

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EOP

Support person present: No

1. My name is EOP. The surname on my birth certificate is EOP and I was known as EOP when I was in care. My mum and dad split up when we were in foster care and my siblings and I became known as EOP when we went back home. I then changed my name through deed poll and became EOP about 24 years ago. My date of birth is 1977. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Bellshill. My mum was and my dad was. I have an older brother, who is about two years older than me. My younger brother, died when he was eighteen and my younger brother, died on his eighteenth birthday. My younger sister, takes nothing to do with me. I also have a half-brother, who lives in England.
3. We lived in Newarthill before moving to in Motherwell when I was two or three years old. was the family home where a lot of trauma occurred. My mum and dad were alcoholics and they used to fight in the house. We had to run down to my gran's in our bare feet. My mother's mother stayed at the bottom of the hill. We would rush down there at 2:00 am.
4. My father worked at Ravenscraig. He also got a few odd jobs here and there. He used to be an electrician's mate and that kind of thing. He used to put up the Christmas

lights in Motherwell. My mum stayed in the house. She had five kids to look after when we were in [REDACTED] I've actually got her diary from 1976 to 1981. You can tell when she was drunk because her writing was all over the place.

5. We were put on the at-risk register from a very early age because our parents were drinking and fighting. My gran would call the social workers every time we ran down to her house. Social workers were involved in our lives from a very early stage, from the 1970s onwards.
6. We suffered a lot. I started primary one at St. Bernadette's Primary School in Motherwell. I don't know how long I was there for. I had my first drink around that time. I then became an alcoholic later on in life. We were given Babycham at New Year. My brother stole a bottle of whisky. We drank it in the bathroom when I was five or six and I was sick. I'm not sure how old I was, but I couldn't reach the latch on the door. I had to stand on my brother's back to open the door so we could run out.
7. There were fights all the time and alcohol was always involved. My mum and dad had proper fist fights. My brother [REDACTED] was in and out of hospital as a baby and then [REDACTED] was born in 1981 or 1982. We were all still very young. The social workers came in whenever there were fights. Eventually, they took us from our mum and dad. I was heartbroken. I can remember being dragged away from my mum, crying.

Foster care, Carfin

8. [REDACTED] and I were taken into foster care in Carfin. I think I was five or six years old, but I don't know. It was an old person's place and it was stinky. I can remember there was an old SMA tin full of half pennies. It was keeping up the end of the bed where we slept. We slept on jackets. I think we were only there for a week or a couple of weeks.
9. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were very young. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were still babies at the time. They were separated from us and we were all split up. I think they went to different foster carers.

10. The foster parents in that first placement were kind. They listened to me. Nothing bad happened to me in that house. I do remember stealing the half pennies and getting a row for that. I think it was just a temporary or emergency placement.

Foster care, [REDACTED] Carfin

11. We then moved to another set of foster carers in Carfin. I can't remember the couple's names. I think they were in their thirties. In recent years, I moved to Holytown and I found the grotto at Carfin. I was able to retrace my steps and find the house, but I didn't chap the door.

Routine in foster care

First day

12. I remember being dropped off and shown where we were staying. We were staying in bunk beds. There was a girl staying in the home as well. I think she was the biological child of the foster parents. I remember that they had a fish tank, but we weren't allowed into the front room much. We were told to stay in our bedroom.

Mornings and bedtime

13. [REDACTED] and I shared a room. We had bunk beds. We would get up and dressed and go out to school in the morning. I don't remember much about going to bed, but we were cared for. The people were probably professional enough to look after two young kids. I don't know whether they were regular foster carers.

Food/mealtimes

14. I think the food was okay. I don't remember anything bad about it. I think we were looked after in that way. I think I ate toast for breakfast because I didn't like cereal.

Clothing

15. We always had clothes to wear. I think the social work department gave the foster parents money for that. We weren't given a choice in what we wore. It was strict in the foster home and it seemed that I wasn't liked by any of them.

School

16. I remember attending St. Theresa's Primary School in Carfin. The school was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from the foster home. School was hard. I was always thinking about my mum. My mum would come and meet me at the fence during lunch break.

Leisure time

17. I only really remember going to school. I think I might have watched TV when I got in from school. I can't remember going out to play. I just remember being in the bedroom. I can't remember much about the foster home. I know we went to see my mum for a couple of hours on a Saturday. We probably went to chapel on the Sunday. We were Roman Catholic and we were made to go to chapel as kids. I don't think we were in foster care for our birthdays or Christmas.

Holidays

18. I can remember going on holiday to a caravan site somewhere. There was a manhole cover outside the toilet block. We wanted to have a look inside it so I put my fingers in it. It was metal and heavy. Other children were looking in. The manhole cover was too heavy for me. I told everybody that I was going to drop it. It was slipping in my fingers and it dropped on a lassie's head. There was a lot of blood. I was dragged away by the foster mother.

Visits

19. I can't remember the names of any of the social workers who were involved with us. They came from Motherwell social work office. I can't remember a social worker visiting us when we was in foster care. I only remember them picking us up when we were leaving foster care to go back to our mum.

20. While we were in foster care, my mum got a flat in Motherwell. We were allowed to go and visit her. I can remember two or three visits to my mum during that period. I think we went to see her once a week or once a fortnight. The foster parents would drive us to my mum's house. We would go up to her flat and I would hug my mum. It was only [REDACTED] and me and my mum was sober. The following day, she would have visits with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

21. We would stay with my mum for a couple of hours and then the foster parents came to collect us. It was a tiny wee place. Whenever I was sick, my mum would give me lemonade and tatties and gravy.

22. When it was time to leave, the foster parents had to pull me away. I would hold on to my mum, telling them to leave me and that I didn't want to go. I can remember crying and looking up at my mum. She was in the top flat. She was heartbroken and I was heartbroken. [REDACTED] had nothing. There was no emotion. He was a granny's boy and I was a mummy's boy.

23. I know that my mum wasn't supposed to see us outside of her allocated times. I don't know whether there was any kind of court order in place. My mum would come to the school gates in Carfin and give me 10p. She talked to me during a break. I remember that I had to keep that from the social workers and the foster parents. If they found out, it would be a red mark against my mum's name. She wasn't allowed to approach us, but she found out where we were.

Running away

24. █████ led me into running away from the foster home. He told me that we were going to see our mum. I remember walking down the big hill in Motherwell. We turned right at the bottom of the hill and there was a big road. We went to our gran's instead of our mum's. █████ was my gran's boy. My grandmother would call the social work department and we would be taken back into foster care. I didn't realise it, but my mum was only two minutes from my gran's. █████ knew that but he didn't tell me. I was too young to know exactly where we were.

Abuse in foster care

25. When we were in foster care, my older brother started touching me. He tried to force himself on me and that type of thing. I didn't like it. I was in the bottom bunk and he was in the top bunk. He used to jump down at night time and touch me. It felt to me like it happened every night, but maybe it didn't happen every night. Whenever it did happen, he would be hard. He would take my pyjamas down and he would try to penetrate me.
26. When we were on holiday at a caravan site, I accidentally dropped a manhole cover on a lassie's head. I was dragged away and slapped by the foster mum. The foster parents then sat me down and told me to eat cereal. I hate cereal. It was cornflakes with warm milk. I wasn't allowed any sugar. I was boking and I was made to eat it. For over twenty years, I couldn't eat cereal because of that.

Reporting of abuse

27. I told the foster parents that my brother was abusing me. They didn't believe me. They told me to shut up and said that I was lying. I was a mummy's boy. █████ got on with anyone. The foster parents were horrible to me. They just wouldn't listen to me. I told them that my brother was touching me. I wanted it to stop, but they just told me to go

up to my room. It was as if they didn't want to know. They would shout at me and tell me that [REDACTED] would never do that. [REDACTED] was right in with them and he did whatever he was told. He was like the golden boy and I was a piece of shit. When we were with our mum, I was up on a pedestal but it all turned around when we were in foster care.

28. Whenever I was separated from the foster parents and [REDACTED] wasn't there, I would tell my mum what [REDACTED] was doing. My mum would tell me not to worry about it. My mum reported what I was saying to the social work department. I would then be dragged away from her again. It was heart breaking. I had to go back into that environment where I wasn't liked. I hated it there and I just wanted to go home.

Leaving foster care

29. I don't know how long we were in foster care for. It might have been two or three weeks, but it's possible that it was months. All I can remember is the bad things that happened there. While we were in foster care, my mum split up with my dad. She had been in an abusive marriage. Eventually, my mum got us all back. She went to Alcoholics Anonymous and she was sober. She managed to prove to the social work department that she could provide a stable home for us. She was staying in a two-bedroomed flat behind [REDACTED] in Motherwell. We then moved from there to [REDACTED] which was behind the [REDACTED] in Motherwell. Things were fine.

Life after foster care

30. I never went back into care after leaving foster care, but we remained on the at-risk register. I think social workers spoke to my mum once a week. That went on for another couple of years and then we were taken off the at-risk register.
31. [REDACTED] continued to abuse me after we left foster care. My mum asked me to tell her when he was doing it so she could catch him. He used to get battered all the time and he would run away. He ran away for a week on one occasion. The police were in and

out of the house. He was in the loft and he had been going downstairs during the night to get something to eat. He would stay in the loft during the day. It was crazy.

32. Before we moved to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would go up to a place we called [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He used to come back with money. Unbeknownst to me, he was giving sexual favours to this guy and he would get money for it. He would meet me and we would buy sweets. I told my mum. The police were informed and there was a sting operation. The police staked out [REDACTED]. I had to give them the heads-up when my brother was going there and the man was arrested. He was a middle-aged guy who used to live across from us at [REDACTED]
33. In my mum's flat, [REDACTED] and I shared a bedroom. When we moved to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I were in separate rooms. He continued to abuse me. I told my mum and she said that she believed me. She asked [REDACTED] but he always denied it. Eventually, my mum did catch [REDACTED] abusing me. I was asleep, but she came in to check on us. My mum battered [REDACTED] over the head with a high-heeled shoe. He was about seven or eight years old and I was five or six. [REDACTED] was sent to school and then he was taken away by social workers. My mum must have told the social workers what had happened.
34. After my mum caught [REDACTED] abusing me, he was always in care. He wasn't allowed to live in the house, but he was allowed visits on a Saturday. He was in List D schools, foster care, children's homes. He was in and out of the social work system all his life. The last I heard, he was on the streets of Glasgow selling his body.
35. My mum met my stepdad, [REDACTED], in Alcoholics Anonymous and she started dating him. She was still married to my real dad at the time, but they had separated. They eventually got a divorce and my mum remarried. My stepdad had been in the army for fifteen years. He came out because something had happened in the eighties. I adored my stepdad. I thought he was an SAS hero.
36. I remember that I had a wee ball bearing gun. I kicked the door open and I fired it at my stepdad. He was still looking under his car for bombs and that kind of thing. He

was terrified. He got up, picked me up and slapped me. He had to leave and I started fearing him after that.

37. After my mum and stepdad got married we moved to [REDACTED] in Bellshill. We lived in a big bungalow. My step-dad [REDACTED] in Bellshill. They had contracts for Strathclyde buses. He did that kind of work. We were still at school. We were treated alright. We were put into a routine. We had to make our beds and make sure our t-shirts were folded properly. There were two separate living rooms, one for the adults and one for the kids at the back. We had a loft conversion.
38. My mum started drinking again the night before she got married. During the reception, she was going off for a fly drink. There wasn't much violence at [REDACTED] but there was a lot of shouting. My mum was always shouting and bawling. When my mum and stepdad got into fights, my mum would leave. We would be put into a homeless shelter. We'd be there for a week or two and we'd relocate schools. My mum kept me off school because whenever we were in the homeless units, I became my mum's drinking partner. Before we knew it, we'd be back staying with our stepdad. That happened three or four times a year.
39. In all the time we lived at [REDACTED] my brother [REDACTED] came to see us once. He didn't touch me but he touched my brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and my sister, [REDACTED]. When my stepfather found out, he kicked the shit out of my brother in the back room. We heard it. There was blood all over the wall. I was about eleven or twelve at the time so [REDACTED] would have been twelve or thirteen. It was reported to the social work department, but I don't know whether the police were told.

Living in [REDACTED] with my mum

40. Nothing happened to me when we lived at [REDACTED]. Eventually, my mum separated from my stepdad. She went to the council offices in Glasgow and we were put into a shelter for a few days. We then got a scatter flat overlooking [REDACTED] before being housed in Drumchapel. I lived there with my mum, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

██████████ and ██████████. ██████████ was the son of my mum and ██████████ and he was about one at the time. Everything was fine and I loved it there. I joined the cadets.

41. The only down side of Drumchapel was when my mum drank. At 2:00 am she would shout on me. She didn't shout on anybody else. I had to go down and pick her up. She'd be greeting. She would listen to the Eagles and Doctor Hook and lots of sad songs.
42. When we stayed in Drumchapel, a lot of things happened there. My brother was physically abused all the time. One of the things that happened was that my mum starved him for about a week. The only time he did eat was when he was at school. We were all fed so I used to take him food. He then stole a Jacob's cracker. My mum counted the crackers in the morning and realised one was missing. She then hit over the head with a high-heeled shoe and sent him off to school with blood running down the side of his face. As soon as the teachers looked at his head, he was taken to hospital and he went into care after that. We were already on the at-risk register. We had regular visits from social workers.
43. After that incident, my mum had to go to a Children's Panel in Glasgow. My siblings and I had to give evidence. We had to lie for our mum. Our mum told us to say that ██████████ had hit our brother over the head. Whoever was in charge of the Panel said that we were all liars.
44. My mum used to give me drink all the time. She would give me Olde English cider. I got drunk one night and phoned my stepdad. I told him everything that my mum had done. She had given his photograph to a member of the IRA and told him things that would have got my stepdad shot. My stepdad contacted the army and stopped it. Strangely, after that my mum started speaking to my stepdad. As a result, my stepdad got a ██████████ in Hamilton.
45. My mum wanted out of Drumchapel. We lived in Hamilton for a few months when I was between the ages of eleven and thirteen. I was still being physically and verbally abused by my mum. I was always the one she shouted on when she wanted picked

up and laid. I had to get the sick bucket out for her. She would pee in it and poo in it. I had to clean it all up and clean her. It was something that a young child shouldn't see or hear.

46. The first Christmas that we spent there, I got drunk on Christmas Eve. I was thirteen or fourteen because I was in second year at school. I got everyone down at 2:00 am and we opened all the presents. I got battered for it and sent to my bed. My mum had to rewrap the presents. I had ruined it because I was steaming. By that time, I was getting really annoyed with my mum. She was hitting me and doing all sorts.

47. On New Year's Eve, I went upstairs and heard my brother, [REDACTED] crying. His dummy had fallen out so I put it back in and hushed him back to sleep. My mum came up and was saying things like, "What the fuck are you doing? You're waking him up." She slapped me. I didn't mean it, but my first reaction was to strike her back. I ran away. My mum used to lock me in the house and take all the keys away, so I jumped out of the dining room window. My mum was steaming and I was steaming. She started shouting out of the windows to get attention. I got a garden fork and smashed all the windows in. I threw it at her and ran away.

Living with my stepdad

48. My stepdad took me in for a couple of days. Nothing untoward happened. He took me back to my mum's. She was drunk again, so I just ran away. I phoned my biological dad. He came to meet me at Hamilton Bus Station. I thought he was going to take me home with him. He took me for a cup of tea. I asked him if I could come and stay with him, but he said no. He had just got into a new relationship and he wasn't interested.

49. My stepdad took me in again. I was still going to school in Hamilton. My wee brother, [REDACTED] was in the same secondary school as me and he ran away as well. After I'd left, my mum shouted at him to come down and empty buckets and all the rest of it at 2:00 am. He had school the next day. It was an alcoholic home and it was too much. [REDACTED] ran away about a week after me.

50. I stayed with my stepdad. We were approached by the social work department. [REDACTED] and I were fed up with my mum. I'd fallen out with my mum at New Year and by [REDACTED] she had died. She was only 36. She had cirrhosis of the liver. My stepdad got custody of me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. That was when the sexual abuse started. I was only about fifteen years old at the time.
51. My stepdad started touching me. He did all sorts of things and tried to penetrate me. I blamed myself, but I wasn't into other men. He did it on the pretence that I was going to get a woman and I would have lost my virginity. He filled my head up with a lot of rubbish. It went on for a number of months and it happened nearly every day. I couldn't report it to the social work department. He would have been blown out the water. He wouldn't have been able to get work anywhere.
52. Eventually, I stopped the abuse. I told him not to do it. Unbeknownst to me, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was sexually abusing my brother [REDACTED] as well. When I was seventeen, I found a video tape in with footage of [REDACTED] jumping up and down on a bed with an erect penis. I could see my step-dad's arm come in and switch the video-tape off. I was gobsmacked. [REDACTED] was fifteen at the time. I couldn't believe it. I couldn't say anything to anybody.
53. I lived with my stepdad until the age of 21. My relationship with him was cagey. I was a people pleaser. I had to forgive him for what he did and move on. Eventually, I started calling him dad. My stepdad died of cancer four or five years ago.
54. At the time of my mum's death, the main social worker involved was a female from Drumchapel Social Work Department. I can't remember her name, but she was the team leader. My stepdad had a sexual relationship with her. There was also a male social worker involved together with [REDACTED] who was a homemaker. They were at my mum's funeral and the wake. I was going round, offering people tea and coffee. They came up to me and asked me whether I thought I was taking my mum's death too lightly. I don't know what they wanted me to do. Social work involvement with me stopped after my mum died. The only involvement they had was that they intermittently took me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to visit [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

55. After my mum died, [REDACTED] went to live with my mum's side of the family. She then lived in various different children's homes. She ended up in a home in Maryhill with my younger brother, [REDACTED]. I think it was a house of multiple occupancy and it was full of young teenagers. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had an untoward relationship and they were split up. When [REDACTED] was thirteen, she was caught giving a man a blow-job in a close.
56. My biological dad took [REDACTED] in. I found out later that he had a sexual relationship with my sister, his own daughter. My sister told me that it happened. My dad will be in his seventies now. I don't even know what he looks like. My brother [REDACTED] died on his eighteenth birthday. Lighter gas had frozen his lungs and he was found in the gutter. He had been adopted by [REDACTED] when he left care. We weren't told about it when he died.
57. I left school when I was sixteen. I got a job in [REDACTED] which was owned by my stepdad's brother. I then joined the army at the age of seventeen. I was medically discharged after nine weeks because I broke bones in my feet. I had an option to re-join, but I got a job in the building trade.
58. I blamed myself for my mum's death. I didn't want to be on this earth anymore. I tried to commit suicide twice. The first time it happened, my stepdad was there. I had [REDACTED] I was taken to Monklands Hospital to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I had a lot of guilt and shame the next day. When I was about nineteen or twenty, [REDACTED] at 2:00 am. The only thing that stopped me dying was that my next door neighbour got up to go to the toilet. He heard the [REDACTED] and looked out of the window.

Life in England and the death of [REDACTED]

59. By that time, my stepdad managed to get a job in England, working as a private detective and doing surveillance. He came up to Scotland after my second suicide attempt. He had to keep an eye on my so he got me a job as a private investigator in England. I did that and security work for seven years.

60. I was making loads of money. I would go out and buy bottles of champagne. I'd fill up a Burger King cup and take it into the amusement arcades. Somebody saw me going back to my car. I was about to start the engine, but five people came over and stopped me. They kept me in the car until the police came. I was like a caged animal. I was convicted of failing to provide a specimen of breath.
61. I was due to appear in court for that offence on 8 July. That day, I was drinking Budweiser, brandy, whisky, vodka and port. The following day, I woke up in a police cell with blood on my hands. I pressed the buzzer and asked the custody officer what had happened. They told me that I'd stabbed my brother. He didn't survive. He was eighteen and I was twenty.
62. I was held on remand for nine months. When I was on remand for killing [REDACTED] I spoke to counsellors, psychologists and psychiatrists. I was being held in a Young Offenders' Institute in Middlesbrough. I couldn't remember what happened the night [REDACTED] died. They said it might come back to me and it has, but I still don't know why it happened. Something could have happened and he could have touched me. I don't know. The various professionals who saw me had been instructed by the defence and the prosecution. I was interviewed for three days. I had to cover-up what happened between me and my stepdad. I didn't tell them about the abuse. The first thing my stepdad asked me when he came to visit was whether I had told them what happened in Scotland.
63. I was found not guilty of murder after a nine day trial. I took the stand and I went through everything that happened in my life. I proved to everyone that I didn't mean it. I was found guilty of manslaughter and released from court that day. I served nine months for killing someone. Because of my past and everything that I'd been through, the judge said words to the effect that I had been through so much in my life and the public had no interest in me going to prison. I still can't forgive myself though.
64. When I came out of prison, I went to stay at my stepdad's house. It just wasn't right. Every time I went into the front room, I could see [REDACTED] there. It was too hard. I had been writing to a lassie when I was in prison. I met up with her and I ended up

buying a brand new flat. I was there for about two years, but I had to sell up after three years. I was convicted of drink driving again and ended up serving a sentence at an open prison just outside of York.

65. Everything that happened was through the drink. I drank alcohol to forget about [REDACTED] and about my mum. I blamed myself for my mum's death, but I didn't kill her, it was the alcohol. [REDACTED] was a different matter. To this day, it's still hard to talk about. I've spoken about it so many times, but sometimes it becomes too difficult.
66. After living in England, I got a job doing security on American merchant ships. I travelled the world. I worked in security in Kuwait during the second Gulf War in 2003. It was a brilliant life. I started putting on weight. I went to the gym for two hours every day. You then had to get a licence to work in security. I couldn't get one because of my criminal convictions. As soon as I filled out the form and sent it off, I knew that was it. I was leading a training course, teaching DWP employees how to do surveillance, when I got the phone call. I thought I'd get work somewhere else, but worked just dried up.
67. I moved back up to Scotland and got a girl pregnant. My daughter is seventeen years old now. I started drinking and I was in and out of my daughter's life. I was getting into fights. I was filled with anger. I don't have any contact with my daughter any more. I have had some contact with her mother, but not at the moment.
68. I decided to sober up seven years ago and was sober for three and a half years. I've just been trying to stay sober for the last seven years and trying to keep the ball at my feet. I can't get work doing what I loved. I used to do static security at festivals. I don't do much now, other than take the dog for walk.

Impact

69. We were on the at-risk register up until my mum died and my stepdad got custody of me and [REDACTED] I hated the social work department because they took me away

from my mum. Every time we went to see my mum, they would always take me away. I was in bits. I had a lot of resentment towards the foster carers. After I got sober, I went through a twelve step programme. It brought a lot of what happened out. I hated being in foster care.

70. I left school with four or five GCSEs. I didn't get great results. I think my upbringing affected my school life. We were in and out of different schools throughout my childhood. I was bullied at primary school. When I moved back to Bellshill for secondary school, I only had one friend. I found it really difficult to build relationships. I think that was because I was moved around so much.
71. I also found it hard to form relationships in later life. To this day, I still can't approach women. I have a fear of rejection. It's hard to say whether my life would have been better if the social work department had acted differently. I was so young. The fact that my stepdad had a relationship with the team leader might have messed things up. They could have been more professional. The social workers shouldn't have judged me at my mother's funeral. They shouldn't have been there. They were never invited.
72. I have received treatment from the Integrated Addiction Services at Bellshill. I saw a psychologist there, but he was clock-watching. I didn't get anything from it. I went to Alcoholics Anonymous. I was doing top-tables and helping other people remain abstinent from alcohol. I've been on anti-depressants for more than twenty years, but I don't have regular reviews by the GP. I have chronic pancreatitis as well. I had to take medication for that, which resulted in an addiction to painkillers. I don't want to be on them, so I'm under the Addiction Services just now.

Reporting of abuse after leaving care

73. I don't think my mum reported [REDACTED] abuse of me to the police. I know the police were involved with him because he ran away. Social workers were involved in our lives all the time. [REDACTED] was taken away at a very early age.

Records

- 74. I've never tried to obtain my records from the social work department. I'd like to get them, to see what went wrong. When I moved back to Scotland, social workers became involved. I moved in with my girlfriend and her son. Her ex-boyfriend got the social work involved. He told them that I'd been convicted of murder. It's followed me my whole life. I had to get depositions of my interviews for the murder charge to prove that I hadn't intended to kill [REDACTED] I had to burn them.

Lessons to be learned

- 75. I don't think social workers should get involved with family members. When my stepdad was sleeping with the team leader of Drumchapel Social Work Department, he was also abusing me and he was abusing my brother.

Hopes for the Inquiry

- 76. I hope that the Inquiry can make other people's lives easier. If children are being put into foster care, the foster carers should be checked out. There are some horror stories out there.
- 77. 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.

EOP [REDACTED]

Signed.....

Dated..... 5th August 2021.....