

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KHW

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is KHW. My date of birth is 1973. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Dundee and lived with my mum and my brother and sister. My brother is one year younger than me and my sister is two years younger. My dad's name is but he is known as. I lived in Dundee throughout my childhood.
3. On and off I lived with my mum and my nan, my mum's mum. Social work were involved with my family from as far back as I can remember, age five and starting primary school. They must have been involved before that, but that's as far back as I remember. My mum got married to a man called and he is my brother's dad. She must have gone back with my dad at some point because believes he is her dad.
4. We lived in the Whitfield area and the social work. I think it was called. It was the social work department working from a three bedroom flat, it was their office in Whitfield. I remember the social worker there was a woman and she would bring us clothes. I don't know if she made the clothes or someone gave the clothes to the social work. That is my first memory of her. My other memories are of her taking us home from school.

5. I think my mother had a job at night with her two friends. She was an alcoholic and I had a lot of uncles. She didn't take us to school. We would be at school at 3:00 am because we didn't know the time. We wouldn't be washed or fed and were smelling at school. Social work would have to take us home. There were lots of things happening. It was neglect basically.
6. We all went to Longhaugh Primary School in Whitfield. The school were concerned and it was them who were phoning social work to take us home to get washed. Because my mum was out all night and slept during the day, there were times the school contacted the police to let us into the house. I can't remember being fed or having a bath in the house. I don't know if the social work put me into care homes when I was very young, I can't remember.
7. I was at Longhaugh Primary until I went to high school when I was twelve. Instead of going to Whitfield High School, I went to Morgan Academy in Dundee. That was just before I went into care. There was more social work involvement at that point. I wasn't living with my mum. For some reason I had been put with my nan on and off. She lived in Fintry, directly across from Whitfield. Sometimes I would be put back with my mum overnight but not often.
8. I remember the social worker from Whitfield started taking us to an after school club at Montpelier House in Whitfield. We got to go roller skating.
9. My mum took up with a partner, [REDACTED] and that's when things got worse. I think he would have been in his late thirties, early forties. He was small and balding. She wanted me back in the house. I was old enough to be a babysitter by then and she wanted me to watch his three kids. That's when he started abusing all of us. My mum had moved to Kirkton and I went back to live with her even although my nan didn't want me to.
10. Both my mum and [REDACTED] were alcoholics. They would travel to Whitfield every day for their pub there. The six of us would be left in the house. When they came back there would be another episode of us getting battered.

11. By this time I was at Kirkton High School. One morning I went to P.E. I had been battered the night before and I passed out. I woke up in Ninewell's Hospital or on the way there. I just remember all these people around the hospital bed. Before they came into the room, my mum had warned me not to say this, that and the next thing and to say that I had fallen. When they came into the room, I didn't say what she wanted me to say. I told them what had happened. They didn't let her near me.

12. I had bruising on my arms and legs, had cuts and had a sore head, jaw and neck. That's why they kept me in hospital. There were police and social work there. I had to see an educational psychologist too. After that they took me to my nans for a couple of days. My mum came over to my nans and started having a go at me for saying what [REDACTED] had done to me in the house. She slapped me across the face and had a hold of my hair because I was trying to get out of the house. My nan was trying to get her off me but accidentally hit me whilst trying to get my mum off me. I eventually got out the house and ran to a public phone box at the top of Fintry and phoned Peter Devlin from the social work. Peter came and found me near to the phone box. He took me back to my mums house and left me sitting in the car. He went into the house and spoke to my mum. Peter told me that he said to my mum that I couldn't go back to stay with her or my nan if [REDACTED] was still on the scene. But she wanted [REDACTED] over us so I was then taken straight to Burnside Assessment Centre from there. I was twelve years old at that time and was only a few months into high school.

13. I think I went into Burnside on a Section 15 and then within a few weeks, I ended up on a Section 44 1B, which was a supervision order. I remember the sections because the children's panel kept saying them over and over. It's just stuck with me.

14. At the time this was all going on, my social worker was Peter Devlin. He was the one who took me into care, from my mum's house in his car.

15. I think my mum's partner [REDACTED] was in trouble. There was police involvement all the time. I don't know if she was done with neglect or not. I say 'she' because I don't like to call her 'mum'. I remember at the panel they said that she had been

claiming benefits for me all the years I had been staying with my nan. They had found this out and I think were charging her with that as well. This was all going on at the panel. They were very good. I had a member of staff from Burnside with me. I just remember they had a real tear down on her and him at the panel. They didn't let him sit in the panel. She didn't sit in the panel and say the abuse didn't happen. She didn't say it did happen but wasn't saying it didn't happen anymore. I was then care of the local authority.

16. The bad thing was they left [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] with them. She told the panel nothing was happening to them. She had both of them well warned. It's ridiculous. [REDACTED] is now a wreck. I remember not long after I had been taken into care, they took me to the Wellgate Centre to buy me clothes and I saw [REDACTED]. She was like a stick and they had cut her hair with a bowl. She had been stealing out of Superdrug to get money for food. Even before I went into care, [REDACTED] would go to a golf course near to Kirkton and go into the water to find golf balls to sell back to the golfers to get us money to eat. If it hadn't been for [REDACTED] we weren't eating. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] just got battered. [REDACTED] has a metal plate in his head. He was battered and tried to defend us and hit [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] went to my nan and [REDACTED] ended up in jail. My nan couldn't cope with boys so [REDACTED] was left. He ended up stealing, on drugs and eventually went to Perth Prison. That was his life.
17. The care system saved me. If I hadn't passed out in P.E. that time, I don't know what would have happened to me.
18. Not long after being taken to Burnside, I went to the panel with a staff member from Burnside called Norrie Docherty.

Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

19. Burnside was across the road from Kirkton High School. It was a huge old building. It looked like an old school and was run by the local authority. When you came

down towards it, you would think it was a prison because of the high walls and main gates. You drove in through the main gates and the junior unit was there in front of you. The main entrance to Burnside was on the right. There was a door you could open and then a locked door through reception into the main building. There was an office on the righthand side through the first locked door. I remember [REDACTED], [REDACTED], telling me Burnside held forty four kids.

20. There were four units in Burnside. There was a junior unit for the young ones. That was downstairs at the end of the building. There was even a kid of five in there at one point. There was an assessment unit where most folk ended up. That was my age group mostly. There was PA 1, who were a year or two older and then PA 2, who were the kids that were ready to leave. PA 1 was at the top of the stairs. Through the doors and down the hall was the assessment unit. In the same hall at the back was PA 2. I don't know what PA stood for.
21. My friend [REDACTED] was in juniors and was only a year younger than me. The kids in PA 2 would have been sixteen or seventeen.
22. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]. Ron Gordon was [REDACTED]'s boss. He was an older man and we called him Mr Gordon. I don't think he was based in Burnside but he was down a lot. [REDACTED] ^{KHX} Bill Barclay, Norrie Docherty and Brian Burnett were all members of care staff. There was a staff member we called [REDACTED] ^{KHZ}. His first name was [REDACTED] ^{KHZ}. He was ex-army but was vicious. [REDACTED] seemed to be there all the time and did sleep over at times although he didn't live there. I got to know all the kitchen staff and the laundry staff. They were all older woman and were really nice. The laundry woman was ages with my nan, around sixty seven. Her name was Jean.
23. Night staff were different but I don't remember their names. They would sit at the end of assessment. As you came up the stairs into assessment they would be sitting there, close to PA 2 and be able to watch PA 1 as well. There would also be a member of care staff on duty and he would sleep over in the staff sleeping room.

There was a secret door in PA 2. If you opened that you could go downstairs to the sleeping room for the on duty staff.

24. The staff were all male, ex-prison officers, ex-army and some staff from Rossie Farm School. They were all well-built and walked around with their big set of keys attached to them by a chain. There was usually two or three staff on duty per unit. Not long after I went to Burnside, ^{KHX} took me into a room on my own. He appeared to be the only member of staff on at that time.
25. I think the assessment unit was quite fancy. I had a bedroom to myself. It had an en-suite and had underfloor heating. Although it had two beds in the room, there was never anyone else there. Across from my room, there was a bedroom with four beds. They did keep the boys and girls separate.

Routine at Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

First day

26. Social worker Peter Devlin took me to Burnside in a car. It wasn't far from my home. I thought I was going to jail. It was just the high wall around Burnside. You could see the top of the assessment unit and the roof but you couldn't see the actual building until you were through the gates. Peter was lovely and tried to explain things to me on the way, telling me my mother wanted to be with her partner ████████. He was telling me that they were going to get things sorted. I remember him saying that we weren't going too far, that it was still in Kirkton just down at the bottom. Although I had been to Kirkton High School, I didn't know Burnside was a home. He kept me calm all the way there. He had a hard time from me and everybody else he had in that home and must have suffered. Peter didn't drive me there, somebody else was driving.
27. I was scared when we arrived. We walked through the door and the reception staff were there and they all said hello to me. They were being really nice so I thought

that maybe it wasn't going to be so bad. Then I had to go through the locked doors and started wondering what was going on.

28. They took me to the junior unit initially. Through the kitchen, down the ramp and into juniors. I had a bedroom and it was clean. I had never had that before. The hardest bit was sitting in the junior's lounge and all these people coming in and out. There were rubber seats and bases so you couldn't hurt yourself in there.
29. I was only in there for a week or so before I was put up to assessment. I spent most of my time in the assessment unit. To me that was home. There was definitely no assessment of me taking place. I think I was just put there. The number of kids in the assessment unit varied. Sometimes kids would come in during the night, others would leave. Most of those I was in with were there for months and months. It was just the odd one that was in for a night.
30. I don't think we mixed well in Burnside. We all had the same issues. As you went along, you did make friends but there were a lot of issues in Burnside. The older ones were involved in glue sniffing, drugs and running away.
31. In my room I had a bed and a chest of drawers for my clothes. There were two beds in the room but I was in there alone. I also had an en-suite. Not everyone did but for some reason I did.

Mornings and bedtime

32. Staff would get us up in the morning. It depended on what time you had to be up, if it was early, it would have been night staff that got you up, if not it was day staff. I think it was 7:30 - 7:45 am you were up. Our bedrooms had windows to the side of the door so they could see into your room to make sure you were alright during the night. You could see the light from their torches as they walked about during the night. They would just knock your window and say, "up." There was no curtain on the window. It had those small square lines through the glass, safety glass. There was no lock on our bedroom doors. After breakfast we would go up to the lounge

and the staff would bring us a cigarette. After that we would head down to the school.

33. Bedtime was around 9:00 pm. There were so many different personalities in Burnside. There would always be something going on. It felt like you were either bad or good. There was no in-between. Somebody could be kicking off and you would be put in your room for safety or it would be you kicking off or somebody new was coming in. It wasn't a quiet place because of the amount of kids. If you had a problem, you could go and talk to the staff or sit in your room with them.

Mealtimes/Food

34. We would go downstairs to the kitchen and have our bran flakes, toast. All the kids from the units ate together unless there were too many kids. The juniors would maybe go elsewhere first. If you were going out with the building early, they would have your breakfast ready for you with some clingfilm over it. You would just sit and eat it and go. Lunch would be in the same place. The food was good. If you didn't like the food or you had an allergy or something, you just told the kitchen staff and they would make you a sandwich or something.
35. We did have a choice of food, the kitchen staff were really good. It was a big kitchen.

Washing/bathing

36. I had my own shower, sink and toilet in my room. Next door there was a bathroom with two showers, a bath and toilets in it. That must have been mixed. The staff would buy you toiletries and that would come off your pocket money. Because there was only male staff, I couldn't tell a male staff member what I needed when I reached puberty. I would ask my friend [REDACTED] for things. The staff would ask us what we needed every week. You would tell them and they would go and buy it.

Clothing/uniform

37. When you went into Burnside they gave you clothes with your number sewn onto them. It was Husky jumpers, Husky t-shirts, flared jeans, Barcelona trainers. We all had the same clothes with our numbers tagged to them. Everyone would know you were from Burnside because we all wore the same clothes. It was like a uniform and we absolutely hated it.
38. I'd never been bought clothes before and didn't even know how to pick them when they took me out for them. I remember at the time thinking I needed someone to help me with underwear. There were no female staff in the assessment unit. There was a female staff member in juniors but the staff never mixed unless someone was ill so we never had any female staff in the assessment unit. There wasn't any in PA 1 or PA 2 and even the night staff were all male.
39. I wasn't picking up bras when I was out getting clothes. I think I got my first bra from [REDACTED], my friend in juniors. None of the staff wore a uniform, just their normal clothes.

Leisure time

40. From the age of fourteen, if your social worker signed your smoker's form, you were given six cigarettes per day. The staff would take your order for sweets and cigarettes and keep them in a red box for you. There was a TV room but not much else. I think the assessment unit had more things to do. They had a pool table and a TV room although everybody would be fighting over what to watch. We had to go to PA 1 to watch a film. There was a recreation room at the end of the school area. We called it the rec hall. It was a big hall with a climbing frame up the wall.
41. There was a door through the laundry that took you out to the back garden area which was full of trees. I don't remember any of the staff taking us out there or to the front garden. We were never allowed out. It was a huge garden area of grass and trees. There were no swings or anything for us to do. A football pitch would have

been good as there were a lot of boys going through the home. Maybe back then it was more regimented. I think that's why they had so many runaways, we were all dying to get out and do something.

42. In the afternoons, we would just be in our rooms or at a meeting. Maybe we would have a one-to-one with a member of staff. If you had a panel coming up your social worker might visit you or some got family visitors. You couldn't just go out or leave the building to go to the shop, you were locked in a unit and there was no way out. I didn't have a keyworker because I had [REDACTED]. I think that was an unofficial thing. I'm not sure if you had a keyworker in Burnside. Maybe you did but I can't remember.
43. There was nothing to do. No magazines or books. We were never allowed to the shops or the cinema. We had our rubber seats in the unit and a wee telly. The staff would sit in there and yap with you for a while. There would always be one or two in there. There would be a changeover of staff too. Dayshift to backshift. Some members of staff liked to do things with you, maybe take us to PA 1 to watch a movie. They would maybe take us to the rec hall to play with a badminton racket but that wasn't the done thing. It depended on who was on. The art room was never used, we never used any of the stuff that was in there.

Schooling

44. There was a school in Burnside. It was an education unit but there wasn't much teaching going on. It felt like we were put down there while the staff did other things, the cleaners did the rooms. Some kids were angry, some were young, some were older. Some didn't want to be in school. Some were kicking the doors, then staff would come down and pull somebody out. It was kids from all the units but there was no work going on. There were a couple of teachers who came in to Burnside and I feel sorry for them. I didn't then because I didn't know better. We were locked in the school. There was an eclectic group of people in the school room. I think we had a break at 10:00 am and then again for lunch but I don't think we went back in the afternoon. After a couple of months, [REDACTED] put me back into main stream school. He said that I needed an education. I went back to Morgan Academy. I was the only

one going out of Burnside for school at that point. I would walk up from Burnside and catch a bus to the school and come back afterwards.

45. It was weird going back into mainstream school. It didn't work out because of that and they started putting me out to a one-to-one place to get me help. I felt like I was somebody going out of Burnside to school.

Healthcare

46. I never saw a doctor when I was in there. I remember [REDACTED] and another member of staff trying to get me a dental appointment for ages. I was really bad with toothache. It took weeks before they eventually got me an appointment up at Downfield. I had to go back there for months. If we needed anything like that the staff would take us.
47. If you had a bad cold, I think you would be able to miss school, I can't really remember. It would depend who was on, what staff were on and how they were. That was a lot of it in there. It depended who was on and you quickly worked out how they were.
48. There was no thought given to mental health. You were either good or bad and that was it. I don't think it was ever verbally said but you would pick it up quite quickly. You were either good or you were misbehaving and bad. You were floored if you were bad and restrained and if you were good you weren't.

Religious instruction

49. There was no religion in Burnside.

Trips and holidays

50. Bill Barclay was a trainer for the Dundee Rockets. I think they're called the Tayside Tigers now, a skating team. One night he took us all down there in a minibus to watch. It was the greatest thing on earth to me, watching this match. That was my

first experience of being out with them. A while later, Brian Burnett took us from the assessment unit to the Edinburgh Playhouse to see the Proclaimers. We then went for an Indian meal across the road. That was amazing at the time, a huge thing.

51. We never went on holiday with them.

Work/chores

52. There were no chores at Burnside. The cleaners came in and did that. If you had been at Burnside for a long time and had built up trust, they let you out at the weekend. After a while I ended up going to work at a fifty plus lunch club in Whitfield. I must have been thirteen.

Birthdays and Christmas

53. I was there for a Christmas and we got a few things that came from social work. I think we got twenty pounds. You got a few gifts from the staff like toiletries and twenty or twenty five pound extra for Christmas. For your birthday you got twenty five pound extra as well. The staff would go out and get you what you wanted. The staff would say happy birthday but there was no cake or anything like that.

Personal possessions

54. I didn't have any possessions when I went into Burnside.

Bed Wetting

55. Some kids did wet the bed. We all had rubber mattresses. If you wet the bed, you would put your sheet out in the corridor and they would give you a clean sheet to put on your bed. I didn't see anyone being taunted about it. You knew who had wet the bed because their sheet would be outside their door but I never heard anybody slagging anyone off. Maybe down in juniors it would have gone on a bit more because they were smaller.

Visitors

56. My social worker, Peter Devlin, used to come in to Burnside to see me. It wasn't often, once in a blue moon. If there was a problem or I had done something wrong or had a panel, the staff would phone him.

Review of care / detention

57. The panels were held in Dundee. I had a solicitor who was called Mrs Black. She would go to my panels and Peter would be there as well. He didn't really tell me what was happening, the staff did more of that. I had no idea how long I was going to be in Burnside, I think I was there and that was it. There was no plan to move me.

Family contact

58. I never had any contact with any of my family when I was in Burnside.

Discipline

59. We were always threatened with being sent to Rossie Farm if we didn't behave. There were a few staff in Burnside who had come down from Rossie Farm. They would also take our allowance off us and take cigarettes off us. That just made things worse because we were addicted to them. It kicked off more issues. They would send kids to their rooms. That's all they could do really.
60. Some of the kids in PA 1 and PA 2 were smoking hash. It was Reggie time, UB 40 and Bob Marley was all that they were playing out of those units. You could smell it, that earthy smell everywhere. I don't know what the staff were doing about it and it wasn't in the assessment area but whenever you opened the doors to PA 1 and PA 2, you could smell it going through.

Running away

61. I did abscond from Burnside with [REDACTED] from Juniors. I was in the assessment unit at the time. We went out the fire doors in juniors and took off. We had our Husky clothes on. We climbed over the wall and fell but we did it. We got to Aberdeen. I didn't have a clue but [REDACTED] was from Aberdeen. She sold some things at Dens Road Market in Dundee to get money and we ended up in Aberdeen. We ended up in a field on the outskirts of Aberdeen, in a pigsty. The police found us and put us in a Brimmond Hill secure unit overnight. We were returned to Burnside the next day. I don't know how the police found us, maybe someone reported seeing young lassies in the field. I remember the alternative to Burnside in Aberdeen was hellish. The staff were strict and we were locked up from when we went in.
62. I'm not sure who took us back, it must have been social work but I can't remember. [REDACTED] was on duty when we got back and he started singing Del Shannon's 'My Little Runaway' to me. He was trying to calm me down and would have known I was scared. We did get told off and we did get kept in. I think they maybe took our pocket money off us.
63. I don't know why I ran away. It was actually two days after [REDACTED] had asked me to go and live with him and his family. There was no rhyme nor reason to it. I think [REDACTED] asked me to go with her and I went. There was nothing going on that was bad. I had a pal and it was a whole new world to me. I think [REDACTED] ran away all the time. She had been in Burnside before me and had run away many times before. She had had a different life and had been in care homes before Burnside. She seemed to know what she was doing. Compared to me, she was street savvy.
64. I learned about 'snow dropping' from her. There were flats across from Burnside and she wanted to take clothes off the washing line to get out of Burnside clothes so no one could find us.

Abuse at Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

65. I was sitting in the lounge in Burnside one night. I hadn't been in care long. It was after teatime when ^{KHX} came along to the lounge. He was a tall guy and asked me to come along the corridor with him to a room. We went along the corridor and turned left into this room. I had never been down that corridor or in the room before. He opened the door and said come in. He locked the door behind me. He said that I had a panel coming up. At that point I had never heard of a panel. I didn't know there was such a thing. He told me there was no room at Burnside and that it looked likely I would be going home. He said that he could help me with that. He started pulling me over beside him and putting his arm around me. It was an art room we were in. I asked him what he meant by saying I was going home. He told me there was no room at Burnside but that he could help me. By this time I was pulling away from him and trying to explain to him that I couldn't go home. He kept saying come and sit beside me and was grabbing at me, pulling me into him for a cuddle.
66. I told him not to come near me and was trying to get out the door but he wouldn't let me. He wouldn't unlock the door. By this time I was up to high doh and was screaming the place down. He was still saying that he could fix it and that I wouldn't have to go home and just to sit beside him. By this time I had it in my head that I was going home and was screaming. I told him not to come near me and to unlock the door but he wouldn't. It seemed to go on for ever until all of a sudden this man came out of nowhere. He unlocked the door and came into the room and asked what was going on. I told him that I was being told I had to go home and that he could help me. He told ^{KHX} to get out of the room and go to his office. He then sat in the room with me, calming me down. That went on for a long time it felt. He explained what the panel was and that it would be up to them to decide. That was the man who ended up fostering me, ^{KHX}. He did talk me down. I told him I didn't want ^{KHX} near me again.
67. From that day on ^{KHX} didn't come near me and I never went near him. There were other staff who would often give you a cuddle but you knew who were genuine.

The older ones like Norrie Docherty. He was a really sweet man and you knew it was genuine and that he cared.

68. KHX did try to apologise to me but I was having none of it. He wasn't getting near me.

Restraint

69. When restrained you were basically thrown to the floor and the member of staff would sit over you and hold your hands above your head. You would be kicking so they would put their feet or legs over you so you couldn't move the bottom part of your legs either. They pinned you down. You would keep struggling and they would be telling you to quit it. You kept struggling because you were scared and screaming and it could go on for quite some time. It depended on the member of staff because some were stricter than others. You wouldn't know who was around you at the time. Kids would wander around and watch. There was no privacy, it happened where ever it happened. The staff were a lot bigger than you and they were male. Maybe you would be in tears and stop struggling. That would bring it to an end. Then you were taken to your room by the wrist.
70. The restraint could last for ten to fifteen minutes. It felt forever when you were being restrained but I think it was for that length of time. My wrists would be sore after being restrained. If you were struggling you could get burns from the floor. They weren't gentle and it did hurt. If you were trying to push up and kick with your feet you could have bruises afterwards.
71. They would grab you and pull you about if they wanted to do stuff. Before they restrained you they would generally grab and pull at you. After the restraint, they would pull you along to your room.
72. KHZ, the member of staff we called KHZ restrained me. He was ex-army and he was rougher. He had authority about him and it was his way or the highway. I had done nothing wrong. I think I was hormonal and my body was changing but I

couldn't tell anybody because they were all male and you didn't speak about things like that. You just had to figure your way round it. On this occasion he was wanting me to go back down to the school. I had said that I wasn't going, that I needed to go and do something. I wasn't telling him what I needed to go and do. I remember saying that I wasn't going just now but that I would. I said that I was going to my room and he started pulling me and we started tussling. I was pushing him off and he was pulling at me. The argument went on and he ended up just throwing me down. He went over me and grabbed my hands. I was screaming at him to get off me. I remember a couple of kids walking around me. We saw restraint happening all the time, so you would just walk passed.

73. There were some staff that didn't restrain and just the few that did. The softer staff like Norrie Docherty, they just spoke to you and would have said, "*okay, you have five minutes to do what you have to do then go back down*" or something like that. KHZ [REDACTED] wasn't like that. It was right there and then. I had seen him restraining a few folk. It happened a lot there. Sometimes staff had to do it if kids were endangering themselves. It wasn't just if you were being bad, if somebody was trying to hurt themselves or hurt someone else, they would do it. So there were times there was a valid reason for doing it and times it was just for authority. There were forty four kids in there so it happened a lot, almost every day.
74. They would drag someone out the kitchen if they were kicking off. I didn't see it in the junior unit because I wasn't there long enough. There was somebody that set fire to their room. They weren't well and should have had help with their mental health. They pulled her out and were restraining her. Restraint happened a lot in assessment because of the mix of teenagers in there.
75. I don't think they would have kept a record of restraints. In [REDACTED]'s office there was a table, an old computer and a filing cabinet. There would have been a file in there and notes on kids but I don't know what was recorded. Even after the incident with KHX [REDACTED] I don't know if [REDACTED] recorded anything.

76. KIR was high up in the council. I think he was senior to and Mr Gordon. I don't know why he was in Burnside. He must have been there for a meeting or something. I was in the kitchen and must have been having my lunch or something. He came in and just started talking to me. He told me that he liked photography and asked me if I'd like pictures taken. I said yes, I didn't see anything wrong in it. We went through the laundry room and out through the fire exit door to the wooded area at the back. He took a picture of me at the trees. It was quite early on in my time at Burnside and I had some new clothes on, not the Burnside Husky clothing. So he took pictures out there and that was fine. We came back in and were just talking. He was asking me stuff about myself in the kitchen.
77. In the dining room they had a mural somebody had painted. I think it was the nursery rhyme where they were getting whipped for stealing the jam tarts. It was on the wall. He said to go up on the table and pretend I was getting whipped, that it would be funny if it looked like I was being whipped. He pushed one of the tables up to the wall and I climbed onto it. I was on my knees and it must have looked like I was being whipped. It was funny at the time and I didn't think there was anything wrong with it. He took a good few pictures of me doing that and different things and we were laughing at it.
78. I remember him saying that he was going to take some pictures and that they were, "*inexpensive proof quality prints.*" That sounded snobby so it has stuck in my head. I had never heard anything like that before. About one week later he came back to Burnside and he had the pictures. He gave me the one of me standing in the grounds and he gave me one of me on the table. came through and I told him that KIR had given me pictures he took of me. I showed him the pictures and he said, "*That is wholly unacceptable.*" I was looking at him as if to say, why? He took the pictures off me and went after KIR. I never saw KIR in Burnside again. I never saw the picture of me on the table again either. It wasn't until later that I realised there was more to it. I just thought it was fun. I trusted him, liked him and thought he was funny. I had only met him that day. He had a briefcase and his camera was in there. I know he had something to do with Tayside House but I don't

know why he was in Burnside. I remember speaking to my friend [REDACTED] about it. She knew who [KIR] was but I don't remember what she said about him.

Reporting of abuse at Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

79. I told [REDACTED] [REDACTED] about [KHx] and [KIR] at the time. I don't know what he did about it but [KHx] stayed away from me after it and I never saw [KIR] [KIR] again.

Leaving Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

80. I think it was maybe a year into my time there. I can't remember how it was broached. I think the staff came up to me and said there was a family that they thought I would be matched to. They were living in Arbroath and had fostered lots of kids before. We went to see them and I felt that they were just in it for the money and not for the kids. The house hadn't been looked after, it just felt like that to me. That was the first one and it didn't work out.
81. It was only a few weeks after that when they said there was an older couple. Their kids had left home and they lived in Broughty Ferry. The man worked for BT and the woman was at home. [REDACTED] was adamant he was coming with me to see the family. He didn't drive so we took a taxi from Burnside out to this family in Broughty Ferry. The woman wanted me to go to night school. She was in her sixties and the man was younger. At the end of the meeting they asked me if I would like to come and stay. [REDACTED] told them that I needed time to think about it and that I couldn't answer things like that at that time. I knew it wasn't for me.
82. We got back in the taxi and drove off. [REDACTED] stopped the taxi about fifteen minutes away from Burnside and we got out. It was right at the back of Kirkton and a dark area. He said that he wanted to ask me something. He said what about me coming to live with him and his wife and kids. I thought it was weird and didn't really

understand. I didn't even know that he had a wife and kids. I don't think I even answered him. He said I should have a think about it. I remember asking him, why me? I didn't believe him but I thought if I did that I would have [REDACTED] all the time. When we got back to Burnside, he said that I couldn't tell anyone because he hadn't broached it with his bosses or any of the staff. I had felt it when we were with the foster family, that he didn't want me with them.

83. I ran away with [REDACTED] after he had asked that. I told [REDACTED] when we were on the run. I don't think she believed me but when we got back to Burnside she told her staff in the junior unit. [REDACTED] got to hear about it so we had to go round every unit and explain what was happening. Kids were saying, "why not me? ^{KHX} will you take me home?" I think I would have been thirteen at the time. [REDACTED] wanted to adopt me but I think because of my age they felt fostering would be better.
84. I don't remember seeing Peter from the social work at that time. I just remember [REDACTED] bringing his wife and kids to Burnside to meet me. He had bought perfume for me to give to his wife. It was awkward because he had three daughters. I met them all again and then the fostering went ahead. Thinking back now, there should have been more preparation and more getting to know each other before it happened.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] - Foster Care, Dundee

85. Their house was round the corner from my nan's house. So I saw half my family round at the shops. My dad lived around there as well. They lived in a two bedroom house so I had to share a room with his three kids. They were similar ages to me. [REDACTED] wanted me to go everywhere with her and do things with her.
86. [REDACTED] was never at home as he was at work all the time. I went from seeing him all the time to not seeing him at all. When he was at home, he had three daughters and a wife and I felt like I shouldn't have been there. I always felt that I shouldn't have been there. I felt that I was in the way.

87. I was only at [REDACTED]'s for a few weeks. I wasn't attending school because nothing had been set up. [REDACTED] worked at a school in Whitfield, so I did some hours there in the classroom with her. I still had the fifty plus lunch club as well.
88. One day, I just wasn't feeling it and I asked [REDACTED] if she could get the social worker to come out to see me. Peter came out and I told him that I didn't want to be there. That I wanted to go back to Burnside. They sent [REDACTED] home from work to talk to me. I told him that I couldn't stay there, that it wasn't the same. I just wanted to go back to Burnside. I was missing what I had at Burnside and felt lonely in his house.
89. Because [REDACTED] still [REDACTED] Burnside, they said they couldn't put me back there. So they put me up to Ann Street Children's Home in the Hilltown in Dundee. I felt like I was being punished. I couldn't understand why I wasn't allowed to go home to Burnside. Back to how it was. I was breaking my heart because I was hurting [REDACTED]. It shouldn't have happened, they should have left me in Burnside.

Leaving Foster Care with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

90. I went to Ann Street from [REDACTED]. I didn't have a children's panel or anything, I went straight in.

Ann Street Children's Home, Hilltown, Dundee

91. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Leaving Ann Street Children's Home, Hilltown, Dundee

124.

I was at Ann Street for probably one year

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

I was

fifteen by the time I left there and they moved me to Nimmo Place in Perth.

Nimmo Place Children's Home, Perth

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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129.

I could only have been in Nimmo

Place for around ten to twelve weeks. Secondary Institutions - to be published later Then I was moved back into Dundee, to Rannoch Mohr.

Rannoch Mohr Children's Home, Dundee

130. There weren't many people in Rannoch Mohr. I think they were preparing to close it down. It was a big building near Strathmartin Road. It was nice and in a nice part of Dundee. I think they were actually preparing to shut the place down when I went there. They had an upstairs and on the right side of it there were lots of empty beds. My room was on the other side upstairs. It was very homely, comfy couches with a telly. The staff were really nice. I remember we had a disco on the bottom floor at one point. The staff did things with us. We had games upstairs in the living room and down stairs we were able to have our discos. The staff put them on for us and we got to dress up.
131. There really wasn't many people in there when I went, maybe four or five of us. Two of them were my age and I hung around with them.
132. I'm not sure if that was council run. It had a different feel to other places. I don't know if it was Salvation Army or Barnardo's but it definitely had a different feel to it.
133. They helped me get my first YTS (youth training scheme). I was nearly sixteen and wasn't going to school by this time. I trained as a painter and decorator. I felt like somebody. I would leave the home at 8:30 am every morning in my overalls heading down Strathmartin Road to my work.

134. I did meet my first love there. I was down the park with all the residents and met him. He was from the rich side and I was from the poor side. So I have good memories from Rannoch Mohr.

Family visit

135. I didn't see any of my family in there. I know my nan wanted to see me and I did see her after I left care. I didn't see her after that initial panel when I was in Burnside, not at all whilst I was in care.

Review of care / detention

136. My last panel was when I was nearly sixteen. I didn't need the supervision order anymore and I went back to care of the local authority, it was a section 32, I think. I always had a solicitor at my panels and it was always Mrs Black. I think that was because of how I was treated prior to going into care.

Leaving care

137. I was sixteen when I left Rannoch Mohr and got my first flat. They had set it all up and were paying the rent but it was above a pub in a rough end of Dundee. I had all these kids from Burnside and Ann Street coming over. It became the party house. One day I took a major migraine and couldn't see so they put me back into Rannoch Mohr.
138. They hadn't prepared me for it. They basically asked me if I wanted my own place. There was no stepping in place, the flat was that place and I wasn't ready for it. They kept me in Rannoch Mohr for a while before they found me another flat. That did work out better. I still had Charlie Mathers helping me and was getting that independent living money from Tayside House every month. Rather than money, I would have rather they gave me more advice and help. I didn't know what to do with the money, how to pay the electric bills or anything. We never had any big amounts

of money within care. To come out of care and all of a sudden have that large amount of money wasn't right. I had all these hangers on as well.

139. I just couldn't wait to get out of Dundee after a while. Away from everyone in care. Some were rough and ready. Nice people but they had their issues. But they would follow me around.
140. I think the idea of independent living was coming in at that time, but it was money they were throwing at me rather than help. Tayside House were giving me over £400 a month and I think paying my rent and bills. It was a lot of money back then. Up until that point I was on thirty pounds per week on the YTS.
141. It was either social work or Charlie who told me that up until I was eighteen they had a responsibility for me. But it was just money. By that time my social worker had changed from Peter Devlin to a woman called Margaret who was working from the Mid Craigie Office in Dundee. If I had a problem though, I would always go to Charlie. I don't know if he was council appointed but he always helped me out when I had a problem.

Life after being in care

142. By this time in Dundee, folk were dying of AIDS. Others were throwing methadone down their throats like water and overdosing and it always seemed to be coming to my door. I wasn't into drugs or drink. I just didn't see a way out of it so one day I just hopped on a bus and headed off. I was nearly eighteen. Charlie Mathers and Margaret from the social work were still in touch and they got me my first flat in Huntly. It was a nice flat, a new build. I had contact with the social work for around a year after that.
143. I think Charlie Mathers got me £1000. I would have been eighteen or nineteen by then. It was to do with child neglect and criminal injuries compensation from before I went into care.

144. At twenty one I had my first child. I took post-natal depression but it slipped into clinical depression because it wasn't picked up soon enough by medical staff. They put me in Dr Gray's mental health unit for around three months. I was still part of Dr Grays but they decided to put me to a retreat in Fort Augustus for a couple of weeks. It was about to shut down and there was only Father Ailred and his staff left there. It was good for me and I sat on the banks of Loch Ness in the evenings. Nothing happened to me there. I went back to Dr Grays hospital and ended up in supported accommodation through SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health). That was in Elgin. I had psychotherapists, psychiatrists, psychologists, everything. I just didn't know what I was doing. I had no coping skills.
145. They used to say it was because I was in care and what happened in my childhood. They said that if I didn't talk about it, it would come back to haunt me in later life. They said that it was trauma and I hated that. I used to get really angry and say it had nothing to do with being in care because that was a good thing for me. It was because I had a baby and had no coping skills. I had to get over my depression and the medication side of things.
146. I went from the psychiatric unit to re-hab. They had places out in the community but I was in the building with the staff to begin with. I was in there for around eight months. Brian Burnett from Burnside was working there. He was one of the managers of the place. I didn't have a good relationship with him in Burnside, no one had a good relationship with Brian. He came in and said, "*Oh it's you, what did you call your wee one?*" I think he was expecting me to say [REDACTED]. I knew all the staff had their thoughts on me and [REDACTED] when I was in Burnside because we were always together. I had always thought some of the staff felt that there was more than just a genuine relationship between us. [REDACTED] always left every door open when we were together so nothing could be said about us.
147. One day whilst in the rehab unit, they received a phone call from Dundee Police asking if I was still resident there. SAMH wouldn't confirm this with them however took their number and I phoned them back. They wanted to know if I would be okay with my sister and her kids coming up to the area as they needed to escape her ex-

partner. I hadn't seen her for ten years and didn't know her. They wanted to put her into a woman's aid near to me and asked if I could meet her at the train station. That didn't work out, she was an alcoholic, had issues and kept going missing. I ended up with her kids while the social work and child protection teams were looking for her.

148. We didn't have a relationship but do see each other occasionally now. We are completely different people, chalk and cheese.
149. Child protection and latterly DASAT (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Team) have moved me and my family around all my adult life. Sometimes by choice but a lot of it was not. We have been in every woman's aid across Scotland and one in England. They removed my ex-partner's parental rights for domestic abuse and for abusing his parental rights. I call it legalised stalking. Different area's children's hearings broke the non-disclosure agreement a few times by accident so they've had to move us around the country.
150. I think if my brother and sister had gone into care it would have benefitted them.

Impact

151. I didn't know about independent living when I left care, I knew nothing about cleaning or household chores. They could have helped me there. I was just left to crack on.
152. I've become over-protective of my children. I think that's an impact from my family and my time in care. I've deliberately not had men around them, I've not taken alcohol, I've not taken drugs. So I've gone the other way and that's a blessing.
153. I think I've always had the attitude that no one would ever be able to say to me that I wouldn't have had something if it wasn't for them. Because of what I had and my upbringing, I wanted something different for my children. I wanted them to see that I

loved them, I wanted them to see that I cared for them. I wanted to tell them that every day and I wanted them to know it.

154. I have six children and three of them have genetic disorders and learning disabilities. Their disorders are all hereditary and passed on by me. I know when I was in Burnside, I had auditory processing issues because I would take words and bits from conversations. I would remember certain numbers or words and that's part of it. If it's in the cow it's in the calf. They weren't looking for autism or anything like that in the eighties and nineties. You were good or bad.
155. I went back to work for sanity. I have worked in a dementia care home run by the Church of Scotland but had to leave for one of my children's needs. I can't work now because she has additional needs and is only in school three hours per day. She is a lot of work but we have support in place.
156. I've never trusted anybody, I still don't. Men have had the most impact. They were either flinging you to the floor or they were up to other things and it was predominantly male and the distrust comes from that. There was no woman in Burnside so that impacted on my growth and hormonal changes. That impacted a lot.
157. It has had an impact on my relationships and trust and because of that I've never been married and I won't ever get married. I've always been cold when it comes to men. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
158. By the time I was twenty one in terms of independent living, I was needing help. There had been no sex education in Burnside, nothing about the pregnancy side of things, none of that and no woman there to tell you about it. They could have brought someone in to do it, even a nurse. The men could have told us but that wasn't the done thing.

159. I did feel loved by [REDACTED] but there was no affection. When I sat with [REDACTED] in every unit before going to live with him, the other kids who asked him if they could go to live with him or asked why he wasn't taking them, were yearning for affection too. Although I felt bad at that time, I didn't really understand what was going on.
160. I went to college after being in care but I could tell you the folk I grew up with didn't. We weren't all getting the same education. I think we should have had structure to our needs. I think especially for the older ones coming out of care because they were basically put out, especially in Burnside. When I was getting the independent living allowances, the people from Burnside and Ann Street were getting nothing. No support. They were on drugs, committing crime and in and out of jail.
161. I've looked back at Burnside a few times to see if it was still there. I haven't visited, just online. When I think back to Burnside, I think of [REDACTED]. I call them the two idiots. I don't like thinking back to that. Predominantly, and although it didn't do much for me, Burnside was my home. Although they moved me around, I always felt Burnside was my place. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
162. I do think back to my time in care but mostly in a good way. I try to think on it as positive. If I had been left at home, I would have been an alcoholic, in and out of jail or possibly dead. I did get some schooling, clothing and fed. There maybe wasn't the physical caring aspect in care, but on the whole it was a good thing for me. I haven't been back to visit any of the homes. I think they're all gone now or day centres.

Treatment/support

163. I'm in a support WhatsApp group [REDACTED] but that's it. A lot of folk in the group suffered there but I didn't see that side of it. I think they were all in jail by the time I was there. I've never sat and spoke to anybody about my time in care. Psychotherapists have tried to get me to speak about it but I just couldn't. At

that time I was only twenty one so couldn't explain it. I was still a kid. I did have mental health social workers, psychotherapists wanting to hypnotise me, psychologists, all from the same hospital in Elgin but no, I didn't want to speak about it. I don't see my time in care as the problem and they do. I just wanted to get better and get back to my bairn. I didn't want to regress to my past and have more stuff to think about.

Reporting of Abuse

164. I reported the incident with KHX and KIR to [REDACTED] at the time it happened. I presume he did something about it at the time. I have never reported it to anyone since leaving care. I didn't even think about doing that.

Records

165. I did approach Dundee Council for my records a long time ago. I needed them for passports and wondered if they would be under KHW or [REDACTED] but I didn't get them at that time. I approached them another time but they said there was a rigmarole you had to go through so I didn't bother.

Lessons to be learned

166. I think there should have been more vetting of staff. I think the foster carers I went to see were just doing it for money.
167. There should have been more female staff in Burnside. There should have been better schooling. Maybe if they had let us out more there wouldn't have been so much chaos.

168. There should have been some thought gone into mental health. A lot of kids in there were suffering and not able to socialise. They weren't looking for autism or any other mental health issues. You were just bad or good and that was how you were labelled.
169. There was never a day I knew of staff being trained. There was never a day a staff member was off and said they had been training. There was none of that, not even with [REDACTED] Unless KIR [REDACTED] was in there for training because I don't know why he was there.
170. They didn't give us sex education but they didn't even speak to us about drugs and I could have gone down that road really easily. There was never any magazines or anything we could have read about it. A couple of the girls I was with in Burnside and afterwards were heavily into drugs and both their lives are a complete mess now, all because of drugs. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED]
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
171. Staff should have had knowledge of female hormones and when going through puberty and that this could have been the reason for their moods and behaviour.
172. There was never any advice on getting a job. Maybe the older ones would have had something to get up for in the morning. I only had that placement because of [REDACTED]. The older ones should have been taught how to cook their own meals, and helped to keep the place clean. Independent living advice before you leave care, that would have helped out a lot. We didn't have bank accounts. They were giving me all that money and I didn't have a bank account. I had to go to a place to cash the cheques and they took money off me to do it. After a while they started giving me cash.
173. Although there were a couple of bad instances in Burnside, apart from that, care was a good thing for me. If I had been left in Burnside, the experience would have been different. Care opened up different things for me that I wouldn't have experienced any other way.

174. I hope the outcome is that there is a bit more support for the kids, health, social awareness, mental health, independent living. More female staff, their input and one-to-ones. People who haven't been in care don't always understand the importance of it.
175. I've been to a few children's panels since being in care and they are the same as how I remember them. You get to express your views. They give you a paper form to write your views down. That would have made it a bit easier for us to say how we felt. Back then it was one room and you just had to say how you felt or the staff member would give your views for you. They segregate folk now. Back then everybody sat in the same room and it was awkward and scary. So it is different now.

Other information

176. I googled Burnside one day and saw something about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and the work they were doing about Burnside Assessment Centre. I then watched a video of Lady Smith talking about other places on You Tube. I listened to see if it was just for the bad stuff. Then I knew it wasn't. That's why I contacted the inquiry.
177. 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.

KHKHW
Signer 

Dated..... 6/2/2024