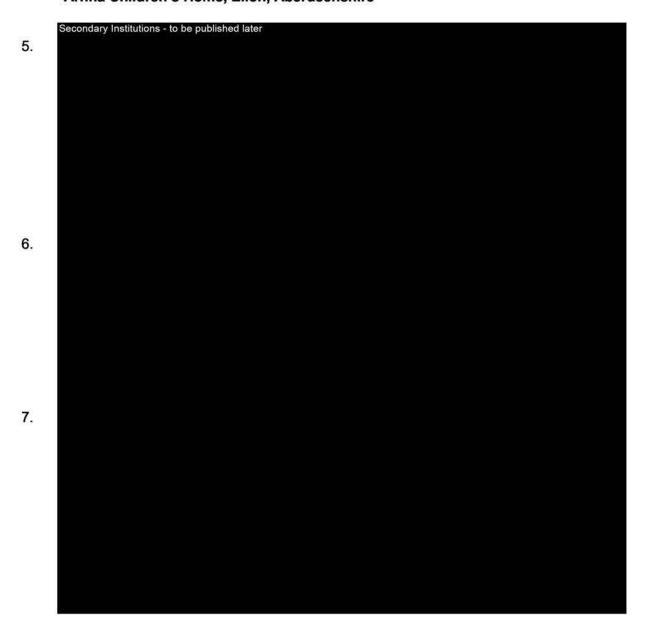
Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

	Witness Statement of
	FKW
	Support person present: No
1.	My name is FKW
	Life before going into care
2.	I was born went into foster care I used my foster parent's surname, which was thou I was known as the otherwise. My natural family were travelling people. There was my mother and my father I was the oldest, I have a sister who is ten months younger than me and who will be sixty on his birthday in this name is but he was always known as My grandmother didn't like the name so she called him and it stuck.
3.	We lived in a tent. It's hard to explain, it was quite big and it had a fire in the middle of it. I don't know how much cooking my mother did because she drank a lot and so did my father. I can't remember much about my time there, I was very young. All I remember is that I had a doll with red hair that I called Audrey. When the authorities came one night and took and I away, I had a vest on but I couldn't find. That's all I remember. They took and I but stayed there. I was about four. I can remember a man in a uniform that I assumed was a policeman, but looking back it may have been someone from the RSPCC, and Ms who became my social worker. It was during the night that they came and it was summer time. They took us to Arnha Children's Home in Ellon. It's about fifteen miles away from Aboyne, maybe more. Nobody told us what was going on. The man in uniform
	1

was very nice to me. He asked what I was looking for and I told him my doll, but we never found it.

I remember all the places I was in. I asked for copies of my records when my
daughter was born, she's forty-five now. The social work said they were destroyed in
a fire.

Arnha Children's Home, Ellon, Aberdeenshire



Secondary Institutions - to be published later
8.

9. I can remember a couple, who turned out to be and the matron asking them if they would take and me. Mrs FNZ said she only wanted one, which was to go together, they had to take the two of us. The couple said they would think about it and came back a week later. They were still adamant they only wanted one girl because they had their own natural daughter, whose name was Mrs FNZ only wanted but the matron insisted she would have to take me as well. I heard all of this, I remember it. I can't remember the matron's name, she wore a uniform too. You only saw her if you got into trouble, she kept herself to herself. She was in her office normally. I'm not sure if other kids were fostered, I think they were.

Foster care – FNZ-SPO near Ellon

- They had a daughter and lived in mean Ellon. It was a small place, just a street. They weren't old, in their late thirties, early forties maybe. I liked Mr he worked for British Telecom, Mrs FNZ was a housewife.
- 11. It wasn't long after their visit that we went to stay with them. A matter of days. Ms

 FSG told us we were going to live with them and to behave ourselves. Looking back now Ms was quite derogatory. She had no real interest in us. She had no empathy towards travelling people. It was like they had to be eliminated. She believed the children wouldn't amount to anything if they came from travelling people. She continually told me this. She was my social worker until I was fifteen.

 She was with Aberdeen social work department. She seemed old to me, she would be late forties, early fifties. I think she told me she had worked for the Metropolitan Police. I think Arnha wasn't a home for permanent care.

Routine at Foster care – FNZ-SPO , near Ellon

First Day

12. I remember the day we went to FNZ-SPO. It was somebody's birthday, I don't know if it was mine. There was a nice party. Mr was nice and welcomed us to his home.

Mrs FNZ was quieter. Mr was very quiet too, but he was a nice man. I realised from the very beginning that what she said was what was done. She was the boss.

Mornings and bedtime/bedwetting

- 13. They lived in a council house. It had three bedrooms. It was like a semi-detached, but it wasn't. The house was very nice, but you couldn't play because she had to have everything in its proper place. I remember when I went there I wet the bed and she got very angry with me. I hadn't done this before. I don't know why it started there. A doctor came to see me, I remember his name, it was Dr Hopkins and he gave me a lollipop, but I was scared of him. I was generally scared of men, but not Mr because he was quiet. Any people who shouted at me made me nervous and my stomach would start to go.
- 14. I remember I wet myself on her couch because she shouted at me. She went mad because it was a velvet couch. She said wetting yourself was dirty. She sent me to bed. It was five o'clock in the day. I remember because all the children were out playing.
- 15. Mr mother stayed with them and I was put into her bedroom to stay, the bottom room. Shared a room with upstairs. The grandmother was kind to me. Mrs FNZ was horrible to her. She was blind and I remember Mrs FNZ saying to her, "Have you done your dusting?" and the grandmother told her she had and she would ask her, "Where's the duster then?" She shouted at her too. I didn't mind sleeping in the grandmother's room. I had to go to bed at 6:00 pm, we were put to bed really early.

16. On the outside, to others, they were good people. They went to church and kept a clean home. They treated differently to how they treated me. They didn't like me speaking for her, they got angry. I wasn't an affectionate child and they weren't affectionate people. I can't ever remember getting a hug from Mrs FNZ ever. was sneaky, she still had the speech impediment, but she was growing out of it.

School

- 17. On my first day at school I remember I got a buttery with jam on it for my snack at break. I started school first then came and we sat together in the class. It was a small school. There was only one teacher, Mrs I remember I hadn't been there long when I wet myself at school and the teacher took me into a room and shouted at me. She was very angry. She was fine with me other than that. I wasn't well a lot of the time, but I went to school regularly.
- 18. I wasn't at FNZ-SPO long when I started school, maybe a week or two. It was across the road from the house. One day I was sitting on the back door step outside because I had wet myself before going to school. Mrs FNZ was really angry with me and made me go to school with no pants on. I remember that clearly.
- 19. I didn't like school. I found it difficult working with numbers. To this day I still can't count. My reading was good. I had a great interest in books. I used to spend a lot of time at FNZ-SPO in my room reading books. I remember 'Toys in Toyland', and all the Enid Blyton books. I read all of them.

Mealtimes / Food

20. It was strange, we were fed well but sometimes I would get different meals from the rest of them. I was a good eater, I would eat anything. The only thing I couldn't eat was cheese on its own. One time she gave us a salad and it had cheese on it and I couldn't eat it, I felt sick. I got it for breakfast the next day. If you didn't eat something

- you got it the next day. I think Mr wasn't aware of a lot of things she done. He was out working all the time and she seemed to change when he came home.
- 21. Mrs would go shopping on a Saturday and take and and they would go for afternoon tea. She never took me, so Mr took me to football matches. He was good to me, he would try to hide me out the way. I think he knew she was treating me differently. He took me to a football game one night. I got a pie and a Bovril. He was a different man at football matches, I'd never heard him raise his voice in the house. I just remember the holidays and going places with Mr . I don't even like football.
- was leaving primary when we started. I think she was five years older. I got on ok with I had very little contact with her, she was very quiet, but she was a nice girl. I and got the same food as FNZ-SPO too. One time they were getting some kind of meat and I got stovies and I asked why and Mrs FNZ said I wouldn't have eaten it.

Birthdays and Christmas

had a dimple bottle, which was like a whisky bottle. It was empty and Mrs kept sixpences in it. She saved a lot of sixpences. I never touched that bottle but did because she liked sweets. She took some sixpences out to buy sweets at the little shop down from the school. I remember it was coming up for Christmas. I had to polish my dad's shoes and our school shoes every night and while I was doing it Mrs ocame over and blamed me for taking the sixpences. I told her I hadn't done it and she said, "If you didn't, who did?" I wouldn't tell her it was so she said, "No Christmas for you, just clean the shoes and get to bed". I got nothing for Christmas that year. She said she was getting the police and I was frightened I would be taken away because I thought it was the police who took me from my mum. got a big doll that Christmas but I didn't get anything. The FNZ-SPO went out for Christmas dinner all the time, we never had it in the house. They took us out with them.

24.	I just remember the one birthday party on the day we arrived. I don't remember
	whose birthday it was and I can't remember any other birthday celebrations.
	Leisure time
25.	I read lots and lots of books and in the summer I would play outside all day. I didn't play with and and I played with people from the school, from the same street. I got pocket money. I remember getting sixpence. We didn't get sweets. I didn't mind that, liked sweets, but I wasn't bothered. Gran gave us our pocket money on a Saturday. We could get Edinburgh rock or peanuts but we had to share them with the family.
	Trips / Holidays
26.	We used to go on holidays to farms. It was more relaxed. I used to go for the milk. The farmer and his wife were nice to me. We all went on holiday except Granny, she was too old. I remember one time we went to Dumfries. On another occasion Mr took me to Edinburgh Zoo.
	Chores
27.	I had to polish the shoes every night and wash pots, if there were any after tea. It was Mrs who told me to do the shoes. did have to do the dishes sometimes, we took turns. I had to help gran do the dusting sometimes, if I was off school or on holidays.
	Religious Instruction
28.	weren't religious but we went to church now and again. I liked the church, there were snowdrops there. I liked them. The minister was an old man. The church was just up the road from the house.

Healthcare

29. I saw a Dr Hopkins when I wet the bed. He was the local doctor. I tried to stop wetting the bed and I'd hold it in and hold it in until my stomach was sore. I saw the doctor about that. I can't recall going to the dentist.

Running away

30. Mrs FNZ got an allowance for keeping us. I know this because one day I went through her stuff looking for my birth certificate because I was running away. I ran away and slept in a field for a night. Mr Found me the next day.

Abuse at Foster care – FNZ-SPO near Ellon

- 31. There were no physical punishments at FNZ-SPO just mental abuse, putting me down and saying things about my mum. I remember a gypsy woman came to our door one day, selling something, and Mrs FNZ said to me, "That could have been your mum".
- 32. I met years later and she said she always had to prove herself and please them. I called FNZ-SPO mum and dad and they called me FKW . I hated it. To discipline me they would put me to my room without my tea at ridiculous times like 4:00 pm. So I would just read books.

Leaving Foster care – FNZ-SPO , near Ellon

33. Everything came to a head one night when I was seven or eight years old. FNZ-SPO

never normally went out in the evening, but this night they were going to a Christmas
dance or something. I don't know where was but she wasn't there. Gran
looked after us. was making faces at her, and gran couldn't see her. I pushed
to get her to stop and she screamed. Gran asked what happened and
told her I'd pushed her for no reason. Gran asked me why I did it but I didn't tell her.

FNZ-SPO

came home, they weren't late. I remember I was standing at the top of the

stairs. They had promised us a mouth organ if we were good and I was really wanting this mouth organ, one was yellow and one was green. When gran told her what I'd done I didn't get the mouth organ. I started shouting at the top of the stairs, I don't know what I was saying, and she was shouting at me, telling me to get to bed. I went to bed but got up during the night and cut up some of Mrs FNZ clothes.

34. The next day, I went to school. Mrs FNZ said goodbye and gave me my snack for break. While at school I was asked to go to the headmistress' office and Ms FSG was there. She told me I was leaving FNZ-SPO and I went to Craiglarach Children's Home. I wasn't there long. I went back to FNZ-SPO intermittently, but it never worked.

Craiglarach Children's Home, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire



Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Aberdeen

- 38. I just remember sitting there in the hospital. It wasn't too bad in there. There were quite a few children. There weren't any books to read there. We had school there, it was alright. We were at school all day, had our tea and I think we played pool. I didn't mix with the other kids there. I think I blocked out a lot of things mentally because I don't want to remember.
- 39. I remember seeing a Dr Simone, she was very kind. She was treating me for mental health reasons. When I first met her she had all these bricks and she asked me to build them. I told her I wasn't because it was silly. Our conversations were like, why do I wet the bed, why did I lose my temper, why was I such a difficult child at the

 [FNZ-SPO] why won't I speak to people. I couldn't answer the questions. She said that if I didn't speak Ms [FSG] would think I'm retarded and she'd put me in a home for retarded people. They must have had a meeting. I wasn't retarded. I don't remember being on medication while I was there but we had a lot of sessions together.
- 40. Dr Simone told me that to prove to Ms FSG that I wasn't retarded I should sit an exam that would get me into a boarding school. I sat it and got ninety-nine per cent but I went back to FNZ-SPO, albeit for a very short period of time. I was in the hospital for six months. While I was there Mr visited me and brought me an ice lolly in a flask. He told me not to tell Mrs FNZ that he had been there. I did not suffer any abuse at the hospital.
- 41. I went back to FNZ-SPO for a week. I was about eight or nine years old. I don't know if I had a birthday. I was given a big trunk and went to boarding school. It was uncomfortable at FNZ-SPO and I didn't say much. was still there. I went to School in

Boarding School, Yorkshire

42. I was at School for about a year. It was a massive old property in the countryside. It had been there a long time. I had a sense of freedom there that I

never had anywhere else. The SNR was a was a was a at the time. He had you bathing at six in the morning. I went down to the pool with my dressing gown on and he told me to jump in naked. I didn't then but eventually I did on one occasion.

- 43. You called the teachers by their first name and there was one thing that I thought was very wrong, you went to what classes you wanted to. I went to English and history because I enjoyed them, I went to biology too. I wouldn't go to maths or anything to do with numbers.
- The other kids were nice. There was one girl called was from Wales, who I was friends with. There was a peer thing and a girl called was the head of it all. She was a girl I got friendly with, we became very close. She was a year older than me. I was ten or eleven. There was woodland and it led up to a young people's borstal, but we never went up that far. We used to go down the woods and that's the first time I started smoking.

Routine at Boarding School,

First day

- 45. It was summer when I arrived at the school. I lived there the whole time. Some people got home for holidays but I just stayed there. After a year I drank cider and got drunk and got expelled and ended up going home to FNZ-SPO. The Aberdeen social work department paid for me to be at the school. I don't know how I know this but I do. I think Jean Ritchie or Miss Anderson, who worked under Ms FSG., told me.
- 46. There were people from all over at the school. Lots were from abroad. came from France. There was an American girl, I can't remember her name. She went on holiday and came back with lots of different colours of chewing gum. I had never seen anything like it. There was a guy called unbelievably. He was from Iran. I remembered him because I fancied him.

Mealtimes

47. I could eat six to nine sausages in the morning, you could have as many as you wanted. The food was good. There was always a Sunday dinner. If there was something being served that you didn't like they would make you something else. The only thing I didn't like was cheese. I could take macaroni and cheese or cheese on toast, I just didn't like it on its own.

School

- 48. I loved history and I liked biology. I went to chemistry but when it became more into numeracy and equations I stopped it. I always went to English and I enjoyed modern studies. I got homework sometimes, for instance if you had a project at history and you didn't finish it, you would do it in your free time. I tried French but I couldn't master it. I remember there was role play but I wasn't comfortable with it.
- 49. The teachers were very nice. They wouldn't get upset if you didn't understand. They wouldn't shout at you if you got things wrong. They told me I could do a lot better for myself than what I was doing. Religion didn't play a part in the school. I suppose there was religious education though.

Leisure time

- 50. On Sunday you could go out for the day with a packed lunch and you always got pork crackling. In the winter we would ice skate on a pond that had frozen over, or you could just go a walk. We swam in the pond in the summer. I learned to swim at There was a pool at the school and everyone had to go in it.
- 51. After I'd been there a while it was taken over by a new headmaster called Mr He made a lot of changes to the structure and I was uncomfortable with it. I think he was trying to make it more structured and I found that very hard to adapt to.

Clothing and uniform

52. I could wear what I wanted to wear. I didn't have to go to the Co-op with a slip to get my clothes and things like that. You didn't have to wear a uniform. I wore a grey shirt and jeans. When Mr came he started introducing a uniform.

Holidays

53. I went home one holiday to FNZ-SPO, but Mrs FNZ wasn't very tolerant of me and I was just waiting to go back to the school. It wasn't in the summer, it was Easter. I got a longer holiday than the people in Aberdeenshire.

Friendships

- I made friends there and I'd never done that before. There was and and There wasn't anything sexual with the males, they were just friends. I told about my foster parents. Mrs FNZ intercepted a letter from that she wrote to me when I got expelled and she said was a disgusting creature. It didn't go down well, she had called Mrs FNZ a 'bugger' in the letter.
- 55. It was a different way of life to what I had experienced. A lot of pupils from that school went on to Oxford and Cambridge and done really well, but I always had a self-destructive element in me. I constantly thought something would go wrong, like drinking the cider. I knew it was wrong at the time and I couldn't understand why I was doing it. I didn't want to leave, I enjoyed the school, I was very happy. I really liked She would listen to me. She didn't judge.

Visits

56. I didn't see any social workers when I was there. I did not get any visits from anyone while I was at the school. I could use the payphone in the school. The school gave me the money and I would occasionally call FNZ-SPO, but sometimes they weren't in or wouldn't answer.

Healthcare

57. There was a nurse at the school. I think her name was Emily. You could go and lie down in her sick room if you weren't feeling very well. There was a dentist in the town if you had toothache.

Punishment

58. I suppose the only punishments were to suspend you or expel you or warn you. Noone else was expelled except me. Others were suspended for drinking. was
warned. I was smoking at the school too. You got pocket money and cigarettes were
cheap, you could buy singles then too. would bring cigarettes back from
France when she went home on holiday, but they were very strong.

Leaving School,

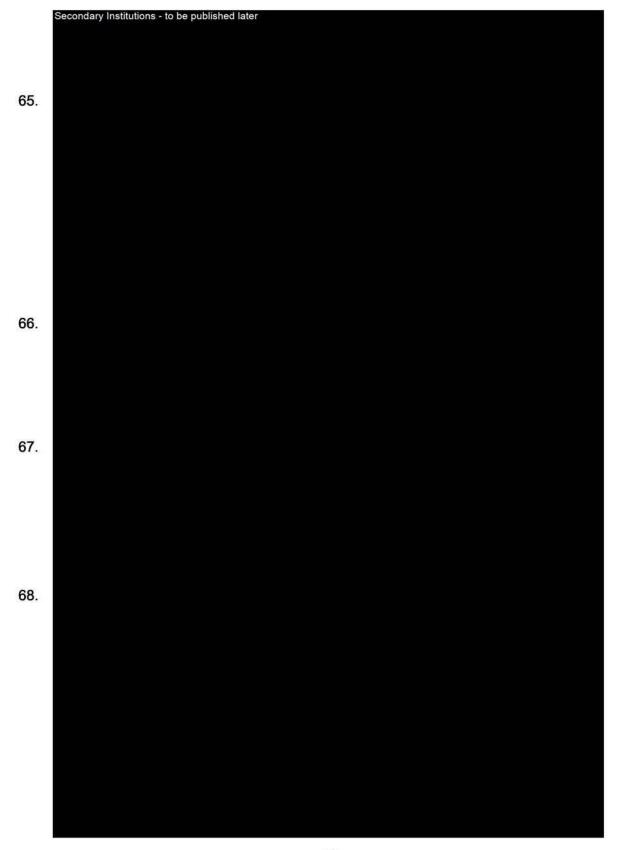
- 59. I was happy at the school, but maybe not as happy as I thought because I got drunk on Woodpeckers cider. I don't know how I got it. Someone older must have got it for me. I sat on a haystack while I was drinking it. I went back to the school and they obviously knew I was drunk and I was put to bed. and a boy called were with me. They didn't drink as much as I did. I only did it the once and was caught. I was also eating Nivea face cream. I don't know why I did that, maybe because I was drunk. I may have one Tia Maria and coke at New Year now, but just the one, but I've never really drank again. I got sent to FNZ-SPO for a week then onto St Clair's children's home.
- 60. Mr came down and got me from the school. He took me to the cinema and we saw the Poseidon Adventure. I didn't enjoy the film. He didn't talk to me about the trouble I had got in, just spoke to me and asked me why I was the kind of girl I was. He said one thing about me was that I had a sense of humour. I don't think ever had a sense of humour. He came to get me on his own. I never drank alcohol again, I was so ill.

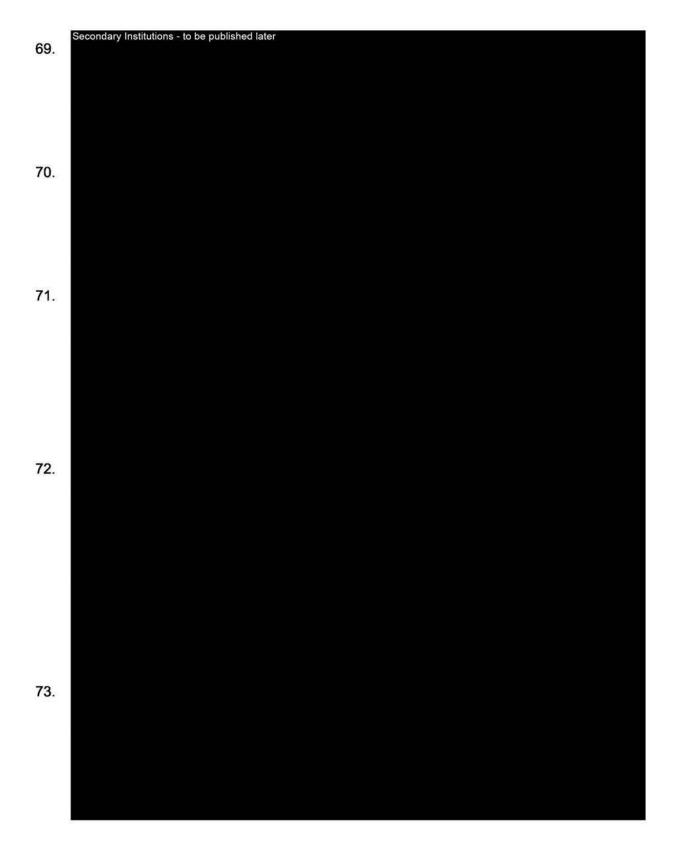
Returning to FNZ-SPO

- 61. When I got to FNZ-SPO house, Mrs FNZ acted like I wasn't really there. She put clean clothes out for me but that was it. I wasn't there long. She always had a thing about what people thought. When I was in primary school FNZ-SPO gave us little green Royal Bank of Scotland savings books and she gave us money to put in every week. She would tell people, "Oh, look at these children I've fostered". She would never say, "This is my daughters and she would say, "This is my daughter and these are the two that I foster". I remember her talking one evening, she was in the kitchen, I was in the living room, and she was being quite derogatory towards my parents.
- 62. stayed there until she was in her twenties. Mrs FNZ got what she wanted, she got rid of me and kept So I went to St Clair's children's home because Mrs FNZ didn't want me staying there.

St Clair's Children's Home, Aberdeen







ns - to be published later		

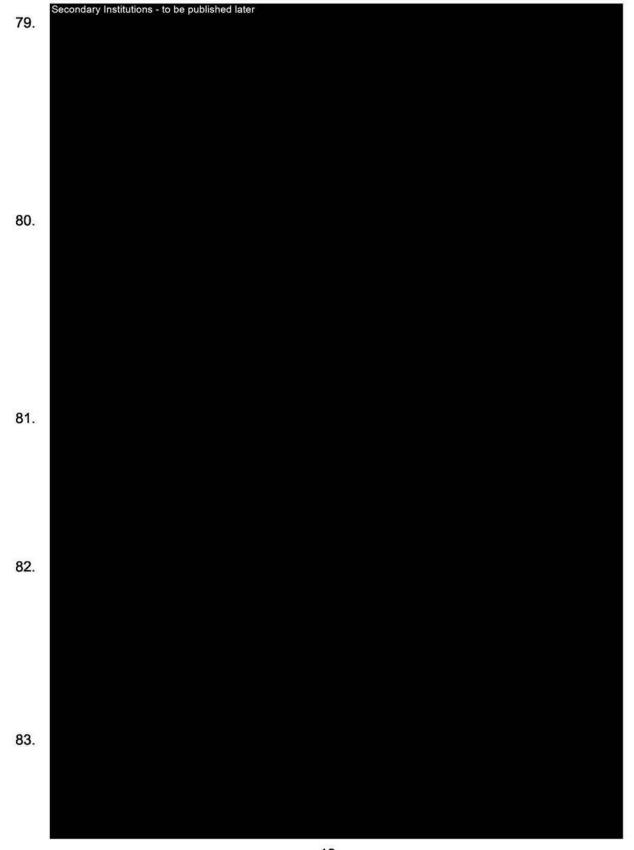
Leaving St Clair's Children's Home, Aberdeen

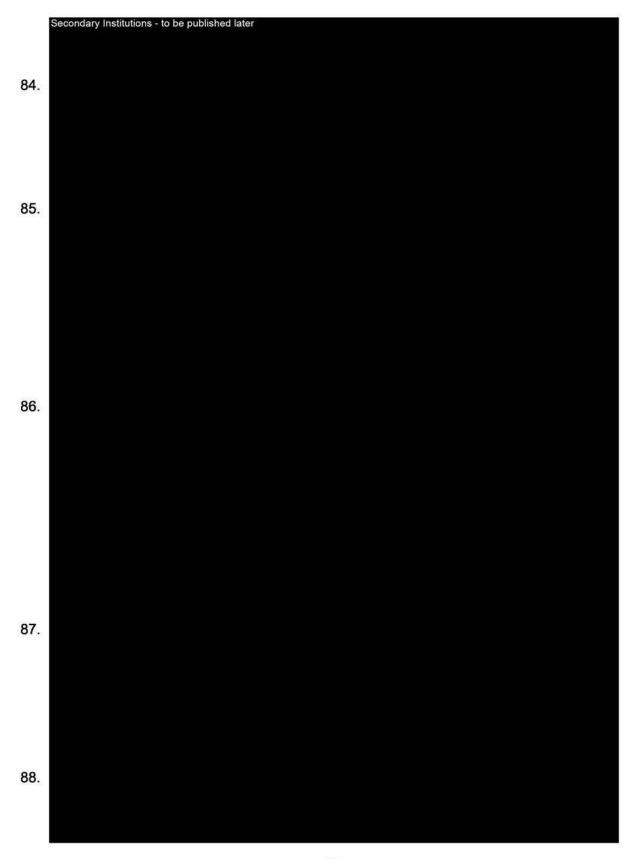
- 75. Mrs FNZ referred to me as a tinker and Ms FSG always said I wouldn't amount to much because I was a traveller. She said, "You'll end up with lots of kids and be an alcoholic". I never, ever was an alcoholic and I only had one daughter.

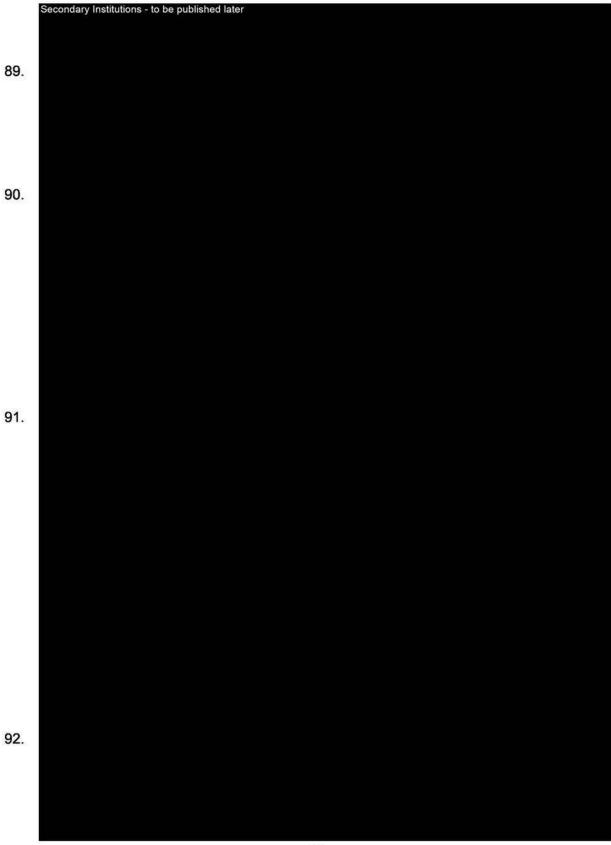
 Secondary Institutions to be published later
- 76. Ms wasn't happy with me not going to school and the matron didn't like me so I was sent to Coblehaugh children's home, which was a smaller place. I think looking back that St Clair's was a temporary thing until they found something more permanent.

Coblehaugh Children's Home, Inverurie











93. I hitched all the way to London. I was mostly in lorries and one or two cars. I was very lucky that nothing happened to me on the journey. A couple of lorry drivers quizzed me on my age. I just wanted as far away from Ms FSG as I could. I was thirteen years old.

First day in London

94. I didn't know anyone in London. I slept on a park bench the first night, it could have been St James Park. The next day I met a man called Ted. He told me if I went to a place called Centre Point they would give me a bed, but not for long, just a couple of nights. They did give me a bed, but they quizzed me too much so I left. Ted also said he knew of a squat and if I went and asked for he would help me out. I didn't see Ted again. He had been arrested for stealing a yoghurt out of Marks & Spencer. Seemingly he came from Durham and he had a warrant out on him for something.

and the squat

- 95. I knocked on the door of the squat and asked for He was twenty-eight years old and had a beard. His surname was He showed me this room and it had a bed in it. On the second floor was a couple who were squatting and on the top floor was a young man called Pat. He was nice. He just painted. He didn't have anything to do with the rest of them. The squat was in Archway, London. This is where I was introduced to cannabis.
- 96. That first night I went to bed and just got in the bed and had sex with me. I just took it for granted that's what I had to do to get the bed. It continued all the time I was there.

- 97. The police stopped me a couple of times and asked me my name and age and where I was from. I told them the truth. They checked me out on their walkie talkies and contacted Ms and I heard her saying, "Just leave her". I distinctly heard her say that. She was maybe trying to teach me a lesson. They asked if I had somewhere to stay and I said I did, so I got away and went back to
- 98. I remember being in hospital when I was in London. I had been very unwell. I had pains in my stomach but didn't put it down to much, dismissing it as nothing being wrong with me. Someone in the flat told him to take me to the Accident & Emergency. I went there and I had a burst ovarian cyst. I was operated on immediately. The doctor was really kind to me. I was a bit of a mess. He asked me when I had become sexually active, where I lived and where I came from. I told him and gave him my doctor's details in Aberdeenshire.
- 99. The doctor said he was going to send me somewhere to recuperate, I suppose I was really run down. came in to see me that night and I told him I was going somewhere else and he told me to get my clothes on and we left. I still had the stitches in my stomach. I had thirteen stitches and I'd been getting injections every day. I had been in hospital for about a week. There was a nice young nurse who looked after me, I can't remember her name, or the doctor. I have forgotten the name of the hospital, maybe St Thomas's. No hospital social worker came to see me when I was in there. I'd imagine will have passed away by now, but I don't know. He was married and had a child. I think the lady lived in Birmingham, was from Ireland. He was twenty-eight. He was a very heavy drinker and very violent when he wanted to be.
- 100. Not long after being in hospital I was arrested and went to prison and they dealt with the stitches in my stomach. They put cream on my stomach, because they were in an awful mess. I was thirteen. Someone passed away in the squat and the police came. They asked me to empty my pockets. I had a tiny piece of cannabis on me but I didn't know it was illegal. I didn't know anything like that. So I was arrested and taken to Holloway prison. A male plain clothes police officer battered me and said that is what he would do to his daughter if she was a prostitute like me. I think the

person in the squat died of natural causes but at the time I didn't know what on earth was going on.

101. The next day a very nice lady, a young female police officer from Aberdeen came and got me. I think her name was Andrea. I must have looked a mess. She had a shirt for me and saw my back was all bruised when I got changed. She asked what had happened to me and I told her a police man done it. She wasn't happy. When we got to Aberdeen she took me to a Chinese restaurant. I'd never been to one. In London I would beg for my food. I would go to a Hare Krishna place next door and said a few prayers and they would give me chicken and rice. The police officer was so kind.

Craiginches Prison, Aberdeen

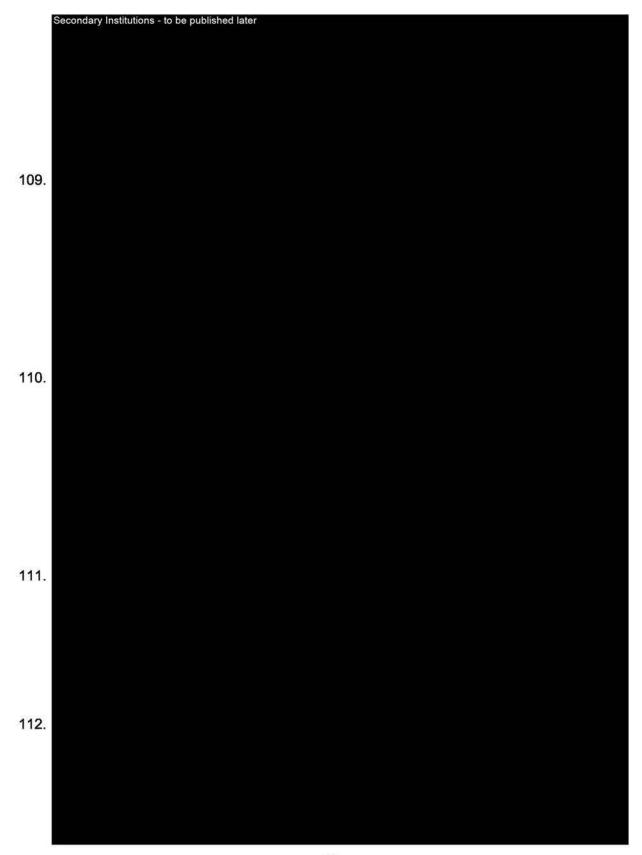
- 102. I was put in to a police cell and went to Aberdeen sheriff court the next day. The defence lawyer there wouldn't defend me. I had no shoes, I'd walked about London with no shoes, so I had jeans on and the shirt the lady had given me. The lawyer said he was sick of people like me appearing in court, so he wouldn't defend me. The sheriff asked me how I plead. I thought I was there for murdering someone because I thought you only go to jail for murdering somebody. I didn't realise it was just for cannabis. The sheriff remanded me in Craiginches prison.
- 103. At Craiginches I was put in a cell with a woman who wouldn't pay her hotel bill and another woman who didn't speak English at all. I was thirteen, they were adults. I asked for a cigarette and the one who could speak English told me I had to work for them.
- 104. I was in Craiginches for three weeks to a month. There were no other children in the prison. I didn't even know why I was there, no-one told me and I didn't know what was going on. The prison wardens were really nice to me. One said I shouldn't even be there. I was thirteen but I looked really young. I felt very threatened by the woman who hadn't paid her hotel bills because she was very domineering. I was in my cell

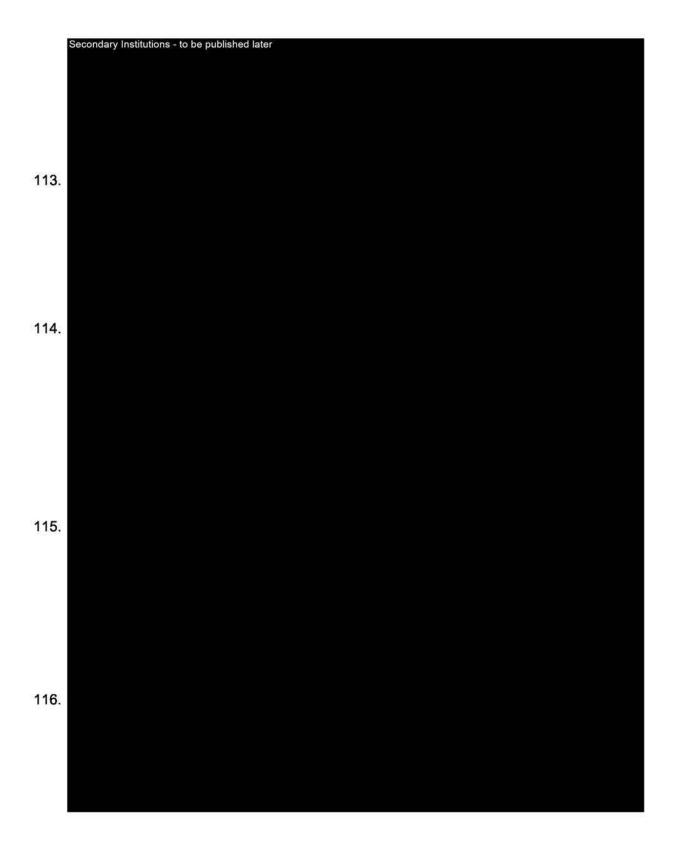
with her and an Arabian woman who didn't speak any English. I know she'd just had a baby.

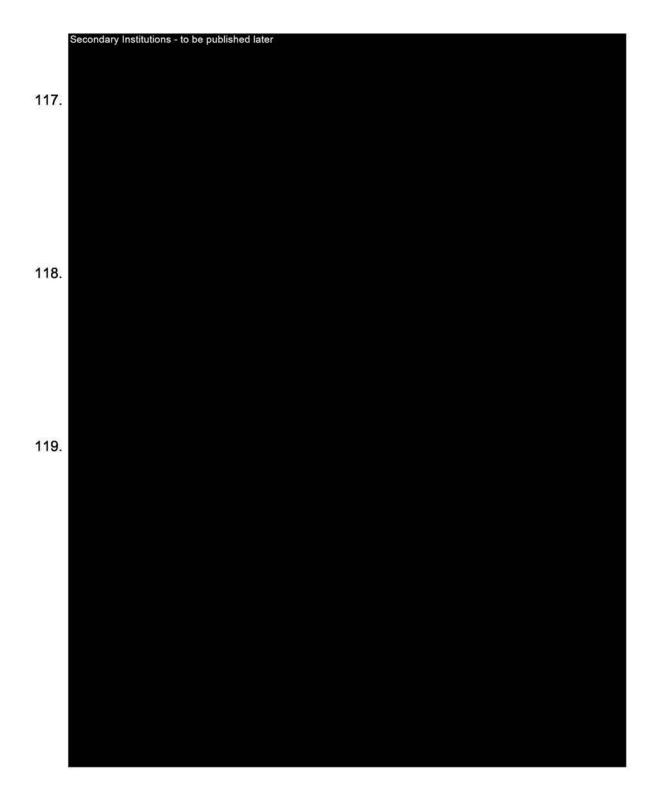
- 105. Mrs FNZ came to visit me once. She said she was disgusted and that I was a little prostitute. It wasn't true but she said I had been with men for money. I had only been with and when he raped me. Mr was with her, he was very quiet. I asked her if she would get me shoes and she said, "No, I only came for you to sign this". It was my Royal Bank of Scotland savings book. I signed it over and they left. I didn't have any other visitors. Actually, when they said I had a visitor I thought it was Ms FSG
- 106. I appeared in court three times. The third time the sheriff, who was a nice man, asked me a number of questions including my name and date of birth. He was angry. He said, "This is ridiculous". He said if Aberdeen social work wanted nothing to do with me then Glasgow would take me. He said I was only a child and needed a care and protection order. So I was taken out of prison and put in a remand home. I never saw Ms FSG again. Miss Anderson, who worked under Ms Came for me. She took me to St Euphrasia's. We stopped on the way and had a picnic in a nice park in Perth.

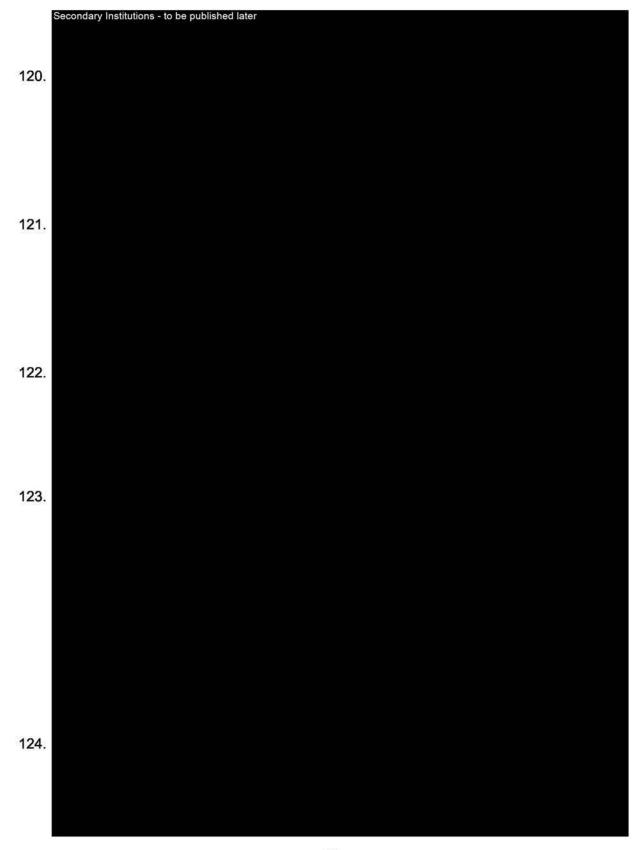
St Euphrasia's List D School, Bishopton, Renfrewshire

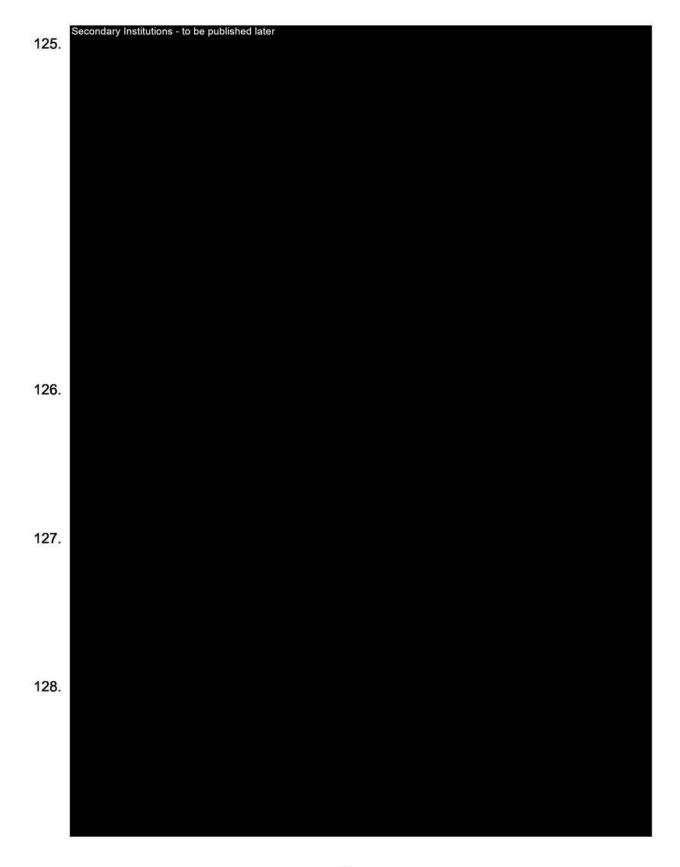










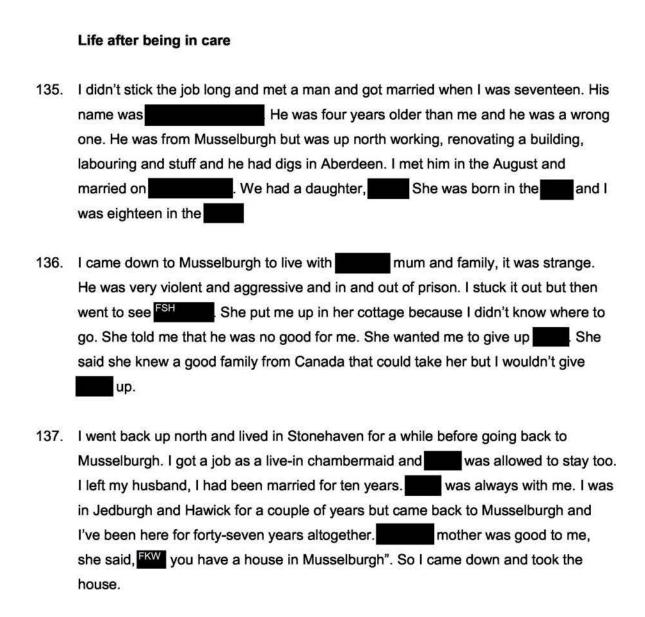




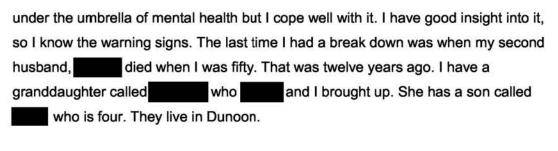
Leaving St Euphrasia's List D School, Bishopton, Renfrewshire

- 131. I was at St Euphrasia's until I was fifteen and a bit. I had been there for eighteen months. Some left at thirteen and fourteen year old. Maybe it was the length of time I was told to stay there, I don't know. I can't remember when I was told I was leaving. I think it was a day or two before I went. I only owned jeans, a shirt, a denim jacket and desert boots. I didn't even know where I was.
- 132. When you left you got a rail pass to go anywhere you wanted. FSH very kindly slipped me five pounds when I was leaving. I got the first train north, which went to Aviemore. It was as far as I could go up north. I got the train to Glasgow. I got a bit mixed up in Glasgow because I think it took me to Central station. Somebody told me I had to go to a different station to get a train up north. I didn't see any social worker when I was leaving.
- 133. When I got to Aviemore I met a nice couple who let me stay in their caravan for a week. They were a married couple called Jodie and Anna. She was really nice and gave me some nice clothes. She had really curly hair. I had my sixteenth birthday in Aviemore. I was only there for a few weeks and then got a live in job at Coylumbridge which helped.

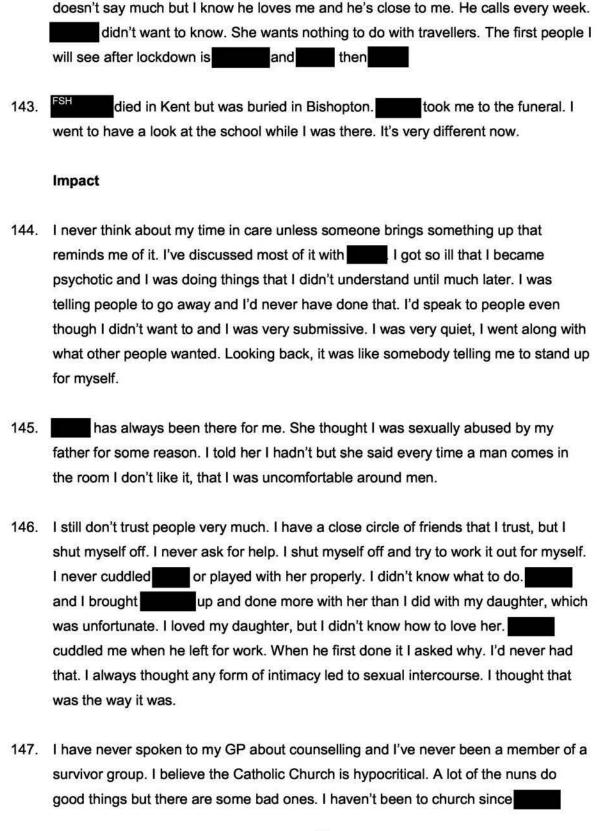
134. The job didn't work out, so I went to Coblehaugh and asked if someone could get me a job. Although I didn't meet her, Ms got me a job in an old folk's home in Balmedie as a live in. I didn't like it.



138. I have suffered from depression for years. I was in Dingleton Hospital, which was a mental health hospital, in Melrose for a year to sort myself out and was put into care. I met there. She was the mental health officer. She is still my friend to this day. I have struggled with my mental health and still take anti-depressants. I'm



- 139. I have worked in the George Hotel as a chambermaid. I also worked with the Edinburgh Association for mental health for five years. I then worked for the Church of Scotland with adults with learning difficulties for thirty years. I had to medically retire when I was fifty-five. I was always honest with any job application, I told them I suffered from depression. I went to college and got my HNC in social care at the Jewel & Esk college. I met my second husband at this time and he encouraged me a lot.
- have as many years with him as I'd like to have had. I loved him very much and he loved me. I ran away from him a few times in the first couple of years. He put up with a lot, I think it must have been hell for him but he taught me a lot. He was a very quiet man and very honest. I wouldn't have another relationship now. I still read a lot. I'm quite content living on my own. I'm very fortunate.
- 141. I met my sister years later and she had her social work notes. I was about twenty-one when I met her. I don't know where she got them from. I met her twice in Edinburgh but it didn't work out. We have different values. She called me common as muck. She said a lot of things about when we were young that I disputed.
- 142. I remember reading something because I knew I had a brother, I just didn't know where he was. It said was returned to his mother because for being a 'tinker's child' he was in good condition. There's an organisation for traveller's called Article Twelve. Lynne and Tammy run it. Through them I found my brother He's in Bangor, Ireland. I've visited him over there a few times. I didn't meet him until I was fifty-one. He's quiet, he had a hard upbringing. He has a wife, who is lovely, and two nice kids who are grown up now. He is a very deep thinker, he



died. I did go to mass when I first got married to him. He was a the second in the end.

148. It's so strange to think so many things have changed so drastically over so many years. I just kept slipping through the loop, I don't know why. Ms significantly just didn't like me, it was as simple as that.

Reporting of Abuse

149. I have never reported anything to the police. The hospital knows and knows

Records

150. got her notes when I was twenty-one. I applied for mine but I was told by Aberdeen social work department they had been destroyed and as such I have never seen them.

Lessons to be Learned

- 151. There should be someone in place to support girls, someone for them to speak to.

 Not social work, someone to trust and for them to have a say. It was like nobody
 ever listened to me. The first person to listen to me was FSH I don't think I was
 anywhere long enough to build relationships. I probably wasn't the easiest child, I
 believe that. I'd answer back and bang doors, things like that.
- 152. I hope nobody slips through the net like I did. If there's a child who is quiet and seems defiant, look at them, talk to them. Don't ignore them because their difficult. I can see if I hadn't been a travelling child Ms may have coped with me, instead she continually said I would never amount to anything.

Other information

153.	I was told of the Inquiry from my cousin	who lives in England and she thought i	
	would be good for me to do it.		

154.	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.

	FKW	
Signed		
Dated	29 March 2021	