

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

ETH

Support person present: No

1. My name is ETH I prefer to be called ETH My date of birth is 1955. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Stranraer. My mother was called I don't know my father's name. I have no memories before going into care. I had a sister called but I'm not sure how her name is spelled. I think it is short for and I both went into care together. I don't know if my sister is still alive. My earliest memories are from the age of five when I was already in care.

Grandparents care, 1960 to 1962

3. I was in care from a very young age. First I lived with people I knew as my grandparents in outside Stoneykirk. I don't know the names of my grandmother or grandfather. I don't even know if they were my biological grandparents because some people in care are told to call their foster carers aunt or grandmother. I did hear a name at one point, I think it was As well as myself and my sister there was also an Aunt who lived in the house with my grandparents. The grandfather was disabled.

4. I don't know if my care was organised by the local authority, I was only five. I can't remember much about my time there, other than the abuse I suffered.
5. I do remember that I went to school at Stoneykirk Primary School. I had the measles when I was at [REDACTED] I saw a doctor for that, just the local doctor for Stoneykirk. I don't remember any social work visits at [REDACTED] The welfare officer saw me at the school.
6. I don't remember my sister and I having any family contact with my mother or anyone when I was at [REDACTED] I remember a social worker coming to the school to see me but that's about all I remember other than the abuse.

Abuse at [REDACTED]

7. The grandfather was disabled and rarely left the house but he groped me in the house. There was a guy who used to come and take me to the pub in Stoneykirk. There was me and another boy. I probably did know the name of that boy at the time, but I can't remember now. He lived in the cottage next to us in [REDACTED] At the pub, the man would take us into the pub's woodshed and started having sex with us. He used to call it The Andy Pandy Club. I don't know the name of the man or the name of the pub. I know we had to walk across the fields to get there, it was quite far away.
8. I remember a man used to take me outside to a shed and shove his finger up my backside. I can't describe him. The shed was outside my home at [REDACTED] I know there wasn't any criminal prosecution. I remember a man who used to take me up to a water tank behind [REDACTED] home and play with my penis. I think the guy was a dwarf. My sister used to walk with me to school and an old guy with a Ford Popular car with two dogs in the back used to get her into the car, drive off, and leave me to walk on my own. He was a small guy and the dogs were Pekinese or Chihuahua. I also remember him trying to take my sister away to be his house maid. I think at that time my sister was about eleven years old.

Reporting abuse at [REDACTED]

9. There was a woman from the welfare, as it was called in those days, who came to the school. I complained about being sexually assaulted in a pub in Stoneykirk. There was conversation about this amongst the adults but I was pretty much left out of the discussion and I wasn't moved from my placement at that time. As far as I know there wasn't any criminal prosecution.

Leaving [REDACTED]

10. I left [REDACTED] when I was about seven. The woman I knew as grandmother had died of cancer, the grandfather had gone into a hospital or somewhere, and my sister and I were sent elsewhere.
11. My sister was sent to stay with a man called [REDACTED] ETM [REDACTED] I remember he was supposed to be an uncle. He was in the navy and ran a navy cadet house at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Paisley. He was a skinny guy with black hair. I had bad psoriasis as a kid so [REDACTED] ETM [REDACTED] didn't want me. A day or so later I went to stay with an uncle and aunt called [REDACTED] ETI-SPO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ETI-SPO [REDACTED] foster care placement 1962 to 1963/4

12. [REDACTED] ETI [REDACTED] was in his late twenties or early thirties and had red hair. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was in her thirties and had black hair. [REDACTED] ETI [REDACTED] didn't like me, he preferred his own son, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ETI-SPO [REDACTED] had a son called [REDACTED] and a daughter but I don't remember her name. I think [REDACTED] and the girl were [REDACTED] ETI-SPO [REDACTED] biological children. [REDACTED] was the same age as me and had black hair. We both went to [REDACTED] Primary School. [REDACTED] was quite clever. I think their daughter was disabled.

13. [REDACTED] had a farm cottage in between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The cottage belonged to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] worked on the farm. The first place they worked at was a pig farm and [REDACTED] got the sack. [REDACTED] had got bitten by one of the pigs and he skelped the pig. The farmer was hard to work for.
14. [REDACTED] then moved to another place in [REDACTED]. Their new house had a kitchen/living room, a bedroom for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and a bedroom that I shared with [REDACTED]. I can't remember where their daughter slept.

First day

15. [REDACTED] came and picked me up from [REDACTED]. I think I knew them prior to going to stay with them. To begin with they had a cottage by the sea and I remember going to visit there a couple of times. I remember an incident before I went to live with them. [REDACTED] and I were playing with each other at the seaside. It must have been raining because we went back into the house and were pushing each other around on a trike. We bumped into a drying horse with someone's coat on it and the coat went into the fire. It was just an accident.

Mornings and bedtime

16. [REDACTED] would shout on us to get us up in the morning. We would get dressed, have a wash, get breakfast, get our shoes and socks on, and go off to school. It was quite a walk to school. I can't remember what time we went to bed.

Mealtimes/Food

17. The food was alright at [REDACTED] house. [REDACTED] did the cooking. I don't remember not liking any of the food she gave me so I don't know what would have happened if I hadn't eaten something. We stayed at school for lunch during the week.

Washing/bathing

18. [REDACTED] had a tin bath in front of the fire and we bathed in that. We had a bath every couple of days. I remember that the water was hot but [REDACTED] got a bath first and I would get his second-hand water. Everybody else would be sitting in the living room watching us.

Clothing/uniform

19. I think [REDACTED] paid for my clothing. I didn't have a school uniform. You didn't have a school uniform in those days, not in that area. I just had a jacket, trousers, and a tie for going to school. I remember getting soaking wet going home from school one time and I couldn't get my tie off as the rain had soaked the knot and I had to cut it off.

School

20. I went to two different schools at [REDACTED] because they moved house during my time with them. I can't remember the name of the first school but the second one was called [REDACTED] Primary School, it was quite a big school. There was an outbreak of scabies in the first school and a boy that got it had to sit on his own and no-one was allowed to talk to him. [REDACTED] was in the same class as me at both schools.
21. The first school was quite a walk to get to. It was a red stone building. It had one classroom with a screen dividing the room between older and younger pupils. There was a playground with a stone wall and a field on the other side. There was a bull in that field and we used to annoy the bull at playtime, which annoyed the teachers. There were two teachers, one for the younger pupils and one for the older ones. I can't remember the names of the teachers. They took a class photograph every year but I don't know where they are now.
22. I was quite happy at the school in Stoneykirk but [REDACTED] was different. [REDACTED] was quite a big school. It was odd. There were bullies who wouldn't let you get passed them without giving them money.

23. There were also some men who used to hang about outside the school. I don't know the names of the men but they didn't do anything to me. The school toilets were at the front of the playground and to the side of the school gates. Nothing happened in the toilets with these men but one of them once asked me which football team I supported. I said I didn't support any football team. He said, "When you go up there, support Rangers." Then another one of the men told me I should support Celtic. It was as if they knew my next foster placement was going to be up near Glasgow before I knew about it.

Leisure time

24. In the evenings we would have to do our homework and in the summer we would be out helping in the fields. We would play with the farmer's kids. He had two sons and a daughter but I can't remember their names.
25. I did a bit of reading at night and watched TV, things like Z Cars and Jukebox Jury. We didn't have many toys.

Trips and holidays

26. We went on a trip to an agricultural show once, when I was about seven or eight years old. I got a couple of bottles of Piper's Export, beer. [REDACTED] gave the beer to me, but nothing happened to me after being given the alcohol.

Healthcare

27. I also had a tooth removed at [REDACTED] and I had a big blood clot or something that made it difficult to breathe. They brought a doctor in to get rid of the blood clot.
28. I had a lazy eye and had poor vision. They took me to the eye hospital. We had to walk from the farm down to the main road to get the bus but the bus didn't turn up on time so by the time we got to the hospital the clinic had closed and we had to rearrange

the appointment. On the way back we stopped for chips but then there was a problem with the bus driver. He started hitting on [REDACTED] or some of the other women on the bus. It is pretty vague, I don't remember the details but I know something happened. I think he had sex with [REDACTED] against the side of the bus and bought her some chips. I can't remember if I did actually get treated for my lazy eye at that time. I had glasses I was supposed to wear but I only wore them when I felt like it, I didn't wear them all the time.

Religious instruction

29. [REDACTED] ETI-SPO were not religious, we didn't have to go to church.

Chores

30. Everyone went out into the fields in the summer to make hay. We also had to pick stones out of the fields. Later in the year we had to pick potatoes. We were used as cheap labour. We were supposed to be paid for that work, but [REDACTED] ETI kept the money.
31. I also had to get wood for the fire and empty the toilet. They had an outside toilet with a big drum for the waste. You would have to drag the drum out of the toilet and bury the contents. Having to do that would be a punishment for something. [REDACTED] had to do it sometimes as well as me.
32. I had to get water from the pump outside too. I think the cottage next to [REDACTED] ETI-SPO had an indoor toilet and running water.
33. There was a strange situation with [REDACTED] ETI. He wanted to be a fireman, he had applied before. He once set fire to a load of bushes on a field and got me to run down to the fire station to report the fire. When I came back up, [REDACTED] ETI was putting out all the fires. I think he wanted to impress the firemen.

Birthdays and Christmas

34. [REDACTED] didn't have parties at Christmas. I think they went next door at New Year. I got a plastic model of a stagecoach one year for Christmas. I guy that I didn't know came in on Christmas morning when [REDACTED] and I were sitting in front of the fire. He swapped over [REDACTED] present with my stagecoach and then swapped them back. He did that five or six times. I got annoyed with all that so I threw the stagecoach on the fire. Years later I was working in a pub in the City of London in the mid 1980's, I came back from a break and that same model of stagecoach was sitting behind the bar.
35. I can't remember my birthday being celebrated, nor the birthdays of [REDACTED] or his sister.

Visits/Inspections

36. There was a woman called [REDACTED] who came to see me at [REDACTED] I believe she was my mother. She gave me some cigarettes, she was a heavy smoker. I think she visited me a couple of times but [REDACTED] were always there and so most of the talking was between the adults so I can't remember much about those visits. I think I saw her a couple of times but it's a bit vague.

Sibling

37. I didn't get to see my sister at all during the two years I was with [REDACTED]

Supervision oversight / inspection by fostering authority

38. There was also a social worker who came to see me separately from [REDACTED] visiting. I think the social worker was called Miss McCormack or Mrs McCormack. I can't remember much of what happened at her visits because once again [REDACTED] would be present so most of the talking was between the adults. There were some general questions about how I was doing but it was [REDACTED] who would answer. I think she

visited me more than once but I can't remember how often. I can't remember her doing any kind of inspection about the suitability of [REDACTED] home. Mrs McCormack didn't ask me any questions directly about how I was getting on. They would ask questions but they didn't particularly want to hear any answers.

Pocket money

39. I got half-a-crown a week from [REDACTED] Whether that was out of their own pockets or provided by the social services, I don't know.

Bed Wetting

40. I didn't have any problem with bed wetting at [REDACTED] house. It wasn't a problem for [REDACTED] either, because we shared a bed.

Discipline

41. If I did something wrong, [REDACTED] would belt me. It could be for anything [REDACTED] decided I had done wrong. He didn't use the buckle end of the belt, he would fold the belt over. He would hit me about four or five times on my bare backside. I don't recall him doing that to [REDACTED] or his daughter. There was a definite difference in the way that [REDACTED] treated me but [REDACTED] was OK. I don't think he was very keen on the idea of fostering. [REDACTED] wasn't too bad with me, she kept me fed and cleaned.

Abuse at [REDACTED] foster placement

42. There was a man who came to [REDACTED] cottage. I had done something wrong but I can't remember what. He took away my sheets from my bed and shut out the light. I was locked in the room and you could only get in or out of the room from the main room of the cottage. I was locked in there for a couple of days. The guy who came to the cottage stripped me naked, put me on the bed, and had sex with me in the

darkened room. I couldn't tell you what the guy looked like, the room was in darkness. He had a deep voice but I can't remember any particular things that he said. I would say this incident occurred about half way through my time with the [REDACTED] around 1963. The man did this twice.

43. There was another guy, a large fat guy who used to visit [REDACTED] at the second home they lived in, around 1964. He was about six feet tall and I would guess he was in his thirties. He would bend me over and rub himself up against me. He would rub his crotch up against my backside. I complained about it to [REDACTED] and I think they reported it to somebody.
44. I remember the police coming about it, although they might not have been real police. He had to pay me compensation at the rate of two shillings per week. However he would catch me outside the house and kept on rubbing up against me. This happened on multiple occasions. I don't remember the man's name or anything else about him.
45. I remember being in a chicken run and this guy stuck a needle in me. The guy who stuck me with a needle had dark hair, he was about five feet two inches tall, maybe shorter. I don't know what I had done wrong but I must have done something. The chicken run was at the first farm [REDACTED] worked at but by the time this happened they were at the second farm. I was taken to [REDACTED] School and I had to wait for the bus to drop the kids off. There was a big house off the side of the road at the school and I remember someone saying, "You'll remember that house."

Leaving [REDACTED] foster care placement

46. I remember being taken to a social work place in Stranraer. This was just before I got moved up to Linwood. A guy there took my fingerprints but I don't know why, I hadn't done anything wrong. [REDACTED] were splitting up and they didn't want me anymore. They sent me up to stay with [REDACTED] but he didn't want me so I

ended up staying with a woman called **ETJ** No-one explained to me what was going on.

ETJ foster care placement, **Linwood, 1963/4 to 1976**

47. Two cars came on the day I was leaving **ETI-SPO** home. **ETJ** was in one of them, in the front passenger seat, another guy was driving. They piled all my stuff into an old potato sack and put it in the car. I sat in the back of the car sandwiched between two guys. My social worker wasn't there when I left **ETI-SPO**. I had been told that I was leaving that day, then the cars just turned up and I went. There was a van that came too and picked up **ETI-SPO** furniture and took it to Paisley. **ETJ** came to Paisley too.
48. I was eight or nine years old when I went to stay with **ETJ** She was a fat woman with reddish hair, it might have been dyed. She was about five foot six inches tall. She had a job as a dinner lady in a school canteen. She lived at **ETJ** Linwood with her children. **ETJ** house was a five apartment house, four bedrooms and a living room.
49. I think **ETJ** had been married twice but I don't know what happened with her first or second husband, she was the only adult in the house. She had a son called **ETK** a son called **ETJ** a daughter called **ETJ** and a daughter called **ETJ**
50. **ETJ** was working in a munitions factory. He emigrated to South Africa after he got married. **ETK** was an apprentice French Polisher, **ETJ** was at school and **ETJ** worked in Ferguslie Mills. **ETJ** also had an older daughter called **ETJ** who was married to **ETM** the man my sister was living with.

First day

51. I hated being at ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] as soon as I arrived. I didn't want to be there and I didn't want to share a bed with her son ^{ETK} [REDACTED]. Nobody showed me around the house or explained the routine. The whole family tended to just ignore me.

Mornings and bedtime

52. I had to share a room and a bed with ^{ETK} [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had a room of her own, and ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shared a bed. [REDACTED] had a room of his own.
53. I got up about 7.45 am. [REDACTED] would already have left for school but she made me breakfast. She would make two pieces of toast, one for my breakfast and the other for my play piece. Then I would get myself off to school.
54. I went to bed about 9.00 pm but I don't think ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] was really all that bothered about a bedtime routine. I think [REDACTED] went to bed when she felt like it.

Mealtimes/Food

55. I stayed at school for lunch during the week. There were no mid-day meals during the school holidays. ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] made breakfast once a week, during the week [REDACTED] made me toast. I had my evening meal back at ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] house. I would have to wait until my dinner had gone cold before I could eat it. I was told they didn't want me to burn myself. There was only room for three to eat around the table so the others would sit on the arms of armchairs or sit on the sofa to eat. The quality of the food was alright in the beginning and I was fed the same type of food as everyone else. After I left school and started working there was less and less food.
56. I overheard arguments between ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] and ^{ETM} [REDACTED] regarding food. She told ^{ETM} [REDACTED] "If you don't cough up any money, I'm not going to give him any food." I think he was getting money from social services and he was supposed to split it with

ETJ [REDACTED] I think she did eventually get the money from social services and after that she didn't care about me.

57. There wasn't a problem if I didn't like something I was given to eat but there was a problem if I said I did like something, I would end up getting it all the time. I liked mince and beans and I ended up getting it every Wednesday. I liked meat paste and when I got older and started working ETJ [REDACTED] made me meat paste sandwiches every day for the first couple of weeks. Eventually I cottoned on to this and I played it down if I liked something. I don't think ETJ [REDACTED] had any imagination when it came to cooking.

Washing/bathing

58. There was a bathroom with a bath at ETJ [REDACTED] house. It started off that I would get a bath every night but then it became once a week. [REDACTED] would get a bath before me and I would have to use her bathwater. I complained about this to ETJ [REDACTED] ETJ [REDACTED] I told her that she was being paid to look after me and that if I didn't get clean bathwater I wasn't going to have a bath. However nothing happened, I didn't get clean bathwater, it just continued the same way. I was left alone when I was having a bath.

Clothing/uniform

59. ETJ [REDACTED] didn't wash my clothes or my bedclothes. I washed my clothes. New clothes I think we got once a year. If I was getting a school uniform I would be taken out to get it by ETJ [REDACTED] Other times she would go out and get clothes for me. She went to a shop in Paisley and the guy would say, "I've got some second hand stuff here, if you get it, we can split the difference." The guy was slim, about five feet tall. So I got second hand clothes, as she was profiteering. I never had any winter clothes. If my blazer and trousers got wet I still had to wear them until they got dry. I could choose my own clothes if I was paying for them.
60. A little guy with black hair was talking to me one day at [REDACTED] He said, "I'm from social work and the money you get for clothes comes from me. Therefore

any clothes you've got belong to me because it's my money and you don't get to keep them." I was in my teens, still at school when he said that. He said he was a social worker but I think that's unlikely, a social worker wouldn't have said that.

Pocket money

61. I got five bob a week, five shillings, as pocket money. I spent it on sweets or I saved up and bought Airfix models, and I saved some money to buy Christmas presents. I got one model that was of Napoleon and the leg disappeared off it. I never got round to painting it. When I left school I applied for a job in a dentist's surgery making teeth moulds. When the guy was interviewing me I saw on the windowsill my Napoleon model with no right leg. Either two people were as bad at building models as me or that was my model.

Leisure time

62. I was allowed out in the evenings after school and I played with the other kids in the street. We played hide and seek, and tig.

Trips and holidays

63. I went to visit a coalmine with the school. I went to two different farms for holidays. Those holidays were organised by social services. I was eleven years old when I went on the first of those trips. I got a train down to Stranraer and I was met by Mrs McCormack, my social worker and she took me to her social work office. The first time I went down there for a holiday she drove me straight to the farm.
64. The first farm I went to I never got a bath the whole time I was there. The farmer's son would lie to me and say there was nothing to eat for lunch when we were out working in the fields stacking bales of hay. He also told me to put my dirty washing in the bottom drawer of a tallboy and it would get washed but it didn't get washed. I don't think the farmer's wife was refusing to wash my clothes it was just that her son lied to me about storing my dirty washing in the bottom drawer of the tallboy. There was another boy

that I think might have been the son on one of the farm employees, he didn't live in the farmer's house. I can remember going out with him to shoot an air rifle, just target practice. The second farm was pretty much the same, I didn't get my washing done and I didn't have a bath.

65. The second time I went she took me to where I was going to stay for the first night, a social work children's home. It was just a normal looking house. It had a Christmas tree in the front room but it was August when I went on the first trip. There was a girl and a boy there and we played together but it seemed like forced play, to make people look happier than they were.
66. That evening, as well as a guy who tried to get me to kiss him, there was a woman in the sitting room. She said that she remembered me and that I had been in that home when I was a baby. I don't know her name and I don't know how she would have remembered me from being a baby as I would have been about eleven years old by that time. There was something funny going on in that place, something wasn't right. We got fed that night in the kitchen. The girl took a piece of bread from the plate in the middle of the table and then put it back. She said, "It's for somebody else."
67. I can't remember the name of the first farm but the second farm was called [REDACTED] it was out in the wilds, I can't remember where. The farmer had a son who was a skinny guy. Years later I started working for a guy called [REDACTED] and he had a picture of the first farm I stayed at on holiday. He said he was an ex-policeman. He said the farm belonged to his mother but [REDACTED] was a well-built guy.
68. [REDACTED] ETJ also took me on a trip to the coast, I can't remember where she took me. I can't remember how old I was but I was in my teens, I was still at school. She got me one of those little boats you go in on your own. When I came back in to shore, [REDACTED] ETJ was speaking to a guy who was one of the boat-keepers and she asked him, "Where can I sell him? I know there is people like that around here."
69. I was also taken to [REDACTED]'s wedding in Stranraer. On the day of the wedding they were taking photos of all of us in an upstairs room in a hotel. They replaced me with

another boy for some of the pictures. When we went downstairs I was made to strip naked and fight another boy. This seems to be something travellers do.

School

70. [REDACTED] went to a different school from me. She was Catholic and I was Protestant. [REDACTED] ETJ was a school dinner lady in a different school to the one I went to but then she moved to the secondary school I went to later on. I think she was using the surname [REDACTED] ETJ as her name.
71. There was a school just up the road from [REDACTED] ETJ house and she told me to go up there and enrol myself. I went but I was told the school was full so I ended up going to Cadbrook Street School in Paisley. My sister [REDACTED] was in another school in Paisley.
72. Cadbrook Street School wanted a copy of my birth certificate, I think you had to prove who you were. There was a little fat guy representing me, I don't know who he was. He had arguments with the school headmaster. I think he threatened the headmaster but I did get enrolled.
73. I got the bus to school. There was a problem with bullies at the toilets again. They would charge people money to use the toilets and toilet paper. That kind of thing seems to have been quite common.
74. Other than that problem at the toilets school was OK but I didn't do very well at school. I wasn't top of the class but I wasn't bottom either. I don't think there were parents evenings in those days but there were school reports going back to [REDACTED] ETJ She would just sign them and send them back, she didn't show any interest in my education.
75. Cadbrook Street School used to get these things where you made designs out of wool. Other kids would get thin wool and I would get really thick wool so it always turned out a mess. Maybe they were trying to say I was thick. We also went on a school trip. I

think it was down Stranraer way and we had to stay overnight but I was the only kid there with no sleeping bag.

76. When I left Cadbrook Street School I went to a newly built primary school in Linwood called Mossedge. I remember a boy was always trying to get me to watch him play with drumsticks. I had to watch the sticks. I think it was some kind of hypnotism. The teachers eventually stopped him doing it. After my 11+ exam I went to Linwood High School. I did just as badly there as I had done at primary school. I was there from the age of eleven until I left aged fifteen-and-a-half.
77. Mrs McCormack came to see me at school. I was about thirteen or fourteen years old. She took me into the nurses' room and took down my trousers and pants. There was a guy outside looking at me. I have mentioned that ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] house had men walking around her house and Linwood High School was the same. There were the teachers but then there were two to three men who were not staff wandering around. I remember one stopping me outside the Headmaster's office and starting asking me questions. He was applying some sort of test but he wasn't a teacher. I remember he was short, maybe about five feet tall.
78. I also went to school with a lot of people from Quarrier's homes. When I was about thirteen or fourteen, in 1968 or 1969, I was going to school one morning and this group of people from Quarrier's marched me down the long hallway to a young stocky girl with dark hair and black tights sitting underneath the stairs. She had moved into the Quarrier's home the day before.
79. When she got there, a guy told her to go to the park to play and then they sent down some people to bring her back. They dragged her back by the hair and the three of them raped her. I didn't witness that, the girl told me that happened. This was her first day at school and this is what had happened to her the previous day. I think some of the guys who marched me down there told me that's what happened as well. I can't remember her name. I did tell the Headmaster about this but he said it wasn't any of his business. I did mention this to the police in a letter I sent them years later when I made my complaint at Scotland Yard, and they said it did verify something a girl had

said had happened in a Quarrier's home. She had brought a complaint against Quarrier's homes. I also remember that a guy used to prowl around the school pretending to be the headmaster. He was a small guy, slight build, about five feet seven inches tall, with black hair.

80. I don't know if the girl came back to the school after that because when you go into a care home it is very difficult to get out and if you go to the police and they find out you are in care they treat you like a criminal, like you are in Borstal, you have done something bad to end up in care therefore you deserve anything that happens to you. I complained to the police when I was in care but it never got anywhere. After I left school, I continued to stay with **ETJ** for another five or six years.

Healthcare

81. I was a patient in the Royal Alexandra Hospital twice. The first time was when I had a ruptured appendix. About four months later I was ill again and they took me to the Royal Alexandra Hospital again. I was in a different ward that time. There was a guy sat beside me, on a chair beside the bed. I had a tube up my nose into my stomach getting stuff out of me. There was a machine beside it pumping all this black stuff into a jar. The guy was saying that at 12.00 pm I should pull the tube out of my nose. Sometimes when you have an operation you get adhesions in the bowel, where the bowel sticks together. The black stuff coming out was like a side-effect of the appendix operation. I kept pulling the tube out and the nurses kept putting it back in. Eventually they ended up tying my hands to the bed to stop me doing it.
82. After I got a bit better and they took all the junk out they put me in a side ward, the one on the right hand side. During the night a guy got out of his bed and performed oral sex on me. He was another patient, a short guy, frizzy curly hair but tall hair, like a birds nest. He was clean shaven, and possibly in his thirties. I complained to the nurse but they seemed to take his word for it that I was having a nightmare. A doctor Beddie, who had a turban, asked me if I wanted him to make me forget these things had happened. I said yes and he put a needle in my arm. I continued to make a fuss over it after the guy sexually assaulted me again. This short guy with a black coat and dark

hair came in and said, "Let's have a chat about these things." He took me to this day-room at the far end of the ward and he was sitting there talking. He told the nurse it was a private conversation and he spent the whole time trying to get me to jump out of a window. I told the nurse and left the day-room and I went back to the side ward.

83. I complained about it to ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] too. She said she would make a complaint against the hospital. A long time after that I was taking to some sort of meeting with ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] and some other people where this was discussed. The little guy who had hit me when I had appendicitis, when I was walking down the hall and who abused me at Christmas was doing all the talking. I didn't get to say anything, I don't remember the outcome.

84. Before the meeting ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] and the little guy had a chat and I heard them talking. ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] said, "You won't take me out of it?" The little guy said, "No, I'll just put you under until such time as it's all over and then bring you back out again." I think they were talking about hypnotism. I never ever saw ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] being hypnotised but I wouldn't necessarily see that.

Religious instruction

85. ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] and her kids were Catholic, they went to Chapel every Sunday morning. I went to church and Sunday school. I walked there and back, sometimes with the girl who lived downstairs. It wasn't that far away, it was just at the bottom of the village and then they built a new one at the other end of the village so I went to that. I didn't notice any distinction being made in the household because I was Protestant and they were Catholic. ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] weren't religious in the house, they didn't have prayers. I think they only went to the Chapel for show.

Chores

86. I had to dig the garden and cut the grass.

Birthdays and Christmas

87. They did the usual Christmas present thing. Then the big table was out in the middle of the sitting room with chairs all around it. They had decorations, a Christmas tree, and presents.
88. On my birthday I got a birthday card and sometimes a present. I can't think of any difference in the approach taken to [ETJ] s kids' birthdays.

Visits/Inspections

89. I got visits from Mrs McCormack when I was at [REDACTED] so she must have known about me being transferred from [ETI-SPO] but that was months after I arrived at [ETJ] house. She did eventually stop coming because it was far too far to travel. I got transferred to social services in Johnston. I only saw the new social worker once because she said she didn't like me. That would have been around 1967, when I would have been about twelve or thirteen years old.

Sibling

90. When I was living in Linwood I went to school in Cadbrook Street, Paisley and my sister [REDACTED] was at a school a couple of streets away and I saw her there at lunch-times. Then a little fat guy came to the house and said that I had to stop seeing her otherwise she would get thrown out of a really good home. I don't know who the guy was. I wouldn't have thought he was a social worker. He was about five feet two inches tall, wearing a black coat. After that I didn't see [REDACTED] until one New Year when I was about seventeen or eighteen years of age. She was still living in [REDACTED] with [ETM]
91. I don't think the social workers made any effort to keep contact between [REDACTED] and I but I didn't ask them about contact with [REDACTED] I feel that was a breach of human rights.

In foster care they are supposed to keep in contact with your family because that's how you put a family back together again but that never happened.

Family contact

92. In 2019 someone contacted me claiming to be the daughter of my sister [REDACTED]. She was looking for her brother but it was a guy who spoke to me, not a woman. He was claiming to be [REDACTED] and I believed him. I think my sister [REDACTED] had been adopted by [REDACTED] ETM and took his name. Her married name was [REDACTED].

Supervision oversight / inspection by fostering authority

93. Mrs McCormack, my social worker from Stranraer came up every two or three months until I got transferred to the woman from Johnston social work, but she only came once.

Discipline

94. If [REDACTED] ETJ wanted me punished, she brought somebody in to do it. It always seemed to be the little guy with black hair. [REDACTED] ETJ seemed to have a lot of people she could call on, and she had some men wandering about the house. She could contact people at any time. I think she got the little guy with the black hair in to control me, for discipline or punishment.

Personal possessions

95. I had the Airfix models I bought and a wrist watch I got for Christmas. When I left [REDACTED] ETJ [REDACTED] house all I was allowed to take with me was the clothes I stood up in, the wrist watch I had got as a Christmas present from her and [REDACTED] ETK and a box of pre-decimal two pence pieces.

Running away

96. A couple of days after I arrived at [ETJ] house in Linwood I decided to go to Paisley. I wanted to go to Paisley because that's where [ETM] lived, that's where my sister was. I went out onto the main road and started asking people for directions to Paisley. They wouldn't tell me the way, but someone must have told [ETJ] what I was doing because someone came and got me. They took my shoes off me when I got back to the house.
97. I ran away every weekend for about a month. I tried going to the train station about five or six times, I tried just going on foot two or three times, and on my bike twice. The place would be empty on Saturdays. [ETK] would be at the football and [ETJ] would be out shopping.
98. They control you and you lose the urge to run away because they always catch you. Any time I tried to run away I would go to the station and board a train for Stranraer because I thought I would be safer there. They would be there at the station in Paisley waiting for me. It would be the guy with black hair who said he had paid for my clothes, and two big tall guys but I don't know who they were.
99. I ran away one night and they sent the police after me. The cops caught me and when I got caught and was taken back to [REDACTED] There was a clean sheet on my bed which had been turned down and the place would be tidied. It was so the police could see I was being taken care of. When the police left, so did the clean sheets. [ETJ] enforcer would put a single sheet across the bed so it looked like a fitted sheet. I told the police who took me back that if anything happened to me it would be on their heads. They asked me a few questions but they took me back there anyway.

Abuse at ^{ETJ} foster placement

100. On the day I went from ^{ETI-SPO} to ^{ETJ} house I was in the car sandwiched between two guys in the back. ^{ETJ} was in the front with another man, it may have been ^{ETM}. There was a second car and I think ^{ETJ} was in it. We stopped somewhere near a viaduct and they drove the car up a side road. ^{ETJ} the man in the front, and the two guys in the back got out. As one of them was getting out he told me to hit the guy who was getting in.
101. I was by myself in the back of the car when this other guy got into the back of the car and tried to have sex with me. He was a skinny guy in his thirties with a long coat. There was a wheel-brace lying in the foot-well and I skelped the guy with it. With all the others getting out of the car, and what the guy had told me, it must have been prearranged. After I whacked the guy I was taken out of the car and held against the back of the car by a guy wearing something like a policeman's uniform, with silver buttons. I think there was some sort of fight going on. I think ^{ETJ} was being raped. I was running across a field and I could hear her shouting for my help. There was police involvement. I took a policeman's notebook, went to the toilet, and wrote down everything that happened.
102. ^{ETJ} threw a mug at me once and gave me a thump on the back another time. When I was about fourteen or fifteen years old ^{ETJ} also tried to get me to take my dog to the burn and drown it. I also remember, about the same time, sitting on a ladder-back chair by the front window of ^{ETJ} house and a small man was asking me if I was going to do as I was told. He asked this same question several times. As far as I can remember me and him were the only two people in the house. One time when he asked me. I was asking, "Who is going to look after me now?" I was either hypnotised or drugged because this seemed to go on for ages and I couldn't get up and leave.
103. When I was about fourteen or fifteen years old, I complained about staying at ^{ETJ} ^{ETJ} house to a tall woman, she might have been a social worker. I said I wanted to go back to the Stranraer area. I then remember being in the back of a car with a

thin guy with grey hair, he was quite tall. He stuck a needle into me and I blacked out. I woke up and I was lying on the back seat. The thin guy with grey hair was outside the car. He opened the door and stuck another needle in me and I blacked out again. I woke up and I was back at [ETI-SPO] house near Stranraer. [ETI-SPO] weren't living there anymore. He dumped me in a garden area outside the house. There was an old wreck of a car that hadn't been there before and the people who were living in the house threw food at me.

104. Eventually they allowed me in to the house and they gave me a bowl of pink stuff which got passed around the table. The only one who got a fresh bowl of pink stuff was the guy sitting across the table from me. He was a big guy, tall, well-built, with dark hair. It was a bit like the mad hatter's tea party. There was a short guy with dark hair that was standing up. He took me into the bedroom I used to share with [REDACTED]. One of the beds had been removed and there was a bath in the room. He ran up into the loft with buckets of water, then came down and had a shower. He said, "This is the bath you were always on about." I suppose he was talking about the arguments I would have with [ETJ] about having baths.
105. [ETK] used to abuse me sexually. [ETK] was older than me, he was about nineteen years old when I moved in to [ETJ] house. He was about five feet six inches tall. He was clean shaven and had curly, tall hair. [ETK] performed oral sex on me, sometimes he tried to penetrate me. That started not long after I got to [ETJ] house, maybe after about six months. It happened about two or three times a week. That went on for a couple of years. I did complain about it to [ETJ]. I remember [REDACTED] speaking to me in what was his old room that I had been moved into after his marriage. I told him what [ETK] had been doing and he went into [ETK]'s room and told him to stop.
106. I had to have regular check-ups with the GP so he could send health reports to the welfare people. When I was about thirteen years old he said to [ETJ] that I should have a room of my own. Once I moved into a room of my own, anything I didn't do, [ETJ] would say, "If you don't do it I'll put you back in the room with [ETK] and you know what he'll do."

107. I remember being punished for something. I got the cold room treatment. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stripped all the bedclothes off my bed so I couldn't get warm. The reason she did that is so I would sit there freezing, and because on a previous occasion I [REDACTED] [REDACTED] a bus driver on the main road saw me, ran over, and banged on the door and [REDACTED] came and got me. [REDACTED] also took my shoes off me so I couldn't run away.
108. Around 1965 when I would have been ten years old [REDACTED] had left school and started working for Littlewoods football pools. I was in [REDACTED] room and there were all these football pools coupons were in a drawer in the bottom of the wardrobe. I started filling in the x's on the forms. This guy came into the room and asked me what I was doing, he said I had ruined them. He started laying into me. He was kicking and punching me. I was just face down on the floor so I couldn't describe what he looked like, I don't know who the guy was.
109. After that, I was ill. I got sent home from school because I was in so much pain. When [REDACTED] got back I was sitting on the floor with the fire lit and she went loopy. I wasn't allowed a fire if I was the only person in the house. She said there was nothing wrong with me and sent me back to school. The next day I was doing P.E. and the teacher got the headmaster and they both decided that I should be at home. Later that day the teacher came to the door and said that I looked really ill and if [REDACTED] sent me back to school in that condition they would contact the police. I was throwing up and had to stay in bed for a few days.
110. I was left alone and was in a lot of pain, so I went out to phone for an ambulance. I went down to the post office at the bottom of the village and asked the woman in the shop if she would call a doctor or an ambulance because I was ill. She said no, but there was a small guy telling her not to because I was just being a nuisance. I went outside and dialled 999. I told the operator that I was really sick and in a lot of pain. She asked if there was any adults there and I said yes. She then said to put one of them on the phone and the little guy said there was nothing wrong with me, I was

just being a nuisance, and he put the phone down. I remembered there was a doctors a bit further up the road so I went there. I knew he was in because his car was outside. I knocked and the guy came to the door. I explained my situation to him and he said that he only saw private patients and closed the door.

111. There was a dentist across the road so I went there. I told the receptionist my problem and she said, "This is a dentist's, not a doctor's. I said I knew that but I needed someone to help me. She got the dentist and I told him my symptoms. After some pleading with him, he took me into his surgery and did a quick examination that included him putting his finger up my backside. I think the little guy came in and took me back to ETJ house and back to my room. The pain got so bad I was biting the table leg next to the bed. I told ETJ that night and the next day, I think it was a Saturday because they were all home, the little guy came into the bedroom, looked at the table leg, and said I was lying. After a while they summoned me to the living room where I could barely stand. I was holding on to the wall and the little guy came out of the living room and started shouting at me to stand up straight and started punching me on the back and head. I got to the living room and ETJ and were there.
112. Eventually someone decided I should see a doctor. I saw Doctor Kerr from Grant, Conn, and Kerr in Johnston and he sent me to Hawkhead Hospital. Initially they thought I had jaundice because my eyes and skin were yellow but it turned out my appendix had ruptured. I was throwing up black stuff. The doctor at Hawkhead Hospital was examining me and asked where I had got the bruises on my body and I told him I had had the shit kicked out of me. However there was a man outside the room I was being treated in and he was threatening the doctors not to say anything about my bruises. I couldn't see the man because he was outside the room. I got sent to the Royal Alexandria Hospital for surgery.
113. When I went on one of the holidays to a farm organised by the social work department, Mrs McCormack my social worker took me to a children's home for the first night. I think the home was in Stranraer. It was a small place, two storeys. Myself and the boy and girl I had been told to play with went out to the shops to get

some sweets. The girl I had been playing with was told to keep hold of my hand to stop me from running away. When we came back there was a guy sitting in the sitting room. He was skinny with black hair. He was clean-shaven but I don't know his name or what he had to do with the home. He wanted me to sit on his knee and he tried to kiss me. That night when I went for a bath, he told me to leave the door open. He said those were the rules, that you weren't allowed to have a bath in privacy. I left that place the next morning.

114. On Christmas day in [ETJ] house we would have a big Christmas dinner. After the first course this guy would come up behind me, bend me over the table, take my trousers and pants down, and say, "We'll give [ETH] his Christmas treat." He anally raped me. I can't describe the guy. This was in front of everyone, [ETJ] [ETJ] [ETK], and any other guests. [] was married by this time. This happened to me from the age of fourteen, in 1969. I don't know who the man was who did this to me. [ETJ] spoke to the man and said, "What did you give him?" He said, "I gave him a little bit of cocaine." That went on for a few years, it stopped when I was fifteen years old. It was always the same guy and usually the same people present at the dinner table.
115. I used to be in the Life Boys, then I joined the Boys' Brigade briefly, when I was about eleven or twelve years old. A little guy who was in charge of the BB's came to the house and told me there was a meeting that Thursday night. He said his name was [ETL] but he kept changing the pronunciation. I went to the meeting and I think there were five of us standing in a line and the little guy told us to drop our trousers and pants. He started groping all of us and behind us were all these other Boys' Brigade members. They all knew what was going on.
116. I complained to [ETJ] about this and I think I complained to someone else too. The police eventually came round to speak to me but I had to sit on the floor cross-legged speaking to this policeman and behind the policeman was this little guy from the Boy's Brigade with a black coat and gold braid on his arm, like he was someone official. I know another boy made a complaint about this at the same time because the policeman told me.

117. [ETM] the man my sister [] was living with, was not a very pleasant guy. One New Year, when I was about thirteen or fourteen years old, he had me pinned up against the wall and tried to kiss me. He got dragged away by some people. He seemed to be foaming at the mouth.
118. When I first went to Linwood, about 1964 or 1965, I had to go and see [ETM] every Saturday morning at the Sea Cadets' headquarters. We would go up to his flat and there would be guys there in the sitting room. There was always a guy who came up behind me and spoke to me. He sodomised me. It went on for quite a few months, every Saturday. I never saw the guy, he came into the room behind me. He had a deep voice. He said, "It's not me doing this, it's []" That was a guy who lived in Paisley, not the fictional TV detective. It might have been the same guy who raped me on Christmas Day at [ETJ] house. [ETM] and another couple of guys were in the room when I was being raped.
119. I stopped going to [ETM] and I would hide in the toilets at the top of [] A copper caught me there and dragged me back by the scruff of the neck to the Sea Cadets place. I complained to [ETJ] and she took me to see [ETM] There was a discussion but he said that he couldn't deal with it at that time and we would have to come back.
120. We went back the next day and the foyer was covered in mirrors but I don't know what the significance of that was. We went into a room on the right hand side and there was a guy who was supposedly one of the top brass in the Sea Cadets, he had the braid and fancy cuffs. He said they were striking me off the Sea Cadets pay list, I wouldn't be getting any more money from them, but I hadn't been get any money from them. [ETJ] may have been getting money from them, I don't know.
121. I was on a bus going to Paisley from Linwood and the bus driver stopped the bus and said, "[]
[] I was still at school when that happened.

122. When I was a teenager I had a room of my own [REDACTED] There was a guy who used to come to [REDACTED]. He was a small guy, black coat, black hair and balding. He came into my bedroom and started flapping his arms. When he came in the door he would slam his hand against the door. That went on for quite a while.
123. I remember being taken out of [REDACTED] one night by this guy in the black coat and getting taken to Quarriers. Somebody must have said where I was going. I was taken to a big room with a lot of wood in it and a big chair like a throne. There was a Batcopter lying on the floor. I had been given a Batcopter the year before but mine was bigger. That's all that I can remember about that.
124. When I was thirteen or fourteen years old a guy used to come into my bedroom and stick a needle in my arm. He asked me if I was right handed or left handed. I told him I was left handed. The other guy corrected him and said I was right handed. I don't know what that was about. I don't know what happened after he stuck the needle in my arm. He said, "Tell me about your dreams and I'll make them come true." I think that's how they knew I was going to get on a train to Stranraer.
125. I was about seventeen years old, I was still staying at ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] house. A girl called [REDACTED] came to see me. She was the daughter of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who stayed at [REDACTED] in Paisley. I was working at [REDACTED] a thread-mill. She came to the gate house and told the guy at the gate she wanted to talk to me. They came and got me in the flat I was working in, and I went to the gatehouse to speak to her. I think she was about thirteen or fourteen years old. She told me that [REDACTED], or [REDACTED] had been coming to her school and wanted her to go with men for sex. She wanted me to do something about it. I spoke to the police about it but I don't remember if anything happened about it.
126. I also remember one day a guy looked around the door of my bedroom at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and then rushed at me and made me swallow a pill. He had dark hair, he was clean shaven and wearing dark clothes. The next thing I remember was being on the steeple of the church and this guy was trying to get me to jump off.

Reporting of abuse at **ETJ** foster placement

127. I did report the attempted rape near the viaduct to the police but nothing ever came of it. The two guys got back in the car and drove me to a police station, or somewhere where a policeman appeared. I was having trouble telling the policeman what had happened so I nicked his notebook and wrote it down and gave him back the notebook.
128. There was some kind of court case after I had been at **ETJ** for about a week, I think that would have been in 1964. It was to do with the guy who had tried to rape me in the car at the viaduct. I had to go back to Stranraer for some kind of court case. I had to get driven from Linwood to Stranraer and then driven home at night. That went on for a couple of days. The guy driving me there and back wasn't happy about the situation. He thumped me a couple of times in the car and when I was in the bath back in Linwood, he came into the bathroom and thumped me there too. I don't remember the guy's name, he was a short guy.
129. When I arrived in West Freugh I had to get out of the car and got put in a van with some other boys and taken to court. There was an unusually tall boy there who seemed to be in charge. There was some kind of dressing room and we got offered a choice of a costume so we wouldn't be recognised. I picked a clown outfit. I was in the witness box and I pointed out the guy who assaulted me. I can't remember if he was showing any kind of injury from me skelping him with the wheel-brace. There was some kind of kerfuffle and someone shouted out that that guy couldn't possibly have done it because he was somewhere else. This shouting came from somewhere in the public gallery.
130. When I was being driven back and forward to court it was in the big van with some other boys who had to come to court too. There wasn't any problem with the other boys. There was a big guy who was in charge of us all. I didn't like him so I ran away from him and hid behind some big bins but they hauled me back again.

131. There was also a problem with my shoes. One morning my shoes had gone. This policemen came in to see me and asked why I wasn't going to court and I said I didn't have any shoes. He told me to go without shoes but I refused. He took me out of the bedroom and then took me back to my room and said that my shoes were there.
132. I think there was some kind of scam going on in that court case, it just didn't seem right. Me and the other boys who had to attend were kept in a room. It looked like a school cloakroom, it had coat hooks and benches. However I had never been in court before at that time so maybe those kinds of arrangements were normal.
133. The abuse I suffered at ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] didn't stop when I reached working age, it was replaced with treating me like a slave. They stole my money. I woke up one night and found a guy stealing money from my wallet. It was dark and the guy was in dark clothing. He didn't seem to have any white skin so he may have had a mask on. I fought with him and the police came and the guy told the police that I had picked him up in a pub and brought him back for sex.
134. I also remember being on holiday from work and someone taking me to different places and then sitting me in a deckchair in the garden at [REDACTED] hand-cuffing me to the chair by my ankles, and leaving me covered by a blanket. I remembered this years later and it was like I was drugged.

Good memories

135. I don't have any good memories of staying at ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] house.

Leaving foster care

136. After leaving school, I continued to stay at ^{ETJ} [REDACTED] house. I worked in a garage, then I got a job as a tyre fitter. Then I went back to the first garage I had

worked at and worked there for a while. Then I went and worked in the cotton mills. Next I had a job in the parks department in Johnstone. To start off [ETJ] got my wages because I wasn't being paid much. As the wages got better she just asked for a sum of money for rent, but you couldn't keep money safe in that house. You could go in at night with £30 in your pocket and wake up with nothing.

137. Then there was a row one night with [ETJ] I went home late one night, about 8.00 pm. [ETJ] was there and I thought she was on her own but she had the usual little guy hiding in one of the bedrooms or the bathroom. I later worked out that she and the little guy had planned the whole thing. They had sent [ETK] to his bedroom. She started to complain about me being in late. I had been complaining about the food over the previous few weeks. She wasn't making food for me, she was making food for [ETK] and herself. She put a meal down in front of me one night and it was mashed potato and two tiny chops. I asked her where she got them and she said she got them in town. I asked her if she was still working as a school dinner lady. [ETJ] said she wasn't but [ETK] said she was. She had stolen the chops from the school dinners. We were arguing and the little guy burst into the sitting room and started hitting me as usual. He attacked me from behind. There was a fight for a short time, then they both told me it was time to get out. He gave me the box with the pre-decimal coins and said that was all I was getting. I left and sometime later they phoned the police and made a complaint.
138. The police found me at my sisters and told me some months later there was a court case about it. The charge against me was found Not Proven, but the little guy was never mentioned in court and I could not remember him being there as the little guy caused me to have blackouts. However, [ETK] was there but he said he hadn't seen what had gone on.
139. The morning I went to court two policemen came up to me and said, "If you say anything bad about [ETJ] or [ETK], you'll piss yourself in the dock" Then another two policemen came up and said, "If you've any problems let us know." I did give evidence about [ETJ] and [ETK] and I did piss myself in the witness box.

Life after being in care

140. I had no money, no job and nowhere to stay. I stayed at my sister's for a couple of days then I went into digs. I had to find a new job. I moved around for a while. I stayed in [REDACTED] Paisley. I was working for an industrial cleaning business. They had a contract in England so I had a chance to go and work for them in England and I did. I moved to England for about thirty years. The job I was doing meant travelling around Norfolk, Buckingham, and Canterbury for a while. Eventually I went to London. I didn't get married and I don't have any children.
141. I moved back to Scotland about eleven years ago. I had a spinal injury that got worse and I wasn't working. When I was working in pubs I was up early and it would be after midnight before I got home again. I didn't see much other than what was in the pub. When you are not working, you see what London is really like. I decided I had had enough and I came back to Dumfries and Galloway, where I came from originally. I haven't worked since I came back to Scotland.

Reporting of abuse

142. I made a further report about abuse in 2002. I phoned the police and told them I wanted to make a complaint about historic sexual abuse. They gave me a time to go to Scotland Yard. I was met in reception by a fat guy, about five feet ten inches tall. There was another guy hanging about. He was a slim guy with frizzy hair. I didn't want to discuss things in the foyer with everyone else around but I did. I had taken some maps with me to show where the sexual assaults had taken place. They eventually sent me out a letter to attend at an office and they did so.
143. I went along and the building had signs saying Metropolitan Police. I was interviewed by a guy and I could see another room. In that room was the short guy with black hair, balding, who had abused me as a child. I got told later that the guys who spoke

to me were not police at all. It was other police officers who told me this. They said that there was a place in the building I went to where you could report abuse but I was in the wrong place. I know that sounds a bit far-fetched.

144. The next time I spoke to the police would have been in 2003. A sergeant came to my house and took some notes but he left after about thirty minutes. I tape recorded that conversation, I should still have that tape. I hadn't heard anything back from the police after going in 2002. I was chasing up Dumfries and Galloway and Strathclyde police to see what was happening about my original complaint. They said they hadn't heard about it. I made some more phone calls trying to find out what was happening but the police in London were saying it was a Scottish matter.
145. The next time I got in contact with the police was in 2003 or 2004. I spoke to them quite often but I think they put my statement on the bottom of the pile.
146. When my complaint was sent to Scotland it was being investigated by a team at Renfrew Road. I spoke to one of the female officers and gave her a list of names. She told me that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] didn't have any kids but he did.
147. Years later, I think it was in 2006, I was emailing a policeman about the abuse I suffered. That's when I was told that my report about the girl from Quarriers being raped verified a report that the policeman's colleague was working on. However it was treated as hearsay evidence. I have not made a formal report to the social work department.

Impact

148. I never got away from [REDACTED] family. I would lose stuff like a belt or something. When I moved down to London, this stuff started appearing again. I had a cowboy belt that went missing and turned up again in a flat in [REDACTED] in East London. I had a pair of clip-on sunglasses that I had because I got some chemicals in my eyes at work and they disappeared and turned up in [REDACTED] Somebody

nicked a pair of boots from me when I was going from one job to another. The boots were tied to my bag. I was working in the Three Jolly Whalers pub in Chigwell and this guy came in and gave me my boots back.

149. When I was in [REDACTED] when they put the old grandad in hospital I went through this drawer in the wardrobe and I found all these pictures of me in [REDACTED] and pictures of me with my grandad and other people. I ripped the photographs in half because of what my grandad had done to me. The bits of the photographs with me in, I put back in the wardrobe. Again in the Three Jolly Whalers pub this guy came in and showed me the same half photographs, the ones I had cut my grandad out of. I went out of the pub and in the beer garden there was a picture of my dog in a frame. It was a picture of my dog tied up at [REDACTED] ETJ [REDACTED] house.
150. When I was working in The Old Father Thames pub on Albert embankment the manager there produced a dinner plate that was exactly the same as a plaque on the wall of [REDACTED] bedroom in [REDACTED]. I can't remember exactly what was on the plate but the guy had set food on the plate that was the same colours and shapes as the plaque on the bedroom wall but it was in three sections with three different colours. I recognised it right away. He also told me about a night that they all sneaked into [REDACTED], turned on the record player really loud, and sneaked out again. These people have never left me alone and continue to harass me today. I think someone is definitely following me. I don't take drugs, I avoid alcohol as well.
151. I suffer from flashback of the abuse I suffered in care. I also suffer from blackouts. It's not the normal sort of blackout where you have a medical condition. My blackouts can be caused by certain people speaking to me and I can lose days. My blackouts are caused by brainwashing. I was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in 2000. I suffer from depression and I am prescribed medication for that.
152. I have undergone Cognitive Behavioural Therapy too. It didn't work for me because of the continuation of the grief I get from these people. When I was in Linwood High School, when I was fourteen, this guy was prodding me with a stick. In [REDACTED]

one day this guy was prodding me with a stick and trying to get me to jump off a balcony on the 21st floor.

153. I used to play in a barn at [REDACTED] Farm. There was a rope swing and me and my sister used to swing on it and jump off onto a hay bale. When it was my turn, I jumped off the rope swing but a guy who was there kicked the hay bale away and I landed badly on the floor so I have a spinal injury that has affected me throughout my adult life. At the time, I just went to bed for a long time, I didn't go to hospital or see a doctor. I'm sure I knew the guy at the time but I can't remember him now.
154. Relationships never last, people interfere with them. I have had short term relationships but I have no trust. It's a continuation from having been in foster care. People are under the impression that paedophiles just stop once you get away from them but they don't. You are a source of income for them or they steal from you, whatever they want. They control your life, your relationships, and they never let go.
155. I remember speaking to a psychiatrist in London at a time when some people had reported abuse they suffered as children in a home in Jersey. They said they were being threatened by the people who had perpetrated the abuse not to speak up about abuse. The psychiatrist said that didn't happen but I pointed out that these were reports in the newspapers, then he said it must just be a one-off and it wouldn't happen again but it does happen.
156. I have never had a problem with drugs. I did occasionally have a drink, more than I should have done. I have now stopped drinking and smoking. I started drinking from the age of fifteen. I don't know if I was trying to forget something or trying to be a big man. People in my situation do tend to have problems with drink, drugs, or ending up in prison, and [REDACTED] family made sure that happened.

Records

157. I didn't get a copy of my birth certificate until I was 32 years old. I did previously contact the social work department in Dumfries and Galloway about my records but the guy I spoke to said there wasn't very much there. I can't remember his name but I still have his email somewhere. I tried contacting the social work in Johnston as well but they weren't very helpful.
158. I was always told they couldn't find my birth certificate. I was told this by [ETJ] [REDACTED] Dumfries and Galloway social services when I wanted a copy because I wanted to join the fire brigade. I phoned social services around about 1992 and they said to send a postal order and return postage and they would send it to me. That's when I got my birth certificate.
159. I also contacted an organisation called The White Flower of Alba. I spoke to a guy called [REDACTED] I don't know if he is related to me. He never got back to me.
160. My sister and I have been estranged from one another for so long that whether or not I have a sister, I don't really care anymore. I was surprised that there was an attempt to contact me last year. It might have made a difference if social services had made an effort to keep us together.

Hopes for the Inquiry

161. I would hope that children in the future will be better taken care of, but can you guarantee that? I think it is down to the social services and people who take on other people's kids. Some carers are probably quite good and do offer love and affection but some just do it for the money.
162. It's people who have to change and you have to make people a lot better than you are doing. I don't know how you can do that. How long do we go back into people's lives to check for things? I know that you are barred from caring for children if you

have a criminal conviction for some things. They have only brought these things in recently.

163. The abuse of kids in care is not just an isolated thing. It has been happening in Scotland, England, Wales, Australia, and New Zealand. It's massive. People could not have not known about this, it's so widespread. I don't just mean people who are caring for children, other people must have seen this because it's not a small thing, it's huge. It has been happening in Canada and America too, it's everywhere. It is unlikely that people in high authority did not know this was going on because not everybody in care keeps their mouth shut. I complained to the police when I was still in school but I got nowhere. Other people must have done the same thing.

Lessons to be learned

164. The state of me when I was living at [REDACTED] when Mrs McCormack saw me, she should never have left me there. She should have taken some sort of action. I was filthy, my clothes were filthy, my room was filthy, and my bedclothes were filthy. The bedclothes were only changed if a social worker was coming to visit. It was a double bed but they used single sheets put across the bed. That way, if you pulled back the cover, you would see a clean sheet. When I was about fourteen years old she once asked me if I wanted to leave and I said yes. I went and packed my stuff but she just walked away. I still had the same sack I had when my stuff was sent up to [REDACTED] They hadn't even washed the stuff inside.
165. The foster carers always seemed to have more interaction with the social workers than the kids themselves. My experience was that I was always interviewed by social workers in the presence of the foster carers. There was always the look, if you tell the truth you're in trouble. The social workers always announced when they were coming. I think more spot checks would be handy, the social worker would have seen the filthy conditions I was living in. She did see the conditions, but she did nothing.

- 166. When I tried to report abuse, most people were sympathetic but all of them did nothing. If you are in care and you run away, the police will bring you back. They tell you how grateful you should be for being in this nice home. They viewed people in foster care in the same way as people in borstal. The fact that you were in foster care meant you must have done something to put yourself there and you were entirely to blame. They just told you to stop whingeing and get on with it.

- 167. Paedophiles are clever. They don't advertise to social services what they are or what they intend to do. They are very devious people. You can tell that by the way they set up websites on the dark web. These people know what they are doing. They don't give away information or clues about what they are very easily. This means it is extremely difficult to spot paedophiles that are applying to foster children or even adopt them.

Other information

- 168. 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..... 23 September 2021