

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EVB

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is EVB although I was known by the surname EVB in care. My date of birth is 1984. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Dundee and my family was my mum, dad and little brother. My mum's name is my dad and my brother is also called is about eighteen months younger than me.
3. My dad was really violent. My mum never got a break, he wasn't good to my mum. It wasn't the best experience growing up like that. He was violent with us as well. I just remember him constantly hitting my mum. It wasn't nice and we would end up in women's refuges constantly and every time he found us we would have to move to another network flat in another refuge but he kept finding us. There was a time he was laying into my mum on the grass outside and there were people at the windows and walking past. They knew my dad and he just told them to mind their own business so they did nothing.
4. Mum left him when I was about seven years old. He threw my mum down the stairs so she left and he said that we weren't getting to go with her. I don't know how long after that it was but he dropped us off outside my mum's work at in Dundee. He just left me and my little brother standing there on the street. I was so small I didn't know that that was where she worked, I only know that we were told to

wait there. I didn't know to go inside to the office or anything and I just wanted to stay with my little brother. A lady came out and asked us why we were standing there. I explained that my dad said we were to wait there for our mum. He hadn't told anyone that that was what he was doing. After that we lived with mum. At the moment I think my dad is a taxi driver but I don't have any contact with him. I don't want to know anything about him, I am not interested. He is not a nice person.

5. We were staying with my mum until I was put into care. I was going to Menzieshill High School in Dundee. My mum had met a man called [REDACTED] although his name is actually [REDACTED]. They were both quite aggressive and used to lift their hands to me and my brother really aggressively. They have really apologised profusely and I know there is no manual on parenting. If I didn't feel they were one hundred percent safe my children wouldn't be around them. They were people who were under an awful lot of stress. My mum almost died after the last assault by my dad and there was a lot of pressure in the family.
6. [REDACTED] didn't have any children and didn't know what to expect or anything. My brother had attention deficit attention disorder (ADHD) so his behaviour was very challenging. He was always going missing so there was a lot of pressure there. My mum had been through absolute hell. I can't explain how bad it actually was with the things I had seen my dad do to her. Nowadays [REDACTED] couldn't be more there for me, he is everything, and he is the best dad that I could need or want and the best grandad. He couldn't be more sorry. There was just exceptional pressure and my dad kept trying to find us. He wasn't trying to find me and my brother he was trying to hurt my mum constantly.
7. [REDACTED] started drinking more and there was just a massive breakdown in the family and I was hit. They then put a brush up the back of the door so it was jammed and I was locked in my room. I jumped out of my window and I ran away because I was frightened but I didn't know where to go so I called the police and they came. I had been trying to find my way to my grannies but it turns out I was nowhere near her house. It was around 3 am. I tried to tell the police that I was frightened, I told them what happened and that I didn't want to go back home that night. That is when I went to Strathmore Cottages. It didn't go to court but that's what has happened all the time.

Everything that you tell adults or official people just went with nothing happening from it.

8. At some point it says in my notes that my mum had said that the assault on me had happened. She said that they were sorry as I usually got the brunt of everything when it wasn't me but my brother who caused most of the problems. I think at some point though my mum must have denied it. My notes also said that my behaviour was getting out of control because of a new peer group. This is possibly what it was as I was turning into a teenager, thinking I was bigger than I actually was. I think that is what teenagers do, I know my daughter does but I don't think I did anything to merit being thrown out of the house.
9. My gran who is my mum's mum was called [REDACTED] She was everything to me. She was more like the mum that I needed and she was just a character. She was the best in the world, a wee sweetheart. She just wanted me around all the time and everywhere she went she would take me with her. She was just so good to me but she was really sick and that is why she couldn't keep me. She had Parkinson's so she needed carers to come in and help. She had a wee one bedroomed flat so she couldn't take me. I told her it was okay when I first went into care as she couldn't take me but she wanted to.
10. I have been to six different schools. It had to be done. I went to four different primary schools and two high schools. When I went into care I stayed in the same high school I had already been going to. My dad took us out of care for a short time and I was changed over to a different school because he didn't want to deal with me going all the way across town to school.
11. Before I went into care there was no social work involvement. My mum didn't really get very much help to be honest. Even though we were in all these refuges there was no social work involvement and they were not the nicest places either. My brother was always quite a bit of work so my mum had to spend a lot of time on him and all that was going on with him. I was happy just to sit in a corner as I was quite a quiet child.

12. [REDACTED] didn't go into care with me at first. He stayed at mums for a little bit longer but she just put him into care anyway. I didn't expect for him to go into care, I have no idea what happened as I had no contact with the family as they didn't want anything to do with me. Social work didn't want me and [REDACTED] to be staying together at any point. There was a short time in foster care before the carer threw him out. That was the way it was, you didn't get put with your family because I asked all the time to be with [REDACTED] but they wouldn't allow it. Social work just kept saying we were a different age group and would be in different homes.

13. I even asked my carers but they said the same thing that it wasn't allowed as I was older and so he would be in the home for the younger people. He was in Duncan Place which was for the younger people and I was in Balgowan and Fairbairn Street which he couldn't be placed in because of his age. The only option was for us to try foster care which they did but then the carer threw him out before I ended up being removed from that foster carer as well. I didn't want to be away from my brother because he was all that I had and it is horrible not being there with your brother as I was so used to him being around.

### **Strathmore Cottages, Dundee**

14. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### **Living in Care of Father**

31. After leaving Strathmore and having the two weeks with my gran I had to go and stay with my dad. When I met him again after all those years I learned that I had two sisters. An older one who my mum apparently knew about and had never told me. There was also a younger one. I stayed with him for 6-8 months. I was turning fourteen when I was with him because I remember his mum made a massive deal and was really angry calling me ungrateful. They had bought me a birthday present and being autistic I don't really express myself that well. I said thank you but they thought I was just ungrateful and were really abusive to me. That has stuck in my memory. I wasn't being ungrateful, I just didn't really know them. They didn't seem to have any understanding of how

difficult it was to be staying with my dad who I didn't know and I didn't know them either. I don't think it would have made any difference if they had known then that I was autistic. I don't think you ever need to speak to someone the way they spoke to me. My dad didn't give me anything for my birthday.

32. My gran, dad's mum, stayed at the end of [REDACTED], Dundee, and right opposite her was my auntie's house. She is his sister. I didn't know that granny very well and there was no closeness with her. They lived so close they were looking in on each other and that is how they lived their life. If you went down their street to the very bottom that was where our house was. When I had stayed with my mum and dad we had stayed at the other end of [REDACTED] to where his new house was. I think we stayed at both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but I cannot remember which one was which.
33. I think when I went to dads that was it there was no social work involvement. I don't remember any social workers visiting and I think if they came out to the house that we stayed in I don't think they would have left me there. I wouldn't have been happy to leave a child there. We didn't have any food, there was no furniture in the bedroom other than the one bed. My dad used to sleep on the sofa or climb in beside me. I didn't have any clothes or anything. Maybe I am wrong but I just don't see they would have left a child to stay there, it was poorer than poor.
34. Around the time I went to dads he had moved my brother out of care as he needed both of us to get his new house. Once he got it he moved my brother in to stay with my auntie, his sister. He later moved his best friend<sup>EWQ</sup> [REDACTED] into the house so my dad could go and stay with his girlfriend. He was in the house but mostly going and doing his own thing. Whenever my dad was there he was drunk. He was an alcoholic, no-one has really identified that but that is what he is and he is also a vicious, violent man when he is drinking.
35. To be honest it was better that my dad wasn't there because he kept trying to climb into bed beside me. There wasn't much more happened. He used to get closer and closer in the bed. It was almost like he was acting like he was sleeping, he would be up there shuffling closer and closer. It was a big cast iron bed and I used to have to

climb down but it was against the wall so I had to go over the top. Whenever my dad would come in and I knew he had been drinking I would hide underneath the bed or in the cupboard so he couldn't find me. I would wait until he passed out drunk because he would just be shouting and screaming for me to be up there with him. There was another occasion when I had fallen down the stairs when he had all his friends in to drink and watch the boxing. I had landed on my knee and I must have let out a squeal or something. He came out and put me on the kitchen board and he said something like "sometimes when we hurt ourselves it hurts from here all the way up here". As he said that he ran his fingers all the way inside my leg and touched my bits. My dad used to punch my brother about something awful as well.

36. I was really uncomfortable staying with my dad because his behaviour was just progressing so sometimes it was a relief when he wasn't there. It was almost better that it was his best friend looking after me than the thought of what my dad was going to do but then I had no idea what his best friend was going to do. I was aware his best friend **EWQ** would repeatedly tell my dad it was okay for him to go out and he would look after me. I didn't think anything of it.
37. My dad also moved me schools so I started a new school called Braeview Academy so I just started skipping going into school. I felt so tired, drained and exhausted because at that time there was a lot going on. It was the perfect opportunity for **EWQ** as I would be at home alone. I used to walk my brother down to the school, order my free lunch so I had food and make sure my brother had something to eat.
38. It is difficult to talk about this but it is important as it is so linked to the care system failing to protect me, quite the opposite they facilitated **EWQ**'s abuse. I hold them all responsible because any one of them could have listened. **EWQ** made it out that I had an obsession with him, that I was telling him that I loved him and was calling him Uncle **EWQ** all the time. None of that was true. He tried to make out it was me. This was when **EWQ** started targeting me. He started off really nice and bought me a gold chain for my fourteenth birthday when no-one else apart from my auntie had really bothered. He used to bring me in chocolate and a teddy that had sad eyes and when

you pushed it's tummy it made a whimper. He said it used to remind him of me because he said I always had really sad eyes.

39. My dad didn't come in one night when he said he was going to. [REDACTED] came across so I phoned my dad to tell him [REDACTED] was there and I called him all night until 8 o'clock in the morning and he kept saying he would be round in a minute. That was the first night that [REDACTED] progressed it to sexual assault, he didn't leave that night until just before my dad came back. [REDACTED] continued to sexually abuse me. My dad was partying all the time and would have all his friends round for big house parties. That was even before my dad started to stay away at his girlfriends. I did try to tell people but nobody listened.
40. [REDACTED] was 38 years old when I was fourteen. He worked in factories in a place called [REDACTED] and he moved as he lost his job there and went to [REDACTED] which closed down. I remember these places because when I was stuck with him it was always in the car park at the back of his work where he would abuse me when there was no-one else around. He used to give me an awful lot to drink. It was easier to drink it as it helped me block it.
41. When my dad told me [REDACTED] was going to come and live with us because he had broken up with his girlfriend [REDACTED] I told him that I didn't want him to be there or to come and stay. [REDACTED] my wee sister's mum asked why I didn't want him there. I didn't have the guts to tell her exactly what was happening but I told her I was really uncomfortable and didn't want him to be there. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s wife is [REDACTED]'s best friend and I was getting to stay over at [REDACTED]'s that night and in the morning I heard the door slamming open with [REDACTED] running up the stairs shouting "where is she". I managed to get out of the house but [REDACTED] had got hold of [REDACTED] and told him I was uncomfortable and insinuated something had gone on. [REDACTED] then told his wife that I was the one to blame and I ended up getting my head kicked in outside [REDACTED]'s house. [REDACTED] was the one who called [REDACTED] to come round. I grew up thinking everything was my fault. It was not just them it was everyone. There was a bunch of adults telling me it was my fault and I wasn't raised to question them. It is hard to understand why these adults

didn't see me as a little girl needing protection rather than an adult having a relationship with a much older man.

42. I went back into care because my dad had smashed my nose really bad and I had blood everywhere. He took me all the way up from our house to my gran's, he was shouting and screaming and my gran and auntie came out onto the street. He had punched me in our house before taking me to my grans so I was already hurt. Then right outside my grannies he pushed me against the fence and punched me in the face as well. This was because he had wanted me to watch his girlfriend's kids and I didn't feel able to do it. I had to call him to come out of the nightclub he was in. It was three children his girlfriend had. One had ADHD and another one had a disability and just didn't behave at all. Also my auntie had left her child for me to look after as well so she could go out and drink with them. On top of that I had my little brother to look after when they would go out. It wasn't something that was unusual. I was the one who had to look after all of them. I was only fourteen and couldn't cope. My dad lost his temper as he didn't want to come out of the nightclub at that time and come home. I tried to explain to him that the children wouldn't calm down or settle and this was like one in the morning. It was really noisy with the kids, there was so much going on and I didn't know what else to do other than get my dad.
43. When the social workers came to get me. My gran, my dad's mum, and auntie said I must have fallen even though they watched my dad punch me. My grandad took him aside and said that if he ever laid his hands on me again that he would kill him. That was his dad but he was a quiet man and he just sat there when the social workers came in. They were the out of hours social workers because it was night time. When the social workers came in I could see he didn't agree with it but he didn't say anything against his wife and daughter.
44. I tried to tell the social workers that he had punched me in the face because I couldn't look after his children for him to be out all night. They said I was lying and that they believed what they had been told by the adults that I had fallen having tripped on the kerb. I don't understand how they could say that as I had a white top on and it was just covered in blood, my nose wouldn't stop bleeding and was completely swollen. I was


just a mess but they didn't get police at that point. My little brother told them what had happened as he had witnessed it. I think my dad must have called my auntie who stayed opposite his mum and told them to call the social workers because I wasn't staying with him any longer. Nothing was done because social work said it didn't happen so when adults say that nothing is happening that is it. I think my dad was in the kitchen at my grans, he was furious and he might have gone out the back door and just left us there. I don't know if social workers spoke to him or not or he just thought they are here so he would just leave. His girlfriend [REDACTED] witnessed it as well but I don't know if they spoke to her.

45. Social work then took me and my brother away in their car. They took me straight to Balgowan but I don't know where my brother went. That is how I ended up in Balgowan when I was about fourteen.
46. My memories of dates and some things are not that great because there was an awful lot of bad things that happened in such a short space of time so it sort of blurs a little bit. I never imagined I would have to remember my age when things happened or when I went into the different care placements.

### **Balgowan Children's Unit, Dundee**

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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**Foster Care – EGB ██████████ ██████████ Lochee**

61. I was about fourteen or fifteen when I went to foster care to stay with EGB ██████████ in Lochee, Dundee. She had a really nice big bought house over the shops. It was really nerve wracking to go there but EGB ██████████ seemed really nice to begin with. I think she was maybe 45-50 years old but I don't know as she never actually said. I was there for five months or something like that. She had two daughters. ██████████ was 17-18 and ██████████ was a fair bit older. ██████████ had got fed up of her mum and had gone to stay with her boyfriend while I was there. There was an argument and she left so I didn't really see ██████████ very much.
62. ██████████ was always really nice to me. She used to come in and sit beside me and ask if there was anything I wanted to talk about or if there was anything she could help me with. I would speak about my dad and she would say her dad was a waste of space as well. She said he lived away in Australia and didn't contact her. She would say we didn't need them. She was always so really nice to me. If there were any issues she wasn't slow at telling her mum.
63. Downstairs there was the bathroom, living room and kitchen and you had to go down for the front door. I think it was four bedrooms upstairs. I think ██████████ and ██████████ were supposed to be sharing a bedroom however I found out on my last night there that there was only one single bed. I know that ██████████ sometimes slept in beside her mum. I don't really know it was a confusing setup as I thought ██████████ and ██████████ both had beds in there but whenever ██████████ was there ██████████ was sleeping beside her mum and that sort of makes sense. I had a room with a double bunk and at the

time I arrived it was just me in that room. There was another girl who arrived later and she slept on the top bunk. Her name was [REDACTED] and she was the same age as my brother.

64. [REDACTED] had a room of her own. She didn't have a partner. There were other children living there at various times. There was a little boy called [REDACTED] and my brother and they shared the bedroom next to me. I knew [REDACTED]. He was nine and his dad stayed underneath where I had stayed with my mum and stepdad. His dad had moved out and didn't have much contact with him but I knew who they were. He was just a wee boy and really nice. It was a shock to go in and see he was in [REDACTED]s and had been for the last couple of years. [REDACTED] had thrown [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] out before I left. [REDACTED] was moved to another care home and [REDACTED] had been thrown out countless times. She had [REDACTED] believing if he behaved well enough he could come back each time. I just think that she was quite manipulative of him. [REDACTED] had been put in Duncan Place Young Persons Unit in Dundee.
65. [REDACTED] used to climb out of the window so she could sunbathe topless on the roof outside of the kitchen window. It wasn't something we could see as we were not allowed out there. She didn't like the fact that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were running about being boys and did daft things. Once when she was out on the roof the boys thought it would be a great idea to make the kitchen look like a murder scene and they squished tomato sauce over the walls. When she came back in she hit the roof and lost it.
66. I realised very quickly that [REDACTED] had the same problem as my dad. She would be drinking all day, she would just drink and drink and drink. She was never without a glass of wine in her hands. She was always slurring and falling up the stairs drunk. My brother used to come running out of his room to try and help [REDACTED] up the stairs.
67. I don't know what was going on between [REDACTED] and my dad but they used to be on the phone for hours every night. She was an alcoholic and so was he so maybe they had plenty of things to talk about for hours.

## Routine at Foster Care – EGB, [REDACTED] Lochee

### *First day*

68. I don't think it was a social worker who took me to EGB. I think it was a staff member from Balgowan because I think I was in the big car that they had. When I went into EGB the first thing she did after they had gone was ask if I had had something to eat. She gave me something for my supper and something to drink. She gave me a towel to go and have a shower. I actually went to bed thinking this was the nicer of the places I had been in.

### *Mornings and bedtime*

69. I didn't eat breakfast in the morning, it is not something I did. I don't know if that was a habit I got into from being in care or if I was just being a teenager. I don't remember EGB getting breakfast ready for the others. I don't really remember seeing EGB. A lot of times we came down the stairs [REDACTED] was the one making sure we had our bags for going to school. [REDACTED] was brilliant and she was like the mum of the house.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

70. [REDACTED] didn't really eat there, she was always out with friends so I think she picked up food when she was out. EGB didn't eat the same food as us. I don't know what she ate as I don't remember ever seeing her eat. Maybe with her drinking she didn't drink and eat, I don't really know. They definitely didn't eat with us anyway as we all had to sit at the kitchen at a breakfast board thing. EGB didn't sit with us, she would always be in the living room and we were not allowed in there.
71. Any food we didn't finish got scraped into a big pot and she would make soup with it. That was our tea the next day and the next day until it was all used up. She said that she didn't like food waste. I sat and watched her give chicken to her cats while we got the same food that no one had wanted. It turned my tummy because if my brother

didn't like the food he used to spit it out on his plate and that would all be scraped into this big pot.

#### *Washing/bathing*

72. After school we had to come in and get showered if we were not going out anywhere afterwards. Then it was straight to our rooms.

#### *Clothing/uniform*

73. The social worker turned up with a bag of clothes. I don't know where they came from but they looked like they had already been used. They were not in bad condition but I could tell they had been used. Maybe they were someone else's who had been in care and didn't need them or something like that.
74. I didn't know back then that **EGB** was meant to be getting money to be buying clothes and things for us but she never ever did any of that. I never knew she was meant to be doing that because they don't tell you these things. It was only when I was reading through my notes it was written exactly what money was coming in and out to the children for things like pocket money, clothing and things. She only ever bought me a pair of slippers.

#### *Leisure time / clubs / groups*

75. I don't remember if I had a TV in my room but I don't think I was all that bothered by it. I must have just sat there but my granny always gave me books to read and I have always been more of a reader. My granny always used to make sure she gave me new books all the time as she was just really good to me. I think I was fine with being in my room. There was a TV in the kitchen and we could sit in there and watch the wee TV on top of fridge if I wanted to.

76. At the weekends **EWQ** was demanding that I meet him because he was just obsessive about it. My brother used to hang out with **EWQ** and they would go and hang out with their friends. All this with **EWQ** meant I didn't have any friends.

#### *Trips and holidays*

77. I remember that **EGB** had planned she was going to go on holiday with **EGB** and she was going to leave us in respite care. It didn't happen but it does show that she was a very different person to **EGF** who I met as a carer when I left **EGB**.

#### *Schooling*

78. I was still at Braeview Academy. I used to skip school all the time. I didn't know my way around the building and every time I would ask someone they would take me back to the office, get me another timetable so I would know where it was I was going. I couldn't work out the building and they treated me like I was daft. I now know it is because I have autism and they wouldn't have picked up on that. But for me the building was really complicated to get around. Nobody just showed me around where it was I was meant to go so I stopped asking for help and started not going in. It seemed easier that way. Also **EWQ** used to demand that I would go and meet him so I was getting less and less time in school. He would get quite aggressive if I didn't meet him. I would just do what I was told which is a pattern for me.
79. We would get the bus to school. In the morning **EWQ** would give us our bus money then we would have to walk a fair bit to get the only bus that went over the other side of town. **EWQ** was at the same school as me so I used to make sure he got taken to school. There were times that **EWQ** would be waiting outside **EGB**'s first thing in the morning. He used to say that he had just finished work but he always seemed to be really drunk. He would insist on taking us over to school and every single time he did that **EWQ** would get out of the car and I wouldn't be allowed to go.

### *Work*

80. We wouldn't see EGB all day but she would come down and tell us what chores to do and then she would be in the living room or her bedroom. We had to clean her whole house. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had to do the entire living room, polish and clean the floor. [REDACTED] had to clean all the boards down in the kitchen, mop the kitchen floor and clean the bathroom. I had to Hoover the landings and the staircase. There was also a carpet on the outside of the door I had to Hoover. That was just the way she had it. All the kids who came into EGB's had to do the housework. The chores had to be done twice a week. It was either a Tuesday or a Thursday when we came home from school, I can't remember which one. I think [REDACTED] would get off with doing certain things in the living room because EGB would already be drinking in there by that time. She used to be on the phone and [REDACTED] wouldn't be able to get in before he went out as he had contact with his family. We had to do these chores at the weekend as well. Before we went anywhere at the weekend we were not allowed out until we had done our chores first thing on a Saturday morning.
81. We never used to bother if [REDACTED] got off with not doing some chores. He was only nine. We used to help each other out and do jobs for each other. I would never mind having to go into the living room and dust for him.
82. It was £1 to go to the cinema and it was £1 to go swimming so when we did the house work she would give us money to go. That was what I thought it was, we had to earn that money. I didn't know she was getting money for us and should have been giving us pocket money. In my family I never got anything so getting £2 to go to the swimming or cinema was already a lot.

### *Visitors/celebrities*

83. I don't think I saw a social worker at EGB's. At that point I think I had the social worker I didn't really get on with. It wasn't a big thing not to see him as it was more of a relief

that I didn't need to communicate with or see him. I have probably said that I didn't want him around anyway. That was probably not his fault, it was probably me.

84. I have never saw [REDACTED]'s social worker so he couldn't have visited [REDACTED]'s house. I do not remember anyone coming to check on any of the kids staying with [REDACTED] or anyone coming to check on her.
85. [REDACTED] never came into [REDACTED] however he would often be parked right outside her house. I know it is written in my notes that [REDACTED] did see him picking me up. [REDACTED] had called my mum to tell her and she clearly knew who [REDACTED] was but she never seemed to report this to the social work or police. It is also in my notes that my mum repeatedly warned the social work about [REDACTED] that he was not my uncle and that she had concerns that his relationship with me was sexual. [REDACTED] should have been told this information by social work if she was to effectively protect me. I believe my mum also expressed her concerns to [REDACTED]
86. Every so often the police would come and visit [REDACTED] When we would come in from school there would be police up there but they seemed to be friends of [REDACTED] They would be sat there and their radio would be sat on the bunker. They would just be chatting and didn't have their police uniforms on, they had like normal clothes. She just acted like they were friends, she would be laughing and joking. It was confusing but I just accepted everything that happened and never questioned anything.

#### *Family Contact*

87. I wasn't seeing my granny an awful lot but we spoke all the time. There was just stuff going on and it was really difficult. I couldn't get across to where she stayed and it was probably down to me as well. I should have stood up to [REDACTED] and said I wasn't going with him each time but there was more and more times he would be outside and less and less times I was able to get to my granny's.
88. [REDACTED] took it upon herself to start calling my mum and my dad. My mum has since told me that [REDACTED] would call when she was really drunk at the most random times of the



night and say the most random things. EGB would try and keep her on the phone for hours. I just thought when she was calling them that she must have had a few drinks and was phoning them for company. She didn't have friends come around she just sat drinking herself.

89. EGB and my dad got on really well. She thought my dad was made of pure gold. She used to come and tell me how amazing my dad was and everything and I would be thinking no he is not. I think she had a bit of an obsession with him, I don't know if it was a mutual thing. I have no idea as I could only see it from my side and I couldn't understand why they were on the phone all night. commented on it. She had made a comment about the way her mum was acting so it was clear had noticed it. That was what made me think this isn't just me.

#### **Abuse at Foster Care – EGB Lochee**

90. When I went to EGB's she wanted us to shower every night because she said she didn't want our bugs going into her beds.
91. She would only allow us to use two squares of toilet roll. She even said the same to her daughter and she replied along the lines 'are you kidding me have you seen the size of my bum'. Her daughter was even trying to explain to EGB that her behaviour was not right at all.
92. EGB always seemed to have something not quite right with her. EGB wasn't really nasty, she was just drunk but then my boundaries about what was nasty were maybe a bit blurred. Maybe other people would think it was nasty. I wouldn't say she was physical but she became more aggressive the more drunk she was. You know how drunk people get when they think they are behaving fine. When she was drunk she wasn't all that nice. She used to tell the girls we were getting fat. The boys were allowed to have chocolate spread on toast for supper but the girls weren't allowed it. She used to say it was because we were fat. I wasn't fat as I didn't have any fat on me. She was really determined the girls couldn't have it so the boys and girls were

treated differently. It was things like that she would do, insinuate we were fat or we were dirty. It was more psychological making us feel bad. I think it would be in her head when she was drunk that it was okay to say these things. She wouldn't ever stand and call me names that were really horrible of anything like that.

93. The last night I stayed there is when she assaulted me. Before then she had never hit me and it never felt that she would. I always thought there was more of a chance of her being drunk and falling up the stairs than there was of her actually lifting her hands to me. That night she got really plastered and had fallen up the stairs a couple of times. I thought she had got herself hurt at one of the points. [REDACTED] and I had ran down and grabbed her and got her up the stairs. She had gone into her room really drunk. [REDACTED] and I being kids were laughing and giggling in our room which was right next to EGB's. We were just being girls as we had been put to bed early and we weren't tired so we were still blethering, laughing and giggling. EGB was banging on the wall. She and [REDACTED] had had a massive argument that night, it was really bad and I didn't know at that time that [REDACTED] had left the house. She kept banging on the wall and we just found everything funny.
94. EGB came charging through, slammed the door open and made a lunge onto the bottom bunk to get me. She grabbed a hold of my hair and pulled me right off the bed. I jumped up at the side of her and stopped her from getting over to [REDACTED] as she had started to come off the bunk bed. EGB had lost her balance so I pushed her so she was on the bunk and rushed passed to go and get [REDACTED]. Her bedroom door was opened and it was always locked. That was when I first realised there was only a single bed in there and [REDACTED] was not home. I returned and got [REDACTED] before we ran out of the house.
95. We then phoned the police and stood under the cameras on the High Street where we waited for about three hours. Nobody came so we called the police again and still nobody came. I had to eventually call my mum who I hadn't spoken to in a long time and asked her to call social workers to come and get us because we had nowhere to go and were only wearing pyjamas. My mum was up in Forfar at that time. I didn't want

to move from where we were because I thought the police would see us on the cameras. I felt it was safer for us to stand where we were.

**Reporting of abuse at Foster Care – EGB ██████████ ██████████ Lochee**

96. The police came to see us after I had called my mum. The police went to her door because there was another child called ██████████ left inside there. He was the same age as me so he was around fifteen. They had to take him out of the house. We were told that the police were charging EGB with the assault on me. The police told us that EGB was saying that we had just ran out of the house. It was some sort of out of hours social workers who came and they had been speaking to the police first so we knew it was okay to go with them. They took me and ██████████ to Balgowan and the police brought ██████████ along afterwards. One of the carers in Balgowan said the charges got dropped. Nobody listened and nobody did anything, which was how it always was but they will have a record that it happened and that they didn't take it any further.
97. We all gave the police a statement about what had happened and they did this at Balgowan Home. There were carers working there who had to be present when we did it. One of the carers who was my best friend's foster father was called EGF ██████████ and he was keeping me updated at the time. EGF ██████████ thought there was going to be action taken against EGB and he had said that she shouldn't have kids because other kids had made allegations about her being 'handsy'. It was him who came back and said something like 'I'm sorry, I don't know what to say to you but they have just let her off with it'. He said she had been given kids again and a year or so later I passed her on the High Street and she had a wee girl who was blonde and looked about two or three years old. My heart sank because there is no way a two or three year old kid could speak out. I think was she given them younger so they couldn't tell anything.

**Leaving Foster Care – EGB [REDACTED] Lochee**

98. After we gave our statements I told staff at Balgowan what had happened and that EGB had been really drunk. They said the police had said there had been no sign of her drinking. That is not true because EGB used to draw on her eyebrows and wear bright leg lipstick and by the time everything had happened that night her eyebrows were all smudged up over her face and her lipstick was all smeared. She looked awful so it wasn't true that there were no signs plus she couldn't string a sentence together. I don't know what the relationship was between the police and EGB but there were definitely clear signs of her drinking and you had the three of us all saying she was drunk.
99. That was the last I saw of EGB as I didn't return there after being taken to Balgowan.

**Balgowan Children's Home, Dundee**

100. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### **Fairbairn Street Children's Home, Dundee**

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

### Leaving Fairbairn Street Children's Home, Dundee

162. I was sixteen when I moved into my flat and it was in [REDACTED] Dundee. I remember going to see it before I moved in and Claire had gone with me. My flat was really cool, I loved it and I loved the idea of being there. It was nice, there were old people in the close and my next door neighbour was maybe ten years older than me and she had come out of care.
163. I didn't have much to move but a girl called Nicola who worked in Fairbairn Street applied to get me a bed and to get money to get carpets and stuff put down. I am not sure what it was she applied for. It was also to get things like a cooker.
164. When <sup>EWQ</sup>[REDACTED] learned I was getting my flat he said that the electricity went off inside his house and he couldn't pay for it so he was losing his house. Although I hadn't moved in yet I told him my gas was on. So instead of him being freezing cold all night and although I didn't have furniture I told him he could sleep there until I moved in. He only had a mattress on the floor in his own house, he had no furniture so he was used to living that way. I just couldn't get rid of him after that. He didn't live anywhere else and he didn't go anywhere else. He just started acting as if it was his flat and he wouldn't allow for the carpets to be laid because he didn't like them. The flat had to be

decorated the way he wanted it to be decorated. He told his daughter it was his flat and that is how he behaved.

165. Susan actually wanted to come over to my flat and help me do anything I needed to do but there was a point when a member of staff called Claire said they wouldn't come up because [REDACTED] was there. She was always really nice to me but she had apparently gone back and said that she was really frightened of [REDACTED]. The second day I was in my flat a member of staff was meant to be coming out so I sat there and waited all day. I then phoned them and that is when they told me no-one would be coming out because [REDACTED] was there. The staff let me move in there knowing he was there.
166. As soon as I moved into my flat I went and started an apprenticeship in joinery at Dundee College and to pay for the rest of my living expenses I went and got a waitressing job as well. I got the apprenticeship all by myself. I did the pre-apprenticeship course (pre-app) into construction. I really enjoyed it and I won £1,000 for being the best joiner in a class of 27 boys. While you are there you have to apply for all these jobs and a company took me on. It was brilliant, it was really good. You got paid £86 per week but it wasn't enough money to cover my rent so that is why I got the other job. I just got up went to work and returned to get changed before going to my other job. That was life for me but I liked it. I had started my waitressing job in the [REDACTED] but they moved me to the play barn to look after the kids. The kids seemed to take to me each time I covered a shift there so they asked if I wanted to supervise in there. That was much better than taking plates out to people as I got to run about daft painting faces.
167. After Susan and the Fairbairn Street staff refused to come to see me at the flat that was it. No-one came to see me again and there was no support from any part of the care system. I couldn't be more stuck.

## Life after being in care

168. As far as my education is concerned I was lucky that being autistic I have a photographic memory so it didn't affect me far too much as far as exams were concerned, not doing the schooling. I could go in and I could just pick it up. I passed my exams which were standard grades and these entitled me to go on the pre-app course.
169. I really felt after I moved to my flat that I was just stuck as there wasn't anyone there to help me. EWQ was a really violent man and I didn't get away from him until I was nineteen. I kept phoning the police to try and get him away because he was not my partner. He got it into his head he was and that he would decide everything. He made me quit my apprenticeship because there were guys around. I wasn't allowed out and he had my bank card so had control of all my money. He basically controlled every part of my life. The police took him away from my house about seven times and I got him charged but every single time it was to go to court he made sure his ex-wife or his children were standing outside the court and I couldn't get in. It was just ridiculous. That man is horrible and vicious. Every time I got the police to remove him my little brother got his head kicked in or EWQ would just appear at my grans and be sitting inside her house. It just seemed easier for me not to report him hurting me to stop them getting hurt. I just felt anything that happened would be all my fault.
170. EWQ would feed me Midori and I would drink it because I knew what was going to happen. It was better to drink it and be numb but I just ended up drinking and drinking. He just kept giving me tablets and drink but I didn't know what else to do. It was better than feeling anything.
171. I got pregnant when I was seventeen and I lost the baby because of EWQ. All I can think of is the care system could have saved me at any time from that. I had to go to court and he had some friends of his standing outside of the door of the court as well as and his new girlfriend. He had assaulted me and killed my baby and that should have been the time that I stood up and made sure he went to jail for it. I couldn't even get in the court building but I did want to. He had deliberately repeatedly kicked

at my stomach. He had known what he was doing and he had intended on killing my baby. I should have been braver but it was literally just me, all by myself, trying to get to court.

172. When I was about nineteen the police messed up one of the cases because it was against him and his daughter. The police said that when they had taken pictures of all my injuries, I had said it was [REDACTED] that caused them but at no point had I said his daughter [REDACTED] was involved. That's not true because they asked me over and over again but [REDACTED] got off with it because of that.

173. I got away from him the last time he smashed my nose open and broke my cheek bone. I was at my brother's eighteenth birthday party inside his house. I was out cold but I could hear everything that was going on. It was so black I couldn't see anything. My nose is permanently damaged because they couldn't repair it properly. I heard my brother saying to [REDACTED] that if he ever put his hands on me again he was going to kill him. It went to court but because the only witness that I had was sixteen and [REDACTED] decided to manipulate her into becoming his girlfriend she changed her evidence to say that it hadn't happened. Before I got the chance to stand up against him I was told that I was not needed and the case had been dropped.

174. When I left I just went and stayed with my brother but [REDACTED] wouldn't stop, he just stalked me. He wouldn't leave me alone and he kept walking into my brother's house. I had to phone the police relentlessly. He just wouldn't leave me alone. I don't know if he was ever charged but the police were well aware he wouldn't stop and kept coming back. They would say that they would go and speak to him but I am not sure what they did. Each time they left me I don't know what happened after that.

175. I moved into another house and I was pregnant with my daughter. He would be standing at my window staring in. I would have been twenty at that time. I called the police and they said they were going to speak to him. I think that might have been the last time he stood outside my window. I was not familiar with the law so I don't know how you can take action against people. All I knew was I didn't feel safe and no-one was doing anything to keep me safe. I kept reporting him to the police and they weren't



arresting him. I felt like a little girl. Even now I still don't know who was meant to be helping me.

176. I don't really know what happened to make him stop. Maybe he got bored but I still got horrible messages. He and his daughter just used to find it really funny to keep harassing me. I had a teddy from when I was born but I never got any of my property back when I left the flat. EWQ kept everything. They used to send me pictures of this teddy with a rope round its neck and hanging it or setting fire to the legs of it. They just thought they were so funny because this thing meant everything to me. It was the only thing I took with me everywhere all the way through care and it was all I had from my parents. They were just nasty horrible people and they tried to make my life a living hell.
177. It took a really long time for EWQ to leave me alone and it took for my mum and stepdad coming back into my life before he backed off a lot. It was them who made sure I got into court the last time and although the case was dropped I was so proud of myself to get there.
178. My daughter was just amazing, she was absolutely perfect. I didn't stay with her dad for any length of time. I had married him at seven and a half months pregnant. He asked me when I was about six months pregnant. My mum got it into her head that he should have asked me and I kind of felt on the spot. We got married and on my wedding night he was standing kissing another girl. It didn't bother me too much as I kind of thought what did I expect. The marriage lasted about a month or so after that and then it was just me and my daughter, until the father of the rest of my children came along.
179. He loved from the moment he met her and I consider him's real dad. In his view he has four children, not three. My other children are who is thirteen, is eleven and is nine. I had been pregnant in between each of those children but because of the assault by EWQ it left some sort of problem with my reproductive system which has caused me to bleed since then right through to when I had a

hysterectomy. I bled through all of my pregnancies and almost lost them all. Although we split up we are still in touch and have a good relationship.

180. I have amazing kids and my mum and stepdad are fantastic grandparents. My kids love them and they spoil the children rotten. I think it is always going to be a wee bit awkward between me and my mum. I don't really feel I have any connection with her sometimes. I don't think she knows how to connect with me but I know being autistic not a lot of people do know how to connect with me. It's a bit like people talk about the dramatic things that involve other people and I am like oh there is a butterfly. I am a sort of simplistic person and I don't think my mum is really like that. I have a better connection with my stepdad, he is the more chilled out person.
181. I met [REDACTED] who has been a massive support to me and he has come along to the meetings with the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. [REDACTED] actually pushed me on to college and then university. I was doing sports and exercise and wanted to go on and study psychology. I never believed that people like me could go and do these things. There is no-one from care goes onto university. I am a qualified personal trainer and helped people who didn't like going to gyms for a variety of reasons including mental health reasons. I always thought why should they be discriminated against.
182. While I was at university I had to be rushed to hospital and they had to remove a huge cyst which was the size of two grapefruits. It was kind of heart breaking as [REDACTED] and I had been considering having a child by removing my eggs but when they removed the cyst they had to remove one of my ovaries. My course was quite intense and my brain started to cut off the left side of my body. I had to go through so many neurology tests over and over again. I used to come home crying because I couldn't keep up with the physical side of the course. I had always managed to cope before then and I felt very suicidal after that because I didn't know I was sick or anything was wrong. Thinking back I wonder if the stress of dealing with the uni course and having my ovary removed triggered my body to react the way it did when I was younger and dealing with stress or trauma.

183. They realised I have a functional neurological disorder which is related back to childhood trauma. I got the diagnosis last year but they have been testing for the last couple of years. It was 2021 that I found out I have autism and this is linked to the functional neurological disorder. I also have a sensory processing disorder so I can disassociate and my brain shuts off. I think stress can trigger this. I really intend going back to university but I need to fix what is happening with my body. They think it is linked to disassociation and my logical brain if it disassociates everything shuts down. It is like I go into past habits as a child. If I face these things and I mean everything, if I own it and I see it then I can't disassociate from it. That is what I feel and how I think. How can you disassociate from something you face head on? I think it should take away its power.

### **Impact**

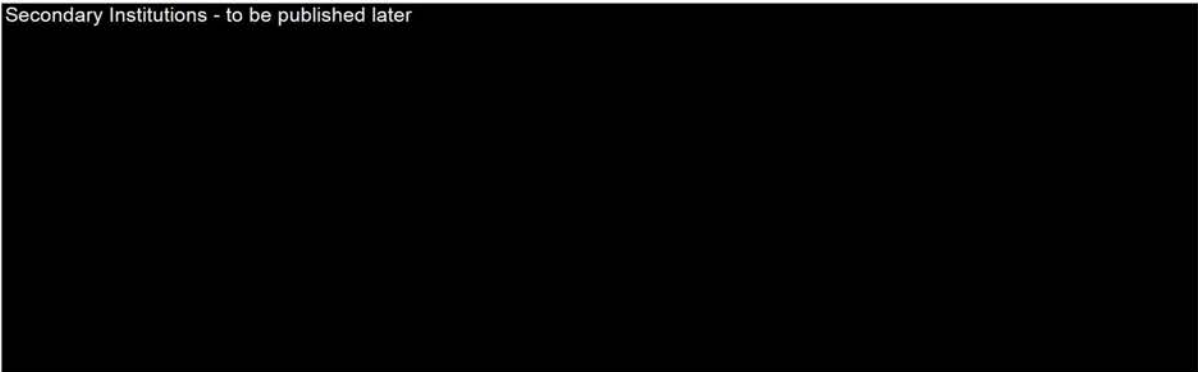
184. I have been diagnosed with a sensory processing disorder and I have a letter from the NHS which explains that due to sensory sensitivities I can find certain environments overwhelming and this is more pronounced when I am feeling anxious or distressed. At these times it will be harder for me to communicate with others. I benefit with being in calm environments with no bright lights or background noise. I struggle to cope with unfamiliar places and situations and changes to planned processes which can leave me feeling uncertain and anxious and illicit a strong emotional response. I benefit from having the opportunity to familiarise myself with new locations and information. The letter also explains that with non-verbal communication it is important to understand I have difficulty with eye contact and my facial expressions do not reflect my lack of interest or engagement, it is just how I can respond. I can be very skilled at imitating the social behaviours of others which helps me to blend in but this takes a lot of effort. My skills in written language are superior to my ability to process information and it can take more time than other people to make sense of things and respond. I can be anxious that people don't think I have answered a question right away but sometimes it just takes my brain a wee bit longer to work out what it was meant by anything that is asked. The way I explain it is my brain works a wee bit different to how most peoples' work.

185. I still go and sit myself somewhere quiet and I think sometimes I just need that quietness.
186. I developed bulimia which is just an impulsive thing after eating biscuits which I thought I would get into trouble about when I went to Balgowan. I got really bad food aversions because of EGB making soup out of the food we didn't eat. I am actually vegetarian and have been put off an awful lot of things. I have a really limited range of food I can eat. I went vegan for a really long time because that way I knew what was in my food. It was easier to eat tomatoes and lettuce knowing they are very basic foods but they are not mixed with anything so I know what is in them.
187. I spent from ages 16-19 making repeated attempts to kill myself and I just think back to the carers who ignored all the struggles I was having with my mental health through my childhood. They could have saved me.
188. I think about my time in care a fair bit. It is not something you can forget about really. When I speak about the things that happened to me I think it sounds worse than it is. It doesn't sound real and it sounds like it happened to someone else.
189. I have been able to speak about so many things that happened to me and others when I was in care but there is so much that happened I just cannot cover it all. It would take a lifetime.
190. I have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and disassociation. I have a functional neurological disorder which they think is trauma based. My body paralyses and hurts because of the stressful things that happened when I was younger. My body has got into the habit of anytime there is stress it shuts off. This can be really inconvenient and I have come out of the playground with my kids, I'm autistic and stressed out stuck outside thinking I cannot feel my foot and worrying how I am meant to drive. I just have to sit there and wait it out using breathing techniques.

191. I feel that people will ask why I didn't do more, why I didn't speak out but I felt that no one was listening and no one cared. I still feel that way and I believe we were just Dundee City Council's problem and all we were was someone who was taking up space in a bedroom.

192. I am still very close to [REDACTED] and she is like a sister to me. I think we formed a strong bond because we were going through some of the same things in care.

193. Secondary Institutions - to be published later



194. I still have the scars from the self-harming and I have to cover up now to conceal them.

195. I have been on sleeping tablets all my life. I can't not take them because although during the day I am fine and can control anything, at night I have dreams where I am stuck inside a dream. I think I have woken up but I am actually stuck inside the same dream. I just repeatedly waken up and every time EWQ [REDACTED] is coming for me. I wake up and I think I am safe but then I know he is back there and coming again. This just repeats hundreds of times but I can't remember what this condition is actually called. I have these nightmares constantly but they have tried everything to make them go away. I have asked for something else to help but the doctors have said they have tried everything.

196. I have no faith in adults telling me the truth even now I think when I am dealing with the doctors I wonder if they are telling me the truth or do they believe me. I wonder if they have actually read right through my notes. Maybe they don't give me different medication because they don't actually believe me.

197. I am on pain killers because everything on my left side hurts so much which is because I have Fibromyalgia. If the stress is really bad then I have seizures because I have Myoclonus. It looks really odd but when that calms down it hurts really bad as all the muscles are really aching.

198.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

199. My education was impacted when I was in care. Although I passed my exams I believe I could have achieved so much more. I was so tired I wanted to sleep an awful lot. There wasn't enough of me to be going around doing all of the things I needed to do. I have literally slept in graveyards I have been that tired. That started when I was sent back to live with my dad and then continued with EWQ

200. There has definitely been a massive impact on my relationships. It is hard for me to let people in. The children's dad, [REDACTED] probably saved my life actually. He was the one when I was 26 he got me to Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre (RASAC) to report EWQ to the police. Before that my PTSD was so bad it was a daily thing not just a night time thing. I was a living terrified wreck, I couldn't breathe or go out the house. If anyone put their hand on me I would freak out. I got through that with a really patient person and time. He gave me constant reassurance but it did end up with me literally hurting [REDACTED] I grabbed the first thing to hand and in my head it wasn't him standing there it was EWQ I got a fright and I lashed out. It just takes an awful lot of time to know it is okay and it is not going to be EWQ

### **Treatment/support**

201. My autism doctor is fantastic but she also has a psychologist I will be working with as well. That is because they have recognised a crossover condition from my childhood trauma which means I have PTSD. That was diagnosed when I was about 26. It is

really bad so they just want me to deal with these things. I want to be off the sleeping tablets, I don't want to be afraid and I want to have a normal life. I have always worked and have always enjoyed work. That is how I met [REDACTED] as we worked in the same bar together. I don't feel right sitting around not doing anything but who is going to employ me if I can't suddenly move my left foot and hand and I am stuck in bed for three days? They have no medications to make this right, it is trauma so the only person who is going to save me is me. That is why I am facing all that happened in my childhood in care and with [REDACTED] EWQ It is my last hope and it is going to work.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

202. I first reported [REDACTED] EWQ to the police when I was 26 but it got to the point at the statement where I had to explain that [REDACTED] EWQ had found out I was pregnant and attacked me so badly until I lost my baby. I panicked but it is an emotional thing and I stopped the statement there. I couldn't go ahead with it but she did say it would be kept on record and if anyone else made a complaint they would come back to me as they would need to use my statement. She said if I wanted to go ahead with it in the future it would still be there. It took until last year after going through specific PTSD counselling for me to think I am braver now and I am not frightened. If I was to meet him now he wouldn't meet the same girl I was back then.
203. It is time now for me to finish reporting him. Why should I have to go through PTSD and have night terrors while he gets to go on with what he is doing and is possibly doing the same thing to another child? The child could be younger, much younger. I called the police last December but they had the problem with Covid. The lady called in the last few weeks but she needed to stop and speak to my autism doctor to make sure I understood everything to make sure everything is correct for it going to court. I have still to complete my statement and I would expect him to be charged although the police have not specifically made any promises. If anything I have tried to go through with my statement and I have tried to do my part.

204. EGB was reported at the time that assault happened and the police did nothing about it. As an adult I have not reported her again and nor have I reported anyone else who was meant to be caring for me.
205. As far as my dad is concerned the sexual abuse was only as I have described so it didn't amount to much. I wouldn't want to have any contact with him.

### Records

206. I requested my records and I get them sent one file at a time each week because there are a lot and they are hard to go through. This is probably the smartest thing anyway because some of the things that I have come across I didn't realise how bad things were. Sometimes I read things and think that is not what happened, none of it is how they say it happened. They have left out all of the details. They have left out so much and it is just wee short notes as if everything is amazing inside of the care homes. Surely a child's full day isn't three paragraphs, morning, noon and night. That's not keeping a record just saying EVB was fine'. These were notes made by all of the staff members in the care homes and they had to do it on their shift. I get that there is a lot of children and they have to do other bits and pieces but there was so much they missed.

207. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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208.



209. I know I don't have to be getting my records if I don't want them but I do actually want them. If anyone was to need them, the lady who sends me them can put them onto a hard drive or they can be emailed over. They might be more use to someone else, there is not much in them, a couple of sentences for each person when they were looking after me each day.

210. There is not very much mentioned from my social worker, the name is mentioned but there is not really anything from him and he didn't seem concerned about me at all. I don't know if that is because I didn't get on with him very well and that was all passed on to my carers to do.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

211. When children leave care they need to have someone they can contact for help and advice. They often don't have a family support network like most young people who move out of their home. I felt very alone and things were very violent and out of control. I would have really benefitted from having someone safe to tell me what I could do to help myself and even give advice about how the law should protect me.

212. I think people who are employed in the care system should take responsibility for what is going on in front of them. It shouldn't be a case of just passing on to someone else. That's when you get people just not doing anything and leaving it for someone else and at the end of the day no-one does anything. They have got to care more.

213. I don't really know the system but if a social worker has no rapport or relationship with the child they are responsible for then surely there must be someone else who could be allocated. Having no relationship and interest means that the social worker has no

idea what is going on with a child and they cannot rely on records or someone else, who maybe doesn't have the right qualifications or training, to do their job for them.

214. I think that at the end of the day it wouldn't take anything for someone to sit down with a child in care and talk to them to find out how their day went. A parent would do that with their child. They ask how school was, how they are feeling and if they need anything. It wouldn't take much to spend that one to one time with a child in care. Just to show they care, they could sit and have supper with them. They could do something normal like go and have a hot chocolate together and speak about the child's day.

215.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

216.

217.

218. I was sent back to live with my dad, a man I didn't know and who had been very violent towards me, my brother and mum. That should never have happened and if anyone had asked me I would have been able to tell them. It didn't make any sense that I

would be sent to live with a parent I hadn't seen in seven years. If anyone had carried out any sort of routine checks they would have easily seen that it was not a suitable place for any child to be.

219. I realise that social work or my carers couldn't have prevented EWQ initially preying on me but after I returned to care they should have stopped it. They should have protected me. If I wasn't safe or there was any doubt at all I shouldn't have been allowed to go out with him Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later They could have moved me anywhere. I could have been kept safe and protected. This was a child protection issue and they should have protected me. I was in the care of Dundee City Council so they should have taken whatever action they needed to look after and protect me. They could have saved me at any time and I wouldn't have had to endure five years of torture. I spent my childhood thinking it was all my fault but I now realise I was just a child and it was them who should have protected me. I don't ever want them to be able to fail any other child like they failed me because I have tried to kill myself so many times such is the cost of their failure.

### **Other information**

220. If I ever had to give evidence I would much prefer that I had the questions written down as this gives me time to actually process and understand. I understand written communication much faster than I can understand verbal communication. I would probably be caught up in the question I was asked five minutes earlier whereas if I have read it in front of me I can re-read it until it actually goes in and I get actually what is meant. I would be more nervous of standing in a court or hearing setting and I don't understand what is meant.
221. It has not been easy to speak about my time in care and I really don't want to get anyone into trouble. I think you can only really resolve the problems children in care

face if you know everything. I think it is not down to individuals but more about processes and systems that allow things to go so wrong most of the time.

222. I don't know how I am still here when I think all I have been through but I believe that I am here to try and protect someone else. I think I can do that by speaking out about the things I went through even if that is painful to do. I can help because I can see and recognise the signs and maybe by sharing this others will learn from this.

223. 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.....  .....

Dated..... *09/02/22* .....