

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IQZ

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is IQZ I was born IQZ and that's the name I was known by until I was adopted, which was quite late on in life. My date of birth is 1971. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. My father was . My birth mother was but she remarried after her and my father divorced, so she was known as Mrs most of the time. I don't know how old I was when my mother remarried, I was just a wee boy.
3. My sister is two years older than me, and my brother was one year older than me, but he is now deceased.
4. Before I was born the social services were in contact with the family as they were already having problems and were being supervised by social workers and people who dealt with child cruelty. When I was born, my birth mother had a few mental breakdowns. She was physically and emotionally used and abused by my father. It is in my records that my birth mother admitted slapping me and that she couldn't trust herself not to do it again.
5. When I was a bit older, when my parents were fighting, I would go in between them to stop them, but to no avail. My father put a poker in the fire and held it up to my mother's face. I saw a lot of things happening.

6. My birth mother would leave the family home, with me and my siblings, and walk the streets for hours unsure what to do next. Invariably she would return to her home or the home of my maternal grandmother, Mrs [REDACTED]
7. My brother and sister were at home and then they went into different care homes for short periods of time when my birth mother was ill. My birth mother had a good few nervous turns and ended up in psychiatric wards for a wee while.
8. I don't remember social workers at my mother's house until after I was in Glenturret Terrace, then I felt they were present a lot of the time.
9. Bob Thomson was one of my social workers. There was a woman before him, but I don't remember her name. There was an older man after Bob Thomson. My mum got support, but she wasn't the type of person who took much advice.
10. I was in and out of various children's homes and foster care placements for a number of years as my birth mother could not cope with me, but at the same time, could not let go of me. Then, my time at the Family Group Home began.

**The Family Group Home, 24 Glenturret Terrace, Moncrief, Perth 1975 to date  
unknown**

11. I was four years old when I was placed at The Family Group Home. I had been there before for short periods. I was back and forth a lot of times and my birth mother really needed to leave me alone, but she wouldn't.

12. [REDACTED]

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### Leaving The Family Group Home

56. My time at The Family Group Home went on for a number of years **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** Then we were told that the Family Group Home was to be closing. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** **Secondary Institutions - to be published later** That was all in the space of two hours. The social work had just decided no more Family Group Homes, and that was it.

57. I was very upset and crying. I could not understand what was happening to me. I was put into a children's home called Colonsay.

**Colonsay Children's Home, Perth 1982 (Dates unknown)**

58. I was about twelve years old when I went to Colonsay.

59. Bob Thomson my Social Worker took me to Colonsay. He was just a muppet. When he talked about me to others he would say, "How's she doing?" He said I should be doing more boy things like playing football, but I hate football. It actually says in my file that I am a large, bespectacled, effeminate person. You wouldn't get away with that nowadays. It was the way folk spoke at the time, terminology was a lot different.

60.  Secondary Institutions - to be published later

61. I was only at Colonsay for two or three days before being transferred to Scone Children's Home.

**Scone Children's Home, Birch Avenue, Scone 1982 to 1983**

62.  Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### Leaving Scone Children's Home

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions

There was a case meeting about me, and I was asked into the office after it had been underway for a while, and informed that I would be going, straight



away, to Burnside Children's Assessment Centre in Dundee. This was from approximately [REDACTED] 1983 to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] 1984.

**Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee, [REDACTED] 1983 to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] 1984**

92. I was still twelve years old when I went to Burnside. Burnside was just a total shock to me, I didn't realise what I was going to when they put me there. It was just horrible. There was a woman called Fiona who was nice, but everything else I have tried to block out. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

[REDACTED] Secondary Institution Burnside wasn't a happy place, I don't think anyone was really happy there. The staff just talked to me as if I was dirt. There were a few nice ones, but not a lot. You knew not to ask for anything because you knew you wouldn't get it.

**Routine at Burnside Assessment Centre**

93. Burnside was full of locked doors, it was a secure unit. The junior unit was downstairs, and the senior unit was up the stairs. I don't know if the units had names. They could have done but I don't remember. I couldn't tell you how many kids there were at Burnside, there were a lot.

94. I wasn't involved in the decision to put me in Burnside, but I know now why they put me there, to stop me from seeing Mrs [REDACTED]. Putting me in Burnside was the only way they could keep me exactly where they wanted me.

*First day*

95. Bob Thomson the social worker took me to Burnside. I had a couple of bags full of my things with me. He dropped me off and left me. Two female staff emptied my bags and did an inventory of what I had. I didn't realise at that moment that they were going to keep all my stuff. It was stored in a secure room.

96. These ladies, who looked scary to me, told me I would have to wait for a male staff member to come. The ladies said I had to have a shower and change into a Burnside uniform. I asked why I could not wear my own clothes. I was told, **Secondary Institutions -**  
**Secondary Institutions - to be published la**
97. Different rules applied at Burnside. By this time the male staff member was there. He got me to follow him to a shower room. He removed my clothing and after I had undressed, he examined my now naked body while wearing latex gloves. My anus was inspected before he got me into the shower. He was present the whole time I was in the shower, watching me. I turned off the shower and he handed me a towel.
98. The male member of staff said he would go and get me clothes and underwear. I asked why I couldn't wear my own clothes. I was crying and very upset at this point. He came back with the clothes, and I was still crying. I asked why I couldn't wear my own pants and he said it was different at Burnside. I put on the clothes he gave me. By this time, I was crying uncontrollably. He told me I would have to stop crying. Then he told me about certain rules that applied at Burnside. He took me to show me my bedroom and I was still crying. He sat on the bed beside me and explained that Burnside **Secondary**  
**Secondary Institutions - to be published later** He was trying to advise me how things were done there and how I could best survive it.
99. After this he asked if I was hungry. I said I was, and he went and got me a cheese and onion sandwich, two packets of crisps, and a can of coke. He went away while I ate, then returned later to show me the unit.
100. I was shown where I could watch TV, but that TV had to be earned. There were a number of other boys in the sitting room, and they looked scary to me. He asked if I wanted to stay there or return to my bedroom. I went to my bedroom, and he went with me. He said someone would knock on my door later to offer me supper. He left the room, and I started crying to myself.
101. I cried off and on for what felt like hours, then there was knock at the door. It was a lovely lady called Fiona. She got me my supper and said she would return later to

have a chat. She returned later and sat on my bed. She went over how the unit operated.

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

102. Next morning, they woke me up and told me there was a box in the corner where I would be able to collect underwear. I had a shower and then joined everyone in the sitting room before heading through for breakfast.
103. After supper, more often than not, I cried myself to sleep. To me it was like jail. Most days were as bad as the rest. I [Secondary Institution] get back to Scone Children's Home at the weekends. This continued much the same for the duration of my time at Burnside.

#### *Mealtimes/Food*

104. The food at Burnside wasn't [redacted] good [Secondary Institutions - to be published] We all ate together in a big dining room. You didn't get a choice of what to eat. If you didn't like something you either ate it or left it, you just went without.
105. If you wanted a snack you had to buy it and you kept it in your room or they kept it for you.

#### *Healthcare*

106. I did go to hospital once after an incident which I will explain later.

#### *Chores / Pocket money*

107. I think we had to do certain things. I remember Fiona said that we were going to decorate the hall. She had woodchip wallpaper and we put it on the walls and painted it.

### *Clothing/uniform*

108. The uniform at Burnside was jogging bottoms and a T-shirt. We got underwear and socks as well. When you arrived, all your stuff was taken away and put on a shelf in a cupboard. You only got your clothes when you were going out of the place. Even when we went to Asda or into town, we got to wear our own clothes.

### *Schooling*

109. Fiona informed me that the rest were going to school and that she would go back to the unit with me. I waited in the sitting room until she was ready to show me around the school.
110. I asked Fiona why every door had to be locked and unlocked. Fiona had a large bunch of keys. She explained that that was how things were done at Burnside.
111. I got shown round the school and taken to what became my classroom. I was introduced to the teacher. She looked old to me and had a strange highland accent. I sat at a desk, and she explained a few of the rules. She said, "If I say duck, you duck." I asked why and she explained that it meant probably a desk, or a chair was being flung across the room at her. I didn't know what to say but she mentioned that there were jotters and writing materials I could use. I did sums on the first day.
112. The woman with the highland accent was really nice. She gave me 'soor plooms' which were sweets. I never learnt anything at the school. The classroom was just a disorganised mess.

### *Leisure time / books/ games*

113. I never really did much. I just lay in my room and sometimes cried. I bought a lot of plants, my room was full of them, so I would see to my plants.



114. Occasionally we got taken out to a grassy bit and were allowed to play football, but I didn't like football. I just kept myself to myself. If anyone said anything I just ignored it.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

115. I wasn't at Burnside at Christmas time. My birth mother came to collect me and then let me spend time at Mrs [REDACTED]

*Trips and holidays*

116. Periodically, Fiona would take us out to Asda, or on trips into town when we had built up some pocket money, but we didn't go on any other trips.

*Family Contact*

117. My birth mother, [REDACTED] came to Burnside to collect me. I was surprised that my birth mother had collected me and not a social worker. We had a bite to eat in Dundee before boarding a train to Perth. She also told me that she had a surprise for me which I would find out about on the train. Just before we arrived at Perth she announced that Mrs [REDACTED] would be taking me for the weekend without the social work knowing. I think it was starting to dawn on my birth mother that I should be with Mrs [REDACTED] permanently. My birth mother took me back to Burnside the following week.
118. My birth mother would come to Burnside periodically. I was supposed to go with her at weekends, but she always let me go to Mrs [REDACTED]. Sometimes I went to Scone Children's Home at weekends.
119. I wouldn't know until the Friday if a social worker was going to pick me up and take me to Scone, or if my birth mother was going to pick me up and let me go to Mrs [REDACTED]

### *Discipline*

120. To me the whole place seemed like a prison. I couldn't understand why I was there. Each day was much like the next. I just kept myself to myself. If one person misbehaved we were all punished by the removal of TV etc.
121. You would get put in your room and you wouldn't get TV. I was in my room a lot anyway, so it didn't really bother me. Maybe if you had arranged for them to take you into town or up to Asda, that was all stopped.
122. It was a crazy place to be, boys were fighting all the time. It was a very unpleasant place. I think I could have seen boys being restrained, I don't have a clear memory.

### **Abuse at Burnside**

123. One night in particular I was in bed, thinking about Mrs [REDACTED], Scone Children's Home, and my birth mother. I must have fallen asleep and sometime during the night two male staff members entered my room. I don't know their names, but they were staff in my unit. I can't remember them having any distinguishing features. They were having a laugh and a joke about dirty, inappropriate things.
124. One of the male staff members put his hand down the front of my pyjama bottoms and was fondling my penis. I asked him to stop but he didn't stop. He pulled down my trousers and threw me face down on the bed. By this time, I could feel his penis trying to enter me. I told him to stop. He was now fully inside me. He called me all sorts of filthy names. It felt like a lifetime. He ejaculated inside me. No sooner had he climbed off me than the other staff member was inside me. I didn't bother to shout for help because no one would hear.
125. I then realised that two other male staff had entered the room. I don't know their names either and they were not staff from my unit. They may have been from the

older unit upstairs. They both verbally abused me before physically abusing me in exactly the same way as their other colleagues.

126. The second two left and I thought the first two had left, but they were still there. They told me that what happened was our secret. One of them handed me a carrier bag for being good. It contained sweets, 20 cigarettes, and a lighter. I had started smoking at Burnside. One of the men then said he would come back in a wee while to take me for a cigarette. I was told not to tell anybody.
127. I was having a cigarette and one of the two men commented that he noticed I was bleeding badly from my bum. You could see from his face that he was very distressed about the amount of blood. He took me back to my room and got me clean underwear and pyjamas, and an absorbent pad to put against my bum.
128. No more than ten minutes later he returned to take me to Dundee Royal Infirmary. He put his jacket around me. I asked why we were at hospital, and he said the bleeding had to be stopped. I was put in a ward and the officer from Burnside was still with me. The surgeon examined me and explained I would have to go to theatre.
129. I observed a heated discussion between the officer and the surgeon. Then the Burnside officer left. It was the middle of the night, and a nurse was helping me prepare for theatre. She could see that I was very upset and tried to comfort me, but I just continued crying. I had an operation to repair the damage and woke to find it was beginning to get light.
130. The nurse offered me toast and butter, and I ate it with a cup of tea. A while later the surgeon came back. He told me that he knew what had happened to me and he could help me. I replied that he couldn't help me because I had to go back to Burnside. Shortly after a nurse informed me that someone from Burnside would be coming to collect me with some clean clothes.

131. Although the surgeon said he knew what had happened to me, nobody asked me what had happened and there was no follow up. As quick as I got into hospital was as quick as I got back to Burnside. It was like I had never been away.
132. In the car on the way back to Burnside, the driver who was one of the abusers told me not to say anything as it was our little secret. On arrival at Burnside, I was offered a cup of tea and a pancake. Then I was taken to the school. I had no idea what time it was, and the teacher told me just to read a book. Shortly after there was a break for playtime. Thereafter, life carried on as if nothing had happened. That same week a nice lady, who was medically trained, came to see me and changed my dressings. I was unsure if she was a staff member or had been brought in specially. She came twice and looked at my injury. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions -

### **Reporting abuse at Burnside**

133. I never told anyone what happened at Burnside. I think my behaviour changed after that happened. I just kept myself to myself. I remember I never ever went to watch television in Burnside again. I didn't want anything to do with the other boys in the place. When they took us out, I bought some plants for my room and just stayed in my room.

### **Leaving Burnside**

134. Life carried on as usual, then I heard there was to be a meeting held on the Friday to decide what would be happening to me. I was in the classroom during the meeting, and I was told by a member of staff that my birth mother, Bob Thomson, as well as Miss MCF Bob Thomson's boss, were in the meeting.



135. Miss MCF told me that I should never have been in Burnside. I was then informed that I was going back to Scone Children's Home on a permanent basis. Secondary Inst  
Secondary Institutions - to be published later

136. We were all then driven back to Scone Children's Home. We arrived there and a staff member told me to put my things in my room. Miss MCF and Bob Thomson explained that I could have been placed in a far worse establishment, and that I should be eternally grateful to them for getting back to Scone Children's Home. I was told, "Don't blow it here." And that I had to be good. This closes the chapter of the nightmare of Burnside, and the next chapter of my life begins. I was still only twelve years old.

**Scone Children's Home, Birch Avenue, Scone, 1984 (Duration unknown)**

137. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### Leaving Scone Children's Home

140. Several months after I went back to Scone Children's Home, social workers mentioned Mainstay and explained it was like fostering. I ended up staying with a Mr and Mrs [IRG-IRH] and their two sons. I thought this would be the right thing, but it turned out to be another nightmare.

### Mainstay care with [IRG-IRH] 1984 (Duration unknown)

141. When it was called Mainstay they got a salary and an allowance but when it was called Fostering they got an allowance.
142. [IRG-IRH] stayed on the [IRG-IRH] in a tenement. The man was [IRG] [IRG] but I don't remember her first name. I think they worked. I was there for about six months.
143. Mrs [IRH] s mother came from Glasgow and both Mr [IRG] and Mrs [IRH] were a lot nicer when she was there. Mrs [IRH] s mother gave me ten pounds but as soon as she went to her bedroom Mrs [IRH] s hand was out and she took the ten pounds. That's the way it goes. That's what happened. I thought it would be a lot better.

## Routine at [IRG-IRH] Mainstay care

### *Mornings and bedtime*

144. The social work provided a new bed for me, but [IRG-IRH] took it and gave it to one of their own children, and I got their old bed.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

145. The food was chronic. They didn't feed me properly and I was asked by friends why I was losing weight.
146. They gave me a sandwich to go to school. My nana lived [REDACTED] the high school, and I would run down from school with my sandwich and say to her, "There's something wrong with that." The meat was like petrol coloured. The neighbour's dog wouldn't even eat it.

### *Clothing/uniform*

147. I already had a lot of clothes when I went to [IRG-IRH].

### *Leisure time*

148. I didn't really do much at [IRG-IRH]'s house.

### *Work*

149. [IRG-IRH] had two children. One was two years old, and one was four years old. [IRG-IRH] would go out for dinner, and I would have to bath the children and put them to bed. They were good children, so I was lucky in that way.
150. I had to walk [IRG-IRH]'s dalmatian and it ran away half the time. A lot of the time I was looking for it.

151. I had a job [REDACTED], he was a councillor. I used to go there and help him sort out [REDACTED] in the morning. He would give me a bacon roll.

*Review of care*

152. The social worker visited now and again.

*Family contact*

153. I went to my birth mother's house every two weeks for the weekend. I was still going to see Mrs [REDACTED] when I was there. Mrs [REDACTED] found out about everything with Mr and Mrs [IRG-IRH] [REDACTED]

154. Mr [IRG] [REDACTED] applied for a job with the prison service and got the job. A woman who worked in another Family Group Home was married to a man who was high up in the prison service and Mrs [REDACTED] mentioned what Mr [IRG] [REDACTED] had done to me. Mr [IRG] [REDACTED] didn't last long in the prison service. He put in a complaint against Mrs [REDACTED] but nothing was followed through.

**Abuse at [IRG-IRH] [REDACTED] Mainstay care**

155. If I had any money, they said they would look after it. They spent it, I never saw it again. They would go out for the evening and I was expected to bath the boys and put them to bed.

**Reporting of abuse at [IRG-IRH] [REDACTED] Mainstay care**

156. I saw my birth mother and I told her what was going on with [IRG-IRH] [REDACTED]. Her husband was Pakistani, and he lost the plot with [IRG-IRH] [REDACTED].

## Leaving <sup>IRG-IRH</sup> Mainstay care

157. My birth mother and her second husband came to <sup>IRG-IRH</sup>'s door and there was a huge argument. My birth mother told me to pack my things and I went back to their house. I don't know what my birth mum and her husband told the social work but the next day the social worker came, and it was decided I would return to Scone Children's Home.

## Scone Children's Home, Birch Avenue, Scone (Dates unknown)

158. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

159. I had been back at Scone Children's Home for a couple of months, and I saw Mr <sup>IRG</sup> on the bus. I lost the plot with him and called him every name I could. Mr <sup>IRG</sup> put in a complaint to the social workers about me, but nothing happened with the complaint. They just told me that if I saw him, not to speak to him. I hope that <sup>IRG-IRH</sup> weren't still doing Mainstay care after me, but I don't know.

## Leaving Scone Children's Home

160. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

161. <sup>IRG-IRH</sup> told them I wanted to go to the social work office and speak to a senior member of social work staff. I eventually saw someone who

explained that I couldn't just go to the [REDACTED]. A meeting was arranged with them for the following day, and I agreed to go back to Scone Children's Home, pending the outcome of the meeting.

**Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] - Foster care and adoption (Dates of fostering unknown)**

162. It was decided at the meeting that I would return to living with the [REDACTED] and they would apply to become foster carers. This turned into a very long-drawn-out process, but I was so very happy living with the [REDACTED]. Eventually they were granted permission to foster me and shortly after this, Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] asked me if I would like them to adopt me. I said, yes, that I would love that. A few months later the adoption was granted. I was ecstatic. The adoption order was granted on [REDACTED] 1989 and registered on [REDACTED] 1989.
163. I then realised I had beaten the system. I should never have been in that position in the first place. I also realised I had endured but survived the horrors of the social work department.

**Life after being in care**

164. After I was adopted by Mrs [REDACTED] I became a hairdresser. I got my own shop. I did that for a number of years but then my health wasn't too good, so I got rid of the shop.
165. After being in care I had a better life going forward than going back but what happened is always there. I met my husband on 6 June 2009 and we have been together ever since.
166. Mrs [REDACTED]'s health wasn't good, and I looked after her for seventeen and a half years. I lost my mother in 2017.



## Impact

167. I have always had what happened to me in my head somewhere.

168. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

169.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

When I went to mainstay with Mr and Mrs <sup>IRG-JRH</sup> I thought, "This will be a normal house." but it turned out to be a nightmare. All the time I kept thinking about getting back to Mrs [REDACTED] It ate me up, thinking about getting back to Mrs [REDACTED] I had to achieve that, and that's why I made myself ill, because no-one was listening to me. The minute I did that, I got to speak to a senior social worker, and it all moved forward probably within a week. So, things can be done.

170. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

all the bother I had in Secondary Institution Burnside. I fought to get back to the good and I won but it shouldn't have been like that. It shouldn't have resulted in me getting into a situation where I ended up in hospital. I don't understand why the social workers were telling me that Mrs [REDACTED] was bad, that she was controlling.

171. I am a very defensive person. There are only a few people that I trust, I only have small circle of friends. If someone comes into the circle and something goes wrong, they are gone.

172. As an adult I have had dreams about my time in care. I am not sleeping right, it is getting worse. I have also developed a stutter in the last few months. I think it is because of going through my records and the run up to me speaking to the Inquiry. Everything has just come to a head.

173. I wish I had never met my birth family, I wish I had just been left with Mrs [REDACTED]. She truly loved me, and I have never trusted anyone like I trusted her. Mrs [REDACTED] really was my saviour.

### **Treatment/support**

174. I have asked my social worker about support, and she has given me a few names. After Mrs [REDACTED] died I started counselling. I had to go for interview meetings and met a lovely woman. I thought she was going to be the woman doing my counselling, but I got another woman and she wanted to record the counselling sessions. I didn't like her, and I just put a stop to it.
175. I have thought about writing a book about my experiences, but I don't know if that is a good idea because it would be like reliving it all again.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

176. I have not reported the abuse I suffered to the police, but I have now got a solicitor involved. I am applying for compensation through the redress scheme.

### **Records**

177. I got my records. My adoptive mother, Mrs [REDACTED] told me that I needed to get my records, to find out exactly what happened to me. Mrs [REDACTED] never told me, although she probably knew most of it. Some of it is not so good, but it is my life.
178. A woman from Perth and Kinross council had to go through my records. The last time my records had been filled in was when I got adopted so the woman was from the adoption department, not the other social workers. She came out and started reading an outline of the records. A lot of it was redacted. She said she would leave the records



for me and my husband [REDACTED] to look over, but I had to phone her and ask her if she would come and read them for me. She agreed to do that, and we started doing that at the beginning of 2023. We have now finished going through all of my records. She has been really good, she came once a fortnight. It was quite therapeutic. Things that I thought had happened, but I wasn't sure about, had happened. I was proved right.

179. It was the woman from the council who mentioned that you could report abuse to the Inquiry. If she hadn't mentioned that I wouldn't have known to contact the Inquiry, but I'm glad I did. I feel that some people might benefit from seeing what happened to me, or the government might see what happened. I am not doing this for a witch hunt, I am doing this so that some people might learn from it.

### Lessons to be learned

180. Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
[REDACTED]

181. I think that people in care should have a small family group. It is the nearest thing to a normal family home. Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
Secondary Institutions - to be published later

182. Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
[REDACTED]

183. Secondary Institutions - to be published later no-one was listening to me. I would say that is the most important lesson to learn, listen to the kid. Ask what the kid wants. Don't just assume, or all you will do is create damaged people.

184. In my mind, social workers are not good. They are not living with the child, they are not seeing what the child is like 24 hours a day, so how can they make decisions about the child?

185. I think I first started to feel like that social workers were not good when they started telling me that Mrs [redacted] was bad for me. [redacted] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

[redacted] Secondary Institutions - to be published

### Hopes for the Inquiry

186. I hope that the Inquiry will listen to me and perhaps do things differently. I don't know how things are done now and to be honest, I don't want to know. I hope that it is better.

### Other information

187. 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.

IQZ [redacted]

Signed..

Dated..

30.8.2013