

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

**Avril CAMPBELL**

Support person present: No

1. My name is Avril Marie Campbell. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1947. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. My name, Avril, is pronounced like April.

### **Life before becoming a foster carer**

2. Before becoming a foster carer I was a nurse. It was really laid back at that time. I didn't go to college to study, two O levels was all I had. I worked in a hospital straight from school, when I was sixteen years old. I married my husband Dennis who was a psychiatric nurse. When I had my children I stopped nursing full time and worked part time on and off until I was around fifty years old.

### **Work as a foster carer**

3. I started working as a foster carer when I was in my late twenties, just after I lost a baby to cot death. That incident had everything to do with me becoming a foster carer. Dennis and I already had three children, Emma, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Then we had another baby girl, who was really lovely, but she died when she was four months old. I couldn't stand to look at babies after that. If someone gave me a baby, I couldn't get rid of it quick enough. I was still getting up early but I didn't know what to do with myself

because I didn't have the baby to look after. The doctor wanted to put me on anti-depressants but I said that wouldn't bring my baby back and Dennis and I just pulled ourselves together.

4. I had a friend called Rosalind Tipping who had a fifteen year old daughter who was causing some problems. Rosalind's daughter came to live with Dennis and I, and her behaviour improved. It wasn't as important to us as it was to her mum. She went back to live with Rosalind and it was Rosalind who suggested that Dennis and I foster. Rosalind worked for the social work department and was looking after a little boy. Dennis and I went along with what Rosalind said, although we were a little green.
5. Dennis and I got in touch with Morag Auchterlonie, a social worker. She said that she had a little boy who had been in foster care since he was very young. His name was Christopher Scott. He had been with several people. Morag said that they weren't going to try fostering Christopher again but it was thought that because I was a nurse I would be able to look after his physical needs and because Dennis was a psychiatric nurse it would be good to have him too, because the boy was seeing a psychiatrist at the time.
6. Although Morag was our social worker, Christopher had a social worker of his own but I don't know who that was. There were a lot of social workers coming and going. Dennis and I met Christopher's mum. I'm not sure when, but she was very pleased for Christopher to come to Dennis and I. She was lovely but she just couldn't cope with him.

### **Financial support**

7. The social workers used to give Dennis and I some money but at that time it was a small amount. It really only covered looking after Christopher.
8. The support that Dennis and I got from Morag Auchterlonie was very good. We couldn't knock them at all. They came to the house regularly and they interviewed Christopher

on his own, they were very good. When I felt I was struggling Morag actually came to me and said, "I wouldn't be surprised if you gave him back." but I thought I would just have to try harder. If I had known then what I know now, that he didn't drink any of the blue bathroom cleaner I thought he had drunk, I may have felt differently. I did feel that I should have given him back, but it was nothing to do with the money.

9. When Dennis and I actually did give Christopher back I was ready to stop altogether, I had had enough and my children were growing. The social workers wanted me to carry on, they said that I had done a good job with Christopher. They asked me if I would consider short-term foster care and I said I would. But Dennis and I only got money when the foster children came, Dennis and I didn't get money all the time. The money was to one side.

#### **The placing of Christopher Scott with us**

10. There wasn't any kind of process that Rosalind went through to match Christopher with our family. She just had a child who needed to be fostered and Dennis and I were fosterers. The only background information Dennis and I got about Christopher was to do with his diet. Dennis and I didn't know what the circumstances were that resulted in him being taken into care. All Dennis and I knew was that he didn't really get on with his mum. Dennis and I got to meet her, after Christopher came to stay with us.
11. I don't know what arrangements were made for Christopher before he came to stay with Dennis and I. I know that he was going to see the psychiatrist with Rosalind every week. I think Christopher came to visit Dennis and I once before we got him full-time. My son [REDACTED] was delighted to be getting a brother and I remember Christopher saying at a meeting that he had a brother, by which he meant [REDACTED]. We didn't give our own children any advice about Christopher, we just said that another boy was coming to stay with us and he fitted in. They all seemed to like him, there was no resentment.
12. I don't know if there is anything that could have been done differently regarding placing Christopher with us. I feel Dennis and I were well supported, I had no complaints.

## Training

13. I didn't get any training to become a foster carer. I was registered with Dundee Council as a foster carer, I think. It was all done officially. I think they did some background checks. They got in touch with the police and our doctor, to make sure Dennis and I weren't horrible people. Dennis and I didn't have to go to an interview panel or anything like that. After I was registered, they did lots of visits to check things because Christopher had been in so much trouble. I can't remember how regularly they visited but it was at least once every three months. As well as there being no initial training, there was no on-going training either.
  
14. Dennis and I got some advice now and again from Rosalind but we didn't really need anything because everything was working out fine in the first year. Dennis and I had problems in the second year because I fell pregnant. That was when Christopher was seven years old. My son [REDACTED] was born but he had serious problems. He used to stop breathing, it was quite horrific especially after we had lost our little girl. It turned out his trachea was soft so it would just collapse and he couldn't breathe. Dennis and I had to take him to King's Cross hospital. The nurses kept him next to the nurses station so they could keep an eye on him. It think that is where things went wrong with Christopher because he wasn't getting the same attention. My focus went on [REDACTED], especially after our daughter dying at four months of age. Dennis and I thought perhaps she had the same condition as [REDACTED]
  
15. My sister, [REDACTED], came to live with Dennis and I for about six months and she spent a lot of time with Christopher, so the attention he wasn't getting from me, he was getting from my sister.

16. I fostered jointly with my husband Dennis but it was mostly me because he was working in the Mormon Church. Dennis and I lived in several houses.

██████████, **Dundee**

17. Dennis and I lived in a bungalow on ██████████ near the park, at the top of ██████████. It was a good house but I wasn't too happy about the school. One the ground floor there was a living room, 3 bedrooms, and a big kitchen you could eat in. There was a Ramsay ladder and upstairs the loft was all floored. ██████████ and Christopher slept up the stairs. Dennis and I had one bedroom and Emma and ██████████ shared another room.
18. We didn't realise what we were taking on with Christopher. He lied right from the start, he just couldn't help it. It was silly little lies. We knew he was lying but there wasn't any point in doing anything about it, He wet the bed right from the start, but Dennis and I just accepted that, that was him. The first year was fine, we got on really well. There was a meeting with a group of social workers and both Christopher and I were saying how good things were.

**Auchterhouse**

19. When Christopher was seven years old Dennis and I moved to Auchterhouse, just outside of Dundee. Dennis and I lived there for about three years. There were two bedrooms, a big room and a small room at the back, a kitchen, and a bedroom upstairs. Dennis and I put Christopher, ██████████ and Emma in the back and it worked well. A friend of mine, Moria Shaw, lived with Dennis and I because she had split up from her boyfriend who was being violent. I think ██████████ was upstairs with her. There was room for the children to play at Auchterhouse.
20. It was lovely in Auchterhouse, I was very happy there, but Christopher started having more and more problems there. As well as Moira, there were other people who lived

with us at separate times. There was a friend of Dennis who had suffered a breakdown. There was a girl who was dying. Her mum sent her up to Dennis and I. Dennis and I just used to shuffle people about between the rooms. The house always went like a fare.

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21. Then Dennis and I moved back to ██████████ in Dundee because Dennis was finding it difficult for work and the children were getting older. Dennis and I felt it would be difficult living that far out in Auchterhouse.
22. ██████████ was a huge house. It had been on the market for over a year because it needed a lot done to it. It had ten rooms. The kids had a room each, they didn't have to share. Other people came to stay there too. Dennis and I have always had a lot of people in our lives.
23. When Dennis and I moved back to Dundee we decided that we would have to send Christopher back because of the problems he was having. Dennis and I thought it would just get worse as he became a teenager. Shortly after Dennis and I moved, Christopher went back.

#### **Christopher Scott, foster placement 1976 to 1981**

##### *First day*

24. Christopher was six years old when he arrived with Dennis and I, in 1976. Of my own children, Emma would have been seven years old when Christopher arrived with Dennis and I. ██████████ would have been six years old, and ██████████ four years old.
25. The first day he came to Dennis and I, Christopher said he was going to call Dennis and I mum and dad. That really shocked us. I asked the social worker but she just

said, "Let him have the dream." I know that Christopher has now said the Dennis and I forced him to call us mum and dad but that is not true. There was one time that Dennis and I met with Christopher's mum and I was worried sick about him calling Dennis and I mum and dad because I thought that would be really hurtful for his mum but all of a sudden he referred to us as Avril and Dennis in conversation. I was really relieved.

### *Healthcare*

26. Dennis and I took Christopher to hospital appointments due to him being Celiac. If someone is Celiac, they can't have any gluten which is a component of many foodstuffs, like wheat. A person who is Celiac has to refrain from such foods otherwise it can cause gastric problems. It means that person has to follow a strict and restricted diet. There wasn't as much known about the condition back then and people weren't as aware of it as they are now.
27. Rosalind kept taking Christopher to the psychiatrist. Dennis and I didn't take him there, it was always Rosalind. I don't really know what the focus of the psychiatric problems were.
28. Christopher just kept lying, he wouldn't tell the truth. He just couldn't help it. Dennis and I didn't get any training on how to deal with these health issues, child protection, disciplining, or keeping records. Dennis and I didn't get any written guidance or anything. The social workers were just happy that Christopher was happy. The social workers used to take Christopher on his own to interview him and they were satisfied that he was happy. If there was anything wrong, he could have told them.

### *Discipline*

29. Dennis and I didn't get any rules or guidance from the social work department regarding the discipline of children. I can't really remember what type of behaviour would result in the children being disciplined. I remember I gave Christopher the belt in Auchterhouse, I didn't do it before that but the school did it. It was only four times

but I don't remember why but I was lousy at it. It was all three of the children that got the belt. They had been up to something.

30. [REDACTED] had had the belt twice at school when he was four years old. I thought if the school was doing it maybe I was wrong for not doing it. I would never even smack the children except on the bottom or their hand. After the fourth time, I thought, "I'm not going to do that again." It was one of Dennis' belts I used. I hit the children on the bare bottom. It was one stroke each time I did it. I didn't keep any record of this for the social work department but I would have told them, I was always very honest with them.

### **Allegations by Christopher**

31. I am aware that Christopher has made a number of allegations against myself and my husband Dennis. I am also aware that my daughter, Emma Hann has made allegations in support of Christopher as well as making allegations of her own. I can respond to each of these allegations.
32. Other than any explanation I have stated, I cannot explain why Christopher and Emma are making these allegations. I do not believe that the passage of time has affected my memory, although the stroke I suffered in 2019 may have.
33. Christopher has alleged at paragraph 147 of his statement, "*I have no doubt that the Campbells only fostered me to get money. It states in my records she frequently applied for money for clothing stating that I was outgrowing my clothing. In all the medical reports however they state that I am growing at a very slow rate and not putting on weight. The Campbells asked for money for dancing too, which I hated.*" No, Dennis and I never got money for things like dancing so that wasn't a problem. It was friends of ours who were teaching him to dance. That is just not true. Dennis and I just got the same as every other foster parent. Every now and again the social workers would give Dennis and I money for school clothes, it was a regular thing. I can't remember now how much money Dennis and I got.



34. Emma alleges at paragraph 15 of her statement, *"I have heard my mum say at times that she should have given him back, but the money was difficult to lose."*

No, but I should have given him back. I really felt after the business with the drinking the blue bathroom cleaner maybe I was neglecting him. At that time, I thought I was going to have to try harder. It wasn't about the money because we didn't get much. It certainly wasn't like it is now.

35. Christopher has alleged at paragraph 11 of his statement, *"They were keen for me to call them mum and dad but I never felt comfortable about it. By the time we moved to [REDACTED] I told them I was going to call them Avril and Dennis. They weren't very happy about that."*

That honestly never happened. Christopher always called Dennis and I Mum and Dad. Dennis and I were uncomfortable with it but after five years we got used to it, but he was never told to do that. When Dennis and I moved to [REDACTED] he never said that he was going to call us Avril and Dennis. Even when I visited him in the children's home he called me Mum. That was after he left Dennis and I. If he had lived with Dennis and I and called me by my name, he would have pronounced Avril like April. Everyone called me that, so to say that he was pronouncing it Avril, like Advil, it just doesn't make sense. I heard him say that at the court case.

36. Emma alleges at paragraph 17 of her statement, *"I don't remember ever having a discussion in the family about a new arrival or trying to be nice to him and make him welcome. I don't think my parents liked children."*

Emma's report has made me very upset. I have always loved children. One of the reasons I wanted to be married is that I wanted to have a large family. Emma has always been difficult but I always made excuses for her when she was growing up.

37. Christopher and [REDACTED] got on really well and things weren't too bad for the first two years but things got worse in the third year. I thought that was to do with me not giving Christopher enough attention. Dennis and I tried really hard. I thought things would get better when Dennis and I went out to Auchterhouse. My own children got on great there.

38. Emma alleges at paragraph 5 of her statement, *"I think we were raised with smacks and the belt, although I don't know when it was introduced."*

That is fair when talking about Auchterhouse, but not before, and never since. I never said Dennis belted the children but he said he did. Neither of us went into it to any degree.

39. The relationship Dennis and I had with Christopher was very difficult because he just told lies all the time. He told ridiculous lies that he didn't need to tell. It was just a habit that he got into. I wanted to get to know him but you can't get to know someone who is telling lies all the time. I can't remember if I discussed that with Morag Auchterlonie, it probably was. There were other social workers too, after Morag moved on.

40. I would say that Dennis and I more or less treated Christopher the same as the rest of our children. He seems to think he was treated differently but I don't think so. Christopher seemed to get on with our own children, particularly [REDACTED] and Emma. Dennis and I used to have family evenings telling stories once a week. That was part of the Mormon faith. However, when Dennis and I were moving back to [REDACTED], I thought that as Christopher was now ten years old and telling all these lies, I just thought there would be trouble as he got older.

41. In five years Dennis and I hadn't made a difference so what more could we do? When he left Dennis and I and went to Duncan Place, I hoped that would make the difference and he would come back to Dennis and I but it made no difference.

42. Christopher has alleged at paragraph 20 of his statement, *"There was never a time that I felt wanted in the Campbell house. There was a constant feeling of anxiety and fear. Every day was spent just thinking about how I was going to get something to eat and how to avoid getting smacked and survive the next day."*

That is just not true.

43. Christopher has alleged at paragraph 22 of his statement, *"The Campbells did consider adopting me at one point and made their intentions known. Someone asked*

*me if I wanted them to adopt me and I remember saying that I did because Avril had told me to say that. Nothing ever came of it.”*

Dennis and I did think about adopting Christopher at the beginning, but as time went on there was no point, not unless his behaviour was going to change. It is not true that I told Christopher to say he wanted Dennis and I to adopt him. It's just not true. Dennis and I didn't adopt him, and would only have adopted him if he wanted Dennis and I to adopt him. The adoption didn't go through because he was so difficult. I thought that things would get better when Dennis and I went to Auchterhouse but they didn't. Dennis and I couldn't get to the real Christopher because of the lies.

44. Christopher has alleged at paragraph 23 of his statement, *“I wasn't a Mormon before I went to the Campbells. I quickly joined the Mormon Church. Apparently I asked to become a Mormon and I would imagine there would have been pressure put on me if I wanted to be part of the family.”*

Christopher became a member of the Mormon Church. Emma got baptised when she was eight years old. Christopher and [REDACTED] then said they wanted to be baptised too, but they couldn't get baptised until they were eight years old and rather than get [REDACTED] baptised on his own, Dennis and I made him wait until Christopher was eight years old as well.

45. There was no pressure put on Christopher to get baptised. He said he wanted it, and Dennis and I got permission from his mum. Dennis and I would never have had him baptised if he didn't want it. There was no pressure put on him. Dennis and I would have been quite happy if he hadn't been baptised. None of the other foster children, like [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got baptised.

46. Christopher alleges at paragraph 24 of his statement, *“They would often bring their church friends to their house and we were the entertainment for them. We had to sing and dance just like in the ‘Sound of music’. This again helped portray a nice happy family unit. “*

That probably happened but Dennis and I wouldn't have asked them to do anything they didn't want to do. My daughter, [REDACTED] was very shy. Dennis and I wouldn't have asked her to do anything that she didn't want to do.

47. Emma alleges at paragraph 16 of her statement, *"I was also abused by my parents. I think Chris had it worst in that age group and when he left I got it instead. He was the scapegoat for my mum and when he left I became it."*

No, that is not true. It just isn't true. Dennis and I were trying to help. I think Emma used to say Christopher had done things that he hadn't, although I didn't know that until recently.

### **Specific allegations of abuse of Christopher Scott**

48. Christopher alleges at paragraph 31 of his statement, *"From the day I arrived at the Campbell's I was subjected to systematic, manipulative and cruel behaviour. This included humiliation, isolation and psychological treatment to try and bring me into line with their regime."*

That is entirely untrue. For the first two years that Christopher was with Dennis and I, everything was fine. The social workers arranged a meeting between Christopher and other social workers and he just spoke about how happy he was. I don't understand why he is saying these things. I think it is money he is chasing. The passage of time may have affected my memory of things but these allegations are not true.

49. Emma alleges at paragraph 42 of her statement, *"Everything about Chris irritated my mum and now I think, Chris was an only child and my mum and dad presented him as the child of a single, unwed mum. That's very negative in their point of view. They presented him as a difficult child and they couldn't cope with him."*

There was never any suggestion about his parents at all. That is not true.

50. Emma alleges at paragraph 47 of her statement, *"My dad had this rage and aggression and could really deal out the hits, but in some ways he wasn't as bad as my mum who had a cruel and nasty side. It really came out strongly around Christopher."*

I don't know what she is talking about. I have always been trying to get close to Emma all of her life. After the adoption, Dennis and I let her do what she wanted. She went abroad to be a nanny. Eventually she came back and that person she was nanny-ing for said that she had run up an enormous phone bill and we paid that for her. She went down to England and I went down to visit her for a week. That was what she wanted and we encouraged her. When she met Roy I was delighted and I thought that at last she had met someone who really loved her. Dennis and I put on the wedding for her. She went to live with her father-in-law but that didn't work out so she and her husband came back to live with Dennis and I. Why would she do that if Dennis and I were so bad?

51. Dennis and I helped her to get a house, we got her set up, we helped her. Dennis and I bought another house because Dennis was earning more money which we were going to rent out but Emma wanted it so we gave it to her. She then went to America and when she came back Dennis and I helped her find a house. Dennis and I got her set up and gave her a lot of our stuff. Dennis and I have always tried to help her but she doesn't seem to see it. It has been difficult but Dennis and I have tried. I don't know why she is saying things.
52. Dennis and I are now at the stage of thinking that there is something psychologically wrong with Emma but Dennis and I do love her, we have always loved her. We've just tried to do the best for her, the whole family has. But since this, they have turned against her. Emma has been really rotten to [REDACTED] lately but he got her a house. He made it bigger. Emma has never been any good with money but [REDACTED] told her to give her a certain amount each month and he would pay her bills. But they have all turned against her since the court case, they felt she had gone too far.
53. I was very hurt by the things that Emma has written. She was a very difficult child but Dennis and I have always loved her, and Dennis and I always did everything for her. She was very interested in the piano and she used to go next door to our neighbour at [REDACTED] because she had a grand piano. I asked her music teacher in Auchterhouse to give her lessons and when she went to high school she had lessons. Dennis and I really tried with her.

54. I don't really know what was wrong with Emma. She was just a little bit difficult. She questioned what we had to say. It wasn't really too bad until she got to about fourteen years of age, but a lot of children are like that at that age. When she got pregnant Dennis and I never thought it was her fault. At the time, that was what she wanted. Dennis and I loved her and we looked after her. When her daughter turned up she started wondering about what had happened. Her daughter was adopted.
55. Emma said when she was about seven months pregnant that she wanted the baby adopted. I thought that would be best for the baby and Dennis and I supported Emma in that. [REDACTED] was only three years old, so it wouldn't have been a problem to have another baby in the house.
56. Christopher alleges at paragraph 31 of his statement, *"I remember the first night that I arrived we were in the living-room and Avril told us to get changed into our pyjamas. I said I didn't want to get changed in front of everyone, because even though I was only six, I was embarrassed. Avril Campbell then made me put a pair of her daughter's pants on. All her children were there and they all, including Avril were pointing at me and were laughing and ridiculing me. I believe this was Avril, in her way, telling me if I wanted to be part of the family then I should do what I was told otherwise this is the sort of treatment I could expect."*  
It's a lie. That never ever happened.
57. Christopher alleges at paragraph 32 of his statement, *"My routine at the Campbell's house was always different to the other children. Quite often I would not be given my evening meal and I would be put in isolation. By isolation I mean that they would either have me facing a wall in a room or sometimes I would be sent to my own bed room where I had to stand in a corner facing the wall."*  
That's another lie. Dennis and I just wouldn't do that, Dennis and I didn't do that. I love children and Dennis and I certainly would never do that.
58. Emma alleges at paragraph 55 of her statement, *"Christopher has said he was punished by my mum and he had to stand facing a wall. I have seen him stand*

*against a wall and I think I have at times been made to stand against a wall. I don't know how long he had to stand against the wall for as I can't remember that."*

It's just not true. I don't know why she's saying that. Dennis and I wouldn't do that.

59. Christopher alleges at paragraph 33 of his statement, *"Avril would serve up food to me at meal-times, unless I was being punished in which case I wouldn't get any food. If I didn't like the food or couldn't eat it, I would get the same plate of food served back to me at the next meal. I would get the same plate for two days. Sometimes the food she made was horrible. Avril stood over me and made me eat it. I would take a couple of bites and often I would be gagging and nearly sick. If I didn't eat it she would make me leave the table and put me back in isolation. She would never make me anything else to eat."*

It's a lie. Not true.

60. Emma alleges at paragraph 56 of her statement, *"Christopher has said if he didn't eat the food put in front of him that he'd be given the same food again. He has said that to me and it could be true that mum would say 'you're gonna eat it, you're gonna eat it' to him, and she was highly irritated by him. My mum was not nice. She was cruel and she wasn't nice to me, but she was worse to him. The food could well have been re-presented to Christopher, I don't really remember it. It's hard to explain, but it was obvious to us that she was highly irritated by Chris. She was easily angered by him and had a shorter fuse with him."*

It's not true and I don't know why she is saying this. When I read this it really hurt me. Regarding the way I am supposed to have been with Christopher, she would have to give an example. There would have to be something, it wouldn't be for nothing. I don't know what she is saying there because that wasn't the way it was. We used to have fun times. I don't know what to say. I tried my best with Christopher, with Emma, with all of my family.

61. Christopher alleges at paragraph 34 of his statement, *"I was hungry all the time because we never got enough food. All the food in the house was monitored for example the milk bottle was marked. If I took a slither off a cake or pie she would know."*

That would be to do with his diet. I never got angry with him because I could understand that he would want to eat the nice things we were having but I don't think I ever told him off for it. I was the one who went and saw about getting him off his gluten-free diet and said that he was stealing things but they were not seeming to affect him.

62. I had asked the social worker at the start if Dennis and I could put all the children on the gluten-free diet so that Christopher didn't feel different but they said no, because that would make the other children feel bad towards him. He was pinching cakes or puddings, something he wasn't supposed to eat. At that time it was very difficult to get gluten-free food. There weren't any cakes or anything. All Dennis and I could get was plain biscuits, chocolate biscuits, and his bread. I understood perfectly why he would steal.

63. Christopher alleges at paragraph 34 of his statement, *"There was an occasion when I was at a friend's house and I was caught eating food from a dog's bowl because I was so hungry. I knew this would get back to the Campbells because everything did. Nothing happened for a couple of days so those two days were torture for me waiting for something to happen. Eventually it happened and I think for that I was made to sleep on the stone floor in the kitchen."*

It's a lot of rubbish. I don't remember any such incident. He makes things up. If he ate something in another house, I am not aware of it.

64. Christopher alleges at paragraph 26 of his statement, *"When we were living in Auchterhouse, Avril warned me regularly not to wet the bed. I tried to stay awake but I would fall asleep and I wet the bed. If I did wet the bed I would try and hide my pyjamas and the wet sheets in the bottom of the washing basket. I would quite often sleep on a wet mattress without any sheets."*

No, he did used to pretend that he hadn't wet the bed but as he was going out the door I would smell him and I didn't want the school smelling him and giving him a hard time. I would quickly give him a bath and change him. I never found wet sheets hidden away.



65. Emma alleges at paragraph 29 of her statement, *“Christopher was at times treated differently to us. He did at times wet the bed and at times he pooped in his bed. He was wetting the bed and hiding his bedding and he was constantly the source of irritation for her.”*

That's not true. Christopher and Emma have been together a lot since they got in touch about ten years ago. I think she is trying to support him and get me and Dennis into trouble. I don't know if there is a possibility that they could get money.

66. Emma alleges at paragraph 29 of her statement, *“I have a memory that at a time later on I wet myself daily when I was eleven or twelve and through my teenage years up to being a young adult. Now I know it was through nervousness and anxiety around my parents.”*

Emma can say it was me, but she used to do it sometimes and I wasn't even there. I took her to the hospital because I thought there might be something wrong but they just said that she wasn't going to the toilet often enough. It wasn't anything to do with me.

67. Christopher alleges at paragraph 35 of his statement, *“Avril obviously hated that I wet the bed. She often got me out my bed and took me into the kitchen where she made me sleep on the stone floor. I didn't have any covers or a pillow and it was cold. Sometimes I had pyjamas and sometimes I was naked. The only time I got relief from that was when she had visitors. Before they arrived I would be allowed into my own comfortable bed until the visitors went away. When they left I would be made to lie on the stone floor again. She said if I was going to wet anywhere it would be better if it was on the floor. For a while I was made to sleep on the floor two or three times a week sometimes more. The only good thing about that was I could rummage for food in the kitchen although I was caught a few times.”*

It's lies, it's just not true. We did have a stone floor in the sun porch in Auchterhouse.

68. Christopher alleges at paragraph 36 of his statement, *“Dennis was usually out working through the day. When he came home Avril would tell him that I hadn't eaten my tea, or that I had done something wrong and he would give me a hiding. He normally used a trouser belt and he would hit me on my bare backside or on the*

*back of my legs. I wasn't the only one getting belted. I saw the other children getting hit by Dennis with the belt. Dennis would hit me until I cried. The others all cried very quickly and I wouldn't. I learned to pretend to cry because he would keep hitting me until I did. I got hit with the belt just about every day by Dennis. Avril would give me a hiding at least once every day."*

I certainly never witnessed Dennis doing that. It's untrue, I would have known about it. I think it is a load of havers. Dennis didn't do that, and I didn't give him a hiding at least once every day. It's not true. For discipline of the children I would smack them on the bottom or the hand. Dennis and I didn't smack them when they were older.

69. Emma alleges at paragraph 58 of her statement, *"My parents, but predominately my dad, used the belt on all of us. Chris was in trouble more so he'd get more of the belt, but often it was a group thing and we would tell on each other. The fact that me and [REDACTED] did this cruel thing to Chris shows how easy it was to push something on to Chris."*

He never got belted from me and I think I would have known if Dennis had. I don't know what she is talking about. I have since heard that Emma said some things that weren't true. If she had told me something that Christopher was supposed to have done I suppose I would have told him off, I don't know. I honestly don't remember them telling me anything. It's a long time ago and unless I was aware of them doing something, it was mostly talking to them, because they were getting older. As they got older, we didn't smack them at all.

70. Emma alleges at paragraph 39 of her statement, *"I think the belt was used in [REDACTED] and my dad and mum both used it. My mum wasn't very good at getting a whip and my dad was better at it. If somebody did something wrong we all got it. It was a pants down situation and we'd all get the belt on bare skin for somebody having done something wrong."*

No. it was usually a group thing and they all did something wrong but I would never smack a child for something someone else had done. We may not have done everything right but we always loved our children.

71. Christopher alleges at paragraph 37 of his statement, *"I wet the bed quite a lot. If Avril found out that I had wet the bed she would sometimes rub my nose on the wet sheets or she would hit me. Often she would slap me across the face with her open hand, other times she punched or kicked me. You were never allowed to defend yourself so you couldn't even put your hands up to protect your face."*

It's not true. I never went anywhere near his face. I'm a nurse, I wouldn't do that. His bottom or his hand, that's the only places I would slap him. I don't know how often that happened. It wasn't every day, it wasn't every week.

72. Emma alleges at paragraph 61 of her statement, *"Chris has told the Inquiry that my mum punched, slapped and kicked him. There would be numerous incidents of him being slapped. I wouldn't say my mum would punch, but I have been kicked by her and if you ended up on the ground you'd get kicked. I saw him being hit several times. I can't give specific incidents as it was so familiar to me. There were just incidents when I was in trouble and he was in trouble and if you were getting hit by her you'd be getting kicked as well. There was nothing you could do."*

I never kicked them.

73. Christopher alleges at paragraph 37 of his statement, *"I also remember sometimes getting put in a cold bath. She was brutal. There were times when I would try and hide it from her but this meant my pyjamas would smell the next night when I went to put them on. If she realised this I would get another hiding. She would slap me or Dennis would belt me. When Dennis belted me it was often the buckle that hit me so it made me bleed. Dennis sometimes lined us up and gave us the belt one after another. I was usually last for some reason."*

It's not true. I don't remember Dennis ever giving the children the belt. It's possible that he did but he certainly didn't line them up that way. The situation with the cold water was that we were in Auchterhouse and we had an immersion heater and it took a long while for it to heat up. It wouldn't have been at night, it would be in the morning if he was smelling. I couldn't let him go to school smelling. I will agree that the water wouldn't be hot but it wouldn't be cold. There was nothing else I could do.

74. Christopher alleges at paragraph 38 of his statement, *"There was one time when the Campbells had arranged for a babysitter to look after us. It was a girl and she got into my bed to read a bedtime story. She realised that my sheets and pyjamas were wet as I had wet myself. That got back to the Campbells and I was slapped about by Avril and Dennis belted me. I remember I was made to sleep on the stone floor that night."*

I have no memory of that at all. I don't think that's something that happened. Dennis and I did get babysitters occasionally but I don't know anything about that. I don't believe it is something that happened as I would know about it.

75. Christopher alleges at paragraph 39 of his statement, *"One time Avril put hot water from the kettle into the bath, then put me in. I was screaming and jumping about. She pulled me out and said she forgot to put any cold water in. I wasn't burnt or injured luckily."*

No, what I used to was that the water was cold because the water took some time to heat up so I would use water from the kettle but I would never burn him.

76. Christopher alleges at paragraph 39 of his statement, *"Avril regularly made me eat soap. The other children would get away with a couple of bites. I was forced to eat the whole bar. It was horrible."*

That is a lot of rubbish.

77. Emma alleges at paragraph 63 of her statement, *"Christopher has told the inquiry that he had to eat soap and that definitely happened. I don't know if both him and [REDACTED] had been swearing and they were made to eat soap. He says it was a whole bar and I don't know if I believe that, but they were both made to eat soap. I didn't swear but I remember tasting the soap, but I must have tried it to see what it tasted like because they'd had to do it."*

He didn't have to eat a whole bar of soap, maybe just a taste of it the same as the rest of them, for telling lies. I think I only did it once but I would never get him to eat a whole bar of soap. I don't think he could have eaten a whole bar of soap. I just let them taste it, I didn't get them to eat it. I am not aware of Emma tasting the soap.

78. Christopher alleges at paragraph 40 of his statement, *"Sometimes one of the other children would do something and then Avril would try and find out who did it. I would usually get the blame, and after a while all the other children used to gang up and blame me. Avril and Dennis always believed them and it didn't matter what I said. Sometimes the other children would say that I had said or done something just to take the focus away from them. Avril would confront me and tell me that one of us was lying and she accused me of saying she was lying. She always manipulated the situation to make me out to be a liar or to at least admit that I was lying. It was all a big game for her."*

I don't know. It was a long time ago. I don't think I had an idea that Christopher was to blame for everything. The way they are talking it sounds like we were smacking them every day but it's just not true. We went to the beach and did nice things. It's just not true. I just know that Christopher was lying all the time. If he feels that he was accused of being a liar it's because he was a liar. He even lied in the court case. For years I thought that he had taken something, the blue bathroom cleaner, that had caused damage. I only found out he hadn't taken anything at the court case. That's how much he could lie. He lied constantly. I can't remember confronting him and calling him a liar, it was all a long time ago. I don't think the passage of time is affecting my memory, I think it is affecting his memory. All I was trying to do was to give him a good time, to be part of a nice family.

79. Christopher alleges at paragraph 41 of his statement, *"Sometimes she would line the other children up in front of me and ask them if I had said or done something. They would back her and say that I had. She would later get me to apologise to the other children for lying and potentially getting them into trouble."*

I don't know.

80. Christopher alleges at paragraph 42 of his statement, *"At other times she would pull me into her room and say that one of the other children had said I had done something. I resigned myself to the fact and thought the easiest and quickest way was just to admit to it, even if I hadn't done whatever it was. She would then say that I was lying as she knew who had really done it. That is the sort of wicked mind games she would play."*

I don't think he would ever admit to anything. That's not true.

81. Christopher alleges at paragraph 43 of his statement, *"One time the other children went to Avril and told her that I had said I wanted to run about naked outside. I was six or seven at the time. Avril grabbed me and even though it was a cold, dark November night she made me take my clothes off and put me out naked into the back garden. She left me there until she felt I had been there long enough. I am not sure how long I was there for."*

I'll tell you exactly what happened. The three of them came through and said that Christopher wanted to go outside with no clothes on. I said, "Is that true Christopher?" and he said, "Yes." I said, "On you go then." He was out there for less than five minutes. When he came back in I said, "Was that nice?" and he said it was nice or words to that effect. He wasn't complaining or anything.

82. Emma alleges at paragraph 44 of her statement, *"We did another thing and told my mum that Chris said he wanted to go outside naked and there was snow on the ground. I don't know why we did it. When mum asked him about it, Chris denied ever having said it and again he was called a liar. She put him outside naked."*

No, there was only ever the one time he went outside naked and I have said what happened. I very much doubt that there was snow or anything like that.

83. Christopher alleges at paragraph 44 of his statement, *"I remember Avril pulling me aside and asking me if I had done something. I can't remember what I was supposed to have done. I denied it and she told me I was lying and sent me to my room without any dinner. This went on for days and I was stuck in my bedroom and wasn't allowed to come out. I was made to stand against the wall. I was only allowed to go to bed when Avril told me to. The other children sometimes came in and I would ask them to ask Avril if I could come out. They came back and told me that I could only come out if I was going to admit to whatever it was. After a few days my will broke and I admitted it even though it wasn't me. Avril said to me that she was glad I told the truth and then smacked me with her open hand across my face."*

That's a total lie. I would never put anyone to bed with no tea. To say it went on for days is a total lie. I never put him in a room on his own for days on end. It's a total lie.

84. Christopher alleges at paragraph 45 of his statement, *"If I needed the toilet at any time when I was sent to my room as punishment I couldn't just go. I had to wait until someone came into the room and I would ask them to ask Avril if I could go. At bedtime Avril would tell me that I could go to my bed. In the morning I got up and had to stand beside the wall again and not move from the spot. This would go on for days until I eventually gave up and apologised or admitted to something I hadn't done. I didn't get any food when I was sent to my room for days. I was so hungry I would eat some of the dried oats and dried fruit that was being stored up there. Sometimes at night I would try sneaking downstairs to try and get some food but more often than not I was caught. I was given a serious hiding by Avril when she caught me, and I wouldn't get dinner the next day."*

I never sent him to his room for days on end. It's a load of rubbish.

85. Christopher alleges at paragraph 46 of his statement, *"There were other times when Avril would come into my room through the night and drag me out of my bed. She would then ask me to explain why I had done something or told me to tell the truth. She would then give me a hiding. I was often slow at getting dressed in the morning. That would be enough to get a hiding from Avril. It even got to the stage that I would sleep in my school clothes. Avril realised when she saw my crushed clothes so I got a hiding for that. The other children did that too but I got the hiding because it was my idea."*

It's just not true. I don't know anything about sleeping in his school clothes.

86. Christopher alleges at paragraph 47 of his statement, *"There was one time where [REDACTED] stole two pounds from Avril's purse. On the way to school he gave me a pound so we went and bought sweets. When we got home Avril had realised the money was missing and she was livid. I denied it but [REDACTED] eventually admitted it. We were both told to go to the bedroom as punishment so we did. After a while [REDACTED] was called down but I was left standing there. [REDACTED] didn't come back. I then smelled the*

*food being cooked downstairs. When I was put to my room for days like this I didn't get any food. All the other children were told systematically to come to the bottom of the ladder and make sure I heard them saying how amazing and nice their food was."*

It's another one of his lies. That's not the sort of punishment I would use. I have no recollection of any of this.

87. Christopher alleges at paragraph 48 of his statement, *"One time, when I was six, I got up through the night to go to the toilet. Avril caught me and I told her I was going to the toilet. She didn't believe me. I went to the toilet and I knew she would check after I had been to make sure that I had gone. There was nothing for her to see in the toilet so I must have picked up a bottle of bleach that was in the bathroom, unscrewed it and put it against my lips. I came out the bathroom and Avril saw a red ring round my lips. I was then made to drink lots and lots of water. I don't even know if I drank any bleach. I think I just did it to take Avril's attention away from checking the toilet. Avril made me drink lots of water and put me back to bed. I actually drank so much water she gave me water intoxication."*

Dennis was away for the weekend. All the children were in their beds. There was Emma, [REDACTED] and Christopher. I'm not sure if [REDACTED] was in the hospital but [REDACTED] was. I was checking the house at night. I went into the bathroom and there was loads of blue stuff in the bath. I went up to check on the children and Christopher had blue stuff all round his mouth. I took him downstairs and checked the bottle to see if there was anything dangerous. I thought the best thing to do was to give him plenty to drink, make him go to the toilet, and put him back to bed, which is what I did.

88. The next day he was staggering all over the place. I phoned a friend and phoned an ambulance. I got him straight to hospital and took the bottle that I thought he had drunk from with me. I gave it to the doctor. At that point Christopher appeared to be unconscious. They did a check with poisons but they said that it was harmless, that you would need to drink a gallon of it to do any harm. I was really upset, I was crying. The doctors said he must have picked up something in the park that morning when they were playing outside. They thought he had picked up a tablet or something. Christopher was on a drip. The doctor told me I had done the right thing.



89. The next day Christopher got discharged. I was walking past the living room with Emma and [REDACTED] I think [REDACTED] was there too. He was telling them the story about it and telling them about getting a needle in his arm when he was supposed to have been unconscious. He gave a full description of a transfusion.
90. I said to Christopher that he was supposed to be asleep but he said he wasn't. I asked him where I was when this was happening and he said that I was crying. Whether he pretended he was unconscious, I don't know but he wasn't unconscious when he got the drip. I thought I hadn't been giving him enough attention and that I would have to give him more attention. I knew that we were going to Auchterhouse and I thought maybe it would be better there. That's exactly what happened. That's when Morag talked to me about taking him back.
91. The reason he had too much water was because he hadn't taken any of the blue stuff but I only found out about that at the court case. He wasn't treated at hospital for water intoxication, he was treated as if he had taken a drug. The blue stuff being in the bath didn't make me check on the children, I checked on them every night. That's what mum's do.
92. Christopher alleges at paragraph 49 of his statement, "*The next morning apparently I was dizzy and incoherent and ended up in hospital. In the report that is in my records it says that Avril was checking up on the children through the night, which she never did, and she noticed the red mark round my mouth so made me drink water. In the official social work notes it says that I wasn't dizzy or incoherent so Avril sent me to bed, but there is another report saying that I was dizzy and incoherent and not able to stand. I was in hospital for a few days and when I got out Avril said that she knew that I was pretending to be unconscious. Dennis said he knew that wasn't the case.*" I have given you exactly what happened. It's a completely different story to what he is telling. The social workers were thinking of taking him back because of that. I knew he was pretending to be unconscious because that's what he was saying to the other children.

93. Emma alleges at paragraph 31 of her statement, *"She has said Chris had put blue stuff around his mouth. She said there was bleach around his mouth and he had faked that had come from drinking bleach. She was giving the impression through the years that he'd done that because he was a bad kid who was troubled. They told me that at one point he was faking that he was ill so they took him to the hospital and even the doctors knew he was faking it."*

It's a lot of lies. From then on, Christopher said that he had drunk bleach but he didn't. I didn't have bleach because of the children. I didn't think he was a troubled kid, I thought he was just trying to get attention. I told the social workers about it and my response was to give him more help, not to punish him. It was a bad time.

94. Christopher alleges at paragraph 50 of his statement, *"Avril regularly told me that I was never going to be part of a family, and that I would never see my mum again. She also said that if I said anything to anybody about what went in the house nobody would believe me because I was a liar. She did this almost on a daily basis. Every day I had to avoid her as much as I could and in my head I had to try and think about how I was going to survive that day."*

It's a lie.

95. Christopher alleges at paragraph 51 of his statement, *"Avril one day asked me, when I was about seven, if I wanted to go back to live with my mum. She knew the answer because I always talked about my mum and dad. Avril then packed my case and sent me out the door. I got about four doors away and I thought that I had done it and had managed to escape. Just at that point Avril came running after me and dragged me back into the house. She then gave me such a hiding. This was the sort of psychological games she would play with me."*

It's not true.

96. Christopher alleges at paragraph 53 of his statement, *"I was supposed to be on a special diet because I was celiac. Avril never adhered to the diet or made me the food that I should have been eating. She would defy the consultants who told her what I could and couldn't eat. In the social work records it says that she cooked food separately for me. That was definitely not the case. I was always very small for my*

*age and my regular visits to the celiac clinic reported frequently that I was underweight and there was no weight gain or growth. Avril regularly told the social work department and the doctors that I cheated on my diet and this was the reason why I was not gaining weight, to hide the fact that she wasn't feeding me properly."* I did the best I could with the diet. Nowadays you can get lots of gluten-free things from the supermarket but back then, all I had back then was the two biscuits and the bread. I just did the best I could. It's not true that I wasn't feeding him properly. I don't know where he is getting this. I told the hospital that he was helping himself to food. I could understand him doing that when the other kids were getting nice things. There was a decision made to try him on the same diet as the other children for a number of months and he was fine.

97. Emma alleges at paragraph 26 of her statement, "*I don't remember my mum preparing any different food for Chris, he just had different bread. If she made a meal for us she didn't go to any great effort to prepare anything different without wheat for Chris. I doubt if they had any special training about what food was allowed and what wasn't. I think at times she just wrote off the fact he was coeliac."*

Remember how old Emma was. Emma had no idea what I was doing. I did my best. I was a nurse and I was very conscious that it was a hard diet for him.

98. Emma alleges at paragraph 26 of her statement, "*We would get sent to bed without our tea and no-body was going to come to us later on and say we could eat something."*

It's not true.

99. Christopher alleges at paragraph 54 of his statement, "*We moved house to Auchterhouse when I was eight. When we moved there the violence and abuse got a whole lot worse. I was beaten by Avril on a daily basis, sometimes three or four times every day. There weren't many days that Dennis didn't belt me when he came home. Avril still got me up through the night and asked me about something that had happened the previous day. It might even have been because the other children had said to her that I had done something. If she hit me she would either slap me across*

*the face or on my bare backside. She would get in a rage and then ask Dennis what he was going to do about it, and invariably he would punish me."*

It's not true. I never hit them on the face. If I hit them, it was either on the bottom or the hand.

100. Christopher alleges at paragraph 55 of his statement, *"Often at Auchterhouse I would be in my bed, it would be daylight and all the other children would be out playing in the park. I could hear them. If something had happened Avril would tell me 'wait until Dennis gets home'. I would lie awake in my bed for ages, petrified, waiting for him to come home. I recognised the sound his car made when it got to the house and I knew that a couple of minutes after he got into the house he would come upstairs and as usual belt me on my backside. Living at Auchterhouse was a scary existence. The intensity of violence was incredible. The amount of hate shown by Avril was scary. I felt very lonely, isolated and powerless."*

No. For a start he didn't sleep upstairs, he slept downstairs. In Auchterhouse, mostly everything to do with Christopher was done by me. I certainly wouldn't say, "Wait 'til your dad gets home." Most of the things such as discipline was down to me. Dennis was working, he was doing extra training. He had a lot on, he was a bishop. I did most of the child care, not just with Christopher, with everybody.

101. Christopher alleges at paragraph 56 of his statement, *"When we moved to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Dundee the abuse notched up again. The beatings became more physical and the starvation continued. Because I was getting older and bigger the hits were getting harder. I developed a complete daily survival mode. I got into a routine and accepted the abuse and just went along with it. The psychological games continued. One time Avril sent me through to the bedroom to get a nappy. When I came back I was given a hiding. They had left some money lying in the room and Dennis had been hiding in a cupboard. She said that I didn't steal the money because I had seen Dennis. That was her reason for hitting me. I think we still got the belt from Dennis in [REDACTED] but it was more getting hit on the face and body with their hands. I saw [REDACTED] Emma and [REDACTED] getting hit by Avril and Dennis."*

No, by that time, as they were getting older, they were getting very little in the way of punishment. Regarding the allegation about stealing, Christopher was stealing from

me quite often. Dennis decided he was going to catch him and hid upstairs, but Christopher spotted him and didn't take anything. That's the end of the story. Nothing else happened.

102. Christopher alleges at paragraph 57 of his statement, *"When I went to Rockwell and Park Place primary schools I was fighting quite a lot. When I had been fighting, the school told Avril and she battered me. There was one time when I was living in Auchterhouse a friend and I had the police at the door. We had broken a concrete slab when we were looking for frogs. Avril was furious and when the police left she gave me a serious beating. I didn't get any food at my next meal either."*

I was never aware of him fighting. I was never aware of that. The school didn't come to me to say that. I don't know if he is mixing us up with some other foster home, but I have no awareness about an incident with a broken concrete slab.

103. Christopher alleges at paragraph 58 of his statement, *"According to my records when I moved from the Campbells to [REDACTED] they found that I had scabies, ingrown toenails and something else which has been redacted. It also said there were signs of neglect, and my clothes were ripped and falling apart."*

I don't know what he's on about there. I would like to see those records. I don't know how long he was in the children's home before that was done but I wouldn't have thought there was anything.

104. Emma alleges at paragraph 38 of her statement, *"At one point [REDACTED] and Chris were up in their attic bedroom because they were in trouble for something. My aunt was there and she'd bought things from the shop and we were shouting up the stairs about what we had and how good they were. My mum and aunt were making the fuss and saying these things and encouraging us and me and [REDACTED] were going along with it. We could hear [REDACTED] and Chris crying and we were taunting them with the things we had and they were being punished. They were not allowed to come downstairs. I remember I felt bad about that all my life. When I said it to my brother not long ago he said it was horrible and he still remembered the feeling. I remember feeling what we were doing was wrong."*

I don't know what she is talking about. That is not the kind of thing that my sister and I would do. My sister was the biggest softy that ever walked the earth. We wouldn't have done that.

105. Emma alleges at paragraph 43 of her statement, *"At first, we were being mischievous children and we said that Chris had told us the previous night that he wanted to dress up like a girl. We told this to my mum and we thought it would be funny to tell her and see what happened. When she asked him about it, Chris denied he'd ever said it and she told him he was a liar. She dressed him as a girl and put Kirby grips in his hair. That was in the house with us, he wasn't taken outside like that."*

I remember there was a time when they were dressing up and Christopher dressed up as a girl. It was just a fun thing that he did. I don't know what Emma is going on about there, I think she is trying to make something out of nothing.

106. Regarding Emma, I would like to say that when she got pregnant, we really pulled out all the stops for her until she got married. There were a few problems but we tried to ignore them. After she was married, she came to stay with us. We got her a house. Her husband wasn't fond of anyone, but particularly us. All of this has happened since he came on the scene.

107. I feel that Christopher was a poor soul. For all that he has said about me that is horrible I still feel the same way, that he was a poor soul. He'd had a bad time. He was in foster care from the age of four years. I don't have any problem with Christopher and we have always tried to make the best with Emma, she is my daughter. I don't have bad feelings towards either of them but they have certainly put us through the mill.

108. Regarding Christopher's allegations about being put outside naked or being given the belt, I would never do it now. I am English and we never had the belt but they were doing it in Scotland. [REDACTED] had it when he was four years old. I was thinking, "I don't know what's going on, the school knows. If they're giving him the belt, we'll give

it a try. I just did it to the older ones, Emma, [REDACTED] and Christopher. Never the younger ones.

109. The first two times I gave the children the belt, it was rubbish. The third time, it was effective, and the fourth time, I thought, "This could be sore." and I never ever did it again. It's just all been blown out of proportion. As I have said, I would never have done it if the school hadn't been doing it. I thought the school knew better than me. Other than those four times, I never did it again. I probably did discuss it with the social workers, I was very open with them. The social worker, such as Morag Auchterlonie, used to come with me to some of the hospital attendances.

### **Christopher leaving foster care**

110. I was expecting [REDACTED]. We had six children at that time and Christopher wasn't changing. I spoke to someone in the social work department about it, I can't remember who. Dennis and I waited until they had another place for him, we weren't going to just put him out. It was just going to be when they had found somewhere else for him to go. I don't remember what preparations were made for Christopher leaving. It was around the time Dennis and I were moving to [REDACTED]. I can't remember if I discussed it with Christopher.
111. I visited Christopher in Duncan Place. He was very friendly and he showed me his room but he was just the same, so I thought that he wouldn't be coming back to Dennis and I. I came back home and the social worker came to see me and told me that Christopher had run away, back to his mum. I didn't go and see him again after that because I thought he needed to build up a relationship with his mum. I left him to get on with it, I don't know where he went to after that, I don't know what happened.
112. When I asked him how he was doing at Duncan Place, he said he was happy. He always seemed happy. Whenever you asked him if there was a problem, there was never a problem. I could never get through to him. I knew he had been seeing a psychiatrist but I never asked the social workers to raise any particular point with the

psychiatrist. I just left it up to them, but I did keep them informed. I didn't get any feedback from the social workers about the psychiatric treatment. I think he stopped seeing the psychiatrist when Dennis and I were in Auchterhouse. I didn't know how long it went on for because someone else took him.

113. Christopher alleges at paragraph 63 of his statement, *"I was eleven and I was desperate to leave the Campbells. I had asked Avril when we were at Auchterhouse if I could go back to the children's home in Duncan Place. She told me she would phone about it when I was at school. After school I ran home and Avril just told me it wasn't going to happen. I decided when we were at [REDACTED] that I should try again. I knew there was no point in asking the Campbells. I had to time it correctly and ask someone else. I waited until there was a social worker visiting and I told her that I wanted to go back to Duncan Place. I think my social worker at this time was Joyce Carrie. This clearly made my intentions known and shortly after that things moved pretty quickly to get me out of there."*

I don't know anything about that. Joyce will know whether he spoke to her or not but I don't remember Joyce. Dennis and I had a lot of social workers.

114. Christopher alleges at paragraph 65 of his statement, *"I was asked by Joyce Carrie why I wanted to leave and I just said that I didn't know. This was all the way through when I was with the Campbells that I asked to leave and go back to Duncan Place. This is recorded in my notes that I wanted to leave. The Campbells always told me to say that I loved the Campbells and that I was sorry but that I would go back to the Campbells again. I would say whatever to appease the Campbells. After the Campbells knew I was leaving everything more or less continued as before, but I was at the stage that I didn't care."*

Dennis and I never told him that. Dennis and I just left him very free to speak to his social worker. Dennis and I never told him what to say at all.

115. Christopher alleges at paragraph 67 of his statement, *"When I knew I was going, my behaviour in the house probably deteriorated and Avril was keen to get rid of me. I believe she phoned the social workers and told them I was out of control."*



That is just not true. Christopher actually came back to us. He went to Duncan Place, then he went back to his mum, and then he turned up at our house when he was about sixteen years old. He had flowers and chocolates and he was very nice. He came regularly, he went out with [REDACTED] down the town. Emma was sixteen years old and was pregnant. Christopher was passing messages to [REDACTED], the father, who is now in prison. We weren't very happy about that and Dennis spoke to Christopher about it.

### **Allegations against Dennis Campbell**

116. Christopher alleges at paragraph 52 of his statement, *"Dennis was more the physical enforcer of punishment. He almost always used the belt. He didn't say anything to psychologically abuse us. Dennis was definitely not the main abuser. Avril was an evil person and I think she wore him down and he just gave in to what she wanted him to do for an easy life. I probably had some bruises and bled as a result of the belting but I never really needed any medical attention. All the other children had similar bruises and were bleeding when he hit them.*

I must have known that Dennis had used the belt in [REDACTED] because I would never have done it without him doing it because I just wasn't used to it. But I was never aware of him doing it. I can't remember ever seeing him doing it but I must have had some awareness of it. Dennis spoke about having it at school but I never saw him doing it.

117. Christopher alleges at paragraph 157 of his statement, *"In late 2017 I received a voicemail from Dennis Campbell the foster carer. In the message he said he had been reflecting on his past and that he had gone round all his children apologising to them all and he wanted to arrange to meet me. I accepted his invitation and he came along to my photographic studio. Emma, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were there. It turned out he wasn't there to apologise, he wanted us to heal him. He defended his wife and himself and dismissed a lot of the stuff I brought up. When he was back at the car with his daughter he said something along the lines that he had apologised to all his children, when were they going to apologise to him."*

I know that Dennis went but I wasn't invited. I didn't know what the purpose of the meeting was.

### **Fostering Experience**

118. When Dennis and I took Christopher on, neither I nor Dennis knew if he was going to be short term or long term. I can't remember the names of all the kids Dennis and I took on a short term basis because some of them were only with us for a week or two. There were two that I remember called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They only came for a fortnight but they were so settled Dennis and I kept them longer. Then they went back to their mother but they came back to us again. We would have considered adopting them, they were lovely children, but their mother lived too close. She was interfering so the social workers moved them further away so she would have to make more of an effort to see them. That period where we did short-term foster care was after Christopher, who was with Dennis and I for five years, so it would have been when I was in my early thirties.
119. I didn't consider foster care to be a profession. I just thought of it as looking after children the same as my own children. I don't know what you would do to change foster care now. I don't know what foster care is now. I couldn't really give an opinion on that. In my time the social workers were very good. I couldn't fault them. If Christopher was going to a club or something, they would pay for that. The money Dennis and I got just became part of the family budget. It wasn't a wage but we found it was fine.

### **Criminal proceedings**

120. I don't have any criminal convictions from the court proceedings against me. I am not aware of Emma making a complaint to the Church. There was never any investigation into my family by the church. Other than the matters in the court case, I am not aware of any other allegations against me being made to the police.

121. Regarding the allegations by Christopher, apparently there were allegations made a long time ago. I think it was just against me, not Dennis. The social workers looked into it and said it wasn't worth taking forward. I can't remember the details of those allegations but they were less serious than the allegations that went to court. Regarding the allegations that resulted in the court case it was a very bad investigation because the police didn't speak to anyone apart from Christopher and Emma.
122. It took a long time for the case to come to court because of Covid. When we told [REDACTED] the court case was going ahead he asked why no-one had spoken to him or any of the others but the court case was already going to happen. It was only after that the police, or someone official, spoke to each of our other children. I only spoke to the police once where I gave a No comment interview. I was legally represented at that time. Dennis and I were told we were going to be charged anyway so there was no point. There were three charges but I can't remember them. The week after the police interview, I took a stroke. It affects my memory. I know where I live, but I can't remember the address.
123. Dennis and I felt that the police didn't treat us right. For a start, we didn't know anything about what had happened. There wasn't a proper investigation. The police didn't interview any of our other children or people who would have known what happened. They didn't try and find out anything else.
124. I was acquitted of the allegations at court. It was a jury trial at Dundee Sheriff Court. Most of the people who were giving evidence, their evidence wasn't good. I can't remember the details now. Christopher said that Dennis and I made him call us Mum and Dad but that was a total lie. He was still telling lies in court. There was another foster child we had, [REDACTED] she was very nice. She came to give evidence for Dennis and I.
125. Other than the police interview and speaking to the Inquiry today, I haven't made any other comment about the allegations.

### **Lessons to be learned**

126. I don't really know what lessons can be learned about foster care for children. It's maybe gone too much the other way because they are now getting big bucks for looking after children and maybe the wrong people are being attracted to fostering. Only people who were attracted to it would have done fostering back then because it wasn't good financially.
127. I think if anyone was thinking about fostering now, I would tell them to be very careful. I have nothing against Christopher, he is a poor soul but he has certainly got Dennis and I into an awful lot of trouble.
128. I don't know where I am with my daughter Emma. It is really hurtful, what we have found out that she has done in these last three years. That really hurts me. Emma has got worse since she got married because her husband just likes to make trouble. I didn't realise she felt as badly as she did. I didn't think she would do what she did.
129. In the last three years we have not been able to get in touch with her family at all but I always gave birthday presents to her children. There was a misunderstanding and Emma had sent some flowers to the house on Mother's Day. I didn't know what to do with them but my son [REDACTED] said to give them to him. He put them through Emma's door. Emma probably thinks it was me but I wouldn't have agreed to that. When that happened, Emma's husband wrote a note saying not to send any other presents so I have not been able to send any other presents to my grandchildren. I have got a little bag of presents to give to them that I have been saving until it is all over. It has been an awful time for us.
130. My relationship with Emma has always been difficult but she knew I loved her. [REDACTED] has done a lot for her but she has turned against us all. It has been hard and I just don't know where I am going to go from here. Dennis has been quite angry towards her still.

131. We took Christopher out of kindness but it just didn't work. We tried for five years. It's just awful that this is what's happened. Christopher has been back to us saying how good we were and giving us chocolates and flowers. To then go and do this, it's really sore.

**Other information**

132. 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 - 6 - 22 .....