

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

ENB [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is ENB [REDACTED]. My name as a child in care was ENB [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1960. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Lennoxtown but my family came from Glasgow. My mum was called [REDACTED]. My father was called [REDACTED]. I had an older half-sister. [REDACTED], me and [REDACTED] were full brother and sisters. [REDACTED] is a year older than me and [REDACTED] is a year younger than me. [REDACTED] was the youngest. He is about two years younger than [REDACTED].
3. There was trauma, screaming and fighting in the house. When my mum decided to leave us, she took the older sister and [REDACTED] and left me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the flat in Glasgow. We had to put a big green armchair against the door because we were left by ourselves. Mum went away and got married again. She had another child called [REDACTED] who is a lot younger than us.
4. Our father was supposed to be looking after us but he was drunk all the time. He got jailed for child cruelty. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in the flat in Glasgow for a week. We were cramming butter and sugar in our mouths because we were starving. In my records it says that my mother refused to take the children. To see that written down

in black and white, I thought, wow. I can remember that happening. I was four years old.

Lochgarry Children's Home, Glasgow

5. I know the dates I was in care from my records. We were put into Lochgarry Children's Home for one night on [REDACTED] 1964 because my father was in jail and my mother refused to take us. Then we went back to our father. On all of [REDACTED]'s records, his name is spelt [REDACTED]. When we met our mother when I was nineteen years old, she told us his name was spelt [REDACTED].

Returning to live at home

6. We were sent back to live with our father. I never met my father as an adult and I don't remember him.

Castlemilk Children's Home, Glasgow

7.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



Leaving Castlemilk Children's Home

8. I don't know how it came about that we left Castlemilk and went to live with the [REDACTED] ENF-ENH in [REDACTED].

Foster Care – Mr and Mrs [ENF-ENH] and [ENF-ENH] Inverness

9. We lived in [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] 1964 to [REDACTED] 1965 with [ENH] and [ENF]. We called [ENH] 'mam' and [ENF] 'dad'. I take it the [ENF-ENH] must have said to call them that. For all that we knew we came from somewhere else, we thought the [ENF-ENH] were our mum and dad. We thought we were going to be fine. Dad never took much to do with anything. He was hen-pecked. I'm not sure how old mam was but she must have been in her forties. They are both dead now.
10. Mam and dad had a lot of sons and a daughter called [REDACTED]. She was nice. [REDACTED] moved to Dunvagen and went to a Young Ladies College. Their son [REDACTED] was old. I thought he was mam's brother at the time. He was married to [REDACTED]. We went to stay with them now and again and they were so nice. Then there was [REDACTED]. He was married to [REDACTED] and they moved to Australia. There was [ENN] who was married to [REDACTED].
11. The youngest was [ENM] who was called [ENM] or [ENM]. He lived with us at [REDACTED] but not at Inverness. There were me, [REDACTED] and mam and dad living in the house at Inverness. [ENM] had a girlfriend called [REDACTED] and he came to visit a lot. He lived near Culloden. [ENM] was a lot older than us and was maybe in his late twenties.
12. I was four years old when I went to [REDACTED] and I was happy there. It was a big house down by the river. I'm not sure if it was a bed and breakfast. [REDACTED] was nice and I don't remember many things about it. There was nothing bad happened there.
13. I had my first day at school in [REDACTED]. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] used to go to a girl's house from school. It was a big, fancy house and she had all these toys. We thought this was amazing because we had nothing. At school you got metal tins with

crayons in them and we thought this was great. I liked school because people were showing you attention.

14. It was when we moved to Inverness that bad things happened. We went to Inverness on [REDACTED] 1965 when I was five years old and stayed there until [REDACTED] 1969. The place in Inverness was like a croft and there were chickens and goats. The top of the roof was the shape of a thruppenny bit. When you go [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and the house sits just there. It's in the countryside in a big bit of ground. The grounds were fenced off. The house was getting renovated. Down the road were wooden, prefabricated houses. They were our neighbours but they were far away. We never saw anybody.

Routine in Foster Care - Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] ENF-ENH [REDACTED] Inverness

Mornings and bedtime

15. Mam and dad were building the upstairs and there were no floorboards upstairs. We had to walk across a big beam every night to go into the bedroom. I was terrified because you could see right down to the living-room. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were only aged four to six years old. The floor eventually got fixed but the house was like a building site for a long time. We shared a bedroom and we all had our own bed.

Bed Wetting

16. The bathroom was to the right of the beam. You would have had to walk across the beam if you wanted to use the toilet at night. I was terrified to walk over the beam and at night I dreamt I was sitting on the toilet. I thought I was on the toilet and so I wet the bed. That happened every night for the four years we were in Inverness and until I was thirteen years old. I was scared to go sleep in case I wet the bed.

17. I was in the bath every day, in cold water because I wet the bed. There was no shower, just a rubber hose that fitted on the bath taps for getting your hair washed. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got a bath on a Sunday. We all used the same bathwater.

Mealtimes / Food

18. In the morning mam made us brose which is oats mixed with hot water. It wasn't that good. The brose was always stone cold. I was always late for breakfast because I had to get sorted out from the cold bath. I was lucky if I got two spoonfuls. There was one bowl between the three of us.
19. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got our dinner at school, which was great. We never got our dinner at night. When we came home at night, that was it. Mam gave the goats ripe bananas that she got from some wholesaler. We ate all the bananas because we were starving. The bananas were outside where the goats were, in a wee storage thing.

General Routine

20. We didn't have toys or any personal possessions. Mam had catalogues in Inverness. We rolled up the pages into pleats, like a butterfly and I gave one of them to [REDACTED] for her Christmas. I realised later that the ENF-ENH got a lot of money for fostering the three of us. The money the ENF-ENH got for us wasn't spent on food or clothes or toys.
21. We sung in the Gaelic Mods but, except for that, mam and dad never did anything with us. The Gaelic Mods are festivals of Gaelic songs and culture. We went to school, came home and went to bed. That was it.
22. We got our clothes from jumble sales and charity shops. We never got anything new and our clothes were horrible. We weren't allowed to wear trousers. When we sung in the Mods, mam knitted us a poncho to show what a good parent she was.
23. At Inverness, me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to Drumsittal Primary School. We lived about a mile away from school and we had to walk there. The school did School Fairs

but we weren't allowed to go to anything like that. Mam and dad didn't take anything to do with school. I don't think they went to any parent meetings with the teachers. I loved school and I was quite clever. You had to make sure you stuck in at school because we were terrified of mam and dad.

24. I had a couple of friends at school. I wasn't allowed to go their houses and my friends weren't allowed to come to our bit. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had each other but it shouldn't have been like that. I would have died for my brother and sister.
25. I never saw a doctor or dentist. I always had a lazy eye, where my right eye looks over to the right. I can hardly see a thing out of that eye. I didn't get any treatment for my eye at the [REDACTED] and I didn't get glasses until we went to the Aberlour Trust in Aberdeen.
26. We mucked out the goats and fed the chickens but that didn't bother you. We did dishes and helped prepare porridge oats. We washed floors on our hands and knees. We didn't iron clothes or anything like that.
27. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and me never got birthdays or Christmas. I didn't know when my birthday was and it wasn't until we moved to Aberdeen that I was told when my birthday was. I remember Christmas at school when we made cards. That was lovely.
28. Apart from one lady who was really nice, I don't remember having a social worker until we went to Aberlour in 1969 but social work must have been involved. In my records, there is a letter from Glasgow social work to Aberdeen social work, with the date on it saying me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are with foster parents and a place is needed as soon as possible. We weren't moved from the [REDACTED] for a year after that letter. Social work obviously knew that things were going on for a year and we were left with the [REDACTED] until they found a place for us to go.
29. Mam treated me differently from my brother and sister because I wet the bed and I was the middle child. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were frightened of mam too but I stood up for myself a little bit. That got on her nerves. Mam was nasty.

30. I never thought of running away. There was nowhere to run to because of where we were. We were used to being hit. You knew what would happen if you ran away and then came back.

Abuse in Foster care – Mr and Mrs ENF-ENH

31. Mrs ENH abused me every day because I wet the bed. She was absolutely horrible. She put my head down the toilet and flushed it on me. I got put in an ice cold bath and submerged under the water until I nearly passed out. I could see mam standing over me. When she thought I was going to conk out then I got back up. Mam would wait until I came to and submerge me again.
32. When we came home from school, we held our breath and turned the door handle. We prayed the door was locked because that meant mam wouldn't be in. She wouldn't be in once in a blue moon. The minute the door handle opened, your heart sunk and you thought, "Oh no, she's home." Anytime mam was in a bad mood or if you answered her back, she hit you with anything she could get her hands on.
33. Mam liked to pull your hair. There was a potty which mam threw at me. I've still got a scar on my bum where she flung the potty at me and it smashed. If the coal shovel was there then she hit you with that. It was the kind of coal shovel you used to take ashes out the fire. There was a walking stick for walking in the hills and mam whacked you with that.
34. If nothing came to hand, mam would punch and slap you. Mam hit you anywhere on your body and I was covered in bruises. The bruises were sore if you touched them or banged yourself. You didn't show anybody the bruises because you didn't want to get taken away. If one of us was cheeky or something was spilled, mam made me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] line up. She shoved a bar of green carbolic soap in each of our mouths to wash our mouths out.

35. Mam and dad kept goats and there were feeding bags for the goats. The bags were thick plastic and said PAYE on them. Mam cut holes in the bottom of the bag and put me in the bag with my legs hanging out of the bottom. The plastic was right up to my chest but enough to get my arms out. I got made to sleep in the bag with no clothes on, out in the garage, because I wet the bed. The bags were hung on the whirly-gig during the day to dry. There was no mattress so I slept on the floor. I got brought in the house in the winter and I had the same, wet sheets on the bed at night. That started when I was about five years old and went on for years.
36. I'm not scared of rats or mice or spiders because they were my wee friends in the garage. I talked to them. It sounds silly but it meant there was someone else there. You could hear the noise of them. I wouldn't say the rats and mice were tame but they came up beside you and never bit you. I knew from when I was young that rats and mice didn't harm you. I still peed in the garage. In the morning all this urine was running down your legs so you got submerged in the bath for that.
37. I wasn't allowed to drink anything because I wet the bed and I was dirty. I drank water from the tin bath which was outside with rainwater for the goats. There were daddy longlegs and everything in it. Another time, my sister was not well and she got a hot water bottle. The next morning I drank the water out of the bottle because I knew I wouldn't get a drink.
38. We got our dinner at school and that was the only meal we got. One day, mam caught me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] eating the goat's bananas and we got battered for that. We weren't caring because we were starving. Mam had dogs and there were cooked sausages for the dogs. Mam made me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shut our eyes and she shoved the sausage in your mouth. We didn't know what it was and we were sick.
39. A lot of the time, if my wee brother had done something then I would take the blame. I didn't want him to get hit. I don't mean that I'm a hero. I've just always been like that because I love him so much. Mam wouldn't even bother asking anybody else what had happened. I was just glad that my brother and sister didn't get hit. Mam hated me for some reason.

40. ENM was bad to us as well. ■ was never there if ENM was doing anything bad. If mam and dad went anywhere and ENM was watching us, he made me, ■ and ■ strip naked. Then he would power wash us with a power hose, just for fun. He would kill himself laughing. ENM had a works van. He would lock me, ■ and ■ in the van and said he was leaving us there all night. We'd be terrified. The van was pitch black because there were no windows in it.
41. I have a vague memory of us all sitting. There was me, ■ and the other two brothers, ■ and ENN. Their wives weren't there. We had our clothes on. One of them had his penis out. I think it was ENN but I can't be sure. It was an erect penis. I was made to touch it. He said, "What about you?" and I said I didn't have one of them. He never did anything else. If he had then I would remember. I don't know if they did anything to ■ but I don't think they did. I think he was testing the waters.
42. This isn't a funny story but me and ■ laugh about it. Mam had a catalogue and she got a bike delivered. We thought the bike was for us but then this lassie's mother came up and got the bike. Me and ■ told everybody at school that our mam bought this lassie a bike. We got leathered for that because the woman had said to mam what we'd been saying at school. Mam punched and slapped us. The bike must've been for Christmas or something. We thought mam bought the lassie a bike because the lassie's mum couldn't afford it and we didn't get anything.
43. Me and ■ always had short hair and we weren't allowed long hair. I always wanted long hair. Mam knew I wanted long hair and it was just another way of controlling you. Mam cut our hair like a boy's haircut. In the playground at school there was a big shawl. When I was seven years old, I would put the shawl round my head and put a band round it to keep it on. I pretended I had long hair and went around flicking the shawl as if it were my hair.
44. Sometimes mam and dad went to the pub. We had to go down and sit in the car outside. That was a treat for us, getting away a wee run.

45. My sister says dad tried to interfere with her, sexually, but he never did anything like that to me.

Leaving Foster Care – Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] ENF-ENH

46. My school teacher was called Miss Fraser and she was lovely. One day, I had fallen and ripped my tights running to school. I was crying my eyes out and shaking at school because I knew I'd get battered for it. The school kept tights in a cupboard and Miss Fraser took me to get a pair. I was covered in bruises and Miss Fraser saw all the bruises on my legs and my back. My legs were marbled with the bruising. Miss Fraser said something about the bruises and I said I fell. I was protecting mam. I think Miss Fraser maybe reported that and it took social work a year to move us. I was nine years old when we left.
47. There was no warning that we were leaving. We came home from school and this car appeared. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were taken away by a man in the car and then we got the train to Aberdeen. Once I'd stopped crying, I thought this was great. It was like a wee adventure. Later I thought we had got taken away from our mam and I was heartbroken. I blamed myself for years. We didn't want to get taken away, for all that she was battering us. That was the life you had. You thought that was your life and there was nothing wrong with the abuse. Being taken away was a godsend because we probably would have ended up dead or really badly hurt.
48. When we were adults, my sister told me that all the people in the village where the school was, turned on the [REDACTED] ENF-ENH when we got taken away. The villagers wouldn't speak to the [REDACTED] ENF-ENH because they had been bad to us. My sister still had friends there.

The Aberlour Childcare Trust – Aberdeen Headquarters

49. I was nine years old when we went to Aberdeen, on [REDACTED] 1969. We stayed there until [REDACTED] 1970. Aberdeen was nice and I have happy memories of that

time. The staff were lovely. Nothing dramatic happened. No-one explained why we were in Aberdeen. It was only me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were there because it was an emergency placement.

Routine at The Aberlour Childcare Trust, Aberdeen Headquarters

First day

50. It was dinnertime when we got to Aberdeen and we went into the big dining-room. There were a couple of members of staff. I kept my head down all the time and didn't look at anybody. We sat down. My brother and sister were munching away and I didn't eat anything. The staff asked if I'd like a drink of water and I was thinking, am I allowed water? The water was in a glass jug and I got a drink of it.

General Routine

51. I didn't speak to anybody for days. It was trauma. The initial excitement had been the train and getting to Aberdeen. Then you thought you weren't going home. It was childlike to think you were going back. After a couple of days, I ate something. The food was fine.
52. I was so excited to get a drink of water at dinnertime that first day. Of course, I wet the bed that night. I was terrified and thought I was going to get battered for that. Nothing was said about wetting the bed. I got changed and the bed was changed.
53. In my records, it says I was withdrawn when I got to Aberdeen and at night I was shouting for our mam. I got taken in beside the housemother and slept all night. I didn't wet the bed.
54. I went to Mile End Primary School and my teacher was a part-time opera singer. We went to see My Fair Lady and she was in it. We stayed after school and did craft things.

There were school plays that we did. We went to the pictures with the home. I got glasses for my lazy eye and I had eye patches on.

55. We got taken to the shops and got brand new clothes. Me and [REDACTED] still speak about that. I got a bright orange woolly jersey that had a tie-belt. [REDACTED] had one that was turquoise blue. We got new pants and socks and everything like that. We thought, wow.
56. When we went to Aberdeen, it was near Christmas. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to church and we were all in the Nativity Play. We got Christmas presents and we couldn't believe it. I got a doll with long, black hair. It was the most beautiful thing I had seen in my life. The doll was the first thing I ever got and I kept it for years. Eventually, I gave the doll away.
57. No-one asked us about being abused. All through care, not one person asked. That's why you keep it to yourself. No-one cares. You're a child in care. No-one would have done anything about it. In my records it says I blame myself and insist, even although there was abuse, that I want to go back to the [REDACTED] ENF-ENH I wouldn't say I wanted to go back. We hadn't been told we weren't going back, so we thought this was a wee break and we'd be going back.
58. The records say we are happy to chat about our time in Inverness and hold no bitterness. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] never held bitterness because that was all we knew. I thought it was normal that, if you wet your bed then you were bad and got whatever happened. We just did what we were told. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] should have been told that what happened at the [REDACTED] ENF-ENH was wrong and we should be bitter.

Contact with Foster Carers

59. In my records, there are letters from mam sent once me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got taken off of her and we were in Aberdeen. The letters say that she misses us so much and she calls me her 'wee [REDACTED] ENB'. Mam says when we come back then we'll be doing this and that. There's no explanation in the letters of why we were taken away.

I didn't see the letters when I was a child. My records say [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and especially me, are under the impression that we are going back to the [REDACTED] ENF-ENH [REDACTED].

60. There was an Auntie [REDACTED] who I don't remember. She was a relative of the [REDACTED] ENF-ENH [REDACTED]. My records say she came to visit us in Aberdeen and we were very fond of her.

Leaving The Aberlour Childcare Trust – Aberdeen Headquarters

61. Even when we were leaving Aberdeen to go to the Aberlour Trust in Kirkcaldy in [REDACTED] 1970, I still thought we were going to go back to the [REDACTED] ENF-ENH [REDACTED]. It was only when we came to the Aberlour Trust in Stirling in [REDACTED] 1971 that I realised we weren't going back. No-one ever explained. We went in a car to Kirkcaldy. We didn't have any belongings except our new clothes and I had my doll. We were told we were moving somewhere else but there was no sit down to say what was happening. There was no explaining that it wasn't because we had been bad that we were getting moved. I think we moved in the holidays or at the weekend.

The Aberlour Childcare Trust – 44 Whytemans Brae, Kirkcaldy

62. We went to Kirkcaldy on [REDACTED] 1970 when I was nine years old and stayed there for a year until [REDACTED] 1971. There was a big drive going up to a big, two-storey house. There were two ways into the house. There was the front door and a side door where the utility room was. Nobody went in the side door. There were stairs up from the utility room to a toilet where the bedrooms were. That part of the house was blocked off from the main house. If you went in the front door, you wouldn't even know that part of the house was there. There was another stair in the main house up to the bedrooms, where everybody would see you from the kitchen and the living-room. There was a really big living-room and three bathrooms.
63. The house parents were [REDACTED] ENP-SPO [REDACTED]. They didn't have any kids of their own. Auntie [REDACTED] was nice. There were loads of kids and me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

██████ were shying away from them. There were boys and girls. They were mostly all older than us and maybe one or two were younger. There were a couple of boys who had left school and were working. They might have been about eighteen years old.

Routine at The Aberlour Childcare Trust, Kirkcaldy

General Routine

64. You got up in the morning and then you'd go to school. You came back, got dinner and did the dishes. Then you'd get sexually abused. We got nice dinners and new clothes. I came from Inverness and not getting fed and getting battered all the time, to getting nice dinners and people being nice to you. The only thing was the abuse. I thought that the abuse was par for the course. It wasn't very good at all in Kirkcaldy.
65. I went to Pathhead Primary School. I enjoyed school. It was away from the home and you met people. You had pals. One day I got the belt for something or a teacher slapped me. I can't remember for what. ENP ██████, the house father went down to the school and he was reassured it would never happen again. I had never had a fight in my life and once, a lassie wanted to fight with me. She was one of my friends. That was quite traumatic.
66. A lady came in to the home and did our hair. I was taken to the doctors for urine infections a lot. No-one questioned why I was having so many infections. That's another clue that I was being abused. In my records it says that I attended the doctor for 'yet another' urine infection. I still wet the bed.
67. We all went to church. I liked it because one of the staff took us and we got money for the sweet shop on the way back.
68. I remember one social worker who visited once. Social workers didn't stay a long time and they chopped and changed. We had about twenty social workers in the time we

were in care. They'd be your social worker for a month and then they wouldn't come back. In my records, there's a different social worker at every meeting.

Abuse at The Aberlour Childcare Trust, Kirkcaldy

Peer Abuse

69. I was abused by one of the people who stayed in the home. That went on nearly every night for the year we were at Kirkcaldy. His name was [REDACTED]. He had left school and was over sixteen years old. The boy dragged me into the utility room. Nobody knew you were there because it was almost blocked off from the main house. There was a double sink with doors. He sat under the sink and I had a nightie on. He put a wooden clothes peg right inside me. I can remember how sore that was. I was only nine years old. The boy told me if I told anybody then he would kill my sister and my brother.
70. The next day I got up and I was covered in blood. It's documented in my records that I menstruated. I got sent to school wearing a sanitary belt and a big Doctor White pad. A day or so later the bleeding was away. I was a wee, thin kid who wasn't likely to be menstruating at nine years old. Someone should have been questioning the bleeding and the repeated urine infections I had.
71. I got raped every night by the boy. That was upstairs in the toilet that you got to from the stairs by the utility room. It was a bathroom that was hardly ever used because it was in the corridor by the bedrooms. The boy threatened me that he would do stuff to my sister and kill her and my brother if I didn't go to do stuff in the bathroom.
72. The same person made me go to a big park called Dunnikier Park which is 200 yards up from the home. He used to drag me in the toilets and rape me in there. That was in the afternoons. There was never anybody around. This is going to sound terrible but I didn't think there was anything wrong with that. I thought that was meant to happen.

73. The boy physically raped me and came inside me. The rapes were violent but the violence doesn't affect me. I can't explain it. Rape is the most terrible thing that can happen to anybody but I got used to it because it was every night or afternoon. I had nobody to tell then and I still don't.
74. I'd been abused all that time in Inverness. There were three months in Aberdeen, which were lovely and then I came into this. I thought, here we go. It's a weird feeling. Half of you thinks it's not right and half of you thinks that's what you're put on this earth for. I know that's not right.

Leaving The Aberlour Childcare Trust, Kirkcaldy

75. We moved with **ENP-SPO** to a new children's home in Stirling.

The Aberlour Childcare Trust – 40 Lomond Crescent, Stirling

76. We went to Stirling on **1971** with another couple of kids. I stayed there until I was eighteen years old. Kids from Glasgow came to Stirling as well and there were sixteen kids altogether. The house was a brand new bungalow. **1971** didn't move and neither did a lot of the other folk. They had family through in Kirkcaldy or something. I was so happy that I was away from Kirkcaldy, so I thought.

Routine at The Aberlour Childcare Trust, Stirling

General Routine

77. Stirling was fine. It was just normal for us. There were kids our own age and we had a carry-on. After school you did your homework and set the tables for tea. Then you just sat in the living-room or in your room. There were four of us to a room.

78. I went to my friend's house and I thought that was great. You could get cups of tea, sit and watch the telly and have a laugh. Nobody told you to sit down and shut up, like Uncle ENP did. You didn't have to only watch BBC 1 and not watch anything that was funny. In the home, we had to watch the news and Tomorrow's World. We weren't allowed to watch anything we wanted. That didn't bother us because we weren't used to watching TV.
79. My records in Stirling say I soiled myself. That really annoys me because I have never done that. I wet myself. Never did I soil myself. The records say my personal hygiene isn't this and that. I ask myself why Uncle ENP made up stuff to make me look bad.
80. We went on holiday every year to Ayr Youth Hostel for a week. It was good and I loved going there because the hostel was right next to the beach. The hostel was full of folk. Instead of going to play on the beach after your breakfast or dinner, we had to wash the dishes for the full hostel and make the beds for everybody. We were meant to be holiday but it was like, you kids are in a home and you will wash dishes. That was Uncle ENP letting us know he was in charge.
81. I went to the Territorial Primary School, Riverside Primary School and Wallace High School. The High School was a ten minute walk away. I was clever but I didn't bother. I took it into my head that I wasn't bothered about getting my exams. My pals were full of carry-on all the time so I used to get put out of the class sometimes. All my report cards say I don't try hard enough and I don't do this and that. I did get my O Levels but I didn't do as well as I could have. There was no encouragement from ENP-SPO ENP-SPO You just went to school and that was it.
82. Only a couple of my friends at school knew I was in a home. I didn't want people to know and feel sorry me. Especially in the 1970's, everybody thought you're in a home because you've been bad. I said to friends that they couldn't come to my house because my mam was at the bingo, when I hadn't seen her since I was four years old. You had to get a letter to be able to go any school trips. I never used to go because I got so embarrassed about being in a home.

83. I got to have long hair when we went to Kirkcaldy and I looked after it. One time in Stirling, the school nurse sent me home because she said I had one nit in my hair. I think the nurse did that because we were in the home. It says in my records that I was home with nits and the full home had to be treated. There were no nits because I would have known if there were. I don't think it is right that things like that are reported in your records.
84. We all had to march to church in a line on a Sunday. We went to two churches in Stirling but Uncle ^{ENP} fell out with both the ministers and then we went to Bridge of Allan. We were forced to go and I hated it. That's why I don't go to church now. On a Sunday, you weren't allowed to go on a bike at all. You weren't ever allowed to wear trousers. I don't know who made those rules.
85. The social workers would say they were going to visit and then they didn't. That's why I rebelled. I was a good kid up until I was eighteen years old and then I'd had enough. We had a different social worker coming to see us every time. In my records, it says that I wasn't impressed by having only one social work visit in so many months, and I told the social worker so. It says ^{ENP} and ^{ENP} were co-operating and I stormed away to my room.
86. We got pocket money and you had a bank book.

Abuse at The Aberlour Trust, Stirling

87. When we got to Stirling, Uncle ^{ENP} became abusive. He hadn't been like that in Kirkcaldy. I think it was because he had all the power and Stirling was his new home. In Kirkcaldy the kids had all been older kids. There were guys out working and they wouldn't have put up with abuse from Uncle ^{ENP}.
88. Aunty ^{ENP} was nice and never hit anybody. I think she was scared of Uncle ^{ENP}. We weren't getting battered. It was silly things like not being allowed to do this and

that and Uncle ^{ENP} telling us there were cameras in our rooms. We were all terrified to have a carry-on.

89. My wee brother was hard on his shoes and the heel was going down on one side. He was a typical boy. Uncle ^{ENP} got ^{ENP}'s shoes by the laces in the boot room. Uncle ^{ENP} swung the shoes around by the laces and was battering them off ^{ENP}'s head. ^{ENP} was only ten years old. I ran at Uncle ^{ENP} and pulled ^{ENP} away from him. I got kept in for a week for that. Nobody should be hitting a kid because he wore his shoes down.
90. When you came in late, you had to stand in the corridor for an hour. Some of the kids had to stand on one foot. If you ran along a corridor, you had to walk up and down it twenty times until you walked slowly.
91. A wee girl who was about seven or eight years old did something stupid, like throwing a pillow at somebody in the room, the way wee girls do. She was sent to stand in front of Uncle ^{ENP}. She was crying and she cried that much that she started laughing. The wee girl laughed that much that she wet herself. She was terrified.
92. Uncle ^{ENP} went to the pub and when he came home at night he put the fire alarm off. We were terrified and thought there was a fire. Other times in the middle of the night, Uncle ^{ENP} took everybody's drawers out of their chest of drawers and chucked their clothes in the middle of the floor. We had an hour to sort all our clothes out.
93. In the pantry, there was a big dustbin about three feet high full of sugar. For a prank, somebody put a big catering bag of salt in it. Nobody would own up to it so Uncle ^{ENP} stirred the salt in. We had to have that sugar and salt mixture in puddings, tea and anything you were eating that got made with sugar. Someone made a trifle and burned the custard. The custard was made with the sugar and salt mixture. We still had to eat the trifle.

94. I got a slap on the face once. Uncle ^{ENP} did that because I was being cheeky. I was standing up for I said don't hit hit me and Uncle ^{ENP} did hit me.
95. One time had a swimming cap on and she was kidding on she was a model. We were all killing ourselves laughing. is tall and big-boned. Uncle ^{ENP} came in the room and made a fool of her in front of the other kids. He was saying she would never be a model because she's quite big. wasn't allowed out for about a week for having a silly carry-on. We weren't allowed to have fun.

Leaving The Aberlour Trust, Stirling

96. I had been going with the fella that I later married. I was eighteen years old and I stayed at his house. There was nothing in it. I slept with his sister in a double bed and he slept in another room. In the records it says I voluntarily discharged myself and I was trying to blackmail Uncle ^{ENP} and Aunt by saying I was going to Glasgow.
97. I didn't discharge myself voluntarily. I came home and my stuff was all packed into one box and that was it. I said I wanted my bank book. A relative of one of the women who worked in the home had a room to rent and I got sent there. I left. There is a letter in my records saying how bad I was and how I didn't like other kids to get attention from the staff if I didn't get attention. That's a lot of rubbish.

Life after being in care

98. The man I married was my first boyfriend. I slept with him once and I fell pregnant. I never had a clue. I was straight out of the home and within a year I was married and mum to a wee girl. In the 1970's, you got married and that was it. I had another two kids. My husband was a bad bastard. My husband never did anything bad to the kids

but it was the way he spoke to them. I left him. It was hard bringing up three children on my own but I'm glad I did it because I couldn't have my kids suffering.

99. I've worked in the caring professions with children and old people. I've hurt my back and had back operations so I can't work just now. At one time, I was working three jobs.

Impact

100. There's nothing joyous that I can remember about being in care. It's all either sexual abuse, physical abuse or emotional abuse in an oppressive atmosphere. It's not right. Every time I moved on, it was the same thing happening again. When I was an adult, I met someone I was at school with when I was in Stirling. He said to me that the kids at school were jealous of the kids in the home because we got taken away holidays and got new shoes. I told him we had to stand in corridors and do dishes. He was gobsmacked. People who are looking in on other people's lives don't have a clue.
101. I have depression and anxiety. Sometimes when I'm in the shower and catch my breath, it takes me right back to mam putting my head down the toilet. That's fifty odd years ago. The water is coming down on you and you can't do anything about it. There was a triangle shaped window at the front of the garage. I can still see it now and it's as clear as day. You don't forget things like that. The memories don't go away. There's got to be a time I stop thinking about these things. You wonder why someone would do things like that, especially to a wee kid. I've never been able to stop biting my nails. I've always wanted long nails but every time I get anxious I bite them.
102. The way I was treated by the **ENF-ENH** had an impact on the way I treated my own kids. One of my daughters wet the bed up until she was eleven years old. I just asked her if she needed a bath and she would say, "Yes". That was it and there was no mention of anything. My house used to go like a fair and I'd have ten kids round for dinner. I was over-protective of my kids and paranoid in case anybody went near them. I'm still

paranoid about anybody's kids. It's an inbuilt fear. If any kid said to me that something bad was happening to them then I would believe them.

103. I know some social workers are good but because of the way they let us down and the power social workers have got, I have an inbuilt fear of them to this day. I've never been in trouble with the police in my life. I totally respect and fear authority because I know what people in authority can do. Sometimes my daughter will tell me to stop being so nice. I feel let down because nobody in authority helped me.
104. If we'd stayed at the **ENF-ENH** then I would have done better educationally, even though there was all the abuse. It's a double-sided coin. I would never have dared do what I did at Stirling, having a carry-on and rebelling. I rebelled at Stirling because I was thinking I wasn't going to try at school because Uncle **ENP** wasn't nice to me. There was no encouragement from the **ENP-SPO** I could have tried a lot harder and done better in my O Levels.
105. I'm really embarrassed by my lazy eye. I feel it's really noticeable. When I speak to anyone, I sit in a way that I think makes it less noticeable. I get the highest prescription that the optician can give you because my sight is so poor out of that eye. I hate getting my photo taken and so I never get my photo taken.
106. There's not one thing about myself that I like. It's a horrible way to feel. I wish I could wave a magic wand and feel better about myself. It's not me saying, "Oh poor me." I just don't like myself. I like to think I'm a nice person but sometimes I struggle with that as well. When I'm feeling not well and depressed, I shut myself away and go over things. I could spend days in my bed and not get up. It's always been like that. Some days it gets really bad. Other times I say I'm fine and I put a face on. You learn to do that. It's never going to change.
107. My sister is totally different to me. She is tall and she's got blond hair. My sister is outgoing and flamboyant whereas I just hide away in the background. I don't want to speak to my sister about what happened at the **ENF-ENH** because I don't want to upset

her. ENF-ENH [REDACTED] are both dead now and they won't be pulled up for what they did.

108. My sister doesn't know anything about [REDACTED] abusing me in Kirkcaldy. She told me he died in a house fire. God forgive me, I said, "Hell mend him." Then I thought it was terrible thinking like that because it is somebody else's life. That's where I argue with myself. I can't say [REDACTED] did bad to me and something bad had to happen to him. I don't think like that. Half of me is annoyed at myself because I should feel empathy for myself when I was that age, getting that done to me. I shouldn't feel sorry for [REDACTED].
109. When I think about the abuse in Kirkcaldy, I feel sick. Every morning when I wake up, I feel like I have a big headstone on my chest. I don't think the way I feel will ever change. I can see myself standing there and I think, "Why did you let that happen, why didn't I run away, why didn't I do this or that?" I question whether I asked for the abuse but I know for a fact I didn't. I let that wee girl down and that wee girl is me. I have to rationalise it and say I was only a kid. The thoughts make my brain whirl. That's what your head does to you. I'm here and I survived it, just.
110. I was an adult when Auntie [REDACTED] died in around 1987. I thought she would know everything that was going on because she was dead but still around. I was getting upset because she would be upset about not knowing what had happened. My head just doesn't stop. If Auntie [REDACTED] had known something was going on then she would have done something about it.
111. Experiences like mine make you very fearful of people and make you doubt everybody. It makes you doubt yourself. If I'm going anywhere, I have to analyse everything. I get my daughter to look at what I'm wearing and ask her if I'm looking like mutton dressed as lamb. Even when I'm buying a greetings card for somebody, I scrutinise the words and analyse them. I get myself into a state sometimes.
112. I never really thought about the abuse all the years I was bringing my kids up. I blanked it all out. Then, 25 years ago I was engaged to a guy who suddenly died when he was

41 years old. I had told my fiancé some things and I blamed myself for him getting upset and having a heart attack. It was stupid. He didn't die because I'd told him anything. He died because he smoked.

113. Two months later my grand- daughter was born and I was looking after her while my daughter worked. I used to take a sleeping tablet at night, get up in the morning and get a bus to collect my grand-daughter. I'd take her back to my house until 6 o'clock when I took her home. When I got home, I'd take a sleeping tablet and go to bed. My life was repeating like that. My daughter got paid off work and I didn't have my grand-daughter to look after. I was thinking and thinking for six weeks. I'd never forgotten about the abuse but I'd blocked it away. Those six weeks of not doing anything meant I thought about it and it hit me like a ton of bricks.
114. I was suicidal and I couldn't cope with anything. It was the most horrible thing ever. There was one, wee tiny bit of me saying I didn't want to die but I really did want to die. I would never leave my three kids because of what happened to me. I was rationalising it, thinking of the people my kids had if I wasn't here. I thought my kids were all fine and I didn't need to be here anymore.
115. A year after my fiancé died, I ended up in the mental health ward in Stirling hospital for ten weeks or longer. I couldn't sleep or eat. When I get anxious I can't eat and I was just drinking water. The doctors said I hadn't grieved at the time my fiancé died and it was trauma because of everything I kept in over the years. In the hospital I sat at the window, looking out. I totally shut down.
116. The depression comes in waves and it started again about a year ago. I didn't want to go out and my anxiety is through the roof. I liked the isolation of COVID because nobody could come and visit me. I've had two operations on my back and I play my sore back card if I can't face things. I have to be careful around my kids because they don't know a thing about the abuse. Abuse really mucks a kid's life up.
117. It just takes something to set me off, like the Aberlour advert looking for foster parents. The advert is on the television here about three or four times a night, every night. It

freaks me out and makes me cringe. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and me were placed in Aberlour where things were supposed to get better for us and they didn't.

118. I can't eat butter or sugar after being left in the flat in Glasgow and having to eat food with the sugar and salt mixture in Stirling. It makes me feel sick. A doughnut is my worst nightmare. Eating that food in Stirling may sound trivial in comparison to everything else I've said but it still plays on my mind.

Other action taken

Revisits

119. The house at [REDACTED] is still there. I've passed it but I've never gone near it. Me and my friend were going to Orkney and we stopped at Inverness. We went over to Inverness, to Drumsittal Primary School and the head teacher let us in to look around.
120. Two years ago, I was with friends at a funeral in Kirkcaldy. We walked past Dunnikeir Park and you could see the buildings. I thought I was going to be sick, even though the abuse happened fifty odd years ago. We walked past the home and there were kids out in the garden. I spoke to a guy who saw me looking. He was nice. I asked if I could take a photograph and I did. I told him I stayed there when I was nine or ten years old.
121. When I looked at the house I thought, "Oh my God." It looked big when I was wee but when I saw again it looked smaller. The house had never changed. I wondered if the kids who were in there were okay. That set me off. When I got home and looked at the photo, I felt sick. I showed my sister the photo but that was the end of the conversation. I felt terrible. I had to get anti-depressants again and my doctor put me on a waiting list for counselling.

Treatment / support

122. I had some counselling and Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR) when my fiancé died. I just couldn't do it because I hadn't cried in front anybody in my life and I didn't want to. I was so used to holding everything inside since I was a wee lassie.
123. After I was discharged from hospital, I was given anti-depressants. I didn't have therapy or any follow-up when I got home. I was on the tablets for six months and they weren't doing anything. My doctor wanted me to double the dose. I did that one day but I didn't like the way the tablets made me feel. I weaned myself off the tablets because I don't like taking them but I'm taking them again now. I wouldn't have been able to come to speak to the Inquiry if I didn't have the tablets. The tablets don't help my anxiety.
124. I had some counselling for about ten months but it had to stop because of COVID. My doctor arranged it and the waiting list was a year and half long. The counsellor has suggested trying EMDR again. I think I might go and do it now.

Records

125. My sister got her records and I decided to get mine. I was thinking it would all be as happy as Larry but it wasn't. No-one from social work offered to go through the records with me. The lady who sent the records said in an email that she would like to warn me that the vocabulary may seem cold-hearted in this day and age but that was the way things were written down then. I never spoke to the lady but we emailed back and forward. She was nice.
126. When I read all that was written about me by Uncle **ENP**, I thought you are not getting away with it and I decided to come and speak to the Inquiry. Uncle **ENP** wrote that I was selfish, had a terrible attitude, was self-centred, dirty because I wet the bed, took no pride in myself and so on. It wasn't true. I wasn't bad. I never got into

trouble or sent home from school. Reading that in my records was mental and emotional abuse.

127. When I read the letters from mam sent after we'd been taken off her, I thought about how she used to batter me stupid. Seeing the letters from Glasgow social work to Aberdeen social work in black and white, saying we need a place to stay makes me think we could have been helped a year before we were. It's in the past but it's not right.

Lessons to be Learned

128. When all the abuse was happening in Kirkcaldy, I was taken to the doctor regularly for urine infections and I was bleeding when I was only nine years old. No-one questioned that, even though it was in my records. To me that should have triggered some questions.
129. There should be more inspections by social workers and they should build up relationships with children. I don't know if social workers still chop and change but that shouldn't happen. When I was young, it seemed like the social workers were meeting us just to get paid. They had no interest in kids. Social workers should listen to kids. They should take more interest in what's going on round about kids and take the kids out for wee treats.
130. You don't trust anybody when you're in care. Someone should be employed to listen to kids, check on kids and do surprise visits. They should ask the kids if there is anything worrying them or is anyone doing anything to them. The person should tell the kid not to be scared to speak up. I'm sure if someone had asked me then I would have told them. My brother, sister and I had nobody to speak to. You would like to think abuse doesn't go on now but you never know. You never know what you'll find.

131. Children's homes should be like a normal house instead of having lots of rules. Children shouldn't have to do the things we had to do, like stripping your bed. They should be allowed to run along corridors and have a carry-on.

Other information

132. People don't believe things like this went on in the 1970's. I don't want what happened to me to happen to anyone else. I'm still living with it at 61 years old.
133. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... ENB [REDACTED]

Dated..... 1/12/2021