

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EPA  
[REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is EPA [REDACTED] although I was given the surname EPA [REDACTED] as a child. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1979. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Aberdeen to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] however I never knew my dad. I have one brother [REDACTED] who is about one year older than me.
3. As a child, I thought my name was EPA [REDACTED] and I went to school and into care with that name. It was only when I got my birth certificate at the age of eighteen that I found out my surname was actually EPA [REDACTED]. I think my mum had just named me after some man she was with at the time. By the time I found out I'd had my first son and registered him with the surname EPA [REDACTED] I had to get his name changed by deed poll and I always wondered why nobody, not even the social work, had told me what my surname actually was.
4. I have very few memories of staying with my mum and I don't know why. I do know that I was born at home and I remember [REDACTED] stayed with my grandparents a lot, while I remained with my mum. I remember staying in a house in Tillydrone in Aberdeen when I was about nine years old, but I don't know where we were before that.

5. My first school was St Machar Primary and I was there until primary three. After that I went across to Tillydrone Primary and stayed there until I left at the end of primary seven. I remember some things about school, including meeting my best friend [REDACTED] there. I loved being at school.
6. Mum wasn't a single parent, but she wasn't with my dad. I remember a few Tom, Dick and Harrys being about. One of them, the last one before I was taken into care, was called [REDACTED] and he was from Kemnay. He was a nutter. I don't want to talk about what happened, but there were incidents between him and myself. It was disgusting what he did and it was worse than what happened to me while I was in care, but those incidents were never reported.
7. One of the things I remember most clearly is not long before I was taken into care and I wonder if this was part of the reason I was taken from my mum. I was about ten years old and in the middle of primary seven, when mum had a baby at home during the night. I didn't know what to do, so I phoned an ambulance and I remember being taken to the maternity hospital in Aberdeen. The baby was taken away and I never saw that baby again. I've never been able to ask my mother about that or what happened to the baby.
8. That night I was allocated a social worker by the maternity hospital, who was a lady called Fiona Greig and she was lovely. I don't know if she had found out about the incidents with [REDACTED], but I never went back to stay with my mother and instead I was put into foster care. Perhaps I told her or my school something, I don't recall,

**Foster care with** <sup>EPG-SPO</sup> [REDACTED], [REDACTED] **Garthdee, Aberdeen**

9. I'm absolutely certain that I went to the <sup>EPG-SPO</sup> [REDACTED] in 1990, when I was halfway through primary seven and would have been ten years old. I've since found out that my records from the council have it that I was a year older, but I know that's wrong.

10. Mrs [REDACTED] told me I had to call her 'Granny', but I just called her husband [REDACTED] EPG. They seemed really old at the time and must have been in their late-fifties or early sixties. I wonder now why we were put with people who were so old that we were calling the woman granny.
11. When I first went to the [REDACTED] EPG-SPO [REDACTED] EPG worked and used to get up at five o'clock in the morning. I'm not sure what he did, but it was something to do with tatties. After about a year he stopped working, I think he may have retired. Granny [REDACTED] was at home all the time.
12. There were some other kids being fostered by the [REDACTED] EPG-SPO who were a girl called [REDACTED] who had learning difficulties, a girl called [REDACTED] and a boy called [REDACTED]. I was the oldest, but they were much the same age as me. There was also a little girl staying with us called [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] who was five or six. Granny looked after her for a friend who couldn't cope with her. I think Granny had met [REDACTED] mother at church and the mother was struggling so Granny took [REDACTED] off her. I don't think the social work were involved at all.
13. The [REDACTED] EPG-SPO also did emergency respite care and I remember when I was in first year at secondary two little twins came during the night in their pyjamas. Every fortnight a little Down Syndrome girl used to come for respite care as well.
14. The [REDACTED] EPG-SPO had a grown up daughter and a son called [REDACTED] who had a daughter of his own. I met [REDACTED] daughter while I was staying with the [REDACTED] EPG-SPO and she was nice.
15. The [REDACTED] EPG-SPO stayed in a cul-de-sac of council houses and their house had a big back garden. Inside downstairs was a small living room at the front and a big kitchen with a dining table in it at the back. Upstairs there was a bathroom and three bedrooms, one for Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] EPG-SPO one for [REDACTED] and one for all the girls. In our bedroom there were two sets of bunk beds and two chests of drawers, there was no room for anything else. It was seriously overcrowded because at times there could be seven of us in the house.

16. The little girl [REDACTED] used to sleep in bed with me at night because she was scared to sleep on her own. I remember she used to cry all the time. When the little twins arrived for the emergency respite care I took one of them in bed beside me as well and [REDACTED] took the other in beside her. That meant there was me, [REDACTED] and a little baby all in the one bed.
17. I don't have many memories of living with the [REDACTED] EPG-SPO [REDACTED] I don't remember Granny [REDACTED] ever shouting at us and they certainly never smacked us, in fact they were probably overly nice to us, but I would describe my time there as horrendous. We were living with this old couple who were just too old to look after young children. They treated us differently to how other children were treated by their parents. They kept us away from the outside world and they brought us up their way. As a result, we were ostracised by other children in the street and at school.
18. I wasn't really a badly behaved child so I just put my head down and got on with it. The way I thought was that time would pass.

## **Routine**

### *First day*

19. My social worker Fiona Greig took me to Garthdee that first day, but I don't remember anything else about that day. My brother [REDACTED] never went, it was just me. I think [REDACTED] stayed with my granny and grandad.

### *Mornings and bedtime*

20. I'm not sure what time we woke up in the morning or anything about what happened when we got up, although I do recall we were put to our bed about 7.30 pm every night, even in the summer and in the holidays. We all had to give Granny [REDACTED] a kiss and a cuddle every night before we went up. The kids in the street all knew when

the curtains were shut that we were getting put to bed and I remember them shouting up at us, making fun of us because it was so early. It was horrible.

#### *Mealtimes/Food*

21. We always sat at the table in the kitchen for our meals, except sometimes in the summer holidays we ate outside in the back garden if the weather was nice. I can't really remember what the food was like, but I do recall we always had to ask to be excused before we left the table.
22. On a Sunday we got soup and beef and the only reason I remember that is because she used to say a poem about it: "Tattie soup tae mak yi poop and beef tae mak yi bonnie". Every Sunday I'd hear that.

#### *Washing/bathing*

23. There was no shower, just a bath. When I first went to the EPG-SPO in primary seven I had to share a bath with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I started wearing swimming costumes in the bath without Granny [REDACTED] knowing, because we were a bit self-conscious. I think I got to have my own bath when I went into first year at secondary, but we all had to share the water.

#### *Clothing/uniform*

24. We girls all had to dress the same and all the clothes we were given by Granny [REDACTED] were horrendous. She trailed us round charity shops a lot of the time and bought us clothes from there. I can still remember the smell of them.
25. She put us in cheap trainers and in psychedelic leggings and, while all the other kids at school got to wear polo shirts, I had to wear a hard-necked white shirt and an old-fashioned blazer. Eventually my friend [REDACTED] mum bought me a blazer like everybody else had.

26. I felt stupid wearing the clothes she made us. I used to have photos of myself while I was at the EPG-SPO but I ripped them up a few years later. We each had our own photograph albums, but I was too ashamed to look at myself.

### *Schooling*

27. I didn't have much of primary seven left when I went into foster care, so I stayed at Tillydrone Primary School. I got a taxi to school every morning and then when I went into secondary at St Machar Academy I was allowed to get the bus.
28. I have great memories of school, although there was never any encouragement from Granny or EPG with schoolwork. I used to do my homework in the library at school when I started going to St Machar Academy. I think part of the reason I enjoyed school so much is because I couldn't wait to get out of the house in the morning.
29. I had good relationships with my teachers and they all seemed to like me. I was in the school choir and the first show we did was at Christmas. We had to go back to the school at night to rehearse and I remember having to lie to the EPG-SPO about where I was going because we weren't allowed out. When Granny found out I'd been lying I wasn't allowed to go back to the rehearsals so my teacher, Miss Gardner, helped me rehearse at lunchtime. I eventually did the show with the rest of the kids and Granny came, but I think she only did so to prove that there actually was a show.

### *Religion*

30. We had to go to Sunday School and church at Garthdee Parish Church every Sunday. There was no choice and I absolutely hated it. I think I disliked it so much because there was no option, we were forced to go.

### *Clubs/organisations*

31. We also had to go to Girls' Brigade and I hated that as well. I passed a few things and get some badges, but only because I just put my head down and got on with it.

*Leisure time/books/games*

32. Every night when we came home from school we were given a snack in the kitchen and then put out into the back garden to play. We were never allowed out into the street to play with the other kids. All there was to play with in the garden was little cars, dolls and two Wendy houses, which we would go into when it rained. If it was torrential rain we would come inside, but there was nothing for us inside either, no toys or games.
33. We never got to watch TV even though there was a television in the living room. I have no memory of being allowed to watch cartoons or any other programmes. I think all that we could do was draw.
34. Towards the end of my placement with the EPG-SPO when I was in secondary school, granny started allowing me out occasionally to spend time with my school friend [REDACTED]. I was only allowed into the town for half-an-hour or so though, I wasn't allowed out like all my other chums at school were.

*Chores / Pocket money*

35. We all took turns at doing the dishes and the girls took turns at bathing little [REDACTED]. I also used to do the ironing, but only to save me from having to go outside in the garden and play with dolls. Thinking back now, I shouldn't have been using an iron at that age.
36. One time I was ironing Granny's nightie and accidentally singed a massive hole in it. I panicked, rolled it up and put it in my schoolbag and put it in a bin as far away from the house as possible. The next day, when she was looking for her nightie, she asked me if it was in the ironing pile, but I just said no. She raked the house for months afterwards, but I never said a thing. I don't think she would have done anything, but I knew she liked that nightie.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

37. I don't remember any birthdays being celebrated and, although I'm sure there was a tree in the living room at Christmas, I don't remember how we spent the day. I would have thought if I had happy memories of Christmas I would have remembered something.

*Personal possessions and pocket money*

38. Granny [REDACTED] gave us pocket money every week, but we weren't allowed to spend it, we had to put it in a tin to save for when they took us on holiday. We were never given anything for a snack at school or a sweet, instead she would give us a bag of crisps or something like that to take with us.

*Trips and holidays*

39. The <sup>EPG-SPO</sup>[REDACTED] had two caravans out in the countryside near Inverurie and we used to go there every fortnight. We would leave on a Saturday morning and come back on the Sunday. The way we lived while we were there was terrible. We had to go to the toilet in a bucket and each of us had to then empty it in a big hole in the ground and cover it up. It was gross.
40. They took us on holiday right up to the top of Scotland too. I know now that they got money from the social work to take us every year, but we would just go to places that were full of old folk. One was a holiday park called 'Grannie's Heilan Hame', which is up at Dornoch. I hated it. It was described as a place for family entertainment, but there was only old people there, old men with long white hair, wearing kilts, singing and playing accordions.
41. We were never taken to parks, to the zoo, or to carnivals and I only once remember being taken into town, which was when the tall ships were in Aberdeen. Granny [REDACTED] made us all wear shell suits, [REDACTED] had a blue one and I had a purple one, it was terrible.



42. I did go on a holiday to a water sports place in France with the school, which the social work paid for, but that was the only proper holiday and that was nothing to do with the EPG-SPO

#### *Family Contact*

43. My mother never came to see me while I was at the EPG-SPO I don't know if that's because she wasn't allowed. She stayed from St Machar Academy though so, in maybe first or second year, I used to see her at lunchtime. I can't remember if I ever asked to go and see her, or if I just did that myself. My brother was sometimes at mum's house when I went there, but we never spoke a lot.

#### *Supervision oversight / inspection by fostering authority*

44. Fiona, my first social worker, used to come and collect me from school at lunchtime every week and take me out. She stayed my social worker for about a year and then I was allocated an older lady called Elaine, who was horrible. I remember being really upset when Fiona left, but I don't know why she did leave. Elaine was really strict and I never felt able to speak to her.
45. I remember once going to a Children's Hearing and sitting around a big round table with a lot of adults, but I don't remember what was said or what might have been decided. All I do know is that it was decided I should never go back into my mum's care again.

#### *Discipline*

46. I can't remember at all how the EPG-SPO disciplined us. I do know that they never smacked us, but there would be no point in grounding us because we were never allowed out anyway. I don't remember any of us carrying on at all, the only one of us

that really misbehaved was [REDACTED] who ran away a couple of times, but I don't know what happened to him when he was brought back.

### *Bed Wetting*

47. [REDACTED] used to wet his bed badly every night, it was such a shame. Granny [REDACTED] used to wash his bedding and his pyjamas and dry them in the tumble dryer, but it never got rid of the smell. I had to iron the sheets and his pyjamas and the smell that went through the house was terrible.
48. I wonder now how she could have done that to a child. The sheets should have been thrown out. They were getting money to look after us, but the sheets were never replaced.

### **Abuse while in foster care with the [REDACTED] EPG-SPO**

49. Most nights, because I was going to bed so early, I had to get up and go to the toilet every night. One night, when I was about twelve years old, [REDACTED] EPG shouted me through into the living room. He was wearing thin, old-man, pyjamas that you could kind of see through. He asked me if I was okay and told me to come and watch TV with him, so I did that for a couple of nights.
50. After that he asked me if I wanted some money for a snack at school and made some comment about me sleeping with a bra on. He touched my shoulder, just beside my collar bone and gave me 50 pence. This went on for a few nights and then he started asking me for a cuddle. I did and then he started squeezing his body against me. One night he sat with me for ages and said he noticed my bra strap was really tight and started fiddling about with it.
51. I was getting really nervous and this went on for a few more nights until I went downstairs another night and noticed that he'd left the fly on his pyjamas open. I could see his genitals and was really scared and went back to bed, leaving him downstairs.

### Reporting of abuse while in foster care with the EPG-SPO

52. The next day at school I told my friend [REDACTED] what had been going on and she told me it had to stop and that she was going to tell her mum. I asked her not to, but instead she went straight to my guidance teacher Mrs Strachan and told her. I was taken into one of the school offices and spoken to and a report was made to the police.
53. I don't remember going to the police station, but I've since found out from the council records that there was an investigation. Apparently I spoke to the police, but I have no recollection of that. I was accused of lying and making it all up, but Mrs Strachan knew me really well and she knew I was telling the truth. I don't know what happened, whether it was all swept under the carpet or whether EPG [REDACTED] was charged, but after that I was pulled out of the EPG-SPO [REDACTED] house and I never went back.
54. I think if Fiona Greig had still been my social worker I would have been able to tell her what EPG [REDACTED] was doing at the time, but I could never have spoken to Elaine.

### Leaving foster care with the EPG-SPO

55. As far as I know, after I was taken out of the EPG-SPO [REDACTED] house, all the other kids were taken away that same day as well. I think I learned that at the time from Elaine, my social worker. I felt a bit guilty and I used to worry because I thought the EPG-SPO [REDACTED] and the others would blame me for their family breaking down. That was in 1992 and I've never seen Granny [REDACTED], EPG [REDACTED] or the other children since.
56. I went to stay with my best friend [REDACTED] mum and dad, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], in Cove for a week until a placement was found for me in [REDACTED]. I'd never really met them before, but it was really good with [REDACTED] and her parents.
57. I was never told anything about what was happening and I was really worried what was going to happen to me because of speaking up. I was never given any sort of support though and Elaine, my social worker, never mentioned it. Even afterwards I don't think Elaine and I ever spoke about it.

**Foster care with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Aberdeen**

58. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were a really nice couple and I had a great relationship with both of them. They stayed at [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] which is a little village on the outskirts of Aberdeen. [REDACTED] was a nursery worker and [REDACTED] was high up in an office in the oil industry.
59. They couldn't have children of their own and had adopted a girl and a boy. [REDACTED] was about two years younger than me and [REDACTED] was about four years younger. [REDACTED] had been adopted at birth, but I don't know about [REDACTED]
60. We all had our own bedrooms and we were all treated exactly the same. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were very fair with all of us and made me feel a part of their family straight away. It seemed to me to be an ordinary family environment to stay in.

**Routine**

61. When I arrived at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] showed me to my bedroom upstairs. I had my own room with a double bed in it and I couldn't believe it. We spoke about the clothes I had on, which were cheap and horrible and then she took me straight to the shops.
62. I remember she bought me new sports trainers, proper jogging trousers and a 'Mizuno' jumper. I loved that jumper, all my friends at school had one. On the way home we got a Chinese meal, which I had never experienced before. I don't even remember getting anything from the chippy when I was with the [REDACTED] EPG-SPO
63. My social worker Elaine came to [REDACTED] a few days after I got there with the rest of my clothes and my photograph albums from the [REDACTED] EPG-SPO house in a box. I chucked everything out.
64. I had my first shower not long after I moved in with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I remember being quite nervous the first time, but from that time on I never went back in a bath.

65. As soon as I went to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] they said if I didn't want to go back to the Girls' Brigade, or go to church, I didn't have to.
66. I wasn't long with them when we went down to Wales to see [REDACTED] sister. We drove all the way and stayed at Butlin's and, even though I didn't yet know them very well, I was made to feel part of the family. It was the same at Christmas, when we went to see [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] parents and all had a meal together. That's when I started to realise that things hadn't been right the way I was brought up at the [REDACTED] EPG-SPO [REDACTED] It was totally different.
67. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] took us everywhere. We went swimming, we went to carnivals, we were always at the beach. Just like [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I got a lot of pocket money from them and I was allowed to spend it as I wanted. If I needed extra money it was up to me to save up for it or I could do extra chores around the house to earn more.
68. I remained at St Machar Academy and [REDACTED] used to drop me off in the morning on her way to work, until she got a different job and I got the bus. I used to get the country bus from the bottom of the road and it took me right there.
69. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] supported me at school and helped me pick my subjects for third year. [REDACTED] was really strict with me for my exams in fourth year. She bought me study books for every subject and I had to stay in and revise hard, but I know that if she hadn't, I wouldn't have bothered studying and I wouldn't have passed anything.
70. I passed all my exams and stayed on until fifth year when I did two Highers and passed them too. I was wanting to stay on for a sixth year, but there were no courses for me so I left. [REDACTED] spoke to me about putting me through university and he organised work experience for me at the place he worked. I was answering telephones and working on the computers.

### *Family Contact*

71. When I moved in with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], I told them that I'd been going to see my mum from school at lunchtime. [REDACTED] told me she had no problems with that as nobody had said I couldn't see my mum, so I carried on going to see her. I was allowed to use their phone as well and I used to phone my mother occasionally.

### *Discipline*

72. I think [REDACTED] maybe got grounded for something once, but I wasn't a badly behaved child and I don't really remember how [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] handled discipline. I always came home when I was meant to, it was that kind of family, I just didn't want to upset them.

### **Leaving foster care**

73. I wish I'd never left [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but for some weird reason, I wanted to go and stay with my mum when I turned sixteen and that was the worst move I ever made.
74. I don't know how long I was supposed to be under social work care, but I don't know how I could have been allowed to leave and go and live with my mum. I certainly don't remember speaking to Elaine my social worker or any other social worker about leaving and I wasn't given any money or any other support when I left.
75. By that time mum was living in a house in the country at [REDACTED] in Aberdeenshire, with a man who had two children of his own that were about the same age as me. His daughter was deaf and dumb and she was lovely.
76. I got a job in a care home as a domestic, but I couldn't stay with my mum and ended up moving into a bed and breakfast in Aberdeen before I turned seventeen. I loved it there and I got a full time job in a chip shop just round the corner. The woman let me use the kitchen and the laundry and I stayed there for quite a while.

## **Life after being in care**

77. I got pregnant and had my first son [REDACTED] before I turned eighteen. I got really close to the supervisor of the chip shop who had a really big house and I moved in with her for a while until I turned eighteen and moved into my own flat at [REDACTED] in Aberdeen with [REDACTED]
78. As it happened, the best friend of my downstairs neighbour was the granddaughter of Granny [REDACTED]. When she realised who I was she threatened me and this went on for some time. I couldn't live there as a result so I went to live with my partner at the time, who is the father of my second son [REDACTED]
79. I lived with [REDACTED] dad in Torry, Aberdeenshire, for about four years before [REDACTED] was born, but it was a very violent relationship. He got into bad drugs and eventually he lost his flat and we moved into a hostel temporarily. We then got a flat in [REDACTED] but after a while we split up and he left.
80. My son [REDACTED] life has been a disaster from the start and I have struggled with him since nursery. I had no help with him from his father or anybody and eventually social work got involved when [REDACTED] was about six or seven. I never took drugs, but [REDACTED] could see what his father was doing. [REDACTED] was also diagnosed with ADHD when he reached primary seven.
81. I started another relationship with a man called [REDACTED] and we have had another son [REDACTED] but unfortunately [REDACTED] and I can't live together because of [REDACTED]. We're still together though and [REDACTED] is twenty now, so perhaps that will change when [REDACTED] is ready to move on.

## **Impact**

82. There are parts of growing up that everyone should remember, but I just can't, there's nothing there. I wonder if that's because my brain has banished them. I do believe

that part of the reason I don't remember much about staying with Granny and EPG is because it obviously wasn't fun. You remember the fun times.

83. I think the way I was brought up has impacted on my ability to raise my three sons. My sons would have been furious with me if I'd brought them up the way the EPG-SPO brought me up. I never wanted them to feel different from anybody else and I've kind of been more of a friend to them than a mum. Possibly as a result of that, I've had a lot of problems with my sons, especially with [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] now doesn't speak to me. I know now that trying to be their friend has backfired on me.
84. I don't know if my life has turned out the way it has because I had been in care. Perhaps it would have turned out that way anyway, but I think of leaving [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and leaving the opportunities I could have had, like the chance of going to university, all because I wanted to be with my mother, and I wonder.
85. I look at my friends and how their lives have been. They have proper jobs, their own houses with gardens and families that are getting on well. My friend [REDACTED] from school has been with the same partner since she left school. She runs her own business, her son and daughter have their own businesses and I wonder why that isn't me. [REDACTED] was brought up properly, unlike me, and I wonder if that's why I don't have that life.
86. I think it's because, other than my time with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I didn't have proper family support. I think if I'd stayed with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] things would have been a lot different. I would have gone on to university and I probably wouldn't have had children so young.
87. I hadn't seen my mum for years after I left, until [REDACTED] was in about primary six and I bumped into her. We stay in touch now, but I've never had a good relationship with her. I wouldn't say we have a proper mother/daughter relationship. She had a hard upbringing too, but I have never felt able to get close to her or ask her about why I was taken into care.
88. I don't have much to do with my brother [REDACTED]. It's a shame for my sons because [REDACTED] is their only uncle.



89. I don't have a diagnosis of suffering any mental health issues, but I have been back and forth to the doctors a lot, feeling really low. I take panic attacks and I suffer anxiety. Sometimes I can do nothing but sleep. I get very depressed occasionally and I think part of the reason for that is the fact that my life is so different from all my friends.

### **Counselling/Support**

90. My doctor tried to get me to go and see a counsellor years ago, but back then I just didn't want to open up. I thought it was best to keep the lid closed down and just try and get on with life. I've since thought that maybe I could speak to someone and so I might take the opportunity through Future Pathways, if that's possible.

### **Reporting of abuse at the EPG-SPO**

91. Other than speaking to the police when I was taken out of the EPG-SPO care, I've never reported what happened to me to any authority. It's only in the past six months that I've opened up and told my partner everything. He never knew anything about me being in care before and my sons grew up never knowing either. I think about being in care frequently, but I didn't want to foist my experiences on them or on anyone else.

### **Records**

92. I don't remember how I came to get my records, but I got some when I was about nineteen or twenty, however I've never read them. Some things you're better just leaving and I worry about reading them. I've given them to my neighbour for safe-keeping and, with my permission, he's read them. He's tried to encourage me to read them and he's told me that there are just four pages and that some of the things that are written are horrific.
93. I think I got a phone call to ask if I wanted my records when the social work offices in Aberdeen moved. I've since spoken to a lady from the council to see if there was

anything else and she was surprised that I had what I do. I contacted the council after I first applied to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and I've emailed and spoken to this lady on the phone quite a few times, but I've never got anything else.

94. The lady from the council was wanting an awful lot of information before she would give me anything and then she said there would be certain parts she wouldn't be able to give me if it involved anybody else. It got to the point where I just sort of gave up and thought I'd leave it. If I needed them I knew where they were.

### **Redress**

95. I've never applied for any sort of compensation. It makes me feel a bit guilty thinking this, but I've never had large amounts of money and it would come in handy.

### **Lessons to be learned/hopes for the Inquiry**

96. If my boys were ever to have been put in care, or if any child is put in care, I would like them to go to a family like [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Granny and EPG [REDACTED] were far too old to be foster carers. The whole way they brought us up was just wrong.
97. I don't know how much involvement social work had with foster carers at that time, but the EPG-SPO [REDACTED] should never have been looking after any children. I don't know what could have been done differently though because a child doesn't want social workers coming round all the time.
98. There should be much more involvement and support by social work when a child wants to leave care. The biggest mistake I made was leaving [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when I did and yet I was allowed to do so and allowed to go and stay with my mother. I had no experience of life when I left and since I did, I have had no experience of life without children. I've had children myself since I was seventeen.

**Other information**

99. 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. EPA [REDACTED] .....

Dated..... 01.03.22 .....