kids like that before. What was 21 different about them, apart from what you have 22 described? 23 A. They were too highly sexed for me. They were really 24 highly sexual. Rude, loud, abusive. Horrible children, 25 if you ask me. I could understand why the staff treated</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 us the way they did, now, but at the end of the day, 2 we're -- we were skill kids, but a lot of horrendous 3 behaviour from children. A lot of bullying. Yes, 4 I just -- that was literally the beginning and the end 5 for me, because after that, it seems everywhere was like 6 that. But I realise obviously these are damaged 7 children together as a group, rather than individually 8 damaged on their own. I find when you put lots of 9 damaged children together, it's not good. 10 Q. You mentioned a moment ago that they were abusive. Were 11 they abusive between themselves or -- 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. And to you? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. What would happen to you? 16 A. They'd start telling you about your hair, your colour. 17 Just mocking you, the fact that you never get any 18 visitors. Put poo in your bed. Things like that. Tell 19 you to -- that they got a banana in their pocket, come 20 and get it, and it wasn't a banana. Just silly things 21 really, but lots of it. 22 Q. Paragraph 12, please. You have just mentioned this 23 a moment ago: 24 "I would describe Beechwood as a very sexual place." 25 Then you explain what you mean by that in relation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 to the other residents. But you go on to say, four 2 lines down, please: 3 "What was more concerning, though, was that staff 4 would do this as well." 5 By that, I understand sexual behaviour; is that 6 right? What do you want the panel to understand by 7 "staff doing it as well"? What sort of behaviour? 8 A. As in -- 9 Q. Was it sexualised behaviour or was it -- so what would 10 they do -- 11 A. Do you want me to describe what they did? 12 Q. Yes, please. 13 A. They'd literally -- lots of hugging, lots of kissing. 14 Lots and lots of hugging, but the hugging was always 15 like a prelude kind of thing, and then either in your 16 room, then you get visitors from them. They were always 17 sort of like very nice and friendly and understanding 18 and comforting. But then hands -- their hands could 19 stray. You got used to that because, like you say, you 20 see other people doing it. So you didn't think much of 21 it. 22 But in that common room it was -- you didn't go in 23 the common room to watch TV, let's say. But that was 24 the TV room. 25 But I always just remember it. I have been in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>
<p>1 a couple of children's homes like that, where they bring 2 the blankets with them and underneath the blankets they 3 did used to get sexual with you. 4 Q. You say this at paragraph 12, please. Again, may I read 5 it to you? 6 A. Of course. 7 Q. "The children would be allowed to bring their blankets 8 down from their rooms and staff would be under the 9 blankets with them. It was a very common occurrence. 10 It was only when I was invited under the covers 11 did I realise what was truly going off." 12 So what we should understand from that is that you, 13 yourself, experienced staff abusing you under the 14 blankets? And what would that amount to, if you're able 15 to say? 16 A. My daughter is sat there, so I would rather not go into 17 that kind of details, but ... 18 Q. Sure. We go over to the next page, please, and before 19 we come to your account of what one member of staff 20 did to you, the sexual abuse, and again, if you feel 21 uncomfortable talking about that, do let me know when we 22 come back to it. 23 But I want first to go to paragraphs 18 and 19 which 24 are at the bottom of page 3, where you describe there 25 physical abuse and you identify one particular member of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>	<p>1 staff and he's identified by the cipher. So you don't 2 need to name him. 3 Can you say what that physical abuse amounted to? 4 What did he do? 5 A. You'd get -- they'd restrain you. They call it 6 restraining. But you could lose an arm in those 7 restraints. They -- it was -- they call it restraining, 8 but the way they used to twist you and bend you over the 9 stupidest of things, it literally made me violent. 10 I don't remember being violent before I went into 11 that place, but the way they used to -- you know when 12 they're not your family or your -- I'm used to getting 13 beaten by my parents, and they will use belts, you know, 14 things like that. But in these children's homes they 15 are beating you like they're beating another man, and 16 I can't -- that's too much for me, it hurt, so I used to 17 fight them back. 18 So that's why they said why they were extremely 19 physical with me is because I was too resistant. You 20 know, sometimes, someone is restraining you and they 21 might not realise that they're leaning on you. They are 22 sitting on you or they are pressing down on you and your 23 arm might be underneath you, and it's literally winding 24 you and sometimes you try to tell them, but they've got 25 you in an awkward position and they won't move, and they</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 won't get off and they won't hear you.</p> <p>2 So I used to lash out. I don't know, I just didn't</p> <p>3 feel it was fair.</p> <p>4 Q. So the more you resisted, the stronger it would be?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. If we go back to the point at which they started, did</p> <p>7 you ever understand or were you ever given reasons,</p> <p>8 however unjustified those might have been, but were you</p> <p>9 ever told by the person carrying out the restraint why</p> <p>10 it was they were restraining you?</p> <p>11 A. No, there was always -- if there was an incident --</p> <p>12 I still have that issue now. I don't like when people</p> <p>13 talk to me as if I'm rubbish. I have -- I will react,</p> <p>14 and a lot of the times they'd say I've got a bad</p> <p>15 attitude. They didn't like something I said. Sometimes</p> <p>16 it's because I ran away or tried to run away and I got</p> <p>17 caught in the process. Sometimes the way they sort of,</p> <p>18 like, retrieve you from trying to abscond can be a bit</p> <p>19 physical. And, you know, when you're young, it's always</p> <p>20 "Get off me, get off me, get off me".</p> <p>21 Yes, I just always used to -- it's just silly</p> <p>22 incidents. You might have a food fight with someone.</p> <p>23 And the way they talk to you when they object, it's --</p> <p>24 you just ain't going to respond, kind of thing, not</p> <p>25 according to how they would like to you. You are going</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 to respond the way you feel, it's like, "Who do you</p> <p>2 think you are talking to?", kind of thing, "I'm not</p> <p>3 a piece of poo". So a lot of the times, that's the</p> <p>4 reason why I was in restraint, because I didn't respond</p> <p>5 according to how they expected me to.</p> <p>6 Q. How long were you at Beechwood?</p> <p>7 A. I have no idea. I thought it was just a few months, but</p> <p>8 I think it was about almost a year, like nine, ten</p> <p>9 months.</p> <p>10 Q. In the time that you were there, that nine or ten months</p> <p>11 or maybe almost a year, how often was the physical</p> <p>12 restraint that you described going on?</p> <p>13 A. In children's homes, physical restraints is weekly, if</p> <p>14 not daily. It's daily, usually daily. Especially if</p> <p>15 you're somebody like me. I find that sometimes you've</p> <p>16 got a certain members of staff, sometimes you haven't --</p> <p>17 even your own key worker doesn't like you. They don't</p> <p>18 like your colour. They don't like your colour, first of</p> <p>19 all, and that's sometimes the way they stare at you, or</p> <p>20 if someone goes and complains about you, the way they</p> <p>21 deal with you, you know full well it's your colour</p> <p>22 because sometimes it was a bit excessive the way they</p> <p>23 reacted to you.</p> <p>24 When you're young, you kind of wonder why they're so</p> <p>25 brutal. But when you get older and you experience</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>
<p>1 racism elsewhere, you can work it out. But I got --</p> <p>2 I got the gist of it pretty quick. I think it was</p> <p>3 a time when there was a lot of racism, but not that many</p> <p>4 people of colour in children's homes. So 10 out of 10</p> <p>5 of the children's homes, I would probably be the only</p> <p>6 black person there.</p> <p>7 When I was sent to Redcot, there was one black</p> <p>8 member of staff. So I thought, "That's not bad", but he</p> <p>9 was horrible. I think he took offence that I was</p> <p>10 a black girl in care, as if to say I'd let the side down</p> <p>11 or something. I don't know. But he took it personal.</p> <p>12 And I literally -- he followed me all the way to</p> <p>13 Amberdale.</p> <p>14 But I think, yes, racism had a lot to do with most</p> <p>15 of the treatment I got.</p> <p>16 Q. Again, sticking with paragraph 19, please, bottom of</p> <p>17 page 3, you have identified one particular individual,</p> <p>18 NO-F426. I'll call the person F426 from hereon in. You</p> <p>19 say that initially you could trust him. How did he show</p> <p>20 you that you should trust him?</p> <p>21 A. When I first got -- you know -- he was all right. It's</p> <p>22 the same one I'm just referring to. He was the one</p> <p>23 black guy. I think I put trust in him because of the</p> <p>24 fact that I had someone I could identify with. But that</p> <p>25 didn't last long enough.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>	<p>1 Q. Indeed, L17, what you then go on to describe is:</p> <p>2 "Every opportunity he got" -- this is the last line</p> <p>3 of page 3 -- "he would restrain me. This would be for</p> <p>4 something minor such as objecting to something he had</p> <p>5 said."</p> <p>6 Then you would describe what he would actually do.</p> <p>7 This is at the top of page 4 of your statement. Would</p> <p>8 you like me to read that out or are you all right to</p> <p>9 describe that?</p> <p>10 A. I'm fine.</p> <p>11 Q. How would he restrain you or what he called restrain</p> <p>12 you?</p> <p>13 A. He would grab you by your neck. He would twist your</p> <p>14 arm. Sometimes -- he's one of them people, you know</p> <p>15 when someone just walks up to you and grabs you like</p> <p>16 that. He would just grab you. But I was told that some</p> <p>17 of them were in the army. I used to wonder why that</p> <p>18 was -- how they kind of discipline you. I think</p> <p>19 sometimes these men -- I wonder if they -- they do that</p> <p>20 to other men and then forget themselves, if you know</p> <p>21 what I mean, when it comes to females.</p> <p>22 But because he's the only -- I mean, there was</p> <p>23 another guy who was bad, but he was bad in a different</p> <p>24 way. But this one in particular, he loved to grab you</p> <p>25 by your throat, grab you by your ear. A lot of twisting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 and bending, kind of thing. 2 Q. You say this: 3 "This happened on many occasions and occurred in 4 front of staff and other residents." 5 Can we go first to the first part of that, "in front 6 of staff"? What would the other staff do? 7 A. Help him. They would help him. They would either help 8 him – if he was struggling, they would help him. If he 9 wasn't, they would either open the door so he can drag 10 you out, carry you out, but – they didn't do anything, 11 if that's what you're interested in knowing. They 12 didn't do anything. They didn't have any objections. 13 There was one woman. You could tell, she wasn't 14 like that, but she never did nothing. I have been in 15 children's homes where the women are not like that, but 16 they don't do nothing. Then when you go and complain to 17 them, because you're thinking, "You're not like that", 18 I can see that they don't agree with it, but then they 19 always used to say to you, "You know what it's like, you 20 can't make serious allegations like that. You'll end up 21 going to prison". 22 So it was always that same – no matter where you 23 go, they always tell you, "You can't make those serious 24 allegations, you don't stand a chance". So they was 25 only useful to a certain extent. Their empathy wasn't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 any good after a while. 2 Q. The other group that this would happen in front of would 3 be other residents. What would they do when this was 4 happening to you? 5 A. Just watch. I used to watch when it happened to them. 6 They'd watch. 7 Q. Can we then go back, please, to page 3. At paragraphs 8 13 to 15, you describe how you came to be sexually 9 abused by a member of staff, Colin Wallace. To the 10 extent that you're able to do so, L17, could you set out 11 that account? 12 A. I would rather not. 13 Q. Would you rather not? 14 A. No. 15 Q. Okay. I take it from that that you wouldn't like me 16 either to read it out? That's absolutely fine. 17 A. Yes, I would rather not. He's one of those ones where 18 you – you are better off forgetting that kind of 19 experience. 20 Q. I know -- I don't want in any way to put any pressure on 21 your daughter. If, for a moment, she stood out of the 22 room, would you still want the panel to know what he did 23 to you so that it was something that you said and 24 declared here, would you find that a helpful experience? 25 Is it all right if I ask your daughter if she would</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>
<p>1 leave for five minutes? I hope you don't mind? 2 A. Not at all. 3 Q. Thank you very much. 4 The reason I asked to do that is because it's so 5 important that the inquiry has on record the account of 6 what happened to you, and it includes that account of 7 what was done to you by a member of staff. 8 So can we go back to it, if you're all right to do 9 so, and can you let the panel know what did happen to 10 you, what he did do to you? 11 A. Do you want me to be graphic? 12 Q. I leave it up to you. If you'd rather I read out and 13 then you -- 14 A. Yes, I would actually. 15 Q. Okay. So shall we do that together, okay? 16 I'm going to start from paragraph 13. You say 17 there, second line down: 18 "There was a spare room at Beechwood and sometimes 19 I would go and sit in there by myself." 20 Why would you do that? 21 A. Well, I hadn't been there for that long, I think, at 22 that time, and -- but it was really weird there. Really 23 weird, especially at night times. 24 So at night times, after -- I think after teatime, 25 that's when that place got hectic. Like I said, the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>	<p>1 kids were all over the place, in different rooms, 2 et cetera, et cetera. 3 I was in a dorm. So there was like three other 4 people in my room, and they used to do a lot of things 5 in there that – and I don't want to watch. So I used 6 to go and sit in this room on my own, and, yes, Colin 7 would come in there as well. 8 The funny thing is all this activity, why -- you 9 don't really want to be in your own dorm, the staff was 10 still there, yet we was meant to be going to bed or 11 getting ready for bed, but no one was getting ready for 12 bed the way they should be. Instead, there was just 13 lots of antics and, when you're new, you don't just 14 throw yourself in, do you? You're kind of, "Let me take 15 this all in". 16 But yes, I used to sit in that spare room. 17 Q. It's just occurred to me, I have asked your daughter to 18 leave the room, but your evidence is being broadcast. 19 So what I'm going to do now is stop for a moment and 20 just ask if someone would go and find your daughter to 21 ensure that she's not by the rooms, because we are about 22 to have that evidence and she might hear it there. 23 Would that be all right? Thank you so much. I'll just 24 wait 30 seconds and then ... (Pause). 25 What I can do is carry on reading at paragraph 13.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 So I read out: 2 "There was a spare room at Beechwood and sometimes 3 I would go and sit in there by myself. This was the 4 first time I had any real contact with Colin Wallace who 5 sexually abused me at Beechwood. He was a youngish 6 member of staff and appeared quite friendly. All the 7 girls fancied him. He seemed to take an interest in me 8 and would ask me what was wrong. At the time, it felt 9 nice that somebody cared. I realise now, however, that 10 his motives were not caring." 11 So he'd asked you what was wrong. That suggests 12 that it was very plain to anyone who could spend time 13 that things were not all right for you; is that right? 14 A. (Witness nods). 15 Q. How would you show -- it may be very obvious to you, but 16 how would you show that you were unhappy? 17 A. I didn't realise I was showing it. You don't -- I don't 18 look at my own face, kind of thing. I must have wore 19 it. Sometimes you are just a bit down and you, like, 20 don't like what you're seeing. I think it must have 21 been written all over my face. 22 I think sometimes you forget yourself and you are 23 looking at situations and, however you feel about it, 24 I think that expression is on your face, and he can 25 clearly see it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 Q. Was he the only member of staff to pick up on that? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Paragraph 14: 4 "The first time he sexually abused me was around six 5 weeks into my time at Beechwood. I was under a blanket 6 in the common room and he moved the blanket so that it 7 was over the both of us. On this occasion, he got me to 8 masturbate him under the covers. I believe he 9 ejaculated. At the time, I didn't know what was 10 happening. It was very confusing." 11 You say that this was around six weeks into your 12 time at Beechwood. How old would you have been? 13 A. Perhaps still 11. 14 Q. Paragraph 15. Again, are you still content with me to 15 read it out? 16 A. (Witness nods). 17 Q. "The next incident of sexual abuse occurred a few days 18 later. I was in a room on my own and he came in. He 19 asked me what was wrong and why I was not mixing with 20 the other children. He asked me to give him a smile, 21 and he then gave me a kiss. He asked me to lie down and 22 kept asking me if he could touch me in private places. 23 I knew something wasn't right about the situation, but 24 I thought that if I did as I was told, I would be 25 allowed to go home."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>
<p>1 Pausing there, what made you think that? 2 A. Because every time, you know -- you know like -- 3 everywhere I went, that's all they kept saying. "If you 4 do this, you can go home". "If you stay in this 5 children's home for six weeks, you can go home after the 6 six weeks" and that's all you kept hearing, it was 7 always that carrot, "You can go home after this, go home 8 after that", so yes, I thought I would be able to go 9 home. 10 Q. You're all right with me carrying on? 11 A. Of course. 12 Q. "He seemed nice. He then told me to take off my 13 underwear and he lay next to me on the bed. On the 14 first occasion, he took off my underwear, touched my 15 breasts, touched between my legs and put his fingers 16 inside my vagina. He also put his penis inside my 17 vagina and I believe he ejaculated inside me. I was 18 11 years old at the time. It was painful. I was very 19 sore afterwards and I bled from my vagina. I thought 20 that I had started my periods. This type of abuse 21 happened on around four or five occasions. On each 22 occasion he penetrated my vagina with his penis. 23 However, there were other occasions when he would have 24 sexual intercourse with me in other parts of Beechwood." 25 Is there anything you want me to add to that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>	<p>1 account, to that paragraph? 2 A. (Witness shakes head). 3 Q. Are you all right if I go on? 4 A. Of course. 5 Q. Would you like to take over at this stage? 6 A. No, thank you. 7 Q. All right. Paragraph 16, you say this: 8 "I have no doubt that other staff knew what was 9 happening." 10 Why do you have no doubt of that? 11 A. Because it was in front of them. It's -- if you're 12 there -- I mean, they don't need to be staying for them 13 to know what's going on. Because when I first went 14 there, I used to wonder why -- you know when you've got 15 blankets and you see things moving, I used to wonder. 16 But obviously I wasn't under the blankets at that time. 17 But now I know, I realise it was quite obvious. But 18 like I said, I have been in a few children's homes where 19 that's that method. I don't know if these children go 20 from one children's home to the other and bring that 21 standard with them, where, "Let's go under the 22 blankets", but that was quite common. 23 But I think they couldn't not know. They've got -- 24 even if you can't see what's happening, you can use your 25 imagination as an adult. And maybe as a child you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

<p>1 wouldn't work out what's going on, but as an adult, now 2 I look back, as a woman, I would understand what was 3 going on if I saw that. 4 Q. At the time, as an 11-year-old, what Colin Wallace was 5 doing to you, what did you think was going on? 6 A. Nothing. I thought it was just standard. 7 Q. Paragraph 17, please. You say this: 8 "It was not just Colin Wallace, though. I remember 9 that it was well known that other girls were having sex 10 with other members of staff in Beechwood." 11 You say it was well known. Could you explain that? 12 How was it well known? 13 A. Because, like I said, it was -- it was in front of -- 14 everything was done in front of people. I saw things. 15 Like, for instance, one of my friends, she was intimate 16 with a member of staff. I just -- she presented it as 17 a crush, but they were still -- they were doing -- they 18 used to ride off on his motorbike for ages and then come 19 back. Always, always, always sat on his knee, no one 20 else. She didn't sit on anyone else's knee, it was just 21 him. They way they acted, it was like a proper couple, 22 but when I came in, they were already like that. 23 Literally, I couldn't get over it. I'm sorry, but -- 24 because he was a grown man and she was young. She'd got 25 a young face.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 But yes, I thought that was quite blatant. It was 2 just in your face. 3 Q. So the understanding that the panel should have of your 4 evidence is that it would have been obvious to other 5 members of staff what was going on, for instance, in the 6 TV room? 7 A. (Witness nods). 8 Q. And, because it would have been obvious, did any members 9 of staff say anything to you or any anything to him? 10 A. No. It was only one member of staff I can recall. He 11 was the principal, Mr Bussell, I think his name was. 12 The only time that everyone was well behaved and normal 13 was when he was on duty. But he had ailments, so 14 he wasn't always on duty. But whenever he did, it was 15 peace. It was nice. He was nice. You didn't get to 16 know him much, but I just noticed that atmosphere was so 17 much more normal when he was on duty. 18 Q. Can we go then to the next page, paragraph 20, please. 19 You say that you remained at Beechwood until 1980. Then 20 you were placed in another children's home. 21 Paragraph 21, should we understand -- I know there 22 are some redactions there. You can see a lot of DPAs. 23 At paragraph 21, it says: 24 "There was a lot of sexual activity ..." 25 Should that relate to paragraph 20? So you've gone</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>
<p>1 to another children's home and is that a lot of sexual 2 activity at the same children's home? You don't need to 3 say -- or where the -- you can't remember? 4 A. Sorry, I'm not quite understanding what you're saying. 5 Q. I'm not making it clear, that's why. Don't worry. 6 So paragraph 20, you say you left Beechwood and then 7 you were placed at -- do you have that, in the first 8 line at paragraph 20, "I was placed at ..."? 9 Then we understand that was a children's home. And 10 then, at paragraph 21, you say there was a lot of sexual 11 activity at -- 12 A. It would be the same home. The one in Lincolnshire. 13 Q. You remember: 14 "One male member of staff in particular would get me 15 to draw sexual pictures for him. I witnessed him having 16 sex with another female resident on many occasions." 17 In that home you describe being subjected to abuse 18 and bullying. But you came across a female member of 19 staff in that home and you say: 20 "I told her about the abuse that I had suffered at 21 Beechwood, including the sexual abuse." 22 What enabled you to tell that member of staff that 23 you had been abused at Beechwood? 24 A. Because when I went to this children's home, that was 25 really racist. I mean, they sent me -- it's a village</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>	<p>1 near RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, and there was no 2 other black people in Lincoln, never mind in the bloody 3 village they sent me to, and I wasn't even -- every time 4 I went with the staff -- you know, to the shop or 5 anything, I would get racially abused. So they wouldn't 6 let me out anymore. 7 But what I found with this woman in particular, she 8 was really empathetic, I think the first one I had came 9 across that was, and she used to protect me, because 10 they tried to brand me, cut my name into my arm. 11 Something to do with slavery, and I ran and told Shona 12 what they did, and she -- she didn't do anything about 13 it, now, I realise, but she looked out for me after 14 that, kept moving me in different rooms, because the 15 girl who was getting abused was in the bed next to me. 16 So, yes, she didn't do anything, but I did end up in 17 a different room. She said there was -- I think she 18 waited for someone to move or something, and then I got 19 a room -- I got a double room instead of a dorm. That 20 dorm that they first put me in, there was a lot of 21 promiscuous girls in there and they used to come -- they 22 had a boys' side and a girls' side, but it was one big 23 building, and I never knew this until the staff did it. 24 They used -- the staff used to come from his office onto 25 the roof, through our window, instead of going through</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 the corridors to get from one end. But he was meant to</p> <p>2 be on the boys' side, babysitting them at night-time,</p> <p>3 and we had a woman on our side. She used to babysit us</p> <p>4 at the top at night-time. But they had rooms to sleep</p> <p>5 in.</p> <p>6 That guy used to come out of his room onto the roof,</p> <p>7 literally on the roof. Can you believe that? He came</p> <p>8 on the roof. I couldn't believe it. Couldn't believe</p> <p>9 him coming through the window. I'd never seen that one</p> <p>10 before, ever.</p> <p>11 Q. Paragraph 23, please. There you say you remained at</p> <p>12 that children's home until 1981, when you were admitted</p> <p>13 to Amberdale in Nottingham.</p> <p>14 Prior to your going to the children's home you've</p> <p>15 described or prior to going to Amberdale, did you at any</p> <p>16 time go home?</p> <p>17 A. No. They said my mum didn't want me.</p> <p>18 When I asked, how come I didn't have weekend leaves</p> <p>19 like everybody else, they said, "Oh, your mum don't want</p> <p>20 you". When I asked my mum, she said she never knew, she</p> <p>21 said she never even -- because she got told that</p> <p>22 I didn't want to come home. So I still to this day --</p> <p>23 I have asked -- I've got my reports. There was a lot of</p> <p>24 things in there that were really devastating. She said</p> <p>25 they're all lies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 I still, to this day, don't know who is telling the</p> <p>2 truth or not. But she says -- but the way she was</p> <p>3 offended. I don't know who is telling the truth anyway,</p> <p>4 but she seemed really offended that I was accusing her</p> <p>5 of these things and she says they're lying.</p> <p>6 So I don't know.</p> <p>7 Q. We then come on to your account of your time at</p> <p>8 Amberdale. Part of that account, paragraph 28, you</p> <p>9 describe there physical assaults at Amberdale. You've</p> <p>10 told us about your experiences of restraint at</p> <p>11 Beechwood. A very unhappy comparison to make, but what</p> <p>12 was it like at Amberdale, compared to Beechwood?</p> <p>13 A. It was more or less the same. They had the same staff.</p> <p>14 I don't know what happened with those two children's</p> <p>15 homes, but the staff that you -- and some of the kids</p> <p>16 that you met in Beechwood, they somehow ended up in</p> <p>17 Amberdale too.</p> <p>18 So the black guy who originally was at Beechwood and</p> <p>19 didn't like me, I don't know how he ended up, but he</p> <p>20 ended up at Amberdale as well.</p> <p>21 Q. You also give your experience of being sexually</p> <p>22 assaulted at Amberdale. That's the paragraph 27.</p> <p>23 Again, would it be all right if I read that?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. "There was also a member of staff called NO-F198. He</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>
<p>1 also physically abused me, but he also sexually</p> <p>2 assaulted me. During one incident where he had</p> <p>3 restrained me on the floor, he pulled my trousers down,</p> <p>4 pulled my legs apart and attempted to insert his penis</p> <p>5 into my anus. This was painful and I do believe that</p> <p>6 partial penetration took place."</p> <p>7 If we go to paragraph 30, please. There you say you</p> <p>8 tried to complain about the abuse to the headmaster of</p> <p>9 Amberdale?</p> <p>10 A. I think that's somehow -- that's wrong. I never did.</p> <p>11 I would -- I'd never tried to complain to Mr Gilmore.</p> <p>12 I don't know how that got there, but I wouldn't try. He</p> <p>13 was too horrible. He wouldn't -- he was as bad as the</p> <p>14 others. You wouldn't complain to him.</p> <p>15 Q. So we should -- tell me where -- if you look at</p> <p>16 paragraph 30, if we look at it together, up to what</p> <p>17 point should the panel ignore the evidence there?</p> <p>18 A. Literally, the fact that I -- that first line.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 A. I read that earlier and I thought to myself I did not</p> <p>21 actually remember even saying that. Because he wouldn't</p> <p>22 be the one that you complained to. I heard about him</p> <p>23 before I got there. Everyone heard about him. I heard</p> <p>24 about him and heard about all his mannerisms and all the</p> <p>25 things that he did before I actually got there. So</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p>	<p>1 I wouldn't have complained to him.</p> <p>2 Q. But the second part of that paragraph, L17, you say:</p> <p>3 "I didn't try to complain to my social worker."</p> <p>4 Then you set out the reasons why. Why is that?</p> <p>5 A. Pardon, what did you just say?</p> <p>6 Q. You say:</p> <p>7 "I didn't try to complain to my social worker."</p> <p>8 My question to you was: why didn't you do so?</p> <p>9 A. She was so racist. She was so racist. She couldn't</p> <p>10 hide it. Not only was she racist, the woman told lots</p> <p>11 of lies to me. She's the one who started the lying.</p> <p>12 She told me that my mum -- when I asked her, "Why can't</p> <p>13 I ever go home?", she is one of the ones who said, "Oh,</p> <p>14 your mum don't want you". She not only lied -- she</p> <p>15 lied, she literally ruined my life, that woman, with the</p> <p>16 amount of lies she told. She even accused me of</p> <p>17 stealing her handbag out of her car and I -- she took me</p> <p>18 to court one day and she stopped at the traffic lights,</p> <p>19 so I just ran out of the car. When I finally got picked</p> <p>20 up, the police arrested me, saying I stole her bag. She</p> <p>21 literally accused me -- and I never did, and that hurt</p> <p>22 me all the way through life. I have never understood</p> <p>23 how a social worker would do that, lie to you.</p> <p>24 But my social -- she was horrible. I swear --</p> <p>25 always said, if I ever see her, I would give her a piece</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>

1 of my mind, tell her what she did, and what the
 2 repercussions were for the lies she told.
 3 So she told so many lies, I don't know -- I wouldn't
 4 know where to start. The woman -- she lied a lot, but
 5 I sometimes didn't know about the lies until later. But
 6 I knew straight away she didn't like me. The way she
 7 talks to me -- she weren't horrible or -- you know when
 8 someone is detached and no feelings towards you, and
 9 nothing. Just horrible. But not being horrible, if
 10 that makes any sense.
 11 Q. Can I ask you another question in relation to her? You
 12 describe her as being part of the system.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. What was that system as far as you were concerned?
 15 A. Where she worked. She's just -- when I say "part of the
 16 system", you could have a social worker like that and
 17 you could end up in court and she's supposed to be your
 18 support, but you're not getting any. And I used to feel
 19 like she used to collude with my solicitors and the
 20 judge, as if to say, you know, "Pointless being lenient
 21 with someone like her. She's no good" -- I've got the
 22 reports, I -- I feel the woman just set me up badly.
 23 She never, ever -- when I used to read her reports,
 24 I mean, I used to think, "Why are you writing that?"
 25 You're supposed -- you're supposed to be looking out for

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1 Why are you giving me cold food and cold tea and cold
 2 everything? And they kept me there for days, but --
 3 them things would disturb you for ages. She -- I don't
 4 know about this woman. I don't know why she was the way
 5 she was. But she certainly didn't like me.
 6 Q. If it's all right with you, may I go on to paragraph 33?
 7 A. (Witness nods).
 8 Q. You talk about there:
 9 "After Amberdale, I remember a number of children's
 10 homes."
 11 You say:
 12 "I just kept running away from them."
 13 Why were you running away? It may be very obvious
 14 to you, but --
 15 A. Because I didn't -- I feel like I'm brought up -- okay,
 16 where I was brought up, it was bad, it was abusive, but
 17 it was among my -- in my own culture, let's say. So my
 18 mum gave us this kind of food to eat and we was
 19 conditioned that way.
 20 MR SADD: I'm going to pause you there. Not because of
 21 anything you have said. It's just that we need to do
 22 something technical, and we need to stop the feed.
 23 Chair, with your permission, may we do that? It
 24 will take a very short time to correct.
 25 THE CHAIR: Yes.

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1 me, and I always used to ask her, "How comes I can never
 2 go home?", and the look she used to give me. She hasn't
 3 got time to answer me. She never used to post my
 4 letters. I used to try and get her to sneak out letters
 5 for me. She never gave the people the letters. I used
 6 to say to her, "I'm writing to people and they are not
 7 writing back", and she goes, "It's probably because they
 8 don't want to know". I said, "I don't think they are
 9 getting the letters". So I asked her, "Will you give
 10 these letters to my mum?" My mum says she never, ever
 11 gave her any letters at all. That woman -- that is why
 12 I said I knew there was something wrong with her,
 13 I don't know what it was, but she ...
 14 I have wrote many letters to her, begging her,
 15 telling her what kind of situation that she put me in,
 16 and she never, ever, ever -- she just didn't care. And
 17 a lot of the time, a lot of what I went through, she --
 18 she more or less put me through it.
 19 She was just sending me some places that she should
 20 not have been sending me to, and I don't know why she
 21 would send me to [redacted], all the way in [redacted],
 22 and I'm the only black person there, and they left me
 23 naked because I was absconding, took all my clothes off
 24 me and just left me in this sheet on the floor, and then
 25 they used to open up the hatch and feed me cold food.

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1 MR SADD: Thank you. L17, I'm sorry. That's disconcerting,
 2 it's just something that we have to quickly remedy.
 3 A. That's okay.
 4 (Pause).
 5 MR SADD: Chair, may I ask formally for a restriction order
 6 to be made over the name of the home and its location?
 7 THE CHAIR: Yes.
 8 MR SADD: Thank you, chair.
 9 L17, I do apologise. It's an important thing that
 10 we have to do, and thank you for your patience.
 11 We'd got to the point where we were talking about
 12 you running away. You were explaining why it was you
 13 ran away.
 14 Obviously you were then brought back, having run
 15 away.
 16 When you came back, would staff ask you, "Why have
 17 you run away, what's wrong"?
 18 A. No. I found they never asked me, I never, ever was
 19 asked. Anyway, I think they know why we run away. It's
 20 quite obvious. Sometimes you ran away after
 21 an incident. Sometimes you run away, get caught, and
 22 you just run away again. I just got in the habit of
 23 running away because I didn't like anything. I didn't
 24 like the food. I didn't like the way they talked to me,
 25 the way they treat you. I just didn't like anything,

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<p>1 and I was thinking, "There's no way they're going to let 2 me out. I have been as good as I can be, and they just 3 keep changing the goalposts. They keep finding some 4 other reason why I can't go home".</p> <p>5 What I didn't like, and I look back at now, they 6 were having these conferences, they call them case 7 conference, but you're not included at all. All you get 8 at the end of this case conference is, "Oh, you still 9 can't go home".</p> <p>10 I don't know what they were discussing. I don't 11 know what they were basing the reasons for keeping me 12 there. Because I behaved myself. Most of the times, 13 I actually was quite good. But I find a lot of the 14 times, you know when they say people push your buttons 15 and then you respond, and I find that that was a lot of 16 the reason as to why I now can't go home.</p> <p>17 Q. The issue of being able to tell people what had 18 happened, you mentioned a moment ago about the serious 19 repercussions, and that's something that you set out at 20 paragraph 32. You say:</p> <p>21 "I did try and complain in Amberdale on other 22 occasions, but it would always be met with the same 23 response. I would be told that I was making serious 24 accusations against respectable staff and I could get 25 into a lot of trouble. They always made it sound like</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 you would end up in prison if you put in a proper 2 complaint."</p> <p>3 To whom, L17, would you be making those complaints? 4 A. I did that at the other children's home in Lincolnshire. 5 It wasn't at Amberdale. But I would do it to the staff. 6 Actually, in Amberdale, I did it with one guy, the 7 chef, Melvin. I could tell him anything. But he always 8 told you, "You can't" -- no, no. He was -- I don't know 9 what it is about him. He was really nice. He was 10 decent and you could talk to him, but he always used to 11 warn you, literally, "You can't complain. They'll" -- 12 that's what he said, "They will just move you to another 13 children's home and put you in the secure unit", and 14 they'll just -- obviously, just tell everyone that you 15 lie and -- I find throughout my reports I have been 16 described as a liar a lot, whereas I find that I'm not 17 actually a liar. I'm quite honest. That's why I end up 18 with a long record, because I kept admitting things. 19 Even -- you know, sometimes I forget to lie. I should 20 be lying. Shouldn't be telling these people these 21 things. Like, I forget to lie, but I don't lie -- I'm 22 not saying I'm perfect in that I never, ever lie. 23 I know when to lie. But a lot of the times I don't 24 actually mind or care what people think, so I don't need 25 to lie.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>
<p>1 I have been described as a liar throughout, and 2 I don't remember the kind of lies that I could be 3 telling in that children's home.</p> <p>4 Q. Before we leave page 5, and we're about to turn the 5 page, I promise you, a moment ago we were comparing the 6 physical abuse at Beechwood with the physical abuse at 7 Amberdale. If my memory serves me right, I think you 8 said they were very similar. Was there anything that 9 stood out at Amberdale that was different to Beechwood?</p> <p>10 A. (Witness nods).</p> <p>11 Q. You're nodding your head.</p> <p>12 A. Other than the fact that they've got a secure unit.</p> <p>13 Q. You come on, at pages 6 and 7, please, L17, to describe, 14 at paragraph 40 effectively, you are being discharged 15 from a home and you returned home and you say:</p> <p>16 "I would describe my life thereafter as unstable."</p> <p>17 You set out the difficulties that you've had in 18 adult life. Can you tell us about some of those?</p> <p>19 A. Well, yes. When I left -- when I left the children's 20 home at 15, it's hard to believe, but I was actually 21 damaged by the children's home. And it literally 22 changed me -- I don't know what I would have been like, 23 but I was nothing like my family.</p> <p>24 So when I returned home -- for instance, in the 25 children's home, I started glue sniffing, sniffing gas,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>	<p>1 doing all kinds of things that I wouldn't do had I not 2 been put in that environment.</p> <p>3 So when I was released, I continued doing those 4 activities and I was at home. I think I'd been home for 5 two weeks, and I got caught glue sniffing in my bedroom 6 because I was babysitting my nephew, started screaming, 7 saying he was an alien on the bed. So when the family 8 came in and seen me with this glue bag and this poor 9 little baby, I'm freaking out this poor baby, they're 10 like, "Oh, mum, look at her, look at her. She's like 11 a white girl. Look, she's sniffing glue. Get her out. 12 I told you she weren't like us".</p> <p>13 So even though I was only 15, they told me to leave, 14 and literally, "You can't stay here". But they didn't 15 send me anywhere, so I didn't know where to go, but 16 I had a friend who was still in care. So I went to 17 Amberdale and got her to run away, because she always 18 had somewhere to stay. So yes, she ran away and found 19 me somewhere to stay.</p> <p>20 Q. Into early adult life, again, you set out some of the 21 difficulties that you've had. You say at paragraph 43, 22 page 7:</p> <p>23 "I have lived an isolated life ..."</p> <p>24 Do you have that?</p> <p>25 A. I do, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 Q. "... and have never had any real relationships. I would 2 describe myself as a recluse. I have also found it 3 difficult to keep jobs. I do not trust people and have 4 no friends. People have tried to get close to me, but 5 I just reject them because of trust issues. The only 6 close relationship I have is with my daughter." 7 Are you happy I go on? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. "I brought her up as a single mother. I have been 10 a good mother to her and she makes me very proud." 11 We are going to turn next, please, to your 12 experience of going to the police. This is at the end 13 of paragraph 45. This is in 2011. You say, three lines 14 up from the bottom there: 15 "I also approached Nottinghamshire Police and gave 16 a statement about my experiences in care. I was hoping 17 that this process, once and for all, would allow me to 18 finally close the door on my childhood." 19 What was your experience of giving that statement to 20 the police? 21 A. They were quite good, actually. They were quite good. 22 If you can understand, I usually have a criminal view of 23 the police. So in this regard, it was different. So to 24 me they were nice. They seemed really nice and fair, 25 but I had never heard them. After I gave my statement,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 I never saw or heard from them again. 2 Q. You will be relieved to know we've nearly finished. 3 Thank you so much for being quite so patient. 4 You say that you never heard from them again? 5 A. No. 6 Q. And you say: 7 "I have no intention to contact them." 8 It says in your statement: 9 "I don't trust them and I think they don't believe 10 me anyway." 11 A. I got raped by my neighbour and I called them and they 12 said to me, "Do you know this could ruin his life?" 13 I don't trust them. And they wouldn't move me either. 14 They wouldn't move me. They wouldn't do nothing. 15 I felt one policeman, he felt bad for me, and he 16 literally took himself away from what he was meant to be 17 doing and personally came and knocked on my door and 18 said, "I don't understand why they're treating you like 19 this", he says, "but it's not right and it's not fair", 20 and he said, "Do you mind if I write to your housing on 21 your behalf to ask them to move you based on this 22 incident?" And yes, I did, but they said, "She's got 23 arrears. She can't move". Some very cold people in 24 this world. 25 But that boy has raped other people too. After me,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>
<p>1 you let them go, he did it to another neighbour. Now 2 he's not allowed back on the street. But it's like, how 3 many do you have to do it to? So I don't trust the 4 police at all and I don't particularly like them. If 5 you look like me, that's quite likely that you will have 6 this attitude towards them. And I don't think it 7 surprises them either. 8 MR SADD: On the last page of your statement, the last full 9 page, you talk about the response of the councils. What 10 I'm going to suggest now, L17, it's a natural time to 11 break, as it were, because you have been sitting there 12 a long time. I have put you through a lot already. 13 Chair, with your permission, I can go on, but it 14 would be another ten minutes or so, or would you prefer 15 at this moment to have a break? 16 THE CHAIR: Is the witness happy to continue at this stage? 17 A. I'm fine, yes. 18 THE CHAIR: So another ten minutes. 19 MR SADD: All right, thank you. 20 Paragraphs 47 then to 53. So at 47 you talk about 21 bringing civil proceedings. You say that the councils 22 at paragraph 48 put in a defence and you say: 23 "The defence made me [in your words] very angry. 24 They denied everything and admitted nothing. They 25 alleged that I was out of time to bring the claim. This</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>	<p>1 made me really angry. I was a child at the time of the 2 abuse and they knew what was happening to me. It was 3 common knowledge in those places." 4 What do you feel now about the council's response? 5 A. I still stand by what I said. They are the very ones 6 who assigned me that social worker. I remember 7 telling -- you know, saying to people that the social 8 worker is no good. To them -- sort of, like, tell them 9 about this issue, what we had, and I thought -- well, 10 I know -- I thought they knew about it. So I didn't 11 expect them to react the way they did. My solicitor 12 explained to me that that would be their natural 13 reaction, but I still felt that was pretty low, 14 personally. I really didn't think that they would 15 continue in that vein, but they did. 16 I'm not actually angry with them. I'm just -- not 17 even so much disappointed, I think I've got to that 18 point where you don't expect nothing from these people. 19 You always expect to be challenged and that you would 20 have to sort of like pursue them. So I was just 21 disappointed that they -- that I had to persist with 22 them. 23 Q. L17, you describe at 49, 50 to 51, the process of being 24 involved in civil litigation. So as part of that 25 process, there was an expert report which you talk about</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 at paragraph 51, and your response to that which made 2 you very angry.</p> <p>3 But the culmination of that process is at 4 paragraph 52. The claim settled out of court. You tell 5 the panel the settlement came with no admission of 6 guilt, no responsibility and no apology.</p> <p>7 Then you go on to say this, and again, with your 8 permission, may I read it and ask for you to comment, 9 please? Thank you:</p> <p>10 "The case took six years to conclude and at no point 11 did I feel believed or listened to by the defendants or 12 the police. There were no offers of counselling or 13 therapeutic help from the defendants. They put me 14 through six years of what I would describe as hell. 15 I feel that they were just hoping I would go away. If 16 I had known that the case would have taken that long 17 with not so much as an apology, I probably wouldn't have 18 brought proceedings against them. The money does not 19 constitute justice. As far as I am aware, those that 20 abused me have lived very nice lives and continue to be 21 free."</p> <p>22 How would you have wanted the police and the 23 councils to respond to you when you came forward?</p> <p>24 A. I would have liked for them to ask me what do I want. 25 They should -- I tell you the truth. When I spoke to my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 solicitor about it, I was -- I think he understood 2 straight away what I want. I needed counselling. 3 I think he thought I would get that counselling. So the 4 main reason for pursuing it was for them to pick up the 5 cost of the counselling and to put me through whatever 6 counselling I needed, but they didn't.</p> <p>7 I had to end up -- because I'm obviously going 8 through all this with my solicitor, I buried it for 9 a long time, and even though I'm quite depressing, 10 I know that, but still, I'm depressing without having 11 this baggage. But to dig it all back up again and bring 12 it up, and then to have to live with it day in and day 13 out, I started drinking. Just really just not 14 wanting -- I just kept crying. So I was thinking all 15 these sort of like feelings were quite -- they're still 16 there. So I'm thinking maybe this is a good opportunity 17 to get some quality counselling and that would be my 18 redemption, so to speak. But I didn't really get it.</p> <p>19 Q. Have you had that yet?</p> <p>20 A. No. I went to the doctors, told him what I was doing, 21 that I was seeing my solicitor about -- they all -- the 22 doctor already knew about my past because I have been 23 complaining to him for years, from one doctor to 24 another. They always give you anti-depressants. So 25 I told him that now I am going through this process,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>
<p>1 I said, "It's literally unravelling me", and he gave me 2 tablets, but I don't do tablets. So instead he said 3 "What about that talking therapy?"</p> <p>4 I have done so many talking therapies that I can 5 literally counsel myself. So I realised the counsellor 6 didn't have much to offer. For what she was offering, 7 I could do that.</p> <p>8 Q. I said, what must feel about two hours ago, "I have 9 nearly finished", but I have nearly finished and I have 10 one question to ask you.</p> <p>11 You will know that the panel are in a position to 12 make recommendations and they are here to listen. Is 13 there anything that you in particular would like the 14 panel to take away with them as a result of your 15 evidence?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, I would. If you can consider that when a child has 17 been in a children's home, away from the community that 18 you then return them to, there's a lot of people aware 19 that -- it's just like saying, "I know you're 20 a prostitute. So I'm going to groom you and pimp you". 21 This happens a lot to children that have been in homes. 22 They imagine that you have lived this horrible life. 23 They know you are damaged. So they find that it's 24 easier to groom you, and as soon as I came out of the 25 children's home, that's what I encountered.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>	<p>1 I've got people telling me to go and burgle this 2 house. You know, "Go and nick that, go and nick this, 3 go and nick that". They just -- and even up to this 4 day, people have heard that I used to, you know, be in 5 crime and stuff. I'm 50 now. I'm -- I haven't done 6 crime for at least 20 years, but it's still there in my 7 background because my family will always remind people, 8 "Yeah, she was in a children's home, yeah, she did 9 this".</p> <p>10 So they keep coming to you with trying to sort of 11 like inveigle you into doing things and that's the one 12 thing I really didn't like. I didn't know -- that was 13 the hardest thing for me, is to escape people who want 14 to manipulate you and use you for wrongs.</p> <p>15 I have had people try and put me on the game. 16 I have had all kinds of people -- put things in my 17 drink. And this is all -- because they know my family 18 is -- you know, I'm ostracised from my family.</p> <p>19 Even now, as a grown woman, because they see that 20 I'm always on my own, and with my daughter, I have had 21 people try and, you know, take advantage of both of us. 22 We've had to literally -- we've been -- I have been 23 bullied so much. I think sometimes you present yourself 24 as a victim without realising it, and people can see it, 25 and they home in on you and -- a lot of advantage is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

1 taken of people who have been in that system.
 2 So I would ask that you would consider that and that
 3 perhaps what I was lacking when I was in the children's
 4 home was an outside source to bring any grievance to.
 5 If I was in work, and I didn't want to complain to my
 6 manager, I would be able to go somewhere else, perhaps
 7 to a tribunal. You know, legal advice. But when you're
 8 in a children's home, all you have is them and if
 9 they're your -- if they're the ones that are causing you
 10 grief, what is the point in going to them?
 11 So that -- I would like something to be done about
 12 that. They need an external source for -- to bring
 13 grievances and complaints to, not the staff that are
 14 doing it.
 15 MR SADD: L17, thank you so much for your patience with me.
 16 And for your time.
 17 The panel may have some questions of you.
 18 THE CHAIR: No, there are no questions. Thank you very much
 19 indeed for coming here and giving your statement. We
 20 very much appreciate it.
 21 MR SADD: If you wait there a moment, please.
 22 THE CHAIR: We will now take a break and return at 3.35.
 23 (3.17 pm)
 24 (A short break)
 25 (3.36 pm)

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1 we're going to look at together and extracts from the
 2 statement are going to be your evidence to the inquiry?
 3 **A. Okay.**
 4 Q. When you prepared the statement in its present form, it
 5 has various blocks on it?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. It's those blocks that we need to maintain. Although
 8 I know it's quite challenging and difficult when giving
 9 evidence, and the temptation is to say names and
 10 locations, if you can remind yourself of that. So we
 11 have an automatic pinch when we come to these issues.
 12 You've read your statement recently, I imagine?
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. Are there any corrections you want to make?
 15 **A. Just the one. Paragraph 3, "I was at Beechwood until
 16 I came out of care at the age of 16". That's not true.**
 17 Q. How should it read?
 18 **A. I came out of care when I was 15.**
 19 Q. All right. Thank you.
 20 As I say, you must take your time. If at any time
 21 you need a break, do let us know. Ask me to repeat
 22 a question if it isn't clear.
 23 Rest assured, this is not a test of memory.
 24 **A. Okay.**
 25 Q. As I'm summarising evidence, as I may do, with you, if

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1 MR SADD: Chair, before we hear from C21, and C21, if you'll
 2 forgive me for two minutes, there's just one procedural
 3 issue I need to invite the chair to rule on.
 4 Chair, we're hearing this week from complainant core
 5 participant witnesses and it may be helpful for me to
 6 remind everyone watching the proceedings today or
 7 reading the transcript at a later date that you have
 8 made a restriction order protecting the identity of all
 9 complainant core participants, including those called to
 10 give evidence to the inquiry.
 11 That restriction order prohibits disclosure or
 12 publication of any information that identifies, or tends
 13 to identify, any individual as a complainant core
 14 participant.
 15 Chair, a copy of the restriction order is published
 16 on the inquiry's website.
 17 Chair, we now move to C21.
 18 WITNESS NO-A5 (sworn)
 19 Examination by MR SADD
 20 MR SADD: Good afternoon, C21. I'm going to call you by
 21 that rather odd combination, but you understand why.
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. You have very helpfully provided a statement to this
 24 inquiry. It's a statement that the panel have a copy
 25 of. You and I have a copy of it. But it's one that

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1 there's something that you feel that I have left out,
 2 you must let me know and we will go back to it?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Very important.
 5 Going then please to your statement, C21, you
 6 describe at paragraph 1 -- I should say, forgive me,
 7 that you were born in 1962?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. You describe at paragraph 1:
 10 "I was admitted to the care of Nottinghamshire
 11 Council when I was 14 years of age in 1977."
 12 You say that you were admitted to care for a number
 13 of reasons. What were those reasons that you now
 14 understand?
 15 **A. The main one, my parents had split up some four years
 16 before I went to Beechwood. And I had lived with my
 17 father. Then I moved with my mother. Then back to my
 18 father. And there was a time when just me and my father
 19 lived alone, and he had a -- he was a big drinker. So
 20 there was no one else in the house and I very rarely saw
 21 him.**
 22 **So when I was 10, 11, I was roaming the streets.
 23 I was getting up to mischief and, you know, I was
 24 arrested.**
 25 Q. Is it as a result of that that you found yourself in

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<p>1 care?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, in front of the Magistrates' Court, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. You say at paragraph 3, which you have just corrected,</p> <p>4 you were sent to Beechwood Assessment Centre, and that</p> <p>5 was the only children's home that -- or "the only</p> <p>6 children's home or foster parents I was sent to."</p> <p>7 So how long were you at Beechwood?</p> <p>8 A. February until the end of the September. Nine months.</p> <p>9 Q. The correction you've just made was that you were at</p> <p>10 Beechwood until you were 15. Should we understand that</p> <p>11 to mean that you came out of care at 15?</p> <p>12 A. No, I left Beechwood. I was still under the care order.</p> <p>13 Q. What happened to you, aged 15, when you left Beechwood?</p> <p>14 A. I went back to my mother and her partner.</p> <p>15 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>16 You say at paragraph 4, C21:</p> <p>17 "At the time I was taken into care, I did not have</p> <p>18 any particular vulnerabilities or learning</p> <p>19 difficulties."</p> <p>20 For those first 14 years of your life, had they --</p> <p>21 how would you describe those 14 years? That is at the</p> <p>22 point at which you can remember them.</p> <p>23 A. My home life before I went to Beechwood was awful. It</p> <p>24 was terrible. I suffered sexual abuse, serious physical</p> <p>25 abuse, prolonged periods of time, that was. And</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 psychological abuse. Constantly being told, "You're</p> <p>2 useless, you're no good, you will never be any good,</p> <p>3 you're a liar, you're a cheat, you're a thief".</p> <p>4 Q. And this was mostly by whom?</p> <p>5 A. My father, my mother, and later my stepfather.</p> <p>6 Q. Paragraph 5, please. Although this isn't set out in</p> <p>7 your statement, can you tell the panel of your first</p> <p>8 impressions of where it was you were placed at</p> <p>9 Beechwood, which you say in paragraph 5 was Lindens?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. What was that like, as you stepped through the door, as</p> <p>12 it were?</p> <p>13 A. I was born less than a mile away from Beechwood. I went</p> <p>14 to school less than a mile away from Beechwood. So</p> <p>15 we knew what Beechwood was, the local children. I knew</p> <p>16 what it was. It was a bad boys' home.</p> <p>17 So when we was driving up there, I was tearful.</p> <p>18 I was scared. And all these rumours we'd heard as</p> <p>19 children, I thought, "I'm going to Beechwood", and it</p> <p>20 wasn't a very nice day, it wasn't. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Up until then, had you come into contact with what were</p> <p>22 known as any of the bad boys from there?</p> <p>23 A. Just one friend from St Ann's. He'd been into Beechwood</p> <p>24 and come out. But that was the only person.</p> <p>25 Q. So you've walked into the Lindens, and what's your first</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 158</p>
<p>1 impression?</p> <p>2 A. Fear. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Why was that?</p> <p>4 A. There was a lot of lads in there my age running around,</p> <p>5 making a noise, and the size of the place. Plus what</p> <p>6 I'd been told, a bad place.</p> <p>7 Q. As you spent your first few days there, did the fear</p> <p>8 materialise? Could you see why you were fearful or did</p> <p>9 it get better?</p> <p>10 A. No, it didn't get better. When I first went there,</p> <p>11 I was more concerned about the bullying because there</p> <p>12 was older lads in there older than myself. But as it</p> <p>13 went, getting on with the other lads, I got on with the</p> <p>14 other lads.</p> <p>15 But the problem started in the showers. The member</p> <p>16 of staff who I can't mention, he used to -- some of the</p> <p>17 bigger boys, he'd tell to leave -- he'd tell them to</p> <p>18 leave the showers. So I would either be on my own or</p> <p>19 there would be another boy, a younger boy, and he used</p> <p>20 to touch us, testicles, penis, backside.</p> <p>21 And it was -- he used to make out we wasn't washing</p> <p>22 ourselves properly. We had to wash here. We had to</p> <p>23 wash there, we had to do it properly. But it just</p> <p>24 didn't feel right. It just wasn't right.</p> <p>25 Q. On how many occasions did that happen?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 159</p>	<p>1 A. Most days.</p> <p>2 Q. I'm sorry?</p> <p>3 A. Most days.</p> <p>4 Q. Can we look, please, at page 2. What you've just</p> <p>5 described, I think, is set out at paragraph 7. Can we</p> <p>6 just be sure that I have understood that right. There</p> <p>7 you talk about the sexual abuse in the showers?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. That's more or less what you've described?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Thank you. Then at paragraph 8, please, you talk about</p> <p>12 a further more serious incident when, "One day I had wet</p> <p>13 the bed". I'm going to come on to that incident, and if</p> <p>14 you're able to tell us about it, then please do. If</p> <p>15 not, I'm more than happy to help you with that.</p> <p>16 But you just identify there "the one day when I had</p> <p>17 wet the bed". You're 14 at this point?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Up until you'd come to Beechwood, had you been wetting</p> <p>20 the bed at home?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. What was the response to you wetting the bed, apart from</p> <p>23 this occasion at Beechwood?</p> <p>24 A. I was told to get my wet bedding and -- before we went</p> <p>25 to bed at night, you would put your jeans out. You</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 160</p>

<p>1 would put your shirt, your jumper, your underwear and we 2 used to call it a "fireball". It was your clothes. If 3 there was ever a fire, you'd get your clothes, you'd get 4 your shoes and you was out. I had to get that, my wet 5 bedding, and wait at the top of the stairs. 6 Q. If we go then, please, to paragraph 8. As I say, and as 7 you have helped me with, C21, you say: 8 "There was then a further more serious incident when 9 one day I had wet the bed." 10 Then you talk about NO-F29. You can refer to the 11 person as F29. 12 He became involved in that. Can you tell us what 13 happened? 14 A. Yes. He told me -- he was the one who told me to get my 15 wet bedding and my fire roll, my clothes. I waited at 16 the top of the stairs. Most of the other lads was in 17 the shower room. He says, "Take your stuff down to the 18 laundry". I went down one flight of stairs, along the 19 hallway and down another flight of stairs into the 20 cellar. You had a games room one side, the laundry room 21 the other side in the cellar. 22 He followed me down the stairs. We got to the 23 laundry room and I was told to put my wet bedding on the 24 floor, which I did. He then told me to take off my wet 25 pyjamas, which I did.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 I was stood there in the cold, damp cellar, the 2 laundry room. The pyjamas had come off. I had nothing 3 in my hands. Everything had been put down. Then out of 4 nowhere he spun me around, put me over that table, and 5 he raped me. 6 Q. At paragraph 9, you set that out and you have just 7 described it to the panel, and you say there, the last 8 sentence of paragraph 9: 9 "There were no further incidents of abuse after that 10 incident." 11 A. No. 12 Q. You explain a bit more about F29's behaviour towards 13 you. This is at paragraph 10. You say this: 14 "There was no grooming beforehand, but that 15 afterwards he was very nice to me." 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Again, you repeat that at paragraph 11: 18 "The abuse was not accompanied by any threats. It 19 was more the fact that he was nice to me afterwards." 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. What do you want the panel to understand by that "but", 22 as it were? You say: 23 "... but it was more the fact that he was nice to me 24 afterwards." 25 How did that leave you feeling?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>
<p>1 A. I don't know. I didn't really look into it because he 2 was being nice to me, giving me cigarettes, giving me 3 the best job in the place. There was no threats. He 4 was -- he was -- it was a difficult one. 5 Q. Having done what he did to you, having sexually 6 assaulted you in that way, in the laundry room that you 7 have described, it may be very obvious to you, so 8 forgive me for answer asking the question, C21, but how 9 did that make you feel? 10 A. Sick, dirty and, ashamed. And fearful it might happen 11 again. 12 Q. Can we go to paragraphs 12 and 13? In fact, before I do 13 so, I ought to ask you, is there anything else you would 14 like to add to that account of the sexual assault? 15 A. For years, I blamed myself. Had I encouraged him? If 16 I had been a bit stronger in the showers, this might not 17 have happened. 18 One of my biggest regrets, that night I wet the bed, 19 I was in a dormitory with four beds in. There were 20 three empty beds. The mattresses were folded in half on 21 the metal bed frames, and for two hours before the staff 22 came on that morning, I was going to go and change my 23 mattress for one of the ones that wasn't being used. 24 But I thought, "No, everybody thinks I'm a liar, 25 everybody thinks I'm a cheat. Let's be honest. Let's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>	<p>1 be open", and that's exactly what I was. And I wish I'd 2 have changed that mattress. 3 Q. This happened in 1977 -- 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. -- over 40 years ago. Is that a regret that is still 6 real today? 7 A. Yes. Yes. 8 Q. Are you all right if I move on then? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Paragraphs 12 to 13. You say that you also 11 experienced -- this is reading from paragraph 12: 12 "... some physical abuse at Beechwood." 13 You identify the individual there, NO-F204, who was 14 in a senior position in Redcot House. 15 You describe living in a flat in the grounds. You 16 say you were regularly physically abused by him. What 17 did the physical abuse amount to? 18 A. It was always on the weekends. Once you'd got to 19 Redcot, most of the boys went home for the weekends. 20 But there was five or six of us, me included, who were 21 not allowed home. 22 He lived on site. On a Friday and Saturday night, 23 he would go home and get drunk, and you could hear his 24 car pull up and he reminded me of my stepfather, because 25 I had that years before with my stepfather, waiting for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 his car to pull up.</p> <p>2 He would come in drunk and, the five or six of us</p> <p>3 who were there, he would get us out of bed. He would</p> <p>4 slap us, he'd shout at us, he'd threaten us. And</p> <p>5 there's -- you just kept your mouth shut, you didn't</p> <p>6 look him in the eye, and you didn't answer him back,</p> <p>7 especially when it was a Friday or Saturday night.</p> <p>8 Q. Paragraph 13, you say in the second to last line there:</p> <p>9 "I know from what the other boys said that he wasn't</p> <p>10 interested in you if you had pubic hair."</p> <p>11 A. That's -- yes.</p> <p>12 Q. So should the panel understand from that that he was</p> <p>13 only interested in younger boys?</p> <p>14 A. Yes. Redcot -- it was a different build upstairs from</p> <p>15 Lindens. It was more of a home. Lindens was more of an</p> <p>16 institution.</p> <p>17 They had several bathrooms there. But this one</p> <p>18 member of staff, if you had pubic hair, you wasn't</p> <p>19 allowed to go to the bathroom he was supervising. He</p> <p>20 was only interested in young boys.</p> <p>21 Q. Paragraph 14, please. Between paragraphs 14 and 16 you</p> <p>22 tell the inquiry about your ability or inability to</p> <p>23 disclose what had happened to you.</p> <p>24 Paragraph 14, you say:</p> <p>25 "I did not report the sexual abuse at the time. It</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 was just too embarrassing and I thought that if I did</p> <p>2 say anything, things would get worse for me."</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. What made you think that?</p> <p>5 A. My biggest fear that morning was -- were the other boys</p> <p>6 finding out what had happened. I don't think I could</p> <p>7 have coped with the bullying, and the constant name</p> <p>8 calling and, like I have said, I was -- I was born and</p> <p>9 raised a mile from Beechwood. I didn't want that tag</p> <p>10 leaking out.</p> <p>11 So my biggest challenge for me that day was making</p> <p>12 sure the other boys didn't find out. Making sure</p> <p>13 I wasn't going to be bullied. Making sure that this</p> <p>14 never got out there into the community where I lived,</p> <p>15 not far.</p> <p>16 Q. You've described making sure that you weren't bullied?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Should the panel understand that you knew of other boys</p> <p>19 who were bullied for the same thing happening?</p> <p>20 A. Yes. And, regrettably, I was one of the bullies.</p> <p>21 Q. How did you come to learn that this had happened to</p> <p>22 other boys?</p> <p>23 A. We didn't. We didn't know for sure. We just assumed.</p> <p>24 Q. You also say this, C21, if we can go further down in the</p> <p>25 paragraph:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>
<p>1 "It was easier to keep quiet, especially when</p> <p>2 I started to get the perks from NO-F29."</p> <p>3 A. Yes, definitely.</p> <p>4 Q. Explain that a bit more?</p> <p>5 A. I was new to Beechwood. I was getting on with the lads.</p> <p>6 The bullying, I wasn't -- I might have been a bully, but</p> <p>7 I wasn't being bullied. There's certain tasks you had</p> <p>8 to do, you know, we was all allocated every morning.</p> <p>9 Some were cleaning. Some were the education. The</p> <p>10 number 1 job that everybody wanted to do was get in the</p> <p>11 garden with old Fred. It was the best job going. He'd</p> <p>12 slip you cigarettes, and he was a real good bloke. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. And was it F29 -- sorry to interrupt you. Was it F29</p> <p>14 who was able to get you that sort of job?</p> <p>15 A. Well, yes. He was -- yes.</p> <p>16 Q. You also say, in the same paragraph:</p> <p>17 "I didn't get on with my social worker,</p> <p>18 Shirley Brown, due to her not believing me before."</p> <p>19 When had that happened?</p> <p>20 A. My stepfather, he was a brute of a man. He was a big</p> <p>21 Australian man, a big heavy drinker. And I was the</p> <p>22 eldest of four. And he used to knock me from pillar to</p> <p>23 post, and mostly when he was drink.</p> <p>24 I must have been 10, 11 years of age.</p> <p>25 So -- and when I tried telling Shirley Brown about</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>	<p>1 this, she was having none of it.</p> <p>2 My mum, stepfather and I think, to some point, even</p> <p>3 my dad, gave her what they'd always told me, you know,</p> <p>4 I was no good, I was useless, I'm a liar, I'm a thief,</p> <p>5 I'm a cheat. So I think she just went along with my</p> <p>6 parents.</p> <p>7 Q. How did she let you know that she hadn't believed you</p> <p>8 the first time?</p> <p>9 A. She was nasty towards me. Not physically, just the way</p> <p>10 she spoke to me. She spoke down to me, as if I wasn't</p> <p>11 important. The case conferences I wanted to go. "Why</p> <p>12 are they talking about me? Why can't I be in there?"</p> <p>13 The magistrate sent me out of the court while they had</p> <p>14 a talk about me. I was never kept in the loop.</p> <p>15 I didn't know what was happening.</p> <p>16 She just didn't seem bothered.</p> <p>17 Q. Some of the evidence that the panel has heard, and will</p> <p>18 hear, is how for some individuals in care they didn't</p> <p>19 see their social worker on their own. Do you remember</p> <p>20 seeing Shirley Brown on her own?</p> <p>21 A. Yes. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. At that point, would that have been an opportunity to</p> <p>23 speak to her about what was happening to you?</p> <p>24 A. I may as well have spoken to that brick wall.</p> <p>25 Q. If you're all right, we will move on.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Paragraph 15, please. You give an account there of 3 having the gardening job that you describe. 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. And you say about Fred, who did the garden, you say 6 this, paragraph 15: 7 "He was the only person that I felt that I could 8 possibly trust to try and report the abuse to. One day 9 I was on the verge of telling him, but I could not pluck 10 up the courage to do so." 11 Again, it may be very obvious to you, C21, but why 12 couldn't you go that extra mile? 13 A. When you went into the gardens to work, there were two 14 boys from Lindens, two from Redcot, and you worked 15 together as a pair, two pairs. So your friend was never 16 far away. 17 You know, and like I have said from the off, my 18 biggest fear were the other boys finding out. 19 So I didn't tell Fred. 20 Q. What was it about Fred that made you almost tell him? 21 A. He reminded me of someone, my grandfather. He was -- 22 I was in Beechwood and all these staff, social workers, 23 they was all high ranking to me. But Fred was one of 24 us. He was a working-class man. Yes, we -- me and Fred 25 hit it off. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 Q. Then you say in the same paragraph, please, C21: 2 "Fred tapped me on the shoulder and said something 3 like, 'You're not the first and you won't be the last.' 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Do you know what he meant? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. How did that make you feel? 8 A. This may sound selfish, but I felt relieved. It wasn't 9 just me. 10 Q. Paragraph 16, please: 11 "I did not report the abuse at a later date as I got 12 older and became an adult. This was because I was 13 embarrassed and ashamed about what had happened. I also 14 thought, who would believe me, I was a bad lad in 15 everyone's eyes, and I felt that I was less likely to be 16 believed because of my background." 17 You describe in one word being an adult, as it were, 18 so you didn't do that then, but how old were you in fact 19 when you went through this thought process of thinking 20 "No one would believe me"? How long did that last for? 21 A. Until three and a half years ago. 22 Q. Until three and a half years ago? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Again, it may be obvious to you, but it will help the 25 inquiry understand, why until three and a half years ago</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p>
<p>1 did it remain so difficult for you? Because what we've 2 understood, of course, is that you weren't able to do so 3 originally because fearful of other boys, how they might 4 think about you, and you become an adult, and the worry 5 about the boys was no longer there, I imagine. 6 What took its place in preventing you from 7 disclosing? 8 A. 25 years of being a drug addict, 30 years of abusing 9 alcohol. Numb the pain, numb the mind, numb the 10 thoughts. 11 Q. Paragraph 17, please. This is you giving your account 12 of being contacted by the police. What was your 13 experience of that? Can you help the panel, describe 14 what happened? 15 A. A few months before the police, I'd started with the 16 forensic mental health team. I was having therapy, 17 trying to deal with issues from my childhood. 18 That was three or four weeks before the police got 19 in touch, my psychologist was a lady called 20 Sarah Mundell, and every week I got out of bed, I got on 21 the bus, I passed Lindens on the bus, "I'm going to tell 22 her this week. I'm going to tell her this week", and 23 I'd walk away and not tell her. But every week, I was 24 going to tell her. It was on the tip of my tongue, I 25 was ready. She knew about everything else from my past</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 171</p>	<p>1 except this one thing. 2 I'd been to my son's for a couple of days and I'd 3 come home and there was a card through the door. 4 "Contact Mansfield Police", which I did. It was an 5 answer machine and I thought no more of it. That was on 6 the Saturday. 7 On the Tuesday, I got a phone call. I had just been 8 to see my psychiatrist. We had an ETA meeting and I had 9 asked him for another three months, there was something 10 more I needed to tell Sarah, and he agreed to that. 11 When I got home that Tuesday, the phone. The police. 12 And if the police phone me, at my time of life, it's 13 "Crikey, what have I done?" And when he made it quite 14 clear I wasn't in no trouble, I wasn't being 15 investigated for anything, he had a list with my name on 16 that list several times. And he only wanted to speak to 17 one of us. 18 I was a bit cocky. A bit sure of myself. 19 I remember saying "Go ahead, then, fire away". 20 Then he asked me, "Were you ever in the care of the 21 local authority?" Oh, and it was like someone hitting 22 me around the head with a baseball bat. Where did 23 this -- I wasn't expecting this. 24 I couldn't answer him for a few minutes. I was 25 choked up. The tears what came that day, they must have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p>

<p>1 been there for my whole – all my life. I'd never cried 2 so much and so ... 3 And I answered him. I told him, "Yes, I was in 4 Beechwood in 1977". "I can get rid of the list," he 5 says, "you are the person I need to speak to. 6 Can I come and collect you?" I said, "No chance". 7 Where I was living at the time, in Radford, most of my 8 neighbours were drug dealers, so I didn't want to be 9 friendly with the police. 10 So I made arrangements to meet him on the Friday in 11 Oxclose Police Station. 12 Where I went, he was with a female plainclothes 13 officer, and the two of them were great. They done what 14 they could. And it's the only time a police officer's 15 held my hand, but she did, and I thank her for that. 16 I left the police station that day, and I was in 17 bits. Then he did tell me that I would have to go back 18 and do it on film. And I think it was 13 months later 19 I went back and done it on film. But during the 20 13 months, he kept phoning me. DC Yard, his name was. 21 He kept phoning me and asking if I was okay, do I still 22 want to go ahead, because I was reluctant to go and do 23 it on film. 24 But I did. I went and done it. 25 They were great, really, and for me to say that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 about the police, having led the life I have led, that's 2 something, you know. They were very good to me. 3 Q. So as to help the panel a little more, I know you've 4 described one very touching incident of the police 5 holding your hand. What else made them, as it were, 6 great in helping you? 7 A. I felt believed. If I'd have walked into a police 8 station, I don't know if I had have done, but they came 9 for me. And that -- yes, that made all the difference. 10 Q. Indeed, you say, C21, at page 4, paragraph 18, your last 11 sentence there, and you have just described it now: 12 "I felt a great sense of relief that things had come 13 out and I felt a bit easier for a while." 14 A. For a while, yes. 15 Q. Then what happened? 16 A. The realisation of it all coming out, what I'd done. 17 I'd told the police. I'd told my psychologist. It was 18 out. And that was frightening. That was daunting. 19 Because that was new to me. It was all new. 20 Q. Are you happy that I move on? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Paragraph 20, you say: 23 "I was kept informed by the police on a regular 24 basis and they informed me that F29 had died in 2006." 25 So as a consequence, there was no prosecution.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>
<p>1 A. No. 2 Q. As far as your civil claim was concerned, that was 3 settled. Then, at paragraph 21, you summarise your 4 experience of reporting the abuse to the police and to 5 the solicitors. 6 Has that been a positive experience? 7 A. Yes. Yes, it has. 8 Q. You say in particular: 9 "My disclosures were taken seriously and believed." 10 You nod your head. 11 A. (Witness nods). 12 Yes. Now I feel as if I'm being believed, yes. And 13 with the two police officers, especially DC Yard, I saw 14 him every occasion, I firmly believe that he believes 15 me. 16 Q. Paragraph 22, please: 17 "I have not given any other accounts to anyone about 18 the abuse other than what I have already mentioned." 19 Paragraph 23: 20 "The Beechwood building is still standing [you say] 21 and I don't know why they haven't just pulled it down." 22 A. Yes. My mental health unit is a mile from Beechwood, 23 and for the last four years -- this has come out three 24 and a half years. For the last four years, I have had 25 to go past that building, twice some days, four times in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>	<p>1 a week some weeks. 2 When I first started going past the building, I used 3 to turn to jelly. I would want to cry. And leaving my 4 psychologist's some days was very tough, what we'd dealt 5 with that morning. So I would go the long way around, 6 just so I didn't have to see the building. 7 I passed it last Wednesday twice. I have passed it 8 this Thursday twice. I have often thought to 9 myself: how many other people were in there are going to 10 the same mental health unit as me, and that building is 11 still standing? Now, Redcot has been demolished. 12 They've built some lovely houses on there, four-, 13 five-bedroom houses. I doubt if any Beechwood bad boy 14 could afford one, but it looks better than Redcot 15 standing there. So the sooner they knock the Lindens 16 building down, the better, for me. 17 Q. C21, may we go then to paragraph 24, and on the same 18 page we can see at the bottom a date written in 19 manuscript handwriting, 23/5/2018. Do you recognise 20 that writing? 21 A. It looks like mine. 22 Q. It looks like yours. The reason I say that is you say 23 at paragraph 24: 24 "The other thing which really upsets me is that 25 whilst Nottinghamshire County Council have apologised on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

1 two occasions, Nottingham City Council has still not
 2 done so."
 3 You are writing that or saying that at the time that
 4 you sign the statement.
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Are you aware that since you signed the statement there
 7 have been apologies made by the city council?
 8 **A. If that's what they want to call it, they can stick it.**
 9 Q. Right. You say this, in the same paragraph:
 10 "They provided the staff who abused us ..."
 11 This is about the councils:
 12 "... and I don't understand why they have never
 13 apologised."
 14 I think that's in relation to the city council.
 15 My having told you that the city council has since
 16 apologised, is that still the way you feel?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Finally, and thank you for your patience, paragraph 25,
 19 please:
 20 "In conclusion, I would say that my placement at
 21 Beechwood could have been prevented in the first place
 22 if someone had sat me down and asked me why my behaviour
 23 was like it was at the time."
 24 Looking back, who was it who you think should have
 25 sat you down and asked you what's going on?"

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1 Q. C21, thank you very much for your time and your
 2 patience.
 3 **A. Thank you.**
 4 MR SADD: Wait there a moment, we may have some questions
 5 from the panel.
 6 THE CHAIR: There are no questions. Thank you very much for
 7 coming. It's very important to us.
 8 **A. Thank you.**
 9 MR SADD: Chair, that completes today's witnesses, and if
 10 you would like to rise, and then we will sort out the
 11 room. Thank you very much.
 12 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Sadd. We will reconvene tomorrow
 13 morning.
 14 (4.21 pm)
 15 (The hearing adjourned until Wednesday, 3 October 2018 at
 16 10.00 am)
 17
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1 **A. Shirley Brown. But she didn't. She didn't.**
 2 Q. C21, the panel have the opportunity with this
 3 investigation and in the inquiry generally to make
 4 recommendations, to take things forward as a result of
 5 what has happened in the past. Is there anything that
 6 occurs to you that you would like them to think of
 7 particularly?
 8 **A. Please, please, let's have that building demolished.**
 9 **Thank you.**
 10 Q. Is there anything else you would like to add?
 11 **A. Yes. The last few years have been very difficult and**
 12 **very emotional. They've been tough. I have been very**
 13 **lucky, I'm under the forensics mental health team and**
 14 **they've been fantastic. They really have.**
 15 **But for the last two years I have been hearing these**
 16 **two words bandied around and I just couldn't get my head**
 17 **round them. Those two words were "victim" and**
 18 **"survivor".**
 19 **Now, I know what I have been over my life. I have**
 20 **been a druggie. I have been a drunk. I have been a jail**
 21 **bird. I believe I was a victim then, but I'm going to**
 22 **make sure I walk out of here today a survivor because**
 23 **I have shed enough tears. I'm a survivor and I'm**
 24 **leaving a survivor. I'm still breathing, I'm still**
 25 **alive and I'm a survivor.**

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