

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

### **Witness Statement of**

LCV

### **Support Person Present: No**

1. My full name is LCV My date of birth is 1971.  
My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### **Background**

2. I have a number of health problems namely; severe osteoporosis, irritable bowel syndrome, Baynard syndrome, brain aneurysm, multiple compression fractures in my spine, and am termed as having Gulf War Syndrome from the first Gulf War. They have also just discovered that my gall bladder is full of gall stones. All this means that I have to take a lot of medication, pain killers and sleeping tablets.
3. My back will never fix. I was 6' tall but because of the compression fractures I am now less than 5'10. A compression fracture can just happen; mostly spontaneously there is no warning.
4. I have had a brain operation and have had coils and stents fitted in my brain to close off that artery. They don't know if it has worked or not as I am still getting headaches and am still getting checked out for it.
5. I have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder which was diagnosed before I was in the army and this was after I was diagnosed with the Gulf War Syndrome. They didn't understand how someone of my age could get

osteoporosis to the extent that I had it. The reason they refer to it as Gulf War Syndrome is because of the inoculations they gave us prior to going, although I didn't actually go. For me to have Gulf War Syndrome it means that it had to be some connection further back down the line and the only connection is the vaccinations that they gave us. Some of them were out of date; you were meant to be given them months apart and they gave us them all in 3 days. Some people who had had previous things like pneumonia they were pre-disposed to their immune system coming under attack because of these vaccinations, which is why about 10% of people all ended up with Gulf War Syndrome but they didn't all go.

6. There are a lot of hospital appointments for me and I go to Ninewells and Kings Cross in Dundee, the Western General in Edinburgh and the Royal Victoria in Newcastle.
7. I feel that all the medication which I take morning and night affects my memory. It also takes me a couple of hours in the morning to get going.
8. I was previously married but my wife [REDACTED] passed away 7 years ago. I had three sisters and one brother. Two of my sisters and my brother have died. My father is still alive. I still see him. My mother has died.

#### **Before being put into care**

9. My parents lived at [REDACTED] in Govan, Glasgow.
10. I was the second of five children. My sister [REDACTED] was 15 months older than me. My brother [REDACTED] died at 8 months old, and his twin sister died at birth. They were born between me and my sister [REDACTED] is 3 and half years younger than me. I vaguely remember my little brother [REDACTED] I was just coming up for two when the twins were born.

11. I remember being at home with my mum and dad and I remember the furore around when one of the twins, [REDACTED] died. I have an image of [REDACTED] but I was only two and a half so can't remember everything. After [REDACTED] died that was the first time that me and [REDACTED] got put in to care.
12. When I was an adult, probably about 35 years old I found out the reason we had been in care was because my mother was arrested over the death of [REDACTED] but I don't know if she was charged with anything or not, or even if she was held in custody for any period of time. I remember going to court and they left me with the court police officer while my mother went to a private hearing, and that's part of the furore that I was talking about.

### **Nazareth House, Glasgow**

13. When we were put into care we went to a home called Nazareth House at Paisley Road West in Glasgow. It was staffed by Nuns
14. My mother had taken out court injunctions against my father to prevent him or his family having custody of us. My mother and aunt later told me this. We were put on the 'At Risk Register' which was a big issue.
15. I remember Nazareth House as being quite a happy place. There was a little girl there called [REDACTED] who had a [REDACTED] and every morning she would wake up singing to me "You are my Sunshine". This period in the home was okay as far as I know.
16. We went in to care almost immediately after [REDACTED] died and we were there for about 6 months. During that time we never saw our mum or dad and I am not sure if I missed them or not.
17. I can't remember leaving Nazareth House but I remember being in a car with [REDACTED]

### Life with Parents

18. When we came out of Nazareth House we went back to our parents. We lived in Perth then Drumchapel in Glasgow. My parents got divorced at that time. In about October 1976 there was a fire in the house below us and our house got damaged so we couldn't live there. [REDACTED] and me were left with the people from the house below for about 5 days. They got a house closer to the shops and because my mum and dad were splitting up we were left with them. Even at the time I could tell there was something wrong with them. They were either alcoholics or on drugs.
19. After that my mum and Aunt [REDACTED] turned up and took us to Perth. That's when me and [REDACTED] got put into Colonsay House.

### Colonsay House, Perth – 1<sup>st</sup> time

20 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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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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**Living with my mum**

42. Me and [REDACTED] were at Colonsay House for [REDACTED] before Christmas 1976. We then went to live with my mum who had managed to get a house in Perth. We were back in Colonsay House by [REDACTED] 1977 then [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I remember going to [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] were coming out.

**Colonsay House – 2<sup>nd</sup> time**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

43

44

45

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



46.

47.

48.

### **Moving to foster care**

49. I think the social worker came and me and [REDACTED] got taken out of school early and taken back to Colonsay where they told us they had found us foster parents. The social worker that took us out of school was the big woman who had previously sat on me. I didn't understand what was happening at the time but I think [REDACTED] had a better grasp of what was going on.

50. I honestly thought it was normal that this happened to every family and you got passed from pillar to post. I was thinking that I would have to change school again. It was explained that we were going to foster parents whom she described as temporary parents but she used different words. I didn't realise that it wasn't another children's home and I didn't know that they would have their own children. [REDACTED] and I had been told by the social worker that this was different from going in to a home and that it was going to be better, and that this was going to be our new mum and dad.

51. I think [REDACTED] had asked how long we would be there for but they didn't know. We didn't know if this was short term or if it was going to be permanent.

52. We were told this at the room beyond the office at Colonsay House. When the social work came in for the meetings that's where they took place. I was with [REDACTED] when we were told. I just remember her she was upset and she was saying that she just wanted her mum. [REDACTED] was only one and a half at that time. We were taken to the doctor's for a medical and then me and [REDACTED] were taken straight to the foster carers.

53. [REDACTED] got to stay with my Aunt [REDACTED]. We were told this at the same meeting at Colonsay when [REDACTED] and me were told we were going in to foster care. I think I assumed she was going with Aunt [REDACTED] because she wasn't of school age, wasn't as problematic as [REDACTED] and I, and Aunt [REDACTED] was happy to look after [REDACTED] but not to take on [REDACTED] and I.

#### The [REDACTED] – Foster Care

54. I don't remember visiting or being introduced to the [REDACTED] before me and [REDACTED] went there. We were just taken there and we didn't get an affectionate welcome at the house.

55. They were Mr and Mrs <sup>LNG/SPO</sup> [REDACTED] I don't know their first names we just called them Mr and Mrs <sup>LNG/SPO</sup> [REDACTED] They lived at [REDACTED] and they ran the business [REDACTED]. It was half way between Crieff and Perth. [REDACTED] itself was a hamlet. It was named from the surrounding farms. There were no shops or anything like that, not even a group of houses. The business has since been sold and houses have been built on it. Mr [REDACTED] was a [REDACTED] and all that sort of stuff.

56. They had their own children, a boy and a girl. [REDACTED] was a year older or the same age as [REDACTED] The girl, whose name I can't remember was just slightly older than me. They were not there the day that we arrived because they were at school.

57. The business building was separate to the house. It was of two storeys sheet metal construction, and the office was upstairs. I don't like heights and it had a very rickety metal staircase and a pathway you could see through. It was just off the main road. The house had three or four bedrooms which were upstairs; at least I remember that our bedrooms were upstairs. It was a big house. I shared a bedroom with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shared a room with their daughter.

#### The <sup>LNG/SPO</sup> [REDACTED] – Routine

58. Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> [REDACTED] was an evil bitch.

59. On the first morning, I was in trouble from the moment I got up. I hadn't done something right, like I hadn't washed properly or something like that. There was something they weren't happy with and it just seemed over the top. I was used to getting up and getting my breakfast before we did anything else, then we would go and have a bath or a shower, in case you spilt your breakfast down you. This was the normal arrangement when I was at home and I think it was the same at Colonsay House. We had our breakfast before we got washed.

60. In a normal day at the [LNG/SPO] we would get taken to school by Mrs [LNG] who would drive the four of us there. She would sometimes pick us up at the end of the day but sometimes we would walk back because it was downhill.
61. When we got home I was nervous the whole time because of everything that happened. You didn't know if you had done something during the day at school, or even before school, that would set off Mrs [LNG] It would be the most illogical thing that would set her off.
62. We would see Mr [REDACTED] at breakfast and tea times, if we were told to give him a message, or in the passing when we were playing outside. To be honest I can't even remember hearing that man speak at any time. After tea we were put up to our rooms so we didn't see him. "Crossroads" was often on the television when we were having our tea so we were finished about six o'clock. After tea we were all put to our rooms usually by about 7 and there was a rule that we were to be in our beds by half past seven. This was in summertime as well.
63. I am not sure if it was her mother or his mother but one of the [LNG/SPO] mothers lived not too far away in a cottage up on the hill and whenever the [LNG/SPO] were doing something they would leave us with her. She was the first woman I had met with hair on her chin, I hadn't seen that before. She had a wooden poker with a branch like a prong at the top. It was called a Schiehallion or something like that. She was very quick to hit you over the back of the legs with it. She hit us with that every time we were there. You didn't have to do anything. You couldn't speak, or even move. If there was any nonsense she would whack you once over the back of your legs. She kept it within easy reach.
64. I had marks and bruises quite a lot. If we had any bruises when we went to a medical they were explained away as being my fault.



The <sup>LNG/SPO</sup> - Food

65. They gave us Alpen for breakfast which I had never had before so I said 'What's this?' and Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> called me a stupid boy. I can't remember verbatim what she was saying I just know that she started shouting at me for what seemed like absolutely no reason whatsoever. I could see <sup>LNG</sup> was a wreck anyway. She was as timid as a mouse. I don't know if this was Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> way of just putting us in our place and that she realised I was the stronger one.

66. It was made obvious from that first day that we were different to her two children, and thinking back that is understandable, but it's not what you would expect professional foster parents to say. Basically she was saying "You are just the scab of the earth and we are getting paid a fortune for looking after you".

67. Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> said this regularly. She always called me a stupid little boy and that I would never see my mum again. All the horrible things that you could think someone in that situation could say, taking advantage of you mentally like they hold the power over you. She said I wouldn't get my pocket money and I wouldn't get my clothes. The <sup>LNG/SPO</sup> were given a clothing allowance and pocket money so it didn't come out of their funds. When we went to the <sup>LNG/SPO</sup> we never ever got any pocket money and I know they were given money.

68. I asked for Weetabix because I always had Weetabix. I was told that the Alpen was good for me, that I would eat it and it would still be here at tea time if I didn't eat it. All four of us children would have breakfast together at the dining table in the kitchen with Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> Mr <sup>LNG</sup> was there sometimes but often he would be at work.

69. There was a cupboard with biscuits and crisps and they used to be handed out by Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> She gave them to her children, but didn't see them

taking anything themselves. We must have been given something from the cupboard at some times but I can't remember.

The [LNG/SPO] – School

70. I remember the daffodils when we were out I started going to [REDACTED] School so it must have been around March. The school was about a mile and a half away from the house. I vividly remember the daffodils coming out on the verges because this was something that I hadn't seen before, and we were out in the country which was all new to me. I would have been just 6 and still in Primary 1 when we went there. [REDACTED] would have been 7 or 8 when we got there and in Primary 3..

71. I think for the last two months of Primary 1 I was at [REDACTED] and it was fine there. Me and [REDACTED] got on okay at this school.

The [LNG/SPO] - Holidays

72. We finished Primary 1 there and were there over the summer holidays. We didn't go anywhere on holiday with them. We occasionally got taken to the shops. We played outside most of the times. We got to play within the grounds that they had. There was lots of machinery and stuff like that, things for a young boy to investigate, but not so much for [REDACTED]. Sometimes we would go to the grandmother's.

The [LNG/SPO] – Visits

73. My Aunt [REDACTED] came after about three weeks and she took us out occasionally. She must have come before the social worker came. We told Aunt [REDACTED] everything about the [LNG/SPO] that it wasn't a nice place, the same as I have told you in this interview. [REDACTED] would start speaking up too.

74. I think Aunt [REDACTED] believed us and she told us that she would tell the social work, although she called them the welfare. Aunt [REDACTED] later told us that

she had told the social worker, I presume the social worker who brought us to the foster carers.

75. We saw Aunt [REDACTED] maybe 3 or 4 times after that first time when we told her everything that had been going on and she told the social worker. She would come and pick us up as she had a car. There is a milk bar on the Kinross to Kincardine Road and that's usually where my aunt and uncle would take us.

76. In the 4 months that we were at the [REDACTED] we didn't really see my mum until nearer towards the end of our time there. She didn't visit us at the [REDACTED] we were taken to see her at my Aunt [REDACTED]. We saw my mum towards the end of our time at the [REDACTED] at a meeting with the social work and it was with a view to us going home to live with my mum.

The [REDACTED] - Inspection

77. It was about a month after we went to the [REDACTED] before we had a visit from a social worker. I think this was standard practice for a 28 day visit. I don't know why she was there. We came home from school and she was there speaking to Mrs [REDACTED] at the dining table. I can't recall if she ever spoke to us, but if she did we didn't mention anything that we had told my Aunt [REDACTED]. We wouldn't have said anything because Mrs [REDACTED] was there all the time.

78. When the social worker went away after that first visit Mrs [REDACTED] went off on one. She said we were telling lies, that none of these things happened and we were never going to get believed anyway and called us "the scum of the earth". Maybe not these exact words but something like that. She said she had taken us in and had nothing but good for you. She went on and on that she was doing this wonderful thing for us and how could we betray her. She was angry and me and [REDACTED] got sent to our beds without any tea. All books and toys were taken away and we stayed in our beds.

79. Mrs [REDACTED] told us that the social worker had told her. She didn't ask if we had told Aunt [REDACTED] or ask us how we had told the social work.



80. I think another social worker came another time and I am sure it was a different social worker. It was another woman. I can't remember how many visits we got in the four months we were there.

81. After that time when the social work told Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> and we were sent to our beds, we didn't mention it again to my Aunt as it hadn't worked.

82. I don't recall Aunt ever asking later on, or during any of her visits, if things had improved. She did say something, maybe the year after, when we saw Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> in Marks and Spencer. Aunt pointed her out and mentioned some of the stuff about that we had told her about, so she obviously hadn't forgotten.

#### The <sup>LNG/SPO</sup> – Abuse

83. We didn't get on with the <sup>LNG/SPO</sup> children.

84. Everything that happened in that first week, set the whole thing off with the family. The tortoises died. I think it was something to do with them getting too much lettuce. Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> went ballistic when they died and blamed me, saying I was told not to give them lettuce, but she had given me the lettuce. I just remember they died and I got the blame. I couldn't understand because I had just given them what Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> gave me to give them. I was sent to my bed again as a punishment.

85. We didn't really play with her children. Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> didn't want us associating with her children because we were beneath them, and it was made painfully obvious that we were different. I can accept that the children were their blood and they would get treated differently, but not as blatantly as it was done then. They got sweets and treats. Sometimes there was a bit of interaction

between us if we were playing in the house. The only treat I can ever remember was getting to go to a concert.

86. We didn't get any pocket money but there were no shops or anything nearby where we could have spent it anyway. There were books in the house but I wasn't allowed to touch them because of what I had done to a toy camera thing which I was accused of breaking.

87. [REDACTED] did have a kaleidoscope in his room and I sometimes played with it but I got caught and got into trouble. There were no books in his room that I would read. I had been reading since I was 3. My dad had always taken me on his knee to read the newspaper when he came in from work, so even by that time I was reading Enid Blyton's Famous Five or Secret Seven or Secret Island or something along those lines. The [REDACTED] LNG/SPO didn't have any books like that, they were more like baby books.

88. Sometimes [REDACTED] would let me play with his toys, but other times he would grab them off me. He didn't seem to mind on most occasions when we were in the room. I don't know if I was being naïve or if he set me up sometimes if he knew his mum was coming up the stairs. When I was playing with the kaleidoscope Mrs [REDACTED] LNG came in and she caught me with it. She was angry and she told me that I was not allowed to play with the toys as I break things and I would never get any pocket money at this rate.

89. I felt indifferent to what she was saying. I knew by then that this place was way, way wrong. I did have similar thoughts as I had when I was in Colonsay when I set fire to it, but thankfully I didn't do that this time. One of the reasons I didn't was because Colonsay House was set up for people to escape from fires, whereas the [REDACTED] LNG/SPO house obviously didn't have fire doors and fire escapes and even at that age I understood there could be serious consequences. I did have thoughts about setting it on fire though.

90. I think it was either the first or second day when we were at school at lunch-time we were given fish in breadcrumbs which I had never had and I

really liked it. The school dinner lady said there was some left and she gave me another half. I never thought anything of it, but Mrs [LNG] kids must have gone home and told her that I had asked for seconds. Mrs [LNG] took this that I was telling the school that she wasn't feeding me.

91. We sat down for tea and we got through to pudding and she brought out two trays of bread and butter pudding. She asked me to stand up and go to the counter. Basically she then pushed my face in to one of the trays of bread and butter pudding. She said words to the effect that if we are not feeding you, you are not telling anybody or something along those lines. She then forced me to start eating the tray of bread and butter pudding. It was a normal size of a baking tray and probably had about 24 slices of bread. She put one on the table and one on the worktop. She went off on one about me asking for seconds. She was really angry that no one from her house would be apparently hungry and this was a real insult to her.

92. I tried to explain that I hadn't asked for seconds and they had offered it. I know I was crying the whole time and couldn't understand what she was going on about. She held my face in the tray for a few seconds, then she handed me a wooden spoon and told me I was going to eat it until it was gone. I didn't even get a quarter of the way through when I was sick in to the tray. She kept saying that if I didn't eat it, it would still be there at breakfast and lunch until it was gone.

93. [REDACTED] was sitting there petrified, and she was shaking and crying. When I had eaten it all, including what I had brought up, I was sent to my bed. I have never eaten bread and butter pudding since that day.

94. There was another incident happened soon after that where Mrs [LNG] turned more vociferous. [REDACTED] had a toy that was like a camera that had circular discs that you put in and you viewed through them. If you put the camera up to the light you could see the picture and you could press the clicker at the side to move it to the next picture. He broke it and blamed me. Mrs [LNG] said that we weren't getting any pocket money because that had to be



paid for and also because apparently I killed the tortoises as well, which I didn't. I will admit to things I did do but I didn't do that.

95. This was in the first week that we were there. Even being that young you could see that there was something not right with things. You were constantly worried that you were going to do something wrong and you didn't know where the next row was coming from. How is a child supposed to understand all of this?

96. Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> had a very short fuse and had a bad temper. When you got up in the morning you just did not know how she was going to be. In fact she was very similar to my mother.

97. If nothing really happened to make Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> angry she acted very indifferent to us. She either called me <sup>LCV</sup> or "stupid little boy". She never gave me a cuddle, a hug, a kiss, or sat me on her knee and rubbed my hair, nothing. She never showed any affection at all to me and she always spoke to us in a very short, sharp manner.

98. In the first week <sup>LNG</sup> started wetting the bed and all hell broke loose. One time Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> made me and <sup>LNG</sup> stand outside in the rain, and it was dark, so I assume it was night time probably not long after <sup>LNG</sup> had gone to bed.

99. All I remember was that we were all in our beds when Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> came in to the room and dragged me out of my bed. <sup>LNG</sup> was awake when I left and he would have seen me getting taken out. I don't really know why she pulled me out the bed but I think it was just her way that if one child did something we were both responsible. All I remember was seeing <sup>LNG</sup> standing outside in the rain when I went outside and then me standing beside her. I was in a pair of pants and <sup>LNG</sup> was wearing a pair of pants and a vest. Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> was going on about us being filthy dirty gits or beggars or whatever, didn't know where we had been brought up, and that we had no manners, and she was saying that she didn't know why she bothered.

100. I would imagine that [REDACTED] must have got up and told Mrs LNG [REDACTED] that she had wet the bed as she wouldn't have lain in it. If she had woken up and felt it was wet she would have got up and said.
101. I think it was when we got outside that she must have said something to make me know that [REDACTED] had wet the bed. Mrs LNG [REDACTED] was going on about 'you're not sleeping in those beds if you're going to wet them, I'm not forking out and doing washings every day' and things along those lines.
102. I am not sure how I was wearing pants as normally I would wear pyjama tops and bottoms. I can only think that she got me to change. I remember her checking to see if I had wet the bed but I hadn't. [REDACTED] was wearing white pants and a vest. All the time [REDACTED] was shaking and crying.
103. Mrs LNG [REDACTED] shut the back door with me and [REDACTED] outside and it was raining and it was dark. We were out for a couple of hours. Eventually [REDACTED] calmed down and managed to give me more detail. She told Mrs LNG [REDACTED] that she had wet the bed and she had gone bonkers, hit her with the hair brush. I know the brush as it is wooden and was big and had a big broad back and had spikey things on the front. This brush was normally on one of the cabinets, because she used it in the morning to brush all of our hairs.
104. Mrs LNG [REDACTED] I am fairly sure had hit me with this brush before. She used to hit me and [REDACTED] higher on the legs than the grandmother used to hit us. Mrs LNG [REDACTED] would hit you on the back of the thighs or the bottom probably hit you two or three times. I don't know how many times she hit me with the brush.
105. Me and [REDACTED] were standing all the time on the gravel to the side of the house. We never moved after we were put out and she put us there. We were too scared to move and too scared to talk to each other. There was no cover where we were standing and it was raining. It was honestly a couple of hours and by the time she brought us in my legs were shaking and I was cold.

106. I can't remember how me and [REDACTED] got back in the house, and I can't even remember if it was Mrs LNG [REDACTED] that brought us in. I remember when me and [REDACTED] were in the house in the bathroom and Mrs LNG [REDACTED] was with us when we were towelling off, and I got changed back in to my pyjamas. We were bedraggled because the rain was heavy. [REDACTED] said that Mrs LNG [REDACTED] told her that she was a baby for wetting the bed. I remember getting back in to my bed and pulling the covers over my head because I was cold. I can't remember if [REDACTED] was awake when I went back to my bed.
107. I knew by the next morning after me and [REDACTED] had been put outside that we couldn't do anything right, even if we did anything perfectly. I think I fell asleep at school the next day.
108. I think [REDACTED] wet the bed almost every night for a while. They put horrible rubbery sheets on both of our beds. They were horrible to lie on. They put them on my bed even though I had never wet the bed. There was another sheet on top of them but they were still not nice to lie on.
109. Mrs LNG [REDACTED] got quite vindictive towards [REDACTED] over the bed wetting and seemed to regularly get hit with the hair brush. If I said anything about it not being fair then I would get it as well. Sometimes she would make [REDACTED] strip the bed herself and take the sheets downstairs. She would hit [REDACTED] on the back of the legs sometimes two or three times. Mrs LNG [REDACTED] would call her a dirty little girl and vitriol like that. I don't think she realised that the more she was making [REDACTED] nervous the more it was affecting her. [REDACTED] had been off nappies before me.
110. The bed wetting did stop eventually but only a few weeks before we left. There was a period before that when [REDACTED] did stop but it started again. I am sure she stopped a few weeks though before we left. They always changed the sheets if they were wet, they didn't leave them on the bed.



111. Another time Mrs LNG asked me to take a message to Mr [REDACTED] who was in the office. I left the house and climbed up the rickety steps which are outside and go up to the office. I slipped on some oil on the platform leading to the office and I fell on to my backside, but carried on in to the office. I had oil on the shorts I was wearing and I had also wiped my hands on the front of my top.
112. Mr [REDACTED] phoned Mrs LNG and she came upstairs in to the office and went off on one again. She went on about how I was a stupid little boy, 'you got yourself filthy, I have to do another washing' and 'do you think I made of money'. I had to get stripped off at the washing machine and Mrs LNG did something else to embarrass me but I can't remember what it was. Mr [REDACTED] didn't really react but he was cheesed off because he knew Mrs LNG was going to be angry again.
113. Another incident was when they took me and [REDACTED] to a Lena Martell concert and on the way back they bought us a bag of chips to share. Their children were not there that night, and this is the only time that I remember they took me and [REDACTED] to anything without their children. I don't know where their children were. I can't remember any time when all six of us were in the car.
114. [REDACTED] doesn't travel well and the chips were not a good idea and she was sick in the foot-well behind the front passenger seat where Mrs LNG was sitting. Mrs LNG made her lie in the floor and she had to curl up in a ball in the foot-well and lie in the sick. I made some comment about it not being right or probably not being fair and I was made to lie in the other foot-well.
115. Me and [REDACTED] stayed in the foot-wells of the car all the way back to the LNG/SPO house. I can't remember getting out the car. I remember enjoying the concert at the time when we were there, probably because I had never been at anything like that before.

116. That was the only time we went out in the car apart from to school or the grandmothers or sometimes Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> used to take us to the shops to Perth or Crieff. She sometimes took us to do her food shopping in Marks and Spencer which I thought was funny because it was so expensive. I am not sure if she went in to other shops. Sometimes we would go with her into the shops but sometimes we would have to wait in the car. She wouldn't leave us at home even if Mr [REDACTED] was working nearby. There was one time I remember all four of us going with Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> to [REDACTED] and she got us an ice cream then she went off and maybe got her hair cut or something and we played in the park for a while. It was quite a pleasant trip but not if she left you in the car.

117. I don't even remember hearing her shouting at her own children and never saw her hitting them. Everything was just a hassle to her. My opinion is that she just wanted the money but didn't want any hassle.

118. I think we were at the <sup>LNG/SPO</sup> for about 4 months.

#### The <sup>LNG/SPO</sup> – Leaving

119. At the end we had a meeting with my mum, Mrs <sup>LNG</sup> a head social worker I think Aunt [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and myself, and it must have been decided that we were to go home. When we were told we were going back to live with my mum I was perversely glad to be going home. [REDACTED] was definitely glad to be going home.

120. I don't really remember saying goodbye to the <sup>LNG/SPO</sup> or leaving the house but the social work drove us to Perth.




**Living with my Mum - Perth**

121. We went back to live with mum, and I was glad to be leaving the [LNG/SPO] and glad to be going home to my mums. There was me, my mum, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
122. The bullying at school started again, but that was just normal. It was still the same class that I had before and they knew my background.
123. At home my mum was still angry, and she was obviously still not well. It bothered me more than the way I was treated by Mrs [LNG] as she was my mum who should have been affectionate and caring rather than Mrs [LNG] who was getting paid to do the basics.

**Colonsay House – 3<sup>rd</sup> Time**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



**Living with Mum - [REDACTED]**

128. Me and [REDACTED] left Colonsay House and went back to live with my mum and [REDACTED] in a cottage on [REDACTED] Estates. I went to Ardler Primary when we were there.

**Nimmo Avenue, Perth**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



130. Amy Galloway became our social worker I seem to think some-time around 1979 maybe 1980. She was my specific social worker, and she sometimes came to the house.

**Living with Mum – Perth**

131. We moved back to Perth to live with mum again but that wasn't for very long because she [REDACTED]

**Emergency Home in Ayrshire**

132. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were placed in an emergency home in Ayrshire. I can't remember much about this place apart from it overlooked the submarine base at the Holy Loch.

133. My memories of this home were that it was a happy place and I don't have any bad thoughts about it apart from visiting my mum in hospital. All three of us were at this home, me [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

134. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were there for a couple of weeks until Amy Galloway managed to find somewhere else for us which was Nimmo Place, Perth. Amy came and took us up to Nimmo Place.

135. This was a chaotic time in my life and things are a bit hazy for me over an 18 month period because I was in three or four different homes and with unofficial foster parents.

### **Nimmo Place**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

### **The [REDACTED] - Unofficial Foster Carers**

137. When me and [REDACTED] were in Perth my mum had started us attending at a church and the people who ran the church were lovely people. When they found out that [REDACTED] and I were in the home at Nimmo Place the minister and his wife took [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to stay with them and the assistant minister and his wife took me to live with them. The assistant minister was [REDACTED] and his wife was [REDACTED]. The minister was [REDACTED] and his wife was [REDACTED]. She was an art teacher at [REDACTED] Primary

138. The minister and assistant minister were from the [REDACTED] Church in Perth and they travelled around in a minibus advertising Sunday school and they picked us up to go to church. Sometimes [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

and I would have lunch with them. The church itself was one street behind the [REDACTED] was. None of them were registered foster parents but this was arranged by my social worker Amy Galloway.

139. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stayed in the Oakbank area of Perth near a [REDACTED] shop. I could show you it but I don't know the address. We were with them probably 3-4 Months on this occasion and when we were there we went to Oakbank Primary. I stayed there until [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of 1981.

140. The [REDACTED] lived on [REDACTED] which wasn't that near to us but we saw them often. I kept in touch with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] through the church and saw them 3 – 4 times in the week

#### The [REDACTED] - Routine

141. The [REDACTED] were the loveliest people and I wish I could have stayed with them, although they had no television and there was lots of bible bashing. At the [REDACTED] things were great. [REDACTED] would teach me things, and would take time to show me what he was growing in the garden, and made sure I had plenty of books to read. They just involved me in their family life. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were all just lovely people, and there were never any issues with them.

#### [REDACTED] - Visits

142. I don't recall seeing my mum when we were with the [REDACTED]

#### [REDACTED] - School

143. At Oakbank Primary there was bullying because I wasn't there from the start. I didn't fit in to the school and was treated as an outsider.

### The [REDACTED] - Leaving Unofficial Foster Care

144. Me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had to leave the [REDACTED] because my mum demanded that we go back to her and because it wasn't official, the minister and the assistant minister had no option but to hand us back.

145. I was at the [REDACTED] on three occasions before secondary school between Primary 4 and Primary 6 and I moved between North Muirton Primary and Oakbank Primary every time I moved between [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED]. I never spent a Christmas at the [REDACTED]. Every time I went to the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to the [REDACTED]

### Living with my mum

146. When I was back at my mums in Perth it was just the same chaos. One of the times when we came back from the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] we went to live with my mum at one of my mum's friends just outside Kinross. We got given to my mum on the Friday and we started at this little school, but I can't remember the name of it.

147. By 11 o'clock on the day we started at the school Amy Galloway was there to pick me and [REDACTED] up because my mother had started her nonsense again and had done something.

### The [REDACTED] LNHS/SPO – Foster Care

148. After this I went to another set of registered foster parents Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] LNHS/SPO in [REDACTED], but I don't know the address. I don't know their first names. I think I was with them when I was in Primary 6 in 1982. I remember I was definitely in care and I am sure it was with the [REDACTED] LNHS/SPO in [REDACTED] 1982 because we went to Faskally Caravan Park Pitlochry with the [REDACTED] LNHS/SPO and I remember watching a football game on the television between Brazil and Italy in

the second round of the world cup. It was only me that went to the LNH/SPO and I think I was with them twice. [REDACTED] went to registered foster carers at a farm just outside [REDACTED] I can't remember where [REDACTED] was at this time.

149. I seem to think I was there before I went to the [REDACTED] for the third and last time.

150. Mrs LNH [REDACTED] was very defensive of her two boys and again it just seemed to me that I was there to get the blame for everything. Mr [REDACTED] had very little to do with us and there were no problems with him.

### The LNH/SPO - Abuse

151. Mrs LNH [REDACTED] wasn't very nice to me and on a couple of occasions she hit me with a wooden spoon. She hit me on the shoulder. We had been playing football and her son said I had put in a nasty tackle, but it was a game of football. She took umbrage with the fact that I had defended myself and she expected me to just stand there when her son hit me. When I answered her back she blew her top and hit me with the wooden spoon. She hit me twice in the time that I was there. There was a lack of affection but compared to other places they were fine.

152. We were with them in total for about five to six months over the two visits.

### Living with mum

153. The last time I left the [REDACTED] I went back to live with my mum in Perth. Everything at home was all the same at this time. Violence for the sake of violence.

154. There was an incident when I was 14 when my mother came home from work at 5 o'clock in the morning and she hit me with a belt all over my legs.



My legs swelled up to the size of my waist, and she sent me out to school at six o'clock in the morning.

155. I sat and waited for the nurse to come in at half past eight and the first thing she turned round and said to me was that I must have done something really bad to deserve this. I was angry at her saying this. Because of her reaction I never told anyone else about it. I had marks on my legs and my back but never went to the doctors. Although I told the nurse nothing ever happened.

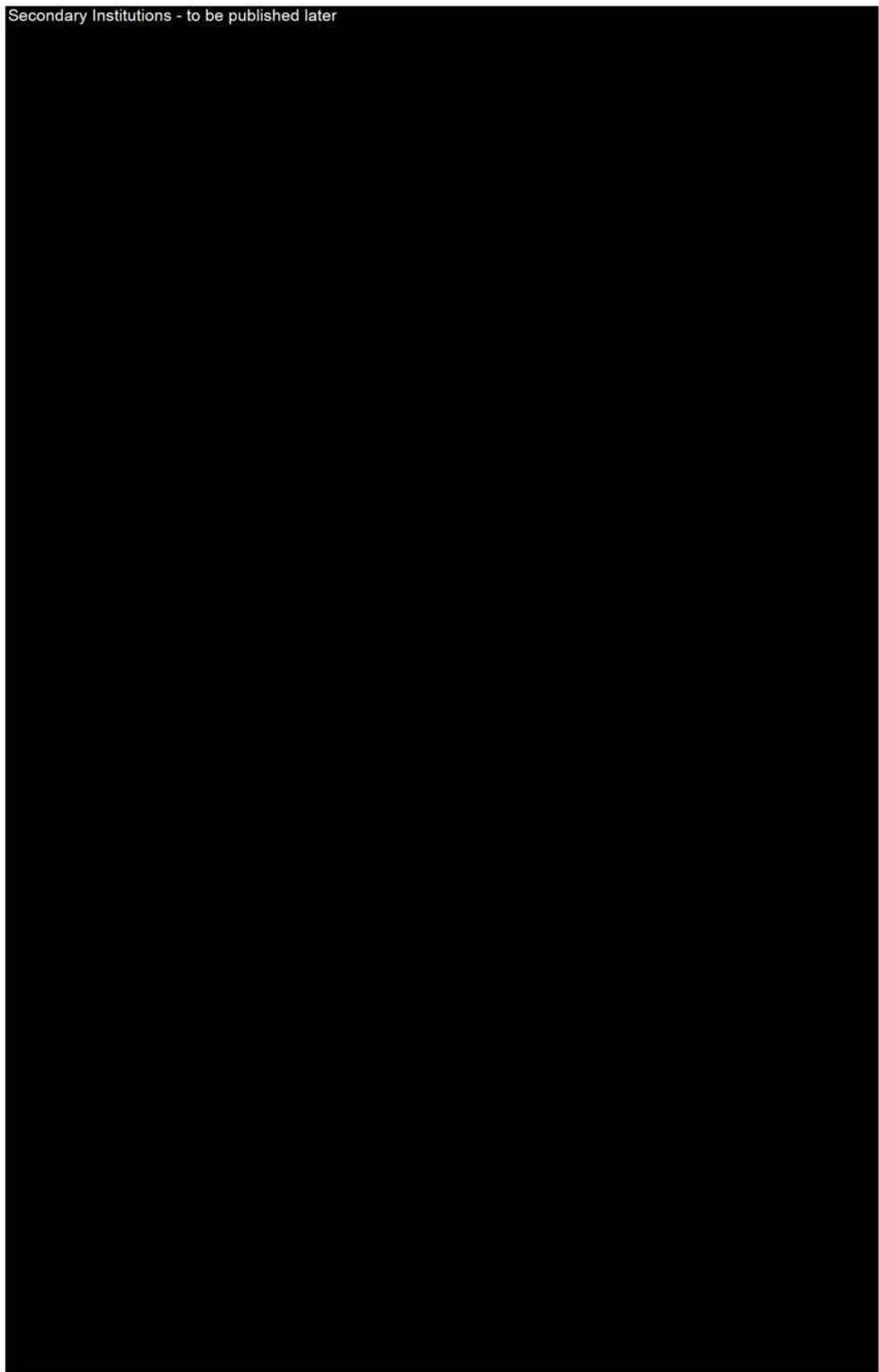
156. The next day I stole £1 from a friends purse because I really didn't want to go back home. I was honestly fearful for my life. I went straight from school to Roslin House where I told them what had happened and Amy agreed that I should be put back in care. I told her that I needed protection. I stole the money to get attention so somebody would actually do something.

### **Nimmo Place**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

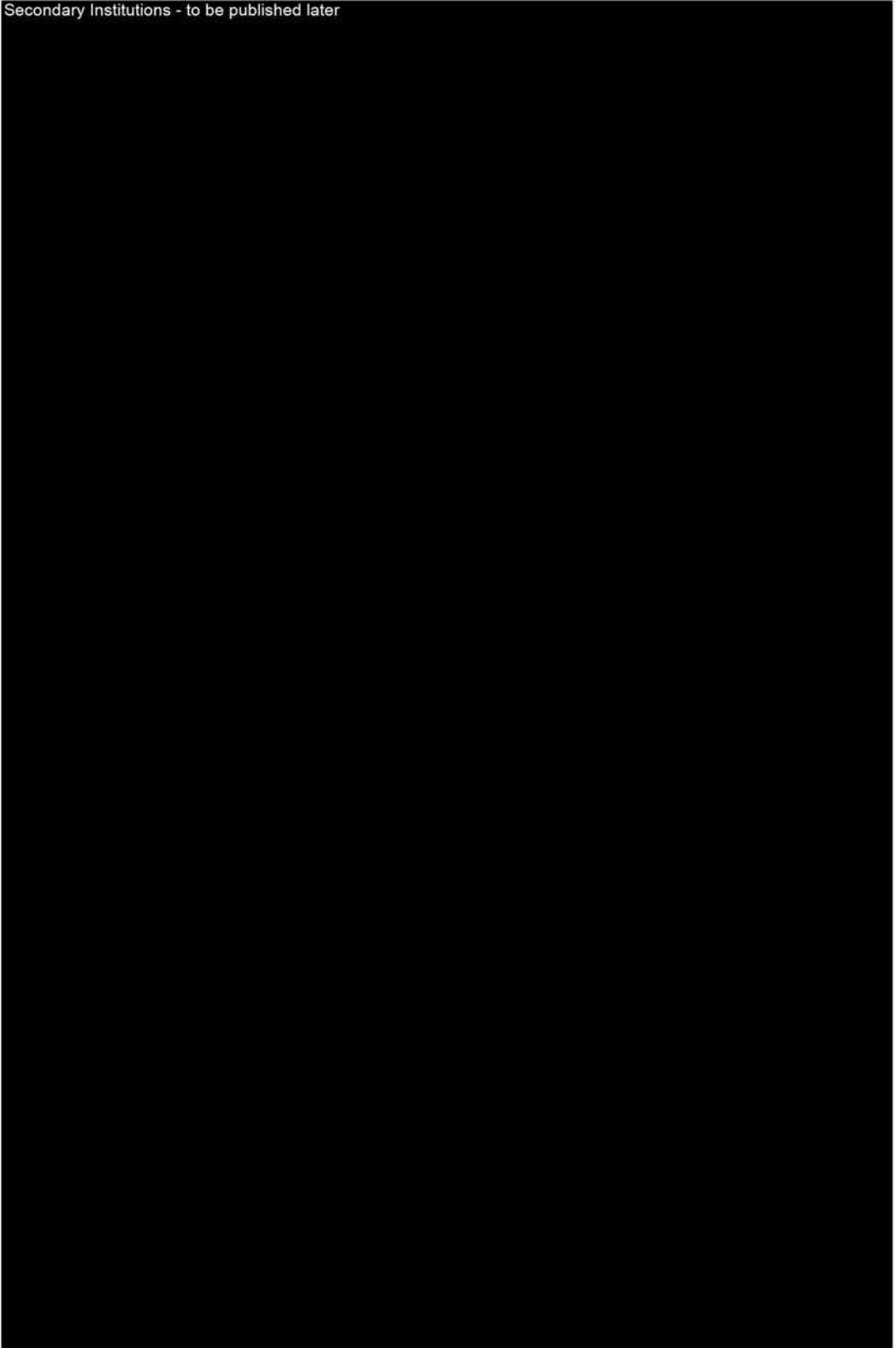


Secondary Institutions - to be published later






Secondary Institutions - to be published later




Care Home near Edradour

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

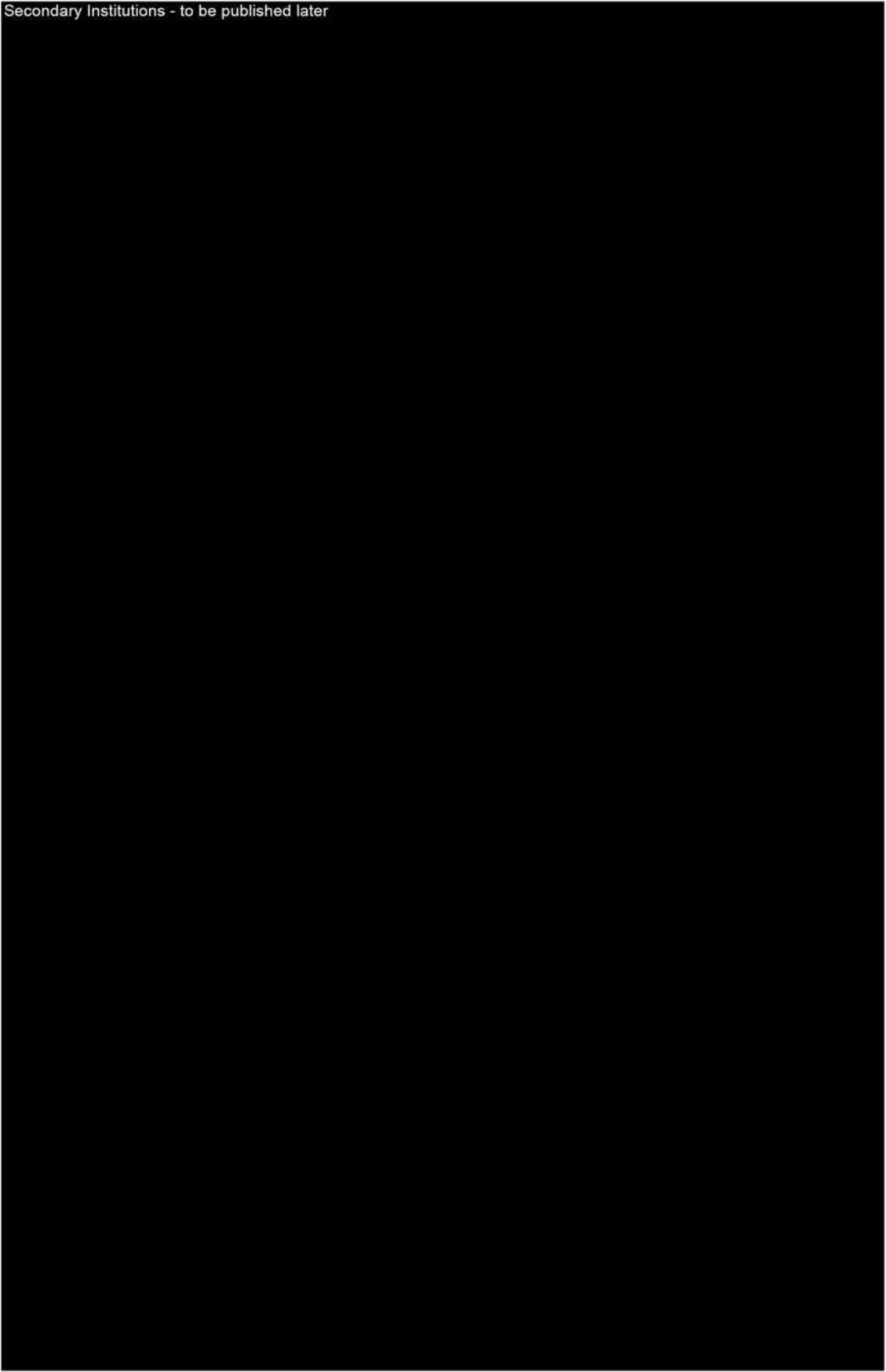


Edradour - School

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



Secondary Institutions - to be published later



Secondary Institutions - to be published later



Leaving Edradour

186. There was another meeting at the Pitlochry home and Amy Galloway was there with my mum. I came in from school and I was told I was going home. No one asked me my views or even if I wanted to go home. I would have been happy to have stayed at Pitlochry, and I would rather have stayed there than returned to my mother.

187. I stayed in the home in Pitlochry Road until [REDACTED] 1986 then moved to live with my mother.

### **Living at Home - Supervision**

188. In the two years I was with my mum between 1st and 2nd year, me and [REDACTED] were still on the 'At Risk' register and we saw Amy Galloway probably every week. There were still hearings taking place quite regularly too.

189. I stayed with my mum until later in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year after Christmas in to 1986. The only time I was off school was rarely when I was ill or in September to November when my mum kept me off to do the tattie picking.

190. In 1981 Aunt [REDACTED] had twins and she couldn't cope and both the twins [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were placed with my mum. This baffled me how can it be that we were at risk but small babies were placed with my mum.

191. Later on when the twins were about 6 years old they had been living down in England and I was sent down to help them move back up to [REDACTED] just outside Perth. When [REDACTED] got up the road [REDACTED] said some things to my mum which she passed on to Amy Galloway and unbelievably all hell broke loose because my mum announced that they weren't allowed to take the twins because Aunt [REDACTED] had hit them, and the twins were getting placed with my mum. They stayed with my mum for about 6 months when they were babies so she was looking after 5 children. The twins did go back to my Aunt [REDACTED] and Uncle [REDACTED] at the end of those 6 months but I can't remember why and me and [REDACTED] were put back in care.

### Running Away

192. The first time I ran away I would have been about 12 years old. I think I ran away between about 12 to 15 times over a 12 – 15 year period. Usually I would run away to my dad's by jumping on a train, even though I didn't have any money so I dodged the fare.

193. Normally what would happen when I ran away to my dad's, I got to stay at my dad's and they would arrange for me to go back to Perth the next day or a couple of days later once things had cooled down.

194. All that ended when one night I ran away in 1985 when I was 14 I went to my dad's. Mum 'phoned Amy Galloway and the police came about 2 o'clock in the morning and told me I couldn't stay as my mum wanted me to be locked up and took me to Hamilton Police Station, where I got a kicking from the police saying 'How could you be doing this to your mother'. This had to have come from Amy Galloway.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



196. How can someone who runs away from abuse get treated like that and then put back to the same place and to the person who was abusing me.

197. I usually ran away because I was getting battered by my mum or because I knew I was going to get hammered. There was never any point in me telling anyone why I was running away.

198. My mum had admitted to Amy, probably not to the full extent, that she was taking her frustrations out on me. I don't really know what she admitted to but she was able to convince Amy that I must have deserved it and Amy covered up for my mum.

### **Other Matters**

199. In terms of all the 'to-ing and 'fro-ing from establishment to establishment I didn't have a suitcase or anything that I could take with me. Sometimes we would go straight from school for a medical then on to the next place. Someone, possibly Amy Galloway would go to my house and get clothes and other things for me.

200. When I went to the hearings that were set up I basically never said anything because there was no point, and I was close to crying and couldn't talk. I wasn't going to cry in front of them. I never got to hear what was said at these hearings and I was only allowed in for the last 5 minutes. They had their two hour discussion and I was there for the last 5 minutes.

201. Amy was supposed to be looking after my interests and was supposed to be my social worker but she wasn't, she was my mum's social worker, and she defended my mum to the hilt. There was even one point I actually stayed over at Amy Galloway's house for a weekend maybe when I was in first year at secondary school, because there was nowhere else for me to go.

### **Life after Institutions / Foster Care**

202. In [REDACTED] 1986 that's when I went back to live with my mum and I left Pitlochry and I never went back in to care after that. I moved in with my cousin in Wishaw and went to another school but can't remember the name of it. I could have left school at the end of 4th year but I only had five O' Grades and standard grades. In my 5th year I took my English, Maths, History and Accounts as Highers because I wanted to do accountancy. I got a provisional place in Glasgow University and needed two Highers in 6th year.
203. I was still on course to go to university and everything was going fine until my cousin decided that she didn't want me to stay there any more so I had to go back and live with my mum in 1988. It was fine at home until March or April 1989 when my mum threw me out. I came home and my mum had put all my stuff in black bags. This was only six weeks before my school exams.
204. I thought that even though I was 18 and I was still on the 'At Risk' register so thought the social work would pick me up and help me finish those last six weeks at school. I went to Roslin House to see Amy Galloway but I saw someone else. They told me I would have to go to the council to sort out accommodation. They didn't deny that I was still on the register and that I was still under the social work, and I thought for the sake of six weeks and how it would affect someone's life they would see sense and help me. They didn't.
205. I went to the council housing office and they told me to go back to the social work as they had a list of all the Bed and Breakfast Places. I went back to the social work and again tried to plead my case to help me get past the exams but they didn't want to engage and just gave me a list of bed and breakfast places. I didn't know who would pay for it and no-one gave me any advice.
206. I sat down at the social work office one time and told them I wasn't moving until I got help but they just threatened to 'phone the police.
207. I went to look at one place but it was stinking and there were too many people in one room so I just slept on the street in North Inch. I went to the



school and explained to them what was happening but they said they couldn't help me. All my school books were still at my mums and I went back multiple times to try and get them but she just called the police. I never got back in to school, and I didn't sit my exams.

208. A priest saw me one night and he found me a homeless hostel place in Perth. I stayed there, but not for very long, and I decided to join the army, it was my only option.

209. Before that I got a job with Ladbrokes as a trainee manager but they didn't tell me that I couldn't hold a license until I was 21, so I would have to work for three years, and I was working 50 hour weeks and was only getting paid £28 a week. I did some labouring jobs but every time I went for an interview they would say that I wouldn't stay there very long as I was over qualified.

210. I had more or less decided by then to join the army, and I signed up in July 1989. I served in the army for just under two years. I was medically discharged in 1991 as I had a tumour in my leg. The tumour was treated, and I had an operation to cut away some of the thigh bone as well.

211. I then got a job as a night porter at a hotel but initially it was going to be for 6 months and then the book keeper was retiring so the idea was that I was going to get that job as I had the qualifications. After 8 months I still wasn't the book keeper and I was living in the hotel so they were calling me whenever they needed a waiter, a barman, whenever they needed someone and it was too easy for them to contact me. Someone else got the book-keeper job, and I decided that they were due me some overtime and I took it and that's how I got in to bother. There was over £20,000 in the safe and I honestly worked out what I thought I was due which was £1,100 and I took it. It was a stupid, stupid thing to do. I was locked up for 3 weeks, then they gave me probation and I had to pay the money back.

212. It was through probation that I met Amy Galloway again, although she wasn't my probation officer and I decided then that Perth was not the place to

be so I moved to Dundee. There I met my future wife [REDACTED] and we moved to Cupar. I have two step children with her, aged 35 and 32. I still see them.

213. My wife died 7 years ago.

214. After I left my mums in 6th year I had no contact with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for about 16 years partly because they didn't accept my wife. It was only after my wife died that I got back in touch with them and that's when I found out they had all moved up to just outside Aberdeen. I was in touch with [REDACTED] about 4 years before she died, but we didn't get particularly close. I got a bit closer to [REDACTED] though because she was a bit more honest with my mum.

### Reporting of Abuse

215. I am sure that [REDACTED] and I reported the [REDACTED] to the social work. We definitely told my Aunt [REDACTED] and I am sure the Social worker at the time was also told by me and [REDACTED]. Their response at that time was that they had used the [REDACTED] for years and we never had any problems and that they wouldn't do that. I am not sure if Amy Galloway was involved in this but she was there from 1980 but I am not sure before then. We just reported this once to the social work.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



Secondary Institutions - to be published later



### **Impact**

222. I have been puzzled my whole of my life why I was in so much bother when I never did anything wrong, that I felt merited what was happening to me and what I was being punished for.

223. In all my time I never, ever appeared in front of a children's panel as I never did anything wrong. I never did anything that warranted a children's panel except running away. I felt like I was never ever in a position where people who were supposed to be looking out for me actually did. They just didn't.

224. The greatest effect of being in care on my life was because they operated backwards as far as I am concerned. There was little or no protection from any abuse and there was a definite lack of support all through my childhood. It couldn't always have been my fault, yet it always was, but it's just not possible. This screws you up because you want to try and make your own way in life, try and fit in, be as normal as possible.
225. I know that I am socially inept and that I don't have any friends. The couple of friends I do have are older but there's sometimes even with them that I totally miscommunicate. I know what's right and wrong and I don't think you have to be a bad person coming out of all of that but it left me angry for a long, long time. I had thoughts of revenge.
226. There was a whole number of reasons why I stood out at school. I was the only boy that still wore shorts. I didn't have a long pair of trousers until I was 14 I think, so I was always different for that. I was always different because I never started school at the proper time. I think primary 1 was the only time I started school at the proper time. Every other school I was messed about and was here there and everywhere.
227. I moved 23 times backwards and forwards between schools. Especially between North Muirton and Oakbank, that was horrible, because there was no chance I could make any friends. People had already made their friends.
228. [REDACTED] was allowed to stay at Perth Grammar and finish her 4<sup>th</sup> year at school, but I wasn't allowed to finish my 2nd year at Perth Grammar. I could have then gone to the High school at the start of third year and maybe things would have been different. One thing my school records cannot say is that I did not do my schoolwork because I did and always to the best of my ability.
229. When I went to the social work looking for help to sit my 6<sup>th</sup> year school exams I think Social Work had a responsibility to help me, even if I had turned eighteen, common sense should have told them to do something to help me.

They were always quick enough previously to dance around the rules yet the one time I ask them for help I don't get it. They were aware that I had to sit my exams to get in to University and I felt angry and upset that they wouldn't help me.

230. The person most to blame in everything is Amy Galloway, my social worker. Obviously my mum is the biggest one to blame, but Amy Galloway was there for a reason and she never once acted in a way that was beneficial to me apart from that one time I demanded to be put in to care because I was frightened to go home.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

232. All that was important to me was that I got to tell my story and someone listened to it that's all I am bothered about. I wanted to do it for such a long, long time, but because of [REDACTED] I didn't. As I told you [REDACTED] changed her mind but too late for her because she died. I just hope that some good comes out of this inquiry for people in the future.

### **Treatment / Support**

233. I have never sought or obtained any support or counselling for what I have been through, and I have found this process to be cathartic in a sense that I am getting to tell my view of events and to actually have it there in black and white. It is up to people whether they choose to accept it all or not but at least I have managed to finally get everything said that I have always wanted to say.
234. The last few years with my mum were pretty pathetic to be honest because at times she would turn round and say 'I know I made a lot of mistakes with you but I always tried my best' and even just to have that little snapshot of being back with my family, I wanted the acceptance from her but she couldn't go the whole way and say sorry.

**Records**

235. I tried to get my records and a social worker called Claire at Cupar Social Work Office tried to help me and all they said at that time was that I would have to go through to Perth Office and someone would have to sit with me to look at the records. She said they couldn't give me a copy of my records and that any names other than my own would be redacted. I did try to follow it up by 'phone to Perth Social Work and that's when they said they couldn't find them anyway because they had been flooded.

236. 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 .  LCV

Date ..... 25th Oct 2016 .....