

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MPZ

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is MPZ My date of birth is 1992. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Aberdeen. I am my mother's eldest child. My mum, dad and all of my siblings were based in Aberdeen. I think most of them still live there.
3. My Mum is called She had nine kids altogether. She was promiscuous and would jump from man to man. I remember being ill one day at home. I went through to the living room and my mum was having sex with a man called on the sofa. She didn't stop when I walked in. She just kept going.
4. My dad is called He had seven kids of his own. He lived with my mum for a little while and then moved to his own place in in Aberdeen. It was only two minutes away from my mum's. He was always in jail and when he got out he would be a real bastard.
5. My dad was an alcoholic. When he lived with us he would beat my mum up. He would beat me up too. He would hit us with dog leads, use hot fat on us and lock us in the bathroom. He would leave marks on my legs and on my back. One day my brother and I were playing and we got a tiny pen mark on the sofa. My dad beat us up and locked us in the bathroom for days. I was eleven or twelve at the time. was

even younger. It was during term time so we had to miss school. No one asked why we had been off.

6. Sometimes I went to stay with my dad in his house. I was always up early around 5 am. I would be drowsy and sleepy but I used to catch my dad climbing down from my bunk beds. I know what he was doing.
7. My dad had a friend called [REDACTED] who worked [REDACTED] with him. I think [REDACTED] was a janitor. [REDACTED] assaulted me at my dad's house once. [REDACTED] put his belt around my neck. My brother [REDACTED] came in and caught him doing it. My dad was not there at the time so he didn't believe me. I got the police involved. They found video's in [REDACTED] locker. He had filmed kids running around at the [REDACTED]. I think he was arrested.
8. I lived with my mum for a while. There were seven of children in the same house together. There were only three bedrooms. I was sharing a room with my sister and my mum's baby. I would get up in the night to feed the baby. I used to fall asleep at school. I think Miss Bolton (the headmistress from Donbank school) phoned the social workers about it. The social work didn't do anything.
9. When I was about 8 years old I got bitten by a dog while I was trying to lift my brother [REDACTED] upstairs. I dropped my brother on the stairs and nearly killed him. I didn't mean to. I had just been bitten by a Staffie. That's when the social work got involved with me. They didn't get involved with any of my siblings.
10. I didn't really like the social workers. I remember Pauline Fowler, Liz Stein, Gurta and Rhonda Kerr. Pauline was a bit of a cow. She would tell me to "shut up" and that my Mum didn't love me. She would say that it was all my own fault that I was going to be taken away. Liz Stein was a bitch too. It was just the way she spoke to me.
11. Rhonda Kerr was different. She was really good to me. She would take me out and speak to me. If it was getting too much for my mum, Rhonda would take me for something to eat and get me out of the house for a while.

12. I told the social workers that my dad was hitting my Mum and me. They knew what was happening. They knew he was an alcoholic all of my life.
13. My mum sent me to live with one of my friends mum's called [REDACTED] for a while. She had a daughter called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] cousin was a man called [REDACTED] When I was eleven [REDACTED] and her friend [REDACTED] took me down to [REDACTED] house. I didn't know [REDACTED] He was a bit older than me and wasn't at school with us. I think he had finished school already.
14. [REDACTED] got me drunk and took all my clothes off. He had sex with me. He tried to put me in his floorboards. He then pushed me out of the window of his flat. The police were called. They made me go to the doctors to get checked. I ended up in hospital as I had to get stitched up.
15. [REDACTED] was arrested. I remember speaking to the police and they said that I was too young to go to court. The police then took me to Netherhill Children's Home. One of my social workers Liz Stein was there too when they took me. I was eleven years old.

Netherhills Children's home, Bucksburn, Aberdeen

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Seaview Children's Home, Edinburgh

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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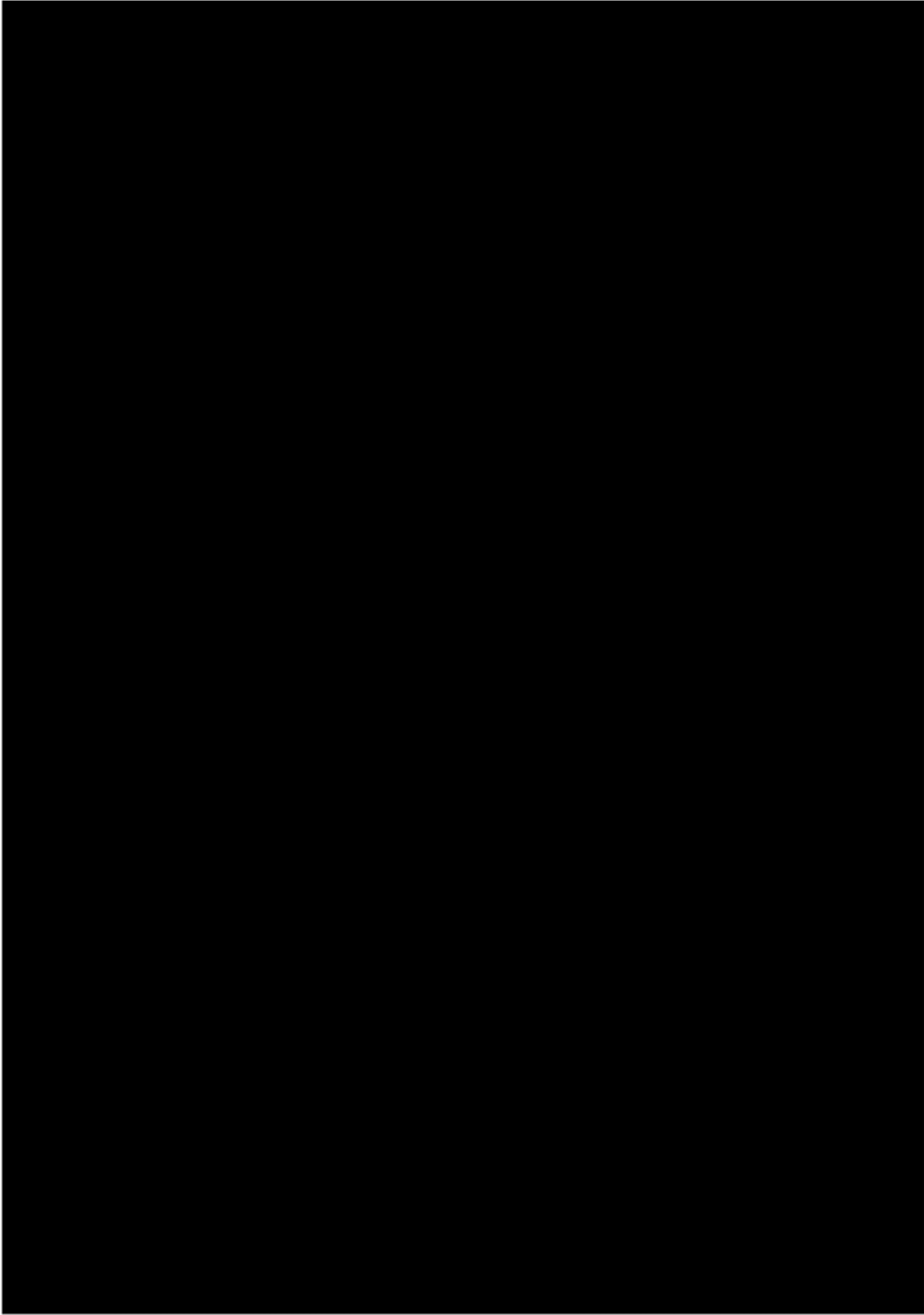
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47. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

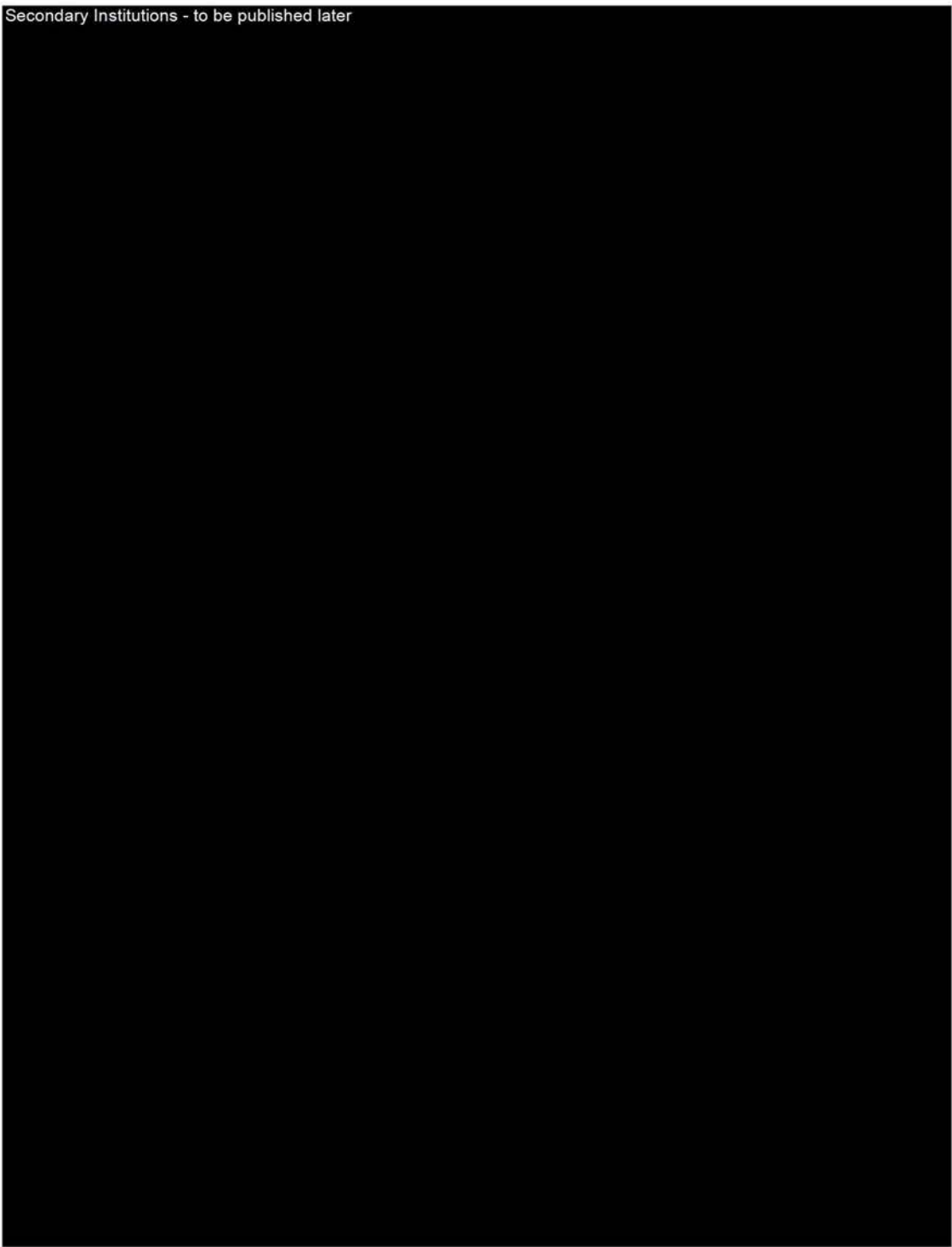
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Foster placement with [MQP/ MQQ], Dunfermline

66. I was taken to live with [MQP/ MQQ] at [] in Dunfermline, Fife. I was about twelve years old. [MQP] was nice, [MQQ] was not.

Healthcare

67. I didn't see a doctor or a dentist during my time at [MQP/ MQQ]

68. I had an accident when I was playing on my bike one day and pulled the wrong brake. I went flying into the garage and cracked the bottom side row of my teeth. I had terrible toothache and used to complain about the pain to [MQP] and [MQQ]. They used to give me a hot water bottle to hold on my face. [MQQ] used to put Southern Comfort on it. I used to cry and rock back and forth. [MQP] used to get up during the night and tell me to "shut up" as I was keeping them awake. I have suffered from toothache ever since.

69. I went to see a psychiatrist. She didn't listen and she would ask too many questions. She would ask one question and I would answer it. Then she would ask me the same question again in a different way.

Christmas/Birthdays

70. I moved to [MQP/ MQQ] in [REDACTED] and they promised me that I would get home for Christmas. I never got home for Christmas. As presents I got hand-me-downs from their nieces. I never got actual presents.
71. For my birthday [MQP/ MQQ] told me that if I stopped smoking for three months then I would get a bike. I stopped smoking and got the bike. When I left their care [MQP] refused to give me my bike back.

Abuse at the foster placement with [MQP/ MQQ], Dunfermline

72. [MQQ] put a camera in the shower. It was in a Deep Heat box in a sort of toilet roll thing. There was a box that had a red light. There were glass panels in the shower. I was in the shower for a while before I noticed the red light flashing. It was only when I was washing my hair that I noticed it. I got out of the shower and took the box down. I saw that there was a camera inside it so I took it to my room. [MQQ] came running up the stairs and knocked on my door. [MQP] was at the hairdresser. I had to let him in because [MQP] wasn't there. He told me that if I said anything [MQP] wouldn't be happy. So I gave him the camera.
73. I told the foster care agency about the camera. I think they were called the Swiss foster care. I told them that I wasn't going to go back to [MQP/ MQQ]. They had wanted me to go back to [MQP/ MQQ] while an investigation took place. I didn't want to go back. I was sick of it. The foster placement people got the police and I was moved to respite care.

MQP/ MQQ were still fostering after I reported MQQ. I think they were just getting boys. I saw them about a year later at school when they came with a little boy called

**Reporting of abuse at the foster placement with MQP/ MQQ
Dunfermline**

74. The police were called at the time of the abuse. I spoke to the police about what had happened with MQQ and the camera.

Respite Care Dunfermline and surrounding area

75. I went from MQP/ MQQ foster placement to stay with an old couple. It was a respite placement. I can't remember the old couple's names. They lived just down the road from MQP/ MQQ. There was a road that ran in Dunfermline. They lived up there. They were really good to me for the while that I was there. I stayed with them on and off for about a year.
76. I then went to a few different respite places. I can't remember all of their names. I remember Lumphinnans, Lochgelly, Ladybank, Kirckaldy, Glenrothes, Dunfermline and Bathgate. I remember I really wanted to stay at the second respite place. They had a big house in Kirckaldy. It was really nice but I wasn't allowed to stay with them. They told me I couldn't because it wasn't a foster placement. I then moved to in Lochgelly. When she went on Holiday with her daughter and she promised that she would take me. She didn't. She took friend instead. I can't remember how long I stayed in Fife altogether.

Visits/Social work

77. I saw my mum every second week I think. I would travel to Aberdeen by train by myself. My foster carer would take me to the train station and put me on the train alone. Sometimes I would stay with my mum in Aberdeen but I didn't like it. I didn't want to go. For a while my mum came to see me in Fife but she didn't really stay. She went away to Bathgate to meet another man. That was the only reason she came to see me.

78. I never really saw my social workers much. They just took me to Dunfermline and left me. I always had social workers that were based in Aberdeen. They were never from Fife even though I was living there.

Bathgate Secure Unit, West Lothian

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Bathgate Secure Unit, West Lothian

85. I left Bathgate Secure Unit and went to a foster placement with a couple called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Foster placement with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Carnoustie

86. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] lived at Carnoustie. They were quite good to me. I was fourteen when I went to stay with them.

Visits/Social work

87. I don't remember the social work ever coming to visit me. I remember speaking to them on the phone. I always phoned them, they never phoned me.

Abuse at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] foster placement, Carnoustie

88. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had fostered another boy called [REDACTED]. He was the only other child that came into that placement with me. [REDACTED] was a lot older than me. I think he was

just about ready to leave care. He was from Dundee I think. He was ok with me to start off with.

89. We were allowed to go to Dundee swimming pool on our own sometimes. I had been a couple of times and [REDACTED] had been fine. The last time we went swimming he had other boys with him. I didn't know any of them. I met them for an hour or two. After I got out of the swimming pool [REDACTED] and his friends were waiting for me. They came to the locker room and sexually assaulted me. All of them sexually assaulted me.

Reporting abuse at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] foster placement, Carnoustie

90. I told my social worker but I didn't tell [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had threatened me if I told them. I don't remember the name of my social worker at that time but it will be in my paperwork.

Leaving [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] foster placement, Carnoustie

91. After the incident at the swimming pool I beat up a girl that I knew. Her name was [REDACTED]. She lived not too far away. She had been saying bad things about my mum and my sisters. I beat her up so that I could get moved.
92. I was moved to my last placement at a place called Oakbank in Aberdeen. I told the social workers that I didn't want to go back to Aberdeen. They thought that I wanted to be beside my sisters and brothers. I did want to see my siblings but it didn't mean I wanted to move to Aberdeen. The social work also thought that I was sexually active and wanted a baby from a young age. It was all lies. I didn't want any children and I wasn't sexually active. I didn't want to have sex with anyone.
93. I didn't want to go back to Aberdeen at all. My mum and dad and all the bad stuff was there.

Oakbank Residential School for Vulnerable Children, Aberdeen

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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121. The social work placed me in a B&B in Aberdeen by myself. I was sixteen and didn't have any support. It was a normal business B&B used by fishing people or people from the oil rigs. There weren't other kids. The social workers never came to see me.
122. I certainly didn't want to go into a B&B. I had no money. I had to go out stealing to feed myself. We all just went shoplifting to keep ourselves going. After a few months "Through care and after care" would give me something like £40 a fortnight. It wasn't a lot.
123. We were never spoken to by anyone about what we were expected to do or where to go during the day. We didn't get breakfast as it was at 5 am in the morning and we weren't up at that time. I had my own room for a little while but I had to be out of the B&B by 8.30 am. We were not allowed back until after 5 pm.
124. I was in the B&B by myself to start off with and then after a little while there were some more kids from Oakbank that came in. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were two kids that I remember being in the B&B with me. There were quite a few of us. Some of the


kids that came in had been thrown out of other B&B's and sent to my one. In the end we were all thrown out because [REDACTED] stole the cleaners phone. Most of us ended up on the streets sleeping rough.

Life after being in care

125. I slept rough in Aberdeen for a couple of years. When I was sixteen or seventeen I was stabbed in the head seven times. A polish man found me naked and bleeding. He carried me and laid me on the ground in Seton. The police cordoned off the area and took me to hospital. I was in intensive care and died, but resuscitated three times. The police guarded my room in the hospital. There was a lot of police involvement. I have ongoing memory problems and pain in my head and back.
126. When I was eighteen I met my ex-partner [REDACTED] and fell pregnant with my son [REDACTED]. At that time I was living between the streets, my grandma's and the junkies downstairs from my grandma's. I eventually got my own flat in [REDACTED] grandma's street in [REDACTED].
127. At this time the social workers got involved and threatened to take away my children. I think it was because of the way I had been brought up. That was the only thing they had on me. I got my baby [REDACTED] home but we ended up going into a place called Richmond Hill. It was a social work place that you can go with your kids. After I spent some time at Richmond Hill I went home and had another baby boy [REDACTED].
128. The social work became heavily involved with me and my children. I was being beaten up by [REDACTED]. I would ask the social work to help me but they never did. They just told me to lock my door. They put me in a Travelodge for a long weekend and told me that they would find me somewhere else to go long term. They never did. I had to keep going back home where I would get beaten up and abused by [REDACTED].

129. After a while the social work came and took my kids away from me. They said that they had found a needle in the baby changing bag. It wasn't true. I wasn't on heroin then.

130. Secondary Institutions - to be published later



131. I used to get dihydrocodeine for the pain in my head from my stabbing injuries. [REDACTED] used to take the dihydrocodeine away from me and give me his methadone instead. The methadone took the pain away. I wasn't even taking heroin back then. It wasn't until after the kids got taken away from me that I started to use heroin.

132. I am currently in a relationship with my partner [REDACTED] We have just moved into a bedsit. We have no cooker, no carpets or furniture. We really need a cooker because I am diabetic.

Impact

133. My mental health is bad. Really bad. I hear voices and I am scared. I have anxiety, depression and have been suicidal. I have got ADHD, bi-polar and psychosis. I put my mental health down to being in care. Having been raped, abused, assaulted physically

and sexually, starved, locked in a room, pots and pans getting banged in the early hours of the morning and getting touched inappropriately.

134. My physical health is bad too. I am just not healthy. Not as healthy as I could have been and should have been. I have got type two diabetes and celiac disease. I also have problems with my eyes. I have got to get an operation in my eye because the muscle behind my eye is detaching. I still have ongoing problems with my teeth. My dentist has told me that it is because I never got the healthcare I needed during my time in care. I have gum disease and pain and I am continuing to lose teeth regularly. I am also on methadone.
135. My education has suffered. I was getting assaulted and sexually assaulted throughout my time in care. I was being moved from pillar to post and meeting new people constantly. I was continually trying to deal with the abuse and what had happened to me. How was I supposed to concentrate on schooling when I had all of that going on?
136. I lost all trust in people. I still don't trust anybody. It has affected the way I form relationships with people. My current partner [REDACTED] is the first person that I have been with that hasn't physically assaulted me. He is the only person I trust.
137. I have no relationship with my parents. I saw my mum the other day and said "hello". She told me to "fuck off". She won't let me have contact with my siblings. My dad is an animal. I will never want a relationship with my mum or my dad. They don't want one and I don't want one.
138. I still hate the dark. I have only just started sleeping in the dark but only when [REDACTED] is right beside me. I have got to be able to touch him otherwise the lights go on.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later | I think they know about my Dad's friend [REDACTED] too. I can't

remember what I have told the police. They have questioned me on various occasions and usually I don't tell them anything. Either that or they don't believe me.

Records

140. I have not read any of my records. When I got out of care I read some notes but I never got to keep them. They wanted £50 for them. I don't have £50. I find it hard enough to feed myself never mind get £50.
141. I have been in touch with Future Pathways but I do not know if they can help me with my records. I have a woman called Lisa who is supposed to contact me but I haven't heard from her yet.

Lessons to be Learned

142. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

143. I would like better knowledge and care for the kids that are in the care system now. I would like to make sure that abuse doesn't happen to them. I would also like justice for the people that hurt me and the other kids and babies. It is hard enough as a child getting taken away from your parents to then get abused in care. I also think there should be better things for the kids to do. Better education and just a better life.
144. You need to actually sit down and listen to the kids. Sit down and listen to what they have to say. Social workers always tell kids that they know what they are doing and

that they have been to school, college and university. That is rubbish. Just because they have got a degree it doesn't mean that they know anything.

145. The social workers should have listened to me and visited me regularly. They could have taken me away from my mum and put me in a place that was stable for me and able to meet my needs. I was quite a vocal kid and I was challenging. I think the social work and care staff just thought that I was a little brat and a bad kid. I wasn't bad I was just trying to deal with things. If they had actually taken the time to listen to me and put me somewhere that I felt safe and where I was able to go to school then there wouldn't have been all the abuse. Kids don't get listened to and the staff get away with far too much.
146. I did not find speaking to a psychologist or counsellor useful. Kids that are in care go through things that are hard enough. People they don't know asking them questions and poking their nose in really doesn't help. In fact it makes it worse. When you are in care you have got to explain yourself to so many different people, Social workers, three care workers, different staff and foster parents. You don't need a counsellor or shrink to tell as well.
147. I think it would be helpful if a child had one social worker who saw them regularly and got on with them. I tried to change my social workers a couple of times but they never really listened to me. The social workers I saw were all from the Aberdeen social work department. Even when I was in Fife my social workers were based in Aberdeen. I think they can keep kids safer by not moving them about so much. Not passing them from pillar to post. The kids should stay in one place long term. Routine is important.
148. If anybody is applying to work with children they need to be checked. Everything about them and their past needs to be scrutinised. Everything. I don't think any of the people that I lived with in the homes and foster placements had been properly checked. Proper police checks and background checks are needed.

- 149. The minute a member of staff puts their hands on a child it makes everything worse. They have got to remember the staff are not the kids' parents. Attacking children, restraining them, sexually abusing them does not help them.

- 150. Instead of restraining or grabbing hold of a kid when they are being difficult, they should feed them, clothe them, give them their bus fares, give them their clothing grants and give the girls their grant for their periods. I think the whole time I was in care I only got two clothing grants. Foster carers didn't buy me clothes because they said that it wasn't up to them.

- 151. My kids are in care now and I really hope that things will be better for them. I don't want my kids going through the same experiences I had. If anyone ever touched my kids I think I would kill them.

Other information

- 152. 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.. MPZ

Dated.. 30-1-2019