

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EEV [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is EEV [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1950. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. Up until I was three months old I was brought up my gran, [REDACTED] as my mother, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] was unable to look after us. My mother suffered from mental health issues most of her life and throughout my time in care I did not see much of her. My gran brought up my sister [REDACTED] and me. I also have two much older siblings [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] We lived with gran at [REDACTED] in Banff.
3. My father was [REDACTED] who was from the Wick area. He was from the travelling community. Although in some of the homes I stayed in, they may have been aware of my background, it was never raised. I never met him or any of my genetic family.
4. My mother was married to [REDACTED] and they lived with other members of his family. When the marriage broke down my mother took [REDACTED] with her when she moved to England. My elder brother [REDACTED] continued to stay with gran and was working by that time. Eventually gran was unable to look after us as age and health issues were taking effect.
5. The social work were involved and the decision was that it was better for all concerned if [REDACTED] and I were placed in care. FPS [REDACTED] was the child officer who covered

the area and who looked after our family. We were then moved to Clydeville Children's Centre, Queen Street, Buckie.

**Clydeville Children's Centre, Queen Street, Buckie**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

**Leaving Clydeville Children's Centre, Queen Street, Buckie**

18. I was about three when we were moved from Clydeville. I don't remember who transferred us to Mrs [REDACTED]'s place at [REDACTED]

**Foster Care, Mrs [REDACTED], [REDACTED]**

19. Mrs [REDACTED]'s house, [REDACTED] was the old Church of Scotland [REDACTED] house. It was a three bedroomed house and I can remember there being an open fire in the living room. Mrs [REDACTED] occupied one room, I was in another and [REDACTED] shared her room with two older girls. I don't remember their names but they were in their teens.
20. Mrs [REDACTED] was a lovely, but older lady, who was very motherly. I think I was at [REDACTED] for about a year. I remember being woken by her one morning and she gave me a present. It was a small toy motor bike worked by friction.

**Routine at Foster Care, Mrs [REDACTED]**

*Mealtimes/Food*

21. We all ate together but I don't remember much about the food, except I was not hungry. One thing I do recall was that we were given Christmas cake on some mornings throughout the year, even in the summer.

*Leisure time*

22. I don't remember there being much of a play area outside the house. We used to play near the River Avon and sometimes when we were walking there the fishermen would give us some of their biscuits. Our only other play area was the local graveyard.

*School*

23. Although I was only three I was still sent with the others to [REDACTED] Primary School. This was a county style school where all the children were taught together. I was not taught anything with being so young and I just played with some toy bricks. I can remember Mrs Whitson was the head teacher and Jean Carruthers was the assistant Head Teacher. My wife's parents had also attended that school when they were children.
24. Christmas and birthdays were always celebrated. From the little memory I have we were well clothed and never hungry.

**Leaving Foster Care, Mrs [REDACTED]**

25. I think the main reason we had to leave Mrs [REDACTED]'s was because she was getting older and was not feeling as fit anymore. I think she was around fifty five and she

passed away in 1965. There were never any problems there, it was a really happy atmosphere there.

### **Clydeville Children's Centre, Queen Street, Buckie**

26.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published

After a few months we were moved to the [REDACTED] family at [REDACTED] Keith. I was around five years old when I went there but I was only there on a temporary basis.

### **Foster care, Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]**

27. When we were moved we found that [REDACTED] was at the bottom of a glen. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] ran [REDACTED] Farm. The [REDACTED] had a daughter and fostered another girl called [REDACTED]

### **Routine at Foster care, Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]**

28. Mr [REDACTED] was a solemn fellow and I have the impression he did not want us staying with them. On the other hand Mrs [REDACTED] was a much warmer person and always made us feel welcome and wanted.

### *Leisure time*

29. Sometimes we would be taken to the local county farm show in [REDACTED] I can remember the local band playing at the show.

### *School*

30. While I stayed with the [REDACTED] I attended [REDACTED] Primary School. The head teacher at the school was Mrs Pratt. I was five then and was in Primary one. We were not at the home for long and I can't remember much about the school, other than there were no issues.

*Work*

31. The [REDACTED] let us help out with some of the work on the farm. I can remember feeding some of the animals and sometimes I sat on the tractor/binder.

*Family contact*

32. My mum did come to visit us while we were at the farm. She was brought to the farm by the social work. She was introduced to us as Aunt [REDACTED] and it was only later that I realised it was my mum. She was not there long, gave me a cuddle and was away again.
33. I don't know why our time there finished but we were taken back to Clydeville.

**Clydeville Children's Centre, Queen Street, Buckie**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

**Foster Care, Mrs EEW**

39. After a few months at Clydeville we were moved to stay with Mrs EEW at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I was still five, nearly six when we went there.

**Routine at Foster Care, Mrs EEW**

40. EEW [REDACTED] was the woman who fostered us at her home at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] She lived in a semi-detached three bedroomed house. Her teenage daughter, also [REDACTED] but she preferred to be called [REDACTED] also lived with her. Her son, [REDACTED] stayed a couple of houses down in the same street. I don't know why there is a name difference.
41. I slept in the same room, initially in the same bed with my sister [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] shared her mother's room and the remaining bedroom was kept for any other foster children arriving. Later another family, the [REDACTED] arrived. There was [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and they were fostered for quite a bit of the period that we stayed. I became



friends with [REDACTED] I was later given a separate bed in the spare room, which was before the [REDACTED] arrived. When they moved in I shared the room with them.

42. At the front door of the house was a small porch. As you entered the hallway there was a staircase to the left. On the ground floor to the left was a toilet, kitchen and living room. To the right of the hallway was another toilet and the family bedroom. Upstairs were the other two bedrooms. At the front of the house a small garden area and not much at the rear.
43. The first day we arrived Mrs <sup>EEW</sup> [REDACTED] offered us some food. [REDACTED] said she did not want anything, so I followed her lead and said likewise. We were taken to the local grocer's by Mrs <sup>EEW</sup> [REDACTED] and she later gave us some sweets.

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

44. We were woken in the morning about seven o'clock. I was given the cold bath and then got dressed and went for breakfast. It was then onto school which was only a short distance away. We were home to the <sup>EEW</sup> [REDACTED] for lunch and then back to school in the afternoon. After our tea we were allowed out to play. We had to be in when we saw the seven o'clock bus from [REDACTED] pass by the street. In the winter when we were back in the house we might be allowed to listen to Radio Luxemburg. We were sent to bed around eight o'clock. Listening to the radio is probably the only positive memory I have from my time there.

#### *Mealtimes/Food*

45. The breakfast we were given was usually porridge, and it was not usually enough to sustain us. I was always hungry as we were never given enough food. [REDACTED] would help Mrs <sup>EEW</sup> [REDACTED] with the cooking

#### *Washing/bathing*

46. Other than the cold baths if I wet the bed, the main bath times were once a week, probably Saturday.

#### *Bed Wetting*

47. I was always feeling stressed when I stayed at the EEW house. I then began to have issues with sleep walking and started wetting the bed. If I wet the bed Mrs EEW would run a cold bath and made me go to the bathroom. She would then grab me by the ankles and drag me into the cold water until my head was under the water. I was absolutely terrified.
48. I remember waking up one night and finding I had wet the bed. I tried to dry my pyjamas by opening the bedroom window and letting the wind blow them, to try and dry them. I was too young to realise the bed would be soaking anyway. Eventually Mrs EEW made me a pair of rubber pants to help protect the mattress. She would change the sheets each day I wet them.
49. The bed wetting continued each night until I moved to Aberlour.

#### *Clothing/uniform*

50. The clothes we were given by the EEW were always shabby. I am not sure where she got the clothes she gave to us. It had to have been donated or were hand me downs.

#### *Leisure time*

51. Part of the leisure time we might have had, Mrs EEW tried to teach us some knitting. On a Sunday we were allowed to get an ice cream from the local van.
52. If I was playing hide and seek with some of the kids at school I tried to let them all go and hide. I would then go into their school bags to see if they had any biscuits. I was so hungry.

53. I was not given any pocket money while I stayed there. I do remember there were some new houses being built and I would go to the shops for some of the workers. They would give me a few pennies for this. I wanted to save the money they gave me, but Mrs EEW found out and she took the money. After that happened I learned to just go to the shops and spend it before going home.

#### *School*

54. We were sent to [REDACTED] Primary School, which was only a few minutes' walk from the house. The school was split into three separate groups, Primary one and two, primaries three, four and five and the last group was primary six and seven. I am not certain about the dates I arrived but it was either Primary two or three. I stayed at the school until I was about seven years old. I enjoyed my time at school.

#### *Healthcare*

55. During my time with the EEW I did see a couple of nurses from the County Health Department. They would see us at the school. I did go to the hospital once, to get my tonsils and adenoids out. I think the only other treatment I received was penicillin for an infected cut on my knee after a fall. I never saw a dentist during this period.
56. Mrs EEW suffered from Epilepsy. I remember she took a seizure on a bus. Some of the passengers helped and some gave us some sweets. I was so scared when this was happening to her. If it happened in the house [REDACTED] who was used to it, would sometimes help and get her mother to lie down on the settee while she recovered. She had seizures on a regular basis.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

57. At Christmas I think I was given an apple, a lollipop and a tiny toy. The standard of the presents given and the celebrations were much less than the places I had previously

stayed. There was no special dinner for Christmas. There was no celebration when it came to birthdays, to Mrs EEW it was just another day.

#### *Visits/Inspections*

58. We did get visits from our social worker, FPS He visited a couple of times and he was trying to find out why I was wetting the bed. I was too scared to tell him what was happening. Our relationship with FPS was always in an official manner. I never felt comfortable enough with him to tell him anything.
59. Sometimes FPS would arrive at the house along with the social worker from Kilmarnock who was looking after the Sometimes they would have discussions which ended up occasionally in an argument. It was usually a result of differences in each of their opinions on how to treat the children in their care.

#### *Family contact*

60. I never received any visits from my mum or any other family member. There was no contact by letter either. I just thought this was normal.

#### *Running away*

61. I never ran away when I stayed here, but I did think about it a lot. When I stayed with the EEW I was generally unhappy, which was the opposite of the other places I had stayed at. The happiest time was when I was leaving.

#### **Abuse at Foster Care, Mrs EEW**

62. There was one morning when came into our bedroom and woke me up. She then told me to lie on top of my sister I knew this wrong and refused.

63. There was another time I had been in the kitchen and was feeling a bit hungry. If I felt like this I would usually go to the cupboard and take a spoonful of sugar or some jam out of the jar. On this occasion [REDACTED] caught me and gave me a clip around the ear.

#### **Leaving Foster Care, Mrs EEW [REDACTED]**

64. When the [REDACTED] had been there for a while, [REDACTED] was getting into trouble and was stealing from shops. He had been sent to Aberlour as a result. As I grew more and more unhappy I found I was going down the same path, because I was always hungry. Eventually, after about a year after [REDACTED] left, a decision was made that I should leave and arrangements were made for me to be sent to Aberlour. [REDACTED] stayed on with the EEW family.

#### **Aberlour Orphanage, Strathspey, Morayshire**

65. I was around seven years old when I moved to Aberlour and stayed there until I was old enough to enlist in the Navy.
66. I was taken to Aberlour by Mr FPS [REDACTED] the social worker. In between the girls' wing and the boys' was the school. As I arrived I saw that the grounds for Aberlour were massive. In the grounds there was a church.
67. The girls' wing had four individual houses with around thirty girls in each. The boys' wing had five individual houses again with around thirty kids in each. I can remember four of the five houses as Spey House, Mount Stephen House, Jupp House and Gordon House.
68. The main hall, McCorkidale Hall, was named after the man who helped fund the home.
69. BLK [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] when I arrived but he was nearing retirement [REDACTED] BGF [REDACTED] I can remember some of the

other staff who worked during the time I stayed at the orphanage. There was Mrs Durham, who pointed to me when she first saw me and said I was the boy who was constantly getting into bother. Mr EEX was the teacher. Each member of staff had a day off and Mr EEX would take their place. I also remember Mr BGX and BBR. More staff were Mr and Mrs EFC-SPO, they were replaced by Mr BGZ, Miss QKL, Mrs BBG, EFD and Nurse Stewart.

### **Routine at Aberlour Orphanage, Strathspey, Morayshire**

#### *First day*

70. When I arrived at Aberlour some of the other kids there came running to greet me.

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

71. In the morning we were woken about six o'clock and once we were more settled that was changed to seven o'clock. We then made our beds and made our way to the bathrooms and got washed. We then got dressed and carried out our allocated chores.
72. After the chores we prepped for school and finished any incomplete homework. We were in school for around eight fifty. When we went back to our houses for lunch, the main meal of the day, we had to change our footwear from the school shoes to sandals. After finishing our lunch we changed our footwear back again and returned to school.
73. After school it was back to our houses and change out of our school clothes and shoes. We would have some leisure time before suppertime, after which we would do our homework. We all started going to bed around eight o'clock, perhaps a little later as we got older.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

74. I would describe the food at the orphanage as wholesome. At lunch for the main course there was sausages, pies or mutton stew provided. This was usually followed by a sweet course. At the weekends we might have a salad. Supper time was just tea and biscuits. On a Sunday morning we were offered a cooked breakfast. There were fried eggs, bacon, tomatoes, a roll with marmalade and tea or milk.
75. When BGF arrived he changed the weekend menu where we were offered a meat roast, roast potatoes and some apple sauce. There might have been a sweet and some custard. At supper time on the Sunday we would have pies and peas. I can remember we did sometimes have smoked fish with some peas. I was not keen on that.
76. If you did not like the food you were presented with it at the next mealtime. Sometimes if you were able to get away with it we would pocket the food and place it in a bin when we got a chance. You were not physically forced to eat any of the food.

### *Washing/bathing*

77. Apart from being cleaned if you wet the bed, bath time was usually once a week on a Saturday, after playing in the fields. There were six baths in one large room and two in a smaller room. The staff helped to wash the younger kids. The water was warm and clean to start with but cold and dirty by the end. If the staff were not helping the younger ones they also supervised the older kids, to stop any issues arising.

### *Clothing/uniform*

78. Aberlour provided all the clothes we needed for our stay there. For school we had to wear short trousers or khaki shorts, a shirt and socks.



### *Leisure time*

79. Each week we were given a shilling as pocket money. A penny from that was to be given to the church. The rest of the money we could buy sweets from the local shops. If we were going to the shops we were usually supervised by the staff.
80. The orphanage would also set up a cinema in the main hall. We would be shown two films, a cartoon and then a feature film. When we were watching the films the boys would be sat on one side of the hall and the girls on the other side. Before and after the screening we would take turns to set the chairs up and then put them away after the film.
81. BCU [REDACTED] who was always known as BCU [REDACTED] and I were good friends. There were sometimes we would get onto the roof of the orphanage. We would have some brush handles and then have some toy fights while on the roof.
82. Some of the leisure time was taken up by going for walks. There was an issue in the winter as Mr BGX [REDACTED] would still insist on taking you for a walk. The problem was we all wore short trousers and long socks. It was freezing when he took us out.
83. As well as going for walks there was usually some time available in the evening where we could watch TV or complete our homework.

### *Trips and holidays*

84. During the time when Mr BLK [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] I can remember we went to a holiday home for a week at a time during the summer holidays. It was not the full orphanage, but one house at a time. When Mr BGF [REDACTED] some of that changed where some of the children were sent to Butlin's. There was also a time when some spent some of the holiday period in Rothesay. If you were not going away the home put on buses and took us up to the moors for walks and a picnic. The food in the picnic was better than the lunch we would have in the home.



85. If there was no one who could write to you at holiday times you would be allocated what the orphanage termed as a holiday uncle or aunt. I can remember one lady, Ella Law, who was from Shetland. If you were allocated Ella she would knit you a Fair Isle woollen jersey. I never met Ella, all the communication was via letters.
86. I can remember being taken to London on the sleeper train, by John Caton. I was allowed to stay at his house in Cambridge and when I was there he let me play his records. He took me to Peterborough and Gillingham Zoo. I can remember spending a few days on the Norfolk coast. All this was fitted in on the one trip. I was fifteen when I went on that trip.
87. I also recall being taken to Lossiemouth for the Air days. We would be taken to the NAAFI for something to eat. There were helicopters dropping sweets to us from toy parachutes. We were also shown some action films. These were great times as it led on to me later enlisting.

#### *School*

88. The home was split into separate age groups. The nursery for kids up to the age of five. Then there was the Wee Kids from the age of five up to eight, Mount Stephen was eight until eleven years old, Jupp was for eleven to thirteen and Gordon was fourteen to fifteen. When I started at the school I was still in the Wee Kids. As I aged I progressed into the different houses.

#### *Healthcare*

89. At the orphanage Nurse Stewart was on duty every morning for anyone who may have needed any treatment or dressings that may have needed changing. Anything of a more serious issue was referred to the local doctor. There was a dentist from Dufftown, who came to the orphanage every week for appointments.
90. During my time I did have glandular fever a couple of times. I was treated within the school infirmary by Nurse Stewart.

91. I do remember one of the residents having to be taken to Elgin Hospital to have his appendix removed. Another resident, [REDACTED] had put his hand through a glass window and his skin had been partially peeled away. He was having to attend the hospital for some skin grafts to repair the injury. Like these two if the illness or injury was more serious they were taken to a hospital.
92. There was a six week period during my time at Aberlour where I was admitted to Ladysbridge Hospital, just outside Banff. It was a Dr Sykes who examined me at the home but I was never given any explanation for this transfer. The hospital looked after people with mental health issues, some long term. Dr Crook, who was the Superintendent at Ladysbridge, took me to that hospital in his Mini motor car.
93. I remember when I had been there for a short time I was grabbed around the neck by another patient. He had to be dragged off me by some staff. I was also sent to Banff hospital during that stay for some x-rays. I can remember a doctor from Ladysbridge examining me but I was never seen by a psychiatrist.
94. The only thing I do remember about my stay there was having to carry out work in the hospital. After getting up in the morning it was washed and dressed. After breakfast I was tasked with jobs to be completed. One was buffering the floors and another task was to make tea for everyone. For some days I was issued with a hard hat and we would help make concrete slabs. We were given two shillings for our chores. If you misbehaved when you were there they did not give you the two shillings.
95. When I was still at Ladysbridge, I did get a visit from a social worker, Miss Clark, but that was only after a few weeks of having been sent there.
96. I am still none the wiser why I was sent to Ladysbridge. Dr Sykes from there also had a clinic at Aberlour and it was him who had recommended I be sent there. I would have been about twelve or thirteen when I was there.

*Religious instruction*

97. We had to attend church each Sunday between ten thirty and eleven o'clock. The difference in this place was it was an Episcopalian Church.

#### *Work*

98. We did carry out chores in the orphanage. They would include cleaning the dormitories, the corridors, the brasses in the home and the toilets. Another chore was to polish the shoes for your house. We would also be tasked with serving the food for our tables at meal times from the heated trollies. Each of the chores was allocated by the house masters and rotated on a weekly basis. On occasions the chores would be given as a punishment. I can recall the long red corridor having to be polished as part of a punishment.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

99. If any of my birthdays were celebrated I might have been taken to Elgin where I would be given two shillings and six pence to spend. That changed with the change of Warden. When <sup>BGF</sup> he insisted that other people had to buy you presents or cake.
100. Mr <sup>BGX</sup> would give some selected boys that he liked some money. They were to use the money to go to the local bakery and get a cake. Everyone else, like me, did not get anything.
101. Christmas was celebrated when we woke to a stocking in the morning with sweets, an orange and toys. We then had a later breakfast before we went to the church for Christmas Service. For our meal we all joined together in the main hall where there was turkey and trimmings. After the meal, in the evening, the hall was decorated and we had a party where the stereo was played, there were games, dancing and some mince pies. When I first arrived because of the numbers, it was individual houses doing their own thing. As the place was being scaled down we were all together, boys and girls, included.

102. I can also remember I was allocated a Christmas Uncle, as I had no contact with my family. He was a business man and he was really good to me. He would send me gifts including, sweets, a transistor radio, a torch and a guitar. When I left the home I had saved a lot of the money I had received and it was around fifty pounds at the end.

#### *Family contact*

103. A couple of years before I left Aberlour I started getting letters from my sister, [REDACTED]. She told me she was aware where my mother was and had visited her in Banff. After [REDACTED] had visited her, my mum began writing to me. I did write back to her.

#### *Discipline*

104. If someone was to be punished by Mr BLK [REDACTED] he would use the belt or sometimes a cane. The kids might be sent to him for perhaps being caught smoking. I did not get this punishment.
105. When BGF [REDACTED] arrived at the orphanage, one day in the main hall, he demonstrated to us all how he would punish us if he saw that as a necessity. He took me out of the groups and showed the rest by taking hold of my head as he stood straight. He then made me bend and he held my head between his legs. He showed that he was then able to slap me on the bottom. I did not receive this punishment from him, but have to presume he did it to others. Even being used to demonstrate this I was scared and I made sure I was not getting into trouble in case it did happen to me.
106. I can remember there was a night when I was playing up in the dormitory. Mrs Durham was upset with that and as a punishment she made me push my bed out of the dormitory and into the Infirmary, which was not being used at that time. There was lighting available in that room but she switched the lights off.

#### *Bed Wetting*

107. When I first arrived at Aberlour I was still suffering from bed wetting. The staff tried to help me and some others with same issue. Anyone who was a bed wetter was moved nearer to the door. In the evening the staff would try to help by waking us up about nine o'clock and make us go to the toilet. After a very short time after my arrival, I was not stressed, like I was at the EEW house and the bed wetting stopped. Some of the others were given rubber sheets to protect the mattresses. The staff did try to treat the boys better than I was at the EEW

### **Abuse at Aberlour Orphanage, Strathspey, Morayshire**

108. There was one night I had an issue with Mr EEX He said that I was playing about on the bed. As a punishment he used a hairbrush to hit me on the backside. It was over my pyjamas and it was one time that he hit me.
109. Mrs Durham usually carried a cane and she used that on the kids sometimes as a punishment. I saw her use it on some kids. She would hit them over the hand with the cane. Although I saw it she never used it on me. I am not aware if there was a record of any punishments kept by the home but I think there was a day book. Any entries in the book was if any of the children came to the notice of the staff.
110. There was another night when Mr BGX came into the dormitory and it was obvious he had been drinking during his day off. For no reason he then made a rugby tackle at one of the boys, and took him to the bed.
111. Any of the kids who had mental health issues were not hit but they were made to go the big hall for a short time, before being sent to bed early. There were times I had been in trouble that I too was sent to bed early.
112. I did get a slap on the back of the head from him. He said I had been doing something wrong, but I can't remember misbehaving at that time.



113. Sometimes Mr <sup>BGX</sup> would invite one of the boys into his room. When that boy moved onto Jupp House, as he was older, he would be replaced with another boy. I am not aware of what, if anything, happened in the room. We would call these boys, house master's pets.
114. <sup>BBR</sup> was another teacher we had to be careful with. I saw him when <sup>BBR</sup> one of the other boys, tried to get past him as he left a room. <sup>BBR</sup> deliberately stood in the doorway making it difficult for <sup>BBR</sup> to pass. As <sup>BBR</sup> squeezed through <sup>BBR</sup> would thrust his groin into <sup>BBR</sup>'s groin.
115. We were all aware the <sup>BBR</sup> came from a money background. While he was still employed at Aberlour we were aware he owned several classic cars, including a Rolls Royce and a Bugatti. On some days he would take some of the boys out for a run in one of the cars. We were also aware that he was gay. After Aberlour, he ran a <sup>BBR</sup> business between Forres and Nairn.
116. <sup>BBR</sup> went on to adopt one of the boys, <sup>BBR</sup> from the orphanage. <sup>BBR</sup> used to have a camera which he would leave for us, to allow us to take any photographs we liked. He would also take photographs of us boys. Later, just a few years ago, I was shown some of the photographs, by <sup>BBR</sup> that <sup>BBR</sup> had taken of the boys. In amongst those photographs there were some which were definitely inappropriate and showed the boys to be shirtless and there were some where the boys were naked. I was in one of the photographs, but I was fully clothed.
117. When I was in Jupp House Mr and Mrs <sup>EFC-SPO</sup> arrived at the home. They were from <sup>BBR</sup> and Mr <sup>EFC</sup> was a wicked person. Sometimes when we were playing football in the main hall he would tell some of the older boys to trip a younger boy up as he ran for the ball. He constantly encouraged older boys to bully the younger boys. He never hit me and although he encouraged others, I did not see him physically hit anyone himself.

118. There was a boy called [REDACTED] who, like me, was from the travelling community. I can remember Mr EFC [REDACTED] saying to [REDACTED] that he was a likeable "Tink". [REDACTED] also told me that on one occasion Mr EFC [REDACTED] said he would have to put his thing (penis) up his bum. I did not see that and I am not sure if he followed through with this. There was another boy, [REDACTED] from the Falkirk area. I saw Mr EFC [REDACTED] grab hold of him and pull him backwards into his body in a totally inappropriate manner.
119. There was a young girl at the orphanage who suffered from mental health issues. For some reason Mr BGZ [REDACTED] was upset at something she had done. He grabbed the girl by the hair, slapped her and dragged her by the hair along the corridor to the room where we stored the shoes. He shut her inside that room.
120. EFD [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] at the school. He was often found, while we were playing outside, to regularly have a young girl standing really close in front of him. There was no reason for it other than, being inappropriate.
121. I can remember he used to carry a stick. There was one day he took me to the toilet. I don't know what he thought I had done wrong but he told me I had been bad. He then used the stick to hit me three or four times over my bare legs.

#### **Reporting of abuse at Aberlour Orphanage, Strathspey, Morayshire**

122. I did not report any of the incidents of abuse I saw or was made aware of to any of the staff or any other agency. Miss OKL [REDACTED] one of the staff [REDACTED] BBR [REDACTED] complained to senior staff about BBR [REDACTED] and his inappropriate contact with children. A few days later I overheard part of a conversation between Mrs BBG [REDACTED] and BBR [REDACTED]. The only thing I could hear clearly was him saying "Is that it then Mrs BBG [REDACTED]". A few weeks later BBR [REDACTED] left the school.

#### **Leaving Aberlour Orphanage, Strathspey, Morayshire**

123. I was due to leave the orphanage when I was fifteen but I took a serious chest infection. I ended up staying an extra year. I was happy to agree to stay the extra year but was also able to bargain with them to be allocated the holiday to London with Mr Caton.
124. It was Ella Law, my holiday Aunt, who suggested to me about joining the navy. Despite losing her boyfriend whilst serving in the Navy, she still recommended it as a good life and believed that I would be well suited to it.
125. I then attended Lossiemouth for a medical for the Navy. The medical centre was situated at the edge of the airfield. After passing that I went to Plymouth to HMS Raleigh for six weeks basic training. During this time Aberlour Trust were supporting my application to enlist.
126. As you were reaching the age of having to leave Aberlour gave you a suit and a suitcase for your other possessions.
127. I was never given any preparation by them for leaving and entering the adult world and to exist outside the care system. I did not know how to associate with anyone not in care and no one gave us any education on how to conduct relationships. I was not taught to cook for myself or how to apply for jobs. I can say the one thing they did teach us was to have good manners.

#### **Life after being in care**


128. Whilst I was serving part of my three and half year's service at HMS Condor in Dundee, my mother started to write to me. When she was writing to me I was made aware she was also writing to the Navy asking for them to persuade me to speak to her. When I was still in Dundee I did go to visit her at her house, but I never wrote any letters back to her at that time.



129. I was receiving letters from my brother, [REDACTED] as he was just about to leave the Army. He had a family and was sending me some photographs.
130. Mum continued to write to me and to the Navy. This time she was asking for me to send her some money. At this time she was also living in my uncle's house and she was suffering from cancer. I made an agreement that I would send thirty shillings to her each month. It was getting to the stage that I was thinking it would be better that I finish my time in the Navy and return home. Initially the Navy were against this.
131. I came up with a plan to get out of the Navy when I was at HMS Break at Devonport. I managed to climb over the fence and was only away a short time before I was caught about seven miles away by the police. I received twenty eight days detention as a result. While I was serving my detention it was very regimented. I was running all day and doing gymnastics. Although I was keeping fit I started playing up and was sent to see a Navy psychiatrist. He sent me to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Southampton. After being there Major Bolan recommended I be given a discharge from the Navy. I think they looked at everything and it was of benefit to my mental health and that of my mother.
132. After leaving the Navy I took on many different labouring type jobs, in a fish factory, landscaping and worked as a spinner in woollen factory.
133. I was staying with my mother but my mental health insecurities returned as I never felt secure staying with mum. During this time my mother's own mental health was getting worse. I knew I had to get my own digs.
134. Later in my life I was staying in Banff when I met [REDACTED] my wife, and we married in 1995. We now have our daughter [REDACTED] [REDACTED] suffered from depression but it became worse after [REDACTED] was born as she suffered from severe Post Natal Depression. We moved house and took up residence in [REDACTED] When we stayed there we had our other daughter [REDACTED] and later moved to another house in [REDACTED]

135. [REDACTED]'s mental health deteriorated and I was put out of the house. For about six weeks [REDACTED] was running the house. I learned that [REDACTED] was walking around the house with no clothes and was suffering from bed wetting. I then took the kids to live with me. [REDACTED] was about eight at the time. [REDACTED] was admitted to hospital around 2003, but when she was back home she did not want to see the children. She now has her own place and they kids have seen her a few times over the years.
136. I stay very near to where Aberlour was situated and there is not much left, other than the church and the clock tower. I am aware that people used to visit the site but that is less and less now. There was a reunion a few years ago but there were not as many there as could have been.

137. Secondary Institutions - to be published later



#### **Impact**

138. Some of my life in care led me to drink more than I should have. I am now being checked for Crohn's disease, although that is more a result of genetics than a cause from my time in care. I have spoken with a psychiatrist but he did not find any clinical issues.
139. I have a lack of trust with people and that is something that relates to my time in care, where different people looking after me, have abused me, when they were supposed to be looking after me.
140. As far as the kids are concerned I have always let them away with anything. Aberlour was so regimented and I did not want to bring the kids up that way. From my time at Aberlour, being very regimented, I went to the Navy, again regimented. This is how I have lived a big part of my life. Everything I do has to be in a certain manner.

## **Reporting of Abuse**

141. Other than making a claim to the redress scheme I have not reported anything to the police or to any other authority.

## **Records**

142. I was able to visit Aberlour and view some of my records. When the lady showed them to me she made mention that I had been in Aberlour on other dates. I have no recollection of this and I am not sure where that would have fitted in. There is a note I have put into one of my letters showing [REDACTED] 1959, but I am not sure if this was the date she was referring to. I can only recollect being about seven, maybe eight years old when I arrived there.
143. I have some of the records from my time in care. The ones I do have, I have read and think I understand much of what was in there but there are many entries giving a one sided opinion from their adult point of view but nothing taking into account that I was a child.

## **Lessons to be learned**

144. I think people looking after children in care should be more closely monitored. I can only remember a couple of times in my life when social workers visited me to check on my welfare, or on the state of the homes. My social worker, Mr <sup>FPS</sup> [REDACTED] was not someone you could approach to tell him about issues. I did meet him when I was in my twenties and he had not changed much. He still had the attitude that he was the carer and I was just someone needing care.
145. There was no preparation for kids going back to families or going out into the outside world. There were times some of the kids were having breakfast in the homes and

then being taken out of the home and returned to their families. No help or notice was given to those kids. Quite often those same kids were back in the care system. That never helps anyone and the social work need to help before, during and after the transition.

#### **Other information**

146. I have applied for the redress scheme and I was given £10,000 by the Government. I have not made contact with anyone else at this time. I have some of the money I received to help my children.
147. 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.

EEV

Signed..

Dated..

28/10/2021