

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

BFC

Support person present: No

1. My name is BFC My name as a child in care was BFC BFC My date of birth is BFC 1954. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Edinburgh. I lived BFC in Drylaw, Edinburgh, with my mother, BFC and my father, BFC I have a brother, BFC who is five years older than me and two younger sisters. BFC is two years younger than me and BFI is five years younger than me.
3. My home life was very disturbed and unstable. My mother had mental health problems and couldn't look after us very well. My sisters and I were in care quite a lot. The first time was when I was about five years old.
4. My mother was often hospitalised because of her mental health. She would be in hospital, discharge herself, be put back in and discharge herself again. Dad was a hard-working man but couldn't cope with us all, as well as the problems he had with his wife. Things were difficult for him.

### **Canaan Lodge and Redhall House Children's Home, Edinburgh**

5. From when I was about five, my sisters and I were sent away for short periods and then returned back home. We were split up. I was sent to Cannan Lodge and then to Redhall House for a few weeks. Sometimes my sisters and I were farmed out to relatives. My gran couldn't look after us all, so she would take me. My sisters were sent to different homes. When I was almost nine years old, we were sent to Glasclune House at North Berwick in East Lothian.
6. When I was in the different care homes, I was sent to different schools. If I stayed with my granny, I went to Stockbridge Primary School. If I was at home, I went to Groathill Primary School. There was social work involvement with our family and there are social work reports in my records from Barnado's. I was too young to remember that.
7. Two or three people came to our house a few days before we were taken to Glasclune House. My mum explained that my sisters and I were going on a little holiday for just a few weeks. I stayed at Glasclune for just under two and half years. My brother got to stay at home. He was never put into care.

### **Glasclune House, North Berwick, East Lothian**

8. Glasclune House was a big house. It was scary and daunting for a little girl. I didn't know anything about North Berwick. I didn't know where I was. Glasclune House was run by Mr and Mrs Mace. It housed children from age three to sixteen. My sister, **BFI** was the youngest child there. I think the children had to leave when they were sixteen. There were over twenty girls in Glasclune. I don't know how many boys lived there. We didn't mix with boys. We only saw them at mealtimes and if they were in your class at school. The staff called me by my first name, **BFC** in Glasclune.

9. The house stood in its own grounds on the top of a hill. There were walls all around it. The grounds were beautiful. There was a tennis court and putting green. You couldn't freely decide to go out and play tennis or putting, you could only do that if the staff said you could. It would never have occurred to us to go out of the grounds. If you wanted to go out, you had to ask permission. I very rarely went out without being told by the staff to go out.
10. The house had three levels, ground floor, first floor and second floor. There was a boys section at one end of the house. I never went in there. When you went in the front door, there was a reception area and a big staircase to the upper floors. The reception was like a big lounge with sofas and a table. If you had visitors, they would wait for you in the reception. On the ground floor there was a dining room and a television room. There was a boy's playroom but the girls never went in there.
11. The dormitory I slept in was at the top of the stairs on the first floor. It was the only dormitory on the first floor. There were bathrooms and toilets on that floor. At the end of the corridor, there was a door to a private area which was the rooms for Mr and Mrs Mace. On the second floor, there were another three or four dormitories. They were not as big as the dormitory I was in. The youngest and oldest children were up there.

*Staff at Glasclune House*

12. The house was run by Mr and Mrs Mace. Mrs BFJ worked and lived at Glasclune with her daughter, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was the same age as me. Mrs BFJ was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] The children at Glasclune thought she was a widow. Perhaps we'd been told [REDACTED] dad was dead. Mr and Mrs Leiper lived in a house in the grounds. Mr Leiper was a gardener and handy-man. Mrs Leiper was also a member of staff but I'm not sure what she did.

13. Miss Sutherland was the only member of staff who I felt showed any kindness. Miss Sutherland would speak nicely and take the time to talk to you. She was friendly. I think she did live on the premises. I'm not aware of where in the house she lived.
14. The staff who worked with the girls were all female. There were more members of staff but I don't remember their names. Mrs Quinn worked with the boys. I didn't have much to do with her.

### **Routine at Glasclune House**

#### *First day*

15. I remember very clearly being taken to Glasclune House. My dad took my sisters and I on the bus. I was eight years old, [REDACTED] was six years old and [REDACTED] BFI was three years old. I knew we were going on a holiday, that was all. My dad said that we were all going to be together but we weren't kept together.
16. When we arrived, we went in the front door. It was [REDACTED] and there was a [REDACTED] going on. I know now that every year the girls put on a [REDACTED] but at the time I didn't know what it was. People were dressed in white. It was very strange.
17. The staff very quickly asked my dad to leave. My sisters were getting upset. My dad left us there. I think he wanted to leave. He was upset. Although I was eight years old, I had a grown-up head on my shoulders. I think I knew what was happening but I still thought I was only there for three weeks. I thought I was going to share a bedroom with my sisters and it would be great fun. My recollection is that my sisters and I were split up and taken to different dormitories. I don't remember ever sharing a dormitory with my sisters. My sister [REDACTED] BFI recollection is different. [REDACTED] BFI thinks that [REDACTED] and I were in the same dormitory for some of our time at Glasclune.

18. The staff changed some of our clothes. I was given a skirt, socks and shoes. I had a dirty top which I kept on. I don't know what state my other things were in but the staff obviously thought they should be changed. My sisters and I were made to stand outside the house to have our photograph taken.

### *Daily Routine*

19. The dormitories were divided by age group so my sisters and I were each put into different, large dormitories. There were about ten or twelve girls in my dormitory. The girls were all about the same age as me. I think my age group had the largest number of children. I played with all the girls and made friends, some of the girls were there a lot longer than I was. The dormitory had a big bay window. Four months before I left Glasclune, I was moved up to a smaller dormitory on the top floor, because of my age. There were four beds in that room.
20. Someone would come into the dormitory and wake us up in the morning. On a school day, we had to strip our beds, go to the toilet and get washed. We came back and made our bed. The bed had to be made in a specific way, with hospital corners. The bed was inspected. If it wasn't right, you had to strip it and make it again. I must have been taught how to make a bed like that because I didn't know how to do that before I went into Glasclune.
21. We then went down for prayers in the reception area. We had prayers every morning. The morning prayer was short, then you had to say The Lord's Prayer. At the beginning of every meal, you had to stand behind your chair. Then, Mr or Mrs Mace would choose a child at random to say Grace, so you had to learn Grace. After Grace was said, you could sit down.
22. After prayers, we had breakfast, and then we had chores to do. The chores weren't very onerous. Some chores were done every day and some were just done at the weekends. There was a rota for chores which changed around every week or two. On a school day, you might not have had any chores, depending on what rota you

were on. You might have to sweep and mop the dormitory floor or the stairs. There were canary cages in the dormitory and you might have to feed the canaries. At the weekends, you would clean the baths and the toilets. Everybody did chores, even my little sister [BFI] I wouldn't say we were skivvies but I don't know why the staff had us doing the chores because they did have cleaning staff who came in. It was probably to teach us how to clean.

23. You had church and Sunday School every Sunday. Everyone had to go to church. You went to different churches depending on your faith. There were children who were Church of England. I went to the Church of Scotland on North Berwick High Street. I had been to Sunday School before I went to Glasclune. You had Sunday clothes, a dress and a coat, to wear to church.
24. At bedtime, once you were in bed, there was no talking. If you talked after lights out, you got into trouble and got a punishment. Different members of staff would check on the children, it just depended who was on duty.

#### *Mealtimes / Food*

25. In the dining-room, I had to sit at the same place the whole time I lived at Glasclune. You were not allowed to sit anywhere else. We sat in groups of ten. My sisters were at different tables and I didn't get to sit with them. At mealtimes, the staff would ring a bell. That was a five minute warning that it was about to be mealtime. All of the girls queued up in the dormitory that I slept in. When everyone was there, in a line, the staff would bang a gong. That meant it was time to go in for your meal. We would march downstairs into the dining-room.
26. The food sticks out in my head. I really appreciated the food. It was outstanding, probably because I wasn't well fed before I went to Glasclune. There was a kitchen area and a cook. There was always a cooked breakfast, sausage, bacon and beans. There was boiled eggs and toast. Breakfast was put on the table and you helped

yourself. Sunday dinners were out of this world. Every Sunday there was a roast with all the trimmings. We had lunch at school. It wasn't as nice as the food at Glasclune.

### *Washing / bathing*

27. We had a bath every day after school and on a Saturday. There was a big bathroom on the same floor as my dormitory. There were three or four baths in it. You would be called in to have a bath. Baths were supervised by the female members of staff. There would be about eight children in the bathroom at a time. The staff would have two children in each bath. You queued up and, when you got to the front, took your pants off and gave them to a member of staff. This is one of the issues which, looking back, I am not happy about.
28. The children would share the bathwater. Two children would come out of the bath and two people would go in. You didn't get clean bath water every time two children went in. I can't remember the water being taken out. You could put hot water in to make the bath hot again, if it was getting cold. We each had our own towel for washing our hands and face. You would be given a clean towel to dry with after your bath. When you finished with the towel, you put it in a basket.

### *Clothing / uniform*

29. We had a wardrobe beside our bed to keep our clothes in and a drawer to keep your socks and underwear in. All of our clothes and underwear had our name in them. There was a big cupboard in Glasclune where you were allocated clothes from. You didn't get brand new clothes, they had belonged to someone else. You were given clothes. There was no choice. We were never taken out shopping for anything.
30. There was a shoe cupboard when you needed new shoes. You always hated going for shoes. You had to go to Mr Leiper. The shoes were old, probably twenty or thirty

years old. You were always wearing someone else's shoes. The shoes were never fashionable. They were big, brown, lace-up things.

31. There was a uniform for primary school but we were never permitted to wear it. We had ordinary clothes for school. The children from Glasclune all had the same haircut, a short bob with a fringe. I once asked if I could grow my hair. The staff said no, it wasn't permitted. The children from Glasclune were always different. You could always spot the home kid. When the children went to secondary school there was a uniform and the children were allowed to wear it.

### *School*

32. I went to North Berwick Primary School. I was used to being moved from school to school. I thought, here we go again. The children went to school themselves. Little groups of us would walk together in threes, to and from school. It was a ten minute walk. I hated being the new girl and the introduction to the class as the new girl. I quite enjoyed school. I was of average ability, not a brain box but not a dunce either.
33. When you got home from school, you had to clean your shoes. Everybody had a peg and a shoe box with a number on it. My number was [REDACTED]. My toothbrush, my flannel, my towel, my shoebox, my coat hook were all number [REDACTED]. Mr Leiper stood at a table and you had to clean your shoes, in a certain way, until they shone. It was regimented. The shoes were inspected and, if they weren't right, Mr Leiper would tell you to put more polish on the shoes or shine them harder. You had to go back to do the shoes again.
34. After that, you would have a bath before teatime, have your tea and do your homework. We did our homework sitting at a window seat in the bay window of the dormitory. I don't remember being helped with homework by anyone.



*Leisure-time/Trips / Holidays*

35. After we had finished our homework, in winter we might be allowed to watch some TV in the TV room. We could only watch the BBC, we weren't allowed to watch adverts which were on the independent channel. You didn't have to watch TV, you only watched if you wanted to. If you were outside, in the summer for instance, there were toys you could play with. You could ask to play putting or tennis.
36. At the top of the stairs, on the first floor, was an area with big tubs of toys which you could play with. There were books in the playroom, annuals and things like that. There was a cinema night every couple of months where movies would be shown. Seats were lined up in the big reception area and a projector was set up.
37. We got pocket money on a Saturday. It was a very formal affair. Mr Mace would sit down at a desk with a book and a cash box. The children lined up and were given their pocket money. The amount was around sixpence or nine pence. Mr Mace recorded it in the book. We were allowed to go into North Berwick to spend it. You could spend it on whatever you wanted. It was enough to buy some sweets. Generally, people spent their money when they got it. It was about a ten minute walk to town.
38. Glasclune were very good at taking you away and taking you out. Everybody from Glasclune, including the boys, went to a residential camp at Aberfoyle for two weeks in the summer, every year. Once, we went to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We went to the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh on a bus and to the Christmas pantomime at the theatre.
39. Aberfoyle felt like a holiday. I quite enjoyed it. There were dormitories with bunk beds, that was good fun. You had to go out to the shower block for a shower, so it was all a bit different. The meals weren't as nice. There was a playroom. Outside there were swings. You could go on walks in a group.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

40. On your birthday, when you came into dinner, you would have a little pile of presents at your place. There was a cake and everyone sang happy birthday. The first year I was at Glasclune, they forget it was my birthday [REDACTED]. I was very upset. I went into the dining room thinking there was going to be [REDACTED] presents for me. Of course, there wasn't. I think my birthday had just got lost [REDACTED]. The staff told me that, on this one occasion, they were going to change my birthday to the [REDACTED]. On [REDACTED] there was a little pile of presents for me. After that, the staff did remember my birthday.
41. On Christmas Day, you didn't have your usual place setting. The staff changed all the tables so there was one big, long table, like a party. The tables were all around the room. You could sit anywhere. It wasn't so formal. Christmas was fantastic. The children were woken up in the morning by a trail of members of staff. Everybody had a sack of presents brought to their bed. You kept your presents for the day, then everybody got to play with them.

*Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention*

42. My parents visited my sisters and I once every three or four months. My brother [REDACTED] came now and then. My mum was ill and my parents didn't have any money, to get down to North Berwick was quite expensive. I think that's why they didn't come often. Depending on the weather, we would sit and talk to my parents or they would take us out for the day. If we stayed in Glasclune, the visit would take place in the reception area.
43. I don't remember any visits from social workers or inspections of Glasclune. No-one came to ask me how I was getting on. I wouldn't have told them the truth anyway, I would have just said everything was fine.

44. Every year the girls had to do a nativity play. One of the showings of the play was to invited guests. There was a woman from Barnado's, who had been involved in placing my sisters and I at Glasclune, at the play and the staff took me over to where she was sitting to introduce me to her. That was the only time I saw anybody from outside of Glasclune.
45. The only other person who used to visit was the Chief Constable of Edinburgh, Willie Merrilees. The Chief Constable was quite a well-known man. He was very kind and benevolent. The Chief Constable used to pay for us to be taken to the Tattoo and on bus trips. He put on a Christmas party for the children at Glasclune every year, where every child got a present.

#### *Healthcare*

46. The doctor came to the home. There was a little room set up like a clinic where you got weighed and measured. Notes were made. The dentist came to the home to check you over. If you needed treatment, you went to the dentist's surgery.
47. I had a stomach upset twice at Glasclune. One time, the staff got the doctor to come and see me and the other time I went to bed.
48. There were no talks about growing up from the staff. My breasts started to grow and it felt really strange and funny. I talked to one of the older girls about it and she reassured me that it was nothing to worry about.

#### *Siblings*

49. I only saw my sisters in the passing when we were at Glasclune. The only time all the girls were together was at mealtimes. We didn't even sit together in the dining room for our meals. My sisters wouldn't necessarily watch TV or play in the playroom at the same time as me. If we were in the TV room at the same time, we would be

with our own little group of friends. I don't remember talking to my sisters at Glasclune, although I think I must have done.

50. When my parents visited, I saw them with my sisters. My brother, [REDACTED] didn't come to visit us every time our parents did. [REDACTED] was also five years older than me. That's quite a big difference, he was fifteen years old when I was ten. If he didn't want to come, I understand that. Once, I was allowed to go out into North Berwick with my sisters to spend our pocket money.
51. Both of my sisters had emotional problems and were clinically being looked after for bedwetting and soiling, before we went into Glasclune. Both of them were hospitalised for it at one point. These problems continued at Glasclune.

### *Punishments*

52. I was punished for quite a few things. I was never bad. I didn't disobey the staff very much. Some people did. I was punished for things like having a dirty face or dirty underwear and not bringing my shoes home from school. I was always forgetting my shoes. I wasn't good at tying shoe laces and was always tripping up on mine. If the staff caught me with my shoe laces undone, I'd get a punishment. I think the staff showed me how to tie my shoelaces but I wasn't very good at it.
53. Any member of staff could hand out a punishment. You weren't sent to the headmaster's office or anything like that. The punishments were not very severe. Once or twice I got a whack from the slipper on my bum for talking after lights out. The bedclothes wouldn't be there. It was a member of staff who did that but I don't remember anyone in particular. That wasn't a regular occurrence for me. It was always a threat if you were talking after lights out that that would happen. You didn't want to be hit with the slipper, so you didn't talk. The times that I was hit with the slipper, the other girls in my dormitory were hit too.
54. One of the punishments was to be sent to bed for a couple of nights, depending on what you had done, without having had tea. You would go to bed with bread, butter

and a glass of milk. Two or three times, I wasn't allowed to go to the cinema night because I was on a punishment.

*Relationship with child of staff member*

55. Mrs [BFJ] daughter, [REDACTED], was the same age as me. We were at school together. [REDACTED] had her own room in Glasclune and her own toys. She could play with the other toys in the home if she wanted to. She had nice clothes and hair. [REDACTED] mixed with us children who were in care and lived the life that we lived, to a degree. [REDACTED] had privileges that we didn't have.
56. I had a strange relationship with [REDACTED]. She held over you the fact that her mother was a staff member. If [REDACTED] wanted something which you had, she would say you had better give it to her or she would tell her mother that you did something. There was one occasion when, for my birthday, my mother had sent me a Cinderella ornament with a Timex watch. [REDACTED] wanted it. I wasn't letting her have it. [REDACTED] picked it up, dropped it on the floor and smashed it. What could I do? I couldn't do anything. I had to just accept that.
57. [REDACTED] would befriend you and be your friend for a day or two. You might be allowed to go and sleep in her bedroom. Then she would drop you and pick someone else up. Someone else would be allowed to go and sleep in her bedroom.

**Abuse at Glasclune House**

58. When you waited in the queue to go into the bath, you kept your pants on. When you got to the top of the queue, you had to take your pants off. The staff took the pants from you and looked at them. If you had any marks on your pants, some of the staff would call you out for that, in front of everybody.

59. Mrs [BFJ], in particular, would shout at me and humiliate me. Mrs [BFJ] said I was disgusting and dirty. It was really quite upsetting and humiliating. I was really ashamed and frightened. The whole time I was at Glasclune, I was really scared. Even if Mrs [BFJ] wasn't in the bathroom when you got into the bath, she would come in to look at the pants. I don't know if she did that to other girls. I only noticed her looking at my pants because I was always waiting for her to look for the pants and find them. I was on edge the whole time.
60. There was one occasion when I was in the bath with Mrs [BFJ] daughter, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] got bathed with the rest of us. Mrs [BFJ] came into the bathroom. She rummaged through the pants and got mine. Of course, your name was on the pants. Mrs [BFJ] shouted, "Out" in the middle of the bathroom. She kept shouting at me to get out of the bath, saying how dare I sit in the bath with her daughter.
61. There was another staff member, Miss Sutherland, who used to put my pants to the bottom of the pile to hide them. I think she knew I was struggling and was looking out for me a little bit.
62. My sisters and I were all emotionally disturbed to some degree, particularly my youngest sister, [BFI], who was only between three and five years old when we were at Glasclune. [BFI] was soiling and wetting all the time, probably because she'd never been properly trained.
63. [BFI] had soiled her pants one day. She was no more than five or six years old. The children lined up to be taken into the dining room. It was quite regimented. The staff made [BFI] stand outside the dining room, holding her pants to show all the boys and girls what she had done. [BFI] was distraught, she was looking at her feet and there were tears rolling down her face. I couldn't comfort [BFI] because I was too scared to say anything to her.
64. Mrs [BFJ] had a very stern look. I don't remember her ever smiling at me. She scared me. I thought Mrs [BFJ] didn't like me. Mrs [BFJ] was always saying things to me. She said things to other children too. It was like some faces fitted and some

didn't. My mother was always saying, on visits and in letters that she wrote, that I was coming home soon, it wouldn't be long. I would be saying that too. Mrs [BFJ] frequently took me aside and said I wasn't going home soon and that I would be at Glasclune for a long time. She said my mother was not being honest with me. When Mrs [BFJ] was saying these things, I'd be standing in front of her, crying. She would continue saying to me, you're not going home.

65. When I was ten years old, there was an occasion I was hit on the face. We were at Aberfoyle. A group of ten or twelve girls were at the river. A staff member was writing a letter. I stood up, looked over her shoulder and read the letter out. The staff member turned round and gave me one hell of a whack, to stop me from saying what was in the letter. It was a slap on my head. It really stunned me. It was quite hard. I often think it was my own fault and I deserved it. I shouldn't have stood and read her private letter out.
66. I never felt I could ever tell anyone anything about what made me unhappy at Glasclune. I don't remember anybody ever asking me if I was okay. I just accepted authority. I wouldn't have gone out of my way to seek out somebody to talk to. I just thought, this is what it's like in a children's home, you just have to go with it.

### Leaving Glasclune House

67. I was eleven years old in [REDACTED] 1965. I left Glasclune in [REDACTED] 1966. My mum and dad came to visit us one day. My sister [BFI] was distraught, crying and upset. [BFI] had wet herself. [BFI] told my mum that she was going to get a punishment and she was really scared. My mum decided that she wasn't going to leave [BFI] at Glasclune. [REDACTED] and I were there when my mum was saying that [BFI] was coming home. [REDACTED] and I didn't know that we would be going home too.
68. [REDACTED] and I were sent to have a bath. Then the staff came and told us to get dressed, we were going home. My mum had told Mr and Mrs Mace that she was

taking BFI home. Mr and Mrs Mace said she couldn't take BFI without taking BFI and I. My mum said we were all going home and we all went home that day. We packed some clothes that we had. My dad went back to Glasclune to get our things that we had gone into Glasclune with. It was like prison, our things had all been packed in storage and we got them when we got out. We got a suitcase of things that were too small for me.

69. This was the first time any of us had told my parents that we were unhappy. I don't think we would have told them. On this occasion, my mum actually saw that BFI was upset and BFI was telling mum why. I was delighted to be going home.

### **Life after being in care**

70. Being home was not a happy experience. Life went back to what it was like before. There were social workers and doctors involved because of my mum's mental health. My mum was really not well. My parents were fighting all the time. The marriage wasn't good and eventually broke down. We were living in poverty and debt. We had nothing. I lived like that, with my mum, until I got married when I was 21 years old. I met my husband when I was seventeen years old.
71. There was no real support from the social work department. Social workers didn't visit the house often. I think my mum asked for help occasionally. My sisters and I were fostered out a couple of times. Edinburgh students used to have events for under-privileged children and my sisters and I went on trips and weekends away.
72. I went to Tynecastle High School. I hated school and didn't do very well, although I wouldn't say I didn't get an education. I left school when I was fifteen years old. From when I was fifteen, I looked after myself. I got myself a good job as an office junior in a solicitor's office. I've worked in an office all my life, apart from a break when I had



my children. I had my son when I was 23 years old and my daughter when I was 25 years old.

73. After my job as an office junior, I became a receptionist. Then I was a secretary and then a personal assistant. I became an office manager and then a human resources manager. I'm now retired.

### **Impact**

74. It is hard for me to distinguish the effects of being in care and the home life. It all contributes. I always felt inferior to everybody. I had no confidence and I was very self-conscious. Even now, I don't like drawing attention to myself. I don't want to put my head above the parapet. Especially at work, I liked to get things right the first time because, if you don't, you draw attention to yourself for the wrong reasons. I think that's come from my time in Glasclune. It affected me in my younger years but I'm fine now. It took me a long time to feel as I do now.
75. It wasn't until I got to the age of fifty that I realised that I wasn't stupid. I wished I'd stuck in at school, so I went to university and got a Bachelor of Arts in Business and Management. I liked that so much that I went back and did a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management. It wasn't until that point that I felt equal to other people. I thought, I've done this for myself and I'm just as good as you. All my life I had felt I wasn't as good as other people. I don't feel like that now.
76. Glasclune was very nice. It was lot nicer than what I had been used to, with the grounds and things. They put everything in place, a nice environment, food, clothes, and outings. The children were well looked after. One thing was missing. I couldn't expect anybody to love me because I wasn't their child but I didn't even feel liked. I felt it was just a job to the staff. When I was in Glasclune, I felt abandoned and left to get on with it.

77. Nobody ever put their arm around me or reassured me. In fact, it was quite the opposite, especially with Mrs [BFJ]. It's a real shame because, if the staff had softened their approach and the routine had been less regimented, Glasclune could have been an ideal place for children. It was strange to split families up, no matter how young or old they are. Separating children by age group into dormitories wasn't a good thing. They could have made Glasclune a completely different experience for children who were already traumatised for whatever reason.
78. A friend of mine, who was in Glasclune at the same time as me, sent me a photo of the staff at Glasclune. Mrs [BFJ] is in the photo. She has a certain look about her, a scary look. Mrs [BFJ] still scares me when I look at her.
79. It still upsets me to talk about [BFI] having to show her soiled pants to the children. I remember having to line up to go into the dining room. The thing that upsets me so much is I could see her face, she was so distraught. I would never do that to my children or to children who weren't mine. Given that my sisters had problems with wetting and soiling, to use that as a punishment was really bad. The staff should have given more thought to that. I don't know whether the staff didn't know much about [ ] and [BFI] background. It was a very strange thing to humiliate such a small child. We had enough to deal with, with what had happened to us before and during our time at Glasclune.
80. I still have great affection for North Berwick and visit there often, maybe because I have happy memories there that are not connected with what inside Glasclune. The children from Glasclune had a special spot on the beach that we always sat at. I visited recently and sat there. I felt as if it had all happened to someone else.
81. After we left Glasclune and went home, I was very protective of my sisters. I was like a little mother to them. I don't know if all sisters are like this but, as we got older, we're not so close now. My sisters and I have never fallen out and when we see each other it's great but we don't see each other very often.

82. For years, there was never much of a relationship with my brother, [REDACTED] We all lived in the same house. My brother was always treated differently. He was at home all the time and was never put into care. [REDACTED] and I are closer now than we ever were. I go out of my way to try and keep my brother and sisters together. I keep contact with my siblings more than they keep contact with me, which can be a bit annoying at times.
83. I have a very good relationship with my children. I was a good mother. The mothering I learned from my mother did not carry forward to my children. My children know I was in Glasclune. I tell them little stories but they don't know what I've told the Inquiry. I have a good relationship with my mother now. I can see it through her eyes. It must have been very hard for her because she wasn't able to look after us.

### **Records**

84. I got my records from Glasclune about ten years ago now, from Barnado's. I had seen a television programme when it was first opened up to people to apply for their records. I thought I would quite like to do that. A social worker went through my records with me. The social worker explained some of the things that were in there and the language that was used in it. I was happy to go away and go through the records at my own pace.
85. The photograph taken of me at the front door of Glasclune, on my first day, was in my file, with a photo of Glasclune itself. There were no surprises in my records. I was surprised that I knew so much already. It was quite hurtful and upsetting reading the social work minutes of meetings with my parents at our home, the social worker's views of my parents and comments about them. The social workers talked about my sisters and I, what we looked like and how we behaved. It was like looking at, and talking about, somebody else. You know it's about you but it's like you are an outsider looking in.

86. There were one or two comments made about me from Mr and Mrs Mace that I thought were a bit strange. Mr and Mrs Mace said, "Rather a nice child if it wasn't for her deceitfulness and romancing." I think what that meant was that I fantasied but anybody would if you were in a children's home. You would hope you were somewhere else. That's the only thing I could think because I was a quiet and timid child.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

87. Being in care would have been a different experience for me if I had felt liked, never mind loved. I understand you can't love people who are not related to you. Feeling liked was the one, fundamental thing that was missing.
88. You can't just put children in care in a house, put food on the table and give them clothes. There are other needs, emotional needs. These children are already traumatised and things have happened to them. Imagine how the children feel going into a place, without the people they love and know, and there's nobody appears to even care about you. Having someone the child can speak to about their feelings would make a difference.
89. I don't think the situation was right, [REDACTED] living at Glasclune. Mrs BFJ, [REDACTED], working there and having such an influence on what was happening at Glasclune, shouldn't have been allowed. Even if you did have the where-with-all to question what she was doing, would you have gone to [REDACTED] tell? Would you do that if you were a little girl? I don't think you would. I don't think that [REDACTED] would happen now. I don't think it would be allowed.

**Other information**

- 90. I went back to Glasclune when I was about eighteen or nineteen years old. Different people were in charge. They had taken away the big dormitories, the dormitories were small, and they had taken away the age group division. They had learned something.
  
- 91. 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..... 6/7/18 .....