

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of ^{ENS} [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is ^{ENS} [REDACTED]. Previously, I went by my married name which was ^{ENS} [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1960. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow. I have seen on my birth certificate that my mum's name was [REDACTED]. My dad was [REDACTED]. There was some confusion about whether he was [REDACTED] and maybe used his middle name as his first name. I think my mum left my dad, I have heard it was an abusive relationship. She left me with my dad. At some point he told her that I had died, then she found out I hadn't and she tried to get me back.
3. Some years ago I got notes about my life before going into care. I had seen an advert about someone looking for [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] the same name as my mother. It got me thinking about finding out more. My daughter helped me and got in touch with a social worker and I obtained notes from my records. The notes told me that the family was known to the RSPCC. I had scabies and a squint when I went into care.
4. I have a number of half-siblings. My mum met a man called [REDACTED] and they went on to have eight children. There was [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There was also one I didn't know about and that was [REDACTED].

██████ who I met last year. I have also met ██████ It was strange to find that half my siblings had died and that I was the oldest. One of my sisters died the day I met my brother. She had cancer and didn't really want to meet me at the time, which I totally understood.

5. There is reference in my notes to my mum going back to the social work department on several occasions, I presume to try and get me back, but her circumstances were not suitable. Both my mum and dad had the desire to get me back but desire alone is not enough, they had to be in the right circumstances and they weren't.
6. Of my siblings and I, I think I was the only one in care from the age of 18 months right through. I think some of the others spent time in care but then went back home in-between. I'm not sure because we haven't really had much time to sit down and talk about everything because of Covid. We have met but not to an extent that we can talk about those kind of details.
7. Long before I knew about my real siblings, I thought I had a brother called ██████. I don't remember if anyone actually said he was my brother but that's the way I treated him. We had been together in Dumfries and Dunoon. I looked after him like he was my wee brother, I didn't let anyone hassle him.
8. I have very limited memories of my early life in care. I can't remember much about the routine in my placements, there are just some specific things that stick out. I am also unclear about where I was in relation to some of those memories.

Castlemilk Children's home 1962 to 1964

9. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

ENV-ENU foster care, Dumfries 1964 to 1967

10. I can't remember what I called ENV-ENU I think the name I had to use was ENV-ENU but I don't know if my name was changed. I was convinced, when I was in Girvan with the ENV-ENU that my name was ENV-ENU
11. I don't remember how old ENV-ENU were. It did say something in my records, I think it said that Mrs ENV was 42 years old, that she was having another baby and was concerned because of her past confinement. I seem to remember going to the hospital so I think she did have the baby while I was there.
12. In my records I saw a letter written to ENV-ENU saying when I was going to be collected. They were asking that the social workers made sure that I had been to the doctor's and had my free from infection certificate. I can laugh about it now but it did make me feel like livestock.

Routine at ENV-ENU foster care

First day

13. ENV-ENU house seemed like a council house, like a four apartment house. I don't remember going to ENV-ENU or whether I met them before I went there. It is difficult trying to remember that far back in life because you end up doubting yourself as to when things happened.
14. I can't remember anything about ENV-ENU own children. I have a vague recollection of younger people being there but nothing concrete. The suggestion that I was treated differently than ENV-ENU own children comes from my records, not

from anything I can remember myself. I don't know if I would have been aware of any differences. The only other foster child I remember was [REDACTED]

Mealtimes/Food

15. I seem to remember hours of sitting in front of mashed potato mixed with gravy. I hated the colour fawn because of that. I think it was the case that you couldn't leave the table until you had finished your food. I always seemed to be stuck in front of a mound of that food.

Clothing/uniform

16. I remember getting haircuts and wearing a wee kilt with a bodice type thing.

Schooling

17. I started school in Dumfries. I remember being terrified by a big statue in the hall. I started at St Andrews school in Dumfries and ended my education at St Andrews school in Saltcoats. These were Catholic schools. Having met some of my brothers and sisters, they weren't brought up in any particular religion. I remember the nuns at the school. There was one called Sister Mary Magdalene and I wrote to her when I was at school in Saltcoats asking for help with a project. The nuns were really nice people.

Healthcare

18. There was mention of a doctor visiting the house and Mrs ^{ENV}[REDACTED] was strange about a bottle of whisky lying out. It was nice to read that the doctor was sticking up for me, concerned about my welfare. It also said that the doctor and his wife had spoken about adopting me but their daughter had asthma and eczema. I don't know but maybe they didn't want to expose me to that.

19. There was stuff about Mrs [REDACTED] complaining about having to take me to a psychologist. I don't remember seeing a psychologist. I can remember areas with trees and eating leaves. I don't have many memories of [REDACTED] foster care in Dumfries. I can remember falling off a wall and splitting my head open.

Birthdays and Christmas

20. My records also said that one year at [REDACTED] I didn't want to open my Christmas presents. I just didn't want them.

Bed Wetting

21. I remember one time when I must not have been allowed to drink because I was a bed wetter. I used to drink water from the flower vases. One day I got caught scooping up rain water with a bin lid and I got sent up to the bathroom and made to drink glass after glass of water until I was sick. Mrs [REDACTED] said I better not wet the bed that night, but I did. That is a lasting memory for me, although I do worry about how accurate I am with other memories.
22. I don't remember how else [REDACTED] dealt with things like bedwetting. What I have told you is about all I can remember.

Religion

23. I don't think there was anything religious about [REDACTED] household.

Visits/Inspections

24. There were folk who came down every so often. I think they were from Glasgow. When I was reading the reports it said about [REDACTED] that, "There was a good fire going and the child was in hand-knitted woollens." It was as if the social work department felt that as long as they had good social skills to make it look like they were a good family, they could do what they wanted.

Abuse at [ENV-ENU] foster care

25. I can remember Mrs [ENV] hitting me across the hand with a knife and my hand being bruised. I assume it was the flat of the knife. I can't remember why she did that.
26. I remember being hit on the head with a shoe one day, by Mrs [ENV]. I think I wasn't getting ready quickly enough and it was done out of frustration. I don't think it caused any injury. They say that lightning never strikes in the same place twice but I had the same experience with [ENW-SPO] foster carers in Saltcoats. I thought there must be something about me that made people want to hit me on the head with a shoe. I think I read something in my records about that so the social workers knew. It was Mrs [ENV] mother-in-law that reported it. The records also say that we weren't treated like Mrs [ENV] children.
27. I remember things like asking Mrs [ENV] why she was crying and she said there was no coffee. I know that sounds like a strange thing for her to have said. Maybe she was covering up the real reason why she was crying.
28. I also have a memory of being pushed to the floor, possibly a wooden floor, and being hurt on my chin. My memory is that it was the man who pushed me to the floor. I think that is what caused a scar on my chin. It may have been Mr [ENU] who did this but I can't picture him doing it. My feeling is that it was him because I don't recall another man being about the house.
29. If I had to summarise my relationship with [ENV-ENU] I would say it was scary.

Leaving [REDACTED] foster placement

30. I remember that when we left Dumfries they gave us a packet of biscuits to give to the matron at Dunoon. I would laugh about how we had been given away free with a packet of biscuits.
31. I don't remember who actually told me I was leaving [REDACTED] I remember standing outside [REDACTED] house waiting for the social workers to come and collect me when I was leaving. I don't know if it just because I was a child and you become attached to what is your life but I can remember being put in the car and, despite what my memories of the place are, I was screaming and wanting to get out of the car because I was getting further and further away. I was obviously really upset at going even though the few memories I have of the place were not good.

Dunoon children's home 1967

32. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

33.

34.

Leaving Dunoon Children's Home

36. I don't specifically remember leaving Dunoon and going to the [REDACTED] in Girvan but I remember whenever I was leaving anywhere I went in a green van. There were green council vans with windows that they used at the time. I can remember the green van coming to get me and not knowing where I was going next. I wouldn't feel so good, not knowing what was coming.
37. When I went to Girvan, [REDACTED] just wasn't there. I hadn't a clue about where he was or what had happened to him. I wasn't given any explanation and I feel it was wrong to do that, to leave someone wondering what happened.

The [REDACTED] foster placement, [REDACTED] Girvan 1967

38. The [REDACTED] were really kind to me and so was their daughter [REDACTED]. I couldn't give you an age for [REDACTED] when I was there. I don't remember if I called Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] by their surname or if I called them something else. I had a fondness for cocktail umbrellas because [REDACTED] would give me them. I remember her making a wedding dress for my dolly and putting lovely coloured beads on it. I was supposed to be a bridesmaid at her wedding but I got taken away from there before her wedding. I ended up wearing the bridesmaid dress that [REDACTED] had made me for my first communion.
39. I remember Mr [REDACTED] being someone who makes you laugh, constantly winding you up. I remember a lot of older people.

40. I actually went to Girvan a few years ago and took a snapshot of the house. The [REDACTED] owned their own house. There used to be a big garage at the side which has gone now. They had, out the back, what they used to call The Orchard. It had trees and wallflowers. The lovely smell of wallflowers really takes me back. I just remember being happy there, but I don't have many specific memories.
41. In comparison to ENV-ENU [REDACTED], I felt happy and relaxed with the [REDACTED]. They thought I was lonely but in comparison, I felt lonely without them and their daughter. That they thought I was lonely is something that is in my records. They made me feel happy, they made me feel safe. They were people who showed you that there was good in the world.
42. Thinking about it I wonder if them wanting me to leave was anything to do with their daughter getting married, as she would no longer be in the house. I don't know but I will always appreciate what they did for me. I used to call the [REDACTED] house Girvana. I just felt happy and safe there. I don't remember ever having a cross word or a bad word from anyone in that house.
43. I remember that even the [REDACTED] neighbours were kind to me. I can remember going to visit them and the picture I have of being inside was a memory of older people and one of them giving me gloves.

Routine at The [REDACTED] foster placement

Morning and bedtime

44. In my bedroom, I remember something behind the bed where there were curtains with a high shelf. I think it was a back room. I remember the room beside the garage being the kitchen. I remember Mrs [REDACTED] getting [REDACTED] up by banging on the ceiling with a brush, telling her that her porridge was ready. I remember sitting in the living room with Mr [REDACTED] and him winding me up. I always remember his

character. My partner now has the same sort of character, he is at the wind up from the first thing in the morning.

Clothing

45. I remember getting a big suitcase of clothes from Glasgow Corporation. It was full of new clothes and shoes. It was always the same kind of shoes, like brogues with the pattern of dots and a strap across. Burberry is a big brand these days for my kids but I remember having a grey and black Burberry coat to wear to school and I hated it. I like nice bright colours.

Personal possessions

46. I had my dolly and [REDACTED] made clothes for it. I don't remember what I had when I stayed there but when I was leaving Mrs [REDACTED] bought me a dolly with a wee maids dress. I took that with me to Saltcoats. Mrs [REDACTED] took me into a shop to buy things with a big can of coppers, saved up change. I remember her saying, "We will just spend this otherwise you might not get it." I don't remember what else we bought but I remember the dolly.

Schooling

47. I went to the Sacred Heart School in Girvan. There were nuns and people like that. I used to go and visit the nuns in a building they stayed in beside the chapel. I used to go and see them with Mrs [REDACTED]

Chores

48. I remember whitewashing the walls with Mr [REDACTED] Whenever I feel down, I think how lucky I am that someone has left me with nice memories.

Medical treatment

49. I remember getting my polio injection. I couldn't get my jumper on and off because my arm had stiffened up.

Visits/inspections

50. I seem to remember one man but I don't know if I am thinking of Mr Caldo, he was the social worker at the next place. I only really remember social workers from when I was in Saltcoats. I don't remember anything like social workers coming to see me at the [REDACTED] or being taken anywhere to see a social worker.
51. I was quite shy, I didn't like talking to men, and I found them quite frightening. Even as an adult I can be in the presence of a certain type of person and feel uncomfortable without knowing why. I don't know when I was first aware of this but I felt uncomfortable speaking to males. There was one woman I saw in Girvan and I assume she was a social worker. I ended up arguing with her because she was the one who told me that my name was ^{ENS} [REDACTED] when I always thought that it was [REDACTED]

Birthdays/Christmas

52. I don't remember if I had a birthday or Christmas at the [REDACTED]

Trips and holidays

53. I remember going in the car to see Ailsa Craig, things like that.

Bed wetting

54. I don't remember wetting the bed at the [REDACTED] but I think I remember reading something about enuresis in my records, so maybe I did.

ENW-SPO foster care, Saltcoats, 1967 to 1973

55. ENW-SPO lived at Saltcoats which I think of as hell's waiting room. It was a three bedroom council house with a living room and a small kitchen. I'm not sure how many years we were there and then they moved to . I seem to remember ENW-SPO were in their fifties.
56. Also living in the house were and who were foster children. I think was six years older than me and was three years older than me. ENW-SPO didn't have any children of their own but Mrs ENW was always talking about a wee boy called . She described him as this curly blonde haired boy. She had wanted to keep him but his parents reunited and took him back. I always felt like I was the consolation prize or something like that. That was the way they made me feel. I always felt like had dodged a bullet.

Routine at ENW-SPO foster care

57. Mr was one of those wee quiet men. I think he worked at ICI. All I can remember him saying was, "You're for the high jump." Mrs ENW would argue with him and make me say something against him. Then I would feel really bad, I would feel sorry for him because Mrs ENW was quite overpowering with him as well.
58. I remember Mrs ENW being a cleaner at the school, a dinner lady, and she worked as a lavatory attendant a couple of times. She went from one thing to another. I used to refer to Mrs ENW as The Gorgon. As an adult I wrote this poem about her, saying that I had been baptised in troubled waters, The Gorgon with a cigarette hanging from her lip.
59. There wasn't any awareness on my part that ENW-SPO were getting paid for looking after us but I remember Mrs ENW saying that she knew another foster family and the foster children had to stay in their own part of the house, they weren't allowed in the main part of the house so I should consider myself privileged. She used to say

that when she was younger that she would have the shovel lifted to her. On a human level, when I was older, I could feel sorry for her because she was only a child when that happened to her but the part that I couldn't understand was how someone could know how that feels and then do it to someone else. It's like weaponising your pain. I am very careful not to hurt anyone's feelings, I will try to make them laugh, to put them at ease.

Morning and bedtime

60. I remember I was in the back bedroom with [REDACTED] I don't remember anything else about a morning or bedtime routine. Mrs ENW went to bingo a lot. I went to bed early when she went to bingo.

Washing and bathing

61. I can't think of any particular arrangements for baths or showers. It was just a mundane thing, nothing sticks out in my memory.

Food

62. At ENW-SPO I remember getting into bother because I didn't want to eat a sausage because I thought it hadn't been properly cooked. I tend to overcook food like that. I was made to eat it and I thought I was going to get sick. Other than that, I didn't have any great issues with the food. If I refused to eat anything I would probably be hit. I remember being hit when I refused to eat the sausages.
63. I had a sweet tooth and if biscuits went missing Mrs ENW would drag me out of bed and drag me downstairs. She would slap me about.

Clothing

64. I don't remember what clothes I was able to take with me. My wardrobe took a nosedive with ENW-SPO Mrs ENW would buy me things out of charity shops,

things I would get slagged off for wearing. One of the things I particularly remember was this brown dress. It was a weird thing with a PVC panel down the front and round the side. It was really inappropriate for school, I hated going to school in that. The schoolbag I had was actually a music bag with a metal rod that goes over the handle. I used to get slagged off for that too.

65. I remember getting taken out to the shops once to get a coat which I got new. I remember at Easter getting suits to go to the Easter Sunday church service but most of the time it was stuff you would be embarrassed to go about in. Rather than getting me a bra, Mrs ^{ENW} got me a second hand bikini top.
66. I didn't have a uniform for school for secondary school. I had what felt to me like old lady boots. I had horrible woolly tights and someone shouting, "ENS ^{ENS} s in the fashion, she's got tights on." I had been wearing socks but I was then at an age where you were changing over to wearing tights.

Schooling

67. Where I stayed was at the top end of Saltcoats and Saint Mary's school was at the bottom end. I had to run to school in the morning, run back for lunch, run back to school after lunch, and run home after school. There was limited time for getting there and back and I had to be back home by a certain time after school or there would be trouble. I couldn't even walk home with friends because I had to run. Sometimes the priest would give me a lift or a friend's dad would give us a lift home.
68. I don't know if ^{ENW-SPO} went to parents' evenings or things like that. I remember the headmaster told me that I was bright but Mrs ^{ENW} said that he must be stupid if he thought that I was bright. It was always comments like that. I had no encouragement from Mrs ^{ENW} to succeed at school, she just kept telling me that I must have something wrong upstairs.

Chores

69. I remember polishing the furniture a lot. ENW-SPO went out one night to church and Mrs ENW told me I had to polish this chest that they kept coal in. I was polishing it for hours. It was engraved with the Cutty Sark. I had to clean all the grooves until I could see my face in it. I assume all the cleaning jobs I had to do was punishment, I don't know.
70. When Mrs ENW was working in a school she used to take me in to clean up classroom floors, things like that. I remember getting in trouble because I was quite liberal with the Vim. The floors ended up white. I had to clean it again because it was in a worse condition than when I started. I don't remember [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] having to do that kind of work. [REDACTED] was working and then [REDACTED] started working too.

Leisure time

71. I had friends at school but not really after school. I could go out and see people outside but not have them in the house. I didn't get to join any clubs or go swimming and things like that. I remember we got letters round to tell us about dances and things which were on at the school but I never got to go to things like that, or have friends round to the house. Thinking back I don't know whether or not it was allowed but it just never happened, I was too scared to ask. It was like that in both primary school and secondary school. That is why I did make a point when my kids were growing up to let them have their friends in the house. I would rather have them there and know they were safe, rather than having them out on the streets. I always felt it was important that they could socialise with their friends even though my instinct is to stay away from people other than my family.

Medical care

72. I went to the dentist at school, I don't remember going to any other dentist. I remember getting the Heath test, which you get before a BCG injection. They prick

your skin with a circle of tiny needles and if the skin raises as a reaction then you don't need the BCG injection. I was worried about it but then they said I could go, I must not have needed the BCG. I felt like my prayers had been answered. Then I had to go for an X-ray. Before I went, [ENW-SPO] started treating me like I was diseased. The doctor explained to her that I was immune, I wasn't infectious.

Religion

73. [ENW-SPO] went to church and so did I but on a couple of occasions I was left in the house. I was in the bad books so I was left polishing.
74. I had so much religion round about me that at night I would feel guilty if I didn't get on my knees and say my prayers. I couldn't sit on my bed and say my prayers, I couldn't have that level of comfort around me. Mrs [ENW] came up one night and said, "Have you said your prayers?" I had to be honest and said "No." She said, "What do you pray to God for?" I didn't know what to say and the next thing I knew, her hand came crashing down and she punched me. She said, "You pray to God for grace." But what she did wasn't very graceful.

Personal possessions

75. I had my dolly with me when I went to [ENW-SPO], but I don't remember having anything else. I did get pocket money, especially if Mrs [ENW] won at the bingo. She would come back and give me some extra.

Visits/inspections

76. I remember one time at [ENW-SPO] I had to wash my face before I came down to see someone. They were already there. The meetings took place in [ENW-SPO] house, they were about every six months. Mr [] was not usually there but Mrs [ENW] was. The social workers also wrote, "Mrs [ENW] is very regimented and tends to bark but [ENS] is used to this." It was as if because I was used to it, it was OK.

77. I do remember being upstairs and a social worker sitting there, it might have been Mr Caldo, but I didn't feel like I could talk. I don't really feel like anyone would talk, and maybe risk getting into more trouble.
78. I didn't go anywhere to attend social work meetings, they just came to the house, had a cup of tea, and wrote their report. I didn't feel there would be any benefit in saying anything to them, it would just mean one more thing to be nervous about.

Birthdays/Christmas

79. I did get Christmas presents and things like that. I got a radio which I loved because I love music.

Trips/holidays

80. We went to Blackpool. It seemed suffocating, it was so busy. I don't remember going anywhere else.

Bedwetting

81. One time at [REDACTED] ENW-SPO got a new cooker. One night I had to sleep in the box the cooker had come in because I had wet the bed. Another time she made me sleep in the bath. She would humiliate me by telling the neighbours I had wet the bed and they would offer me their children's nappies.
82. Mrs ENW would often just leave me dressed in a vest when I was in the house, because of the bed wetting. It was totally inappropriate for my age. I would have been about nine years old. The older girl, [REDACTED] would sometimes have boys visiting and I would bump into them when I came out of the bathroom or something. It was so embarrassing.
83. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], the other two foster girls, would humiliate me about it by telling people and shouting about it in the street or on the bus. It was pretty terrible.

██████████ would shout things like, "Pish the bed." or, "Fishface." It was really humiliating when she shouted things like that in front of my friends.

84. When I wet the bed I would lie there dreading the morning. I would take the sheets off the bed, go and find ones the same in the cupboard, then when it was still dark I would put the soiled sheets at the bottom of the neighbours bin, and hope they wouldn't be found. The neighbour did find the sheets but I don't know if Mrs ENW realised they were hers, or that her sheet count was dwindling.

Abuse at ENW-SPO foster care

85. ██████████ could be quite violent towards me. I remember one particular day at school I was sitting next to a friend called ██████████. He jokingly hit me on the head and the blood came pouring down my face because ██████████ had smacked my head off a wall in the house that morning and split my head. I felt bad for ██████████ because he thought he had done it but it was ██████████. I remember going to see Miss Conlon, I think she was the deputy headmaster. She was a scary woman, but she was OK with me that day. I must have been sent to her to fix up my head.
86. ██████████ and I used to argue. I think one of the things that is hard is when you are moved from one type of foster carer to another. I had been staying with the ██████████ who I felt were the kind of people who would teach you right from wrong and how to behave in a decent way. I didn't even say the poem Blinking, blinking, and nod because I thought blinking was a bad word, like a swear word. Then you go and live with other foster carers, like ENW-SPO who are different. Not so much Mr ██████████ because he was a quiet man with the attitude of go along to get along, but I think Mrs ENW encouraged the other girls to behave in a bad way.
87. Years later, I was working in a factory and ██████████ was working there too. I was taken aback because of the things that she used to say to me in the street after she had left ENW-SPO house. ██████████ was horrible to the people around her in the factory and I just thought she seemed to have got more bitter as she got older. When

she and another person were leaving the factory, there was a whip-round and a card to sign. I put money in because it wasn't just for her, it was for the other person too, but I couldn't bring myself to sign her card and wish her well. She then came up to me, called me a stuck-up bitch, and punched me on the arm. It was really embarrassing and I had to explain the incident to my supervisor later.

88. Mrs ^{ENW} was rude and vulgar and I thought that was wrong. Given the way that Mrs ^{ENW} spoke to me, the other girls may have behaved better if they had been given a better example. Mrs ^{ENW} encouraged them to be like that towards me and I wonder what kind of people they would have turned out to be if they had been living with someone else. I don't know if they thought i was judging them but they called me a snob. I don't remember who actually said that but that is my memory.
89. If I was late coming in from school Mrs ^{ENW} would scream at me or hit me. She was a scary big woman. When my records came and I read them, what really upset me was that it described Mrs ^{ENW} as a big jolly woman who entertains her charges rather than subduing them. That made me angry because no-one would find the things that Mrs ^{ENW} did entertaining.
90. The worst things she would say to me was, "God forgive me but you are the ugliest looking wee lassie that God put on the face of this earth." and, "Your own fucking mother and father didnae want you, why the hell should we?" or, "God's curse has followed us, since you came to live with us." She told me that the social workers had sent loads of letters begging her to take me because no one else would. Mrs Mack in Harley Place told that was rubbish.
91. Mrs ^{ENW} was constantly putting me down. I showed her a picture of the ^{ENW} house I had come from in Girvan and she said, "You probably came from a farm."
92. One of the worst things Mrs ^{ENW} did was, if I had been crying, she would grab hold of me and tell me how ugly I was. Then she would take me to the sink and wash my face with whatever item of clothing she picked up from the twin tub. On other occasions she would make me wash my face with the cold tap. The water got colder

the more it ran and when it did, she would put the plug in and fill the sink. Then she would push my face into the water. That was the worst because she was a big heavy woman with big heavy hands. I got to a point where I felt suicidal, I just couldn't take it anymore.

93. Mrs ENW would wallop me with a flat wooden brush, sometimes with a belt. If she hit me with the belt it was on the backside. She would have me bent over the bed. I can't remember if I had my clothes on or not.
94. One time I had marks all down my arm from her hitting me with the brush. She accused me of wanting to go to school so I could show people the marks. I don't remember if I was kept off school when I had injuries. She would be nice to me for a couple of days after I was injured but then she would be right back to her old ways.
95. During the time of the ambulance strike the dog had got out and Mrs ENW sent me out to catch it but it got knocked down. Mrs ENW blamed me for that and hit me on the head with a shoe. said to her, "ENS's nose is bleeding." Mrs ENW said, "I'll make more than her fucking nose bleed." She thought she had given me a nosebleed but I was bleeding from my head. I think she was shocked. She gave me a note to take to the school, saying I was not to do PE. Mrs ENW told me that the doctor told her that I had a thin skull and after that I wasn't allowed to do PE for two years. However, I think that anyone being walloped on the head with a shoe would feel it.
96. One time there was a window open in the back bedroom and Mrs ENW accused me of opening it, but I hadn't opened it. She kept hitting me, I can't remember what with. I believe it was her hands. I told her I hadn't opened it but she kept saying, "Tell the truth." I got to a point where I realised I was just going to keep on getting hit unless I admitted to opening the window so I told her I had, even though I hadn't. The next day I was putting on a vest and saw all the marks on my back and asked me what happened. I told her and said that she had opened the window to throw out a cigarette. told Mrs ENW this and Mrs ENW turned to me and said, "Don't ever admit to something you haven't done." I had been brought up

Catholic, I had been brought up to do the right thing and lying was a sin, but it seemed I was going to get in trouble either way. I was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

97. I remember one time I was doing an English exam. There was a passage to read and answer questions on. One question was, "What is a periwigged flunky?" I didn't know and I came out of the exam and asked the teacher. She told me it was a servant who stood by the wall with their arms by their sides. I thought, "That's me." given the number of hours I had to stand next to the door, standing straight with my arms by my sides.
98. I think the neighbours must have heard it when I got hit by Mrs ENW because years later my mother-in-law told me she had been in the hairdressers and other women were talking about a child years before who turned out to be me, "living with those people." so other people had an idea about what had been happening.
99. One night in [REDACTED] before ENW-SPO moved to [REDACTED] I was trying to thread a needle for Mrs ENW and I couldn't. She picked up this piece of tubing, the type people would use for making home-brew beer or wine and set about me with it. Then she made me sing a song called, "I once had a dear old mother who was all the world to me."
100. I always wanted to have long hair when I was younger. I think I had read The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe and one of the characters had really lovely long hair. When Mrs ENW got angry she would drag me through to the kitchen, get down a biscuit box with scissors and things, grab my hair into a ponytail and cut right through my hair. She said, "I'll leave your head like the back of my hand." I would go to school with the hood up on my duffle coat but eventually the teacher would tell me to take my coat off and everyone would see, they called me skinhead. I would go to the shops and they would call me, "Son." They thought I was a boy because my hair was so short.

101. There was an incident in Kilmarnock. Mrs ENW and I were in Woolworths and she was giving me a hard time. She kicked me to the floor and I found a five pound note. I gave it to Mrs ENW and she gave me ten pence, and a hassle free afternoon. That's how I found out what serendipity meant. I would imagine that people in the shop would have seen her doing that but she had a habit of kicking me, it just so happened that time that I fell to the floor.
102. My relationship with ENW-SPO was horrible. You start to look at things with a dark sense of humour. It is just a way of coping with it. I think Mrs ENW bullied Mr ENW too. They seemed to argue a lot. I would end up being mean to him because she was mean to him. I learned to agree with her, otherwise I would be hit.
103. It seemed to me that Mrs ENW didn't treat ENW and ENW the same as me but she must have done something to ENW one time when she thought that she had put a dent in ENW's leg. ENW ran away twice and you don't do that if you are happy with the way things are.
104. The only time I remember Mrs ENW doing something to ENW was when ENW and I worked on an ice-cream van. ENW ended up being with the guy who drove the van, and he was married. Mrs ENW really went to town on ENW I heard a lot of screaming and shouting. I was in the kitchen tidying cupboards at the time. That was the only time I saw her being like a fiend with someone other than me.
105. There was something else that happened at ENW-SPO foster placement that I don't want to speak about in any detail at all. I was molested over a period of time by Mrs ENW brother-in-law. His name was ENX. He was the husband of her sister. It would happen when I would go to their house. There was a snib on the bathroom door but it was too high and I couldn't reach it. When I was old enough to reach it then I could lock the door and be safe. It happened once in my bedroom in ENW-SPO house too.

106. All I want to say is that he would say things like, "I'm just looking." But he wasn't just looking, if you know what I mean. I don't want to talk about it in any more detail than that.
107. I hated it when Mrs ^{ENW} would leave me there. I remember one Halloween going in there and I was wearing boys' pyjamas for Halloween. That was the sort of thing Mrs ^{ENW} did. I remember being on the doorstep and Mrs ^{ENW} and her sister were talking about another uncle in the family. It sounded like they were talking about him being an abuser. I thought, "But that's what your husband is like."
108. Years later, when I was working in Crosshouse hospital there was a lady I went to see. She must have recognised me and she started talking about Mrs ^{ENW} brother-in-law. She said that ^{ENX} had molested her in a cinema but her mother told her to keep quiet and not cause a big row in the family. It would have opened a big can of worms because it was like there were two factions in the family, one faction who believed he was like that and one faction who didn't believe it. That wasn't anything to do with me because I never said anything about what happened to me at Mrs ^{ENW} sister-in-law's house. His relative, the lady in Crosshouse hospital, said that all the kids round about had been warned not to go near him, but nobody warned me.

Running away

109. I think I was at secondary school the first time I ran away from ^{ENW-SPO} I didn't know if I would have the guts to run away but I got to a point where I'd had enough. I don't know if it was a fight or flight response. I just stayed in Saltcoats. I picked brambles for something to eat. Then I went to the chapel, prayed, and had a good cry. Eventually I thought I would have to go back but the police picked me up. Afterwards Mrs ^{ENW} would buy me new clothes for a couple of days and then go back to her usual ways.
110. The second time I ran away I walked all the way to Largs. That is about twelve miles. I must have thought I would be safer there. I was crouching behind farm walls,

scared that anyone might see me. There is a wall in Fairley that I always think of as the Great Wall of China because it seemed to go on and on. When I got to Largs I went to the chapel, prayed, and had a good cry. I started to walk back, it was really dark and scary. A man stopped in a lorry and I took a lift from him because that was less scary than being out on the country roads in the dark. He dropped me off outside a church and I went back to [ENW-SPO] house. I don't remember anything bad happening when I got back to [ENW-SPO] I think she was relieved that nothing had happened to me that she would have to account for.

111. When I ran away from [ENW-SPO] the third time I was one month short of my thirteenth birthday. Mrs [ENW] had not long cut my hair off in a rage. I decided to run away but thought that Largs was a bit far to walk so I went to Seamill in West Kilbride. I think the place I slept in was Overton Court. There were stairs inside the block of flats and I slept there until 6:00 am when I got woken up by the milkman. Then I went down to the beach.
112. There used to be a big stone structure on the beach and I sat in there. I saw what I thought was Mrs [ENW] and the two girls coming towards me and I was absolutely petrified. I ran upstairs to where there were toilets at the top and locked myself in. I stayed there for over an hour before I came out. The next night, about tea-time, I met a girl from school and told me that everyone was looking for me. Her uncle was a social worker so we went back to her house and phoned the social workers.
113. A social worker called Rennie McLean came out and spoke to me. That was the first time someone from outside had come in and spoken to me. Rennie McLean came out and spoke to [ENW-SPO]. Mrs [ENW] said that she had cut off my hair because I had told a lie. Mrs [ENW] tried to say that all the youngsters had short haircuts anyway. Rennie McLean said, "There's a difference between having a short haircut and having it hacked off you." He was the first person to stand up for me.
114. Rennie McLean asked me questions about what had happened and I answered whatever he asked me. It was good to have someone who didn't just sit and listen to what Mrs [ENW] said. For the first time, someone was challenging her. I know he

challenged her from talking to him and from something I read in my notes. They were talking about sending me back to her and I was thinking, "Please don't do that." Rennie McLean wrote that Mrs ENW didn't want me back but he also wrote that I had said I didn't want to go back anyway. I was so relieved to be leaving ENW-SPO

Leaving ENW-SPO foster care

115. When I left ENW-SPO house I had a bruise across the bridge of my nose from Mrs ENW fist. I didn't get to sit down with anyone and tell them what had happened, but I must have because it says in my notes, "If what ENS says is true, then she has faced serious violence."
116. After I spoke to Rennie McLean I didn't go back to ENW-SPO. I went straight to Harley Place. I didn't know where it was.

Harley Place Children's home, Saltcoats 1973 to 1978

117. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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119. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Life after being in care

136. I found myself a room in a flat. It turned out to be a blanket store. I stayed there when I started doing the secretarial course but then I got pregnant. It was taken for granted

by my future mother-in-law that we were going to get married. I didn't have anyone that I could sit and talk about the situation with. I did give it a go because I was brought up Catholic but we got divorced after thirteen years. I have a son, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

137. After my divorce I was on my own for six years. Then I met someone but found out very quickly that they weren't who I thought they were. He could be quite cruel and his behaviour was dreadful by anyone's standards and we separated.
138. I have been with my current partner for sixteen years. We get along so well, we look after each other.
139. I did an Open University course in social science when my children were young. I wanted to prove I did have a brain because I had been told so often that I didn't. When I started the Open University I expected to be kicked out after a couple of months, I never expected to make it but I gained a diploma and a BA Honours in Social Science. I was glad of the achievement but I wish I hadn't had such nervousness about it and enjoyed it more.
140. I worked in a nursing home but I left when they changed some of the working arrangements. I found that attitudes amongst the management was fine but the staff not so much. There were inappropriate things being and staff were pitting their wits against people with dementia. I think I was disillusioned having thought that carers were caring. It was the same kind of thing I saw in later life working in hospitals. I sometimes thought they spent too much emphasis on training and not enough on teaching people to have a bit more empathy. I believe in a holistic approach to care. It's not enough to look after their physical care, you have to keep their spirits up as well.

Impact

141. For years after leaving **ENW-SPO** I had nightmares about Mrs **ENW**. Then I started to have nightmares about confronting Mrs **ENW**, about why I had never gone to see her and confront her.
142. As an adult I used to write about my experiences in care, poems and things. I threw a lot of it away but then a few years later I started writing again. I think it helped me to sort things out.
143. About twenty years ago I went to see a doctor and she said I had complex post-traumatic stress disorder. She said a lot of my behaviour was coping strategies, keeping away from people apart from my family. The reason I went to see a doctor was because I had been to see a lawyer after I got my notes. I was so angry at seeing Mrs **ENW** described as a big jolly woman. At that point I felt so fed up, I was exhausted, I was tired all the time. I thought that seeking some compensation would be something to leave my kids if I got to a point where I couldn't take it anymore. These feelings don't just affect you, they affect your family, your whole family life. I was always very protective of my children. The only other people I would let look after them was their grandparents. If they wanted to have a sleepover at their friend's house and I didn't know the people I would say no. it caused a lot of friction. I used to tell them that it took more love to say no than to say yes.
144. I was always told by Mrs **ENW** that I was the ugliest wee lassie that God put on the face of this earth. When I first started seeing my husband I would hide in shops if he met someone he knew. I didn't want him to be embarrassed when they saw how ugly I was.
145. I feel like somebody who doesn't measure up. I feel that if I go to someone for help there is a power imbalance. It's as if they are a normal person and you are not. It's embarrassing. I feel like I've failed in whatever I've tried, I always end up feeling exhausted. I love reading but if I try to read a book I fall asleep. Then at night I will get up and start organising cupboards at 4.00 am. I feel like recently I've developed this

thing where everything has to be really neat and the labels are taken off things and things are kept in the same type of bottles. It's like I have got an organising bug.

146. I cut my own hair. I have been to the hairdressers before but when I have felt that my hair is too short, it is like I am back to being that person that got their hair cut by Mrs ENW
147. As an adult my view of religion has changed. As a child I would read right through the whole Mass in my prayer book and read the gospel stories the priests told. As an adult I feel that organised religion is not always a good thing. People who could help each other don't because of silly divisions that meant something way back when, like people arguing over being Catholic or Protestant.
148. I feel as if I have just been in survival mode for so long. I don't go on holiday and things like that. I have never had much money especially in the last two years. I didn't go to work but I didn't claim benefits because I feel ashamed. I feel that when you go to claim benefits it's as if they label everybody the same way if you are not working, and it's not as if I'm not willing to work. I'm fine with the work but at times it's people. At least on nightshift there are less people about but it's the social aspect of working that I find really hard. I also found it very difficult when there were problems getting paid by my work and I couldn't pay my bills. I found it hard to get on the phone to ask for my wages and that's like another form of abuse. I have felt suicidal because of that. Now with the Covid situation I feel like I'm really stuck in a hole and I don't know what to do.
149. When I read my records after I saw the thing in the paper, when I saw the way they described Mrs ENW, I went to see a lawyer. I was thinking of taking some kind of action against the council. The lawyer I saw said that if it was his money, he wouldn't spend it on that type of case because he couldn't guarantee a good outcome. However he did recommend that I contact the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. I didn't get any compensation. They told me it wasn't that they didn't believe me but that wasn't what the CICA was for. They also asked me why I hadn't reported it to the police before

and that left me feeling really guilty, when I thought that my abusers might have gone on to do the same to other people.

150. Shortly before getting my records with the help of my daughter I reached out to get in touch with my half-siblings. My daughter was the one who contacted them. When my husband and I divorced my daughter felt shut out of his side of the family and she didn't want her own children to have that side of their family background missing.
151. One of my brothers declined to meet me. He said that he already had an older sister and I respected that point of view. I have met the others and they seem like nice people. It will just take time to get to know them. When I saw my sister, it was like looking at a brown haired version of me, we seemed to have a real connection. I want to get my life sorted out so I can be the big sister I should have been. I want to do them some good.
152. When I was about 40 years old I went to my doctor about how I felt about things. I had heard about a new drug called Seroxat, it was designed to combat shyness. As well as being prescribed Seroxat my doctor referred me to a psychologist. Unfortunately some of the appointments were made for when I was working and I had to phone up and try to re-schedule them because I felt that I couldn't approach my boss to ask for my shifts to be changed. Because that kept happening they took me off the list to see the psychologist.
153. I went back to look at the house I stayed in with the [REDACTED] It was strange, like looking at something behind glass. The physical building was still the same but everything that made it a good place to be was gone. I still thought it was weird that there was a family called [REDACTED] living in it. Later I found out that although my brothers and sisters are registered as [REDACTED] they are also registered as [REDACTED]. Apparently in those times the legal husband was put on the birth certificate. I have not been back to see any of the other houses I lived in as a child.

Records

154. I believe the notes from my records I got from the social work department were incomplete, that some things were missing. This is because the social worker I spoke to when I found obtained my notes said that apparently my mother was addicted to bingo. She spent all the housekeeping money on bingo was very ineffectual, but none of that information was in my notes. There were bits in my notes that were blanked, possibly to do with my mother and siblings but also for the privacy of [REDACTED] the boy who I thought for years was my brother.
155. There was a reference to my dad trying to get me back from the social workers but they had to assess his living accommodation. Someone was supposed to go out to assess him but he had moved. He ended up in prison for reset. When he went to prison, I went to Castlemilk Children's Home.
156. There was a letter which had been sent to Mrs [REDACTED] ENV saying that the social workers were going to send someone different to come and get me and [REDACTED] as the usual woman was away. I think that was after Mrs [REDACTED] ENV mother in law reported abuse to the social workers. That was the document that referred to taking me to the doctor to ensure I was free from infection. If it was me and I thought that a child was in danger, I would take them out of that situation quick smart, I wouldn't leave them until a convenient time. I kind of resented that a bit. It was very emotional reading all of that.

Lessons to be learned

157. I think that there should be inquiry beyond looking at the surface. If you go in to a nursing home it is not enough to look and say, "Oh, isn't the décor nice?" because that is secondary to how they treat your relative. It said in my records from [REDACTED] ENW-SPO that the child was wearing hand-knitted woollens and there was a good fire on, but that is irrelevant considering how I was treated there.

158. I remember a health visitor coming to see me about my own kids. She was really nice but she was making presumptions based on how I was dressed. People wear one face inside and another for the outside world. I don't think you should make assumptions that because someone has good social skills that they are actually skilled in looking after children.
159. Maybe if there was someone that children could go to outside of their living situation, rather than someone coming in, where they are talking to the people in charge. Someone who could take you aside and try to get to the truth of whatever your situation is.
160. I realise the social work department have to take foster parents at face value but I think it is hard for children to be going from one foster family to another. At that age I don't think you are really equipped to deal with the change from living with one sort of person to another. It feels like everything is blowing up. Living with the [REDACTED] they tried to teach me right from wrong whereas Mrs ENW [REDACTED] was always critical of me yet one night she went out to next door's greenhouse and stole all their tomatoes.

Hopes for the Inquiry

161. I think it is good that people are getting a chance to sit down and talk about it, but also for someone else to say that what happened was wrong. No-one at the time said that what ENW-SPO [REDACTED] were doing was wrong even though the neighbours would have been able to hear me screaming.
162. I think there are horrible pressures on kids who are in care nowadays. I think it could be hard at times to know whether to report something, whether it would make their situation worse because kids don't usually want to go into care. I think there should be

someone who comes in and try to sort out the family situation. I have seen situations where everyone is complaining but you have to find the person to complain to.

Other information

163. 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. ENS

Dated. *15.11.21*