

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GPP

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is GPP. My date of birth is 1965. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Dundee. My father was and she lives in the Dundee area. I was one of eleven children. Five of my siblings were older and had moved out of the family home before I was born. That left six children, being the eldest. He was one year older than me and my sister was one year younger. There was also and who was the youngest. I think was born around 1974.
3. We originally lived near to Dundee City Centre but moved further out to Mid Craigie. My father was a steel fixer to trade but he had a bad accident at work, he fell. After that he worked as a park keeper. My mother was at home looking after the children. Things were tight at home but we didn't come from money so had no experience of it, it was never a problem.
4. I went to St John's High School. Although there was a closer school to me after we moved to Mid Craigie, I stayed at St Johns. All my friends were there and I didn't like the idea of going to another school. My mother liked the school and most of the teachers were good. The history teacher, Harry Morrison was really good. He would

teach us about Scottish heroes, William Wallace and make it exciting for us. I don't know if that was what he was meant to teach us but I enjoyed that.

5. I didn't enjoy school. I hated technical drawing, Mr [REDACTED] If you drew too dark a line he would batter your knuckles with a ruler, I hated that guy. A lot of people liked P.E. I never liked that. They used to play cricket. The ball hit me in the mouth when I tried to catch it one time, I've hated cricket ever since. It wasn't for me.
6. School was alright up until the second year. It was completely different to the primary school. They were a lot more violent and would hit you with a big belt, especially SNR [REDACTED] Brother [REDACTED] he liked dishing out the belt. I remember I was due to watch West Side Story on a colour TV in music class. Brother [REDACTED] wanted me to admit I had said something to the lollypop lady and take the belt. I said I'm not doing that because I hadn't done anything wrong. Anyway I eventually put my hand out and he hit me with his belt. My fingers were purple and it really did sting.
7. Some teachers would take you into a side room and say they weren't going to give you the belt. They would just hit the desk and tell you to make a noise so it sounded like they had hit you.
8. [REDACTED] was a science teacher, Physics, something I had no interest in. He wanted to give me the belt one day for speaking in class. He was insisting I put my hands up but I refused to do it. I had a blazer on and had my hands in the side pockets. In front of the whole class he said he was going to aim for my hands. That's how he gave me the belt.
9. I sat down and he started again. I told him to fuck off or something like that. He told me to go outside but I refused. He put his hands round the neck, pulled the chair away and dragged me out of the class room in front of the whole class. I told him my father would hear about it and would come to the school to see him. I think that was the turning point for me. I was 14 and decided I wasn't staying there any longer. After the first bell or at dinner time, I just walked out. I spend the following months dodging the truant officer.

10. My mother and father found out but I didn't tell them why I wasn't going to school. I felt I had to be careful saying things about teachers hitting me with belts and grabbing me. How would my father react to this? Maybe my older brothers would think it wasn't right and get themselves in trouble. I think I just said I wasn't interested in school anymore and that was it. My mother was disappointed because I had always done pretty well at school. I suppose my mind was made up, it wasn't that I didn't want educated, going back to school just wasn't an option if that was the way they were going to treat people. These days they would be sent to jail for the way they behaved.
11. Social work became involved at my first children's panel. I was 14. I think that was when I first met a guy called Jim Curry, a brilliant guy. He was my first social worker and part of the social work intake team. He only stayed with me for 6 months. You then got someone from the outtake team and they were with you for the long haul.
12. I remember going into the children's panel and seeing the big desks and couches. I had never been in front of anything like that before so I was taken aback. I couldn't tell you what they spoke about, obviously about me but I couldn't say. Unbeknown to me they had already set up a place in Scone for me to go to so I was never going back to my house.
13. Obviously there had been discussions with my mother and father, the school and Jim Curry. No one had spoken to me about it. When they told me I wasn't going home, I made my first attempt to escape. I wasn't upset, I thought that's what you all think, I'll be home before you know it. But I didn't realise the door opened out the way, if I had known they would never have got me. I don't know where I would have gone.
14. My mother and father were there, they always attended my children's panels. I was at 14 children's panels so you get a rough idea. You listen to what social work had to say and they made the decisions. Some of the members of the children's panel showed a genuine interest, they were interested in me but others were just going through the motions.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Scone Children's Home

91. I was at Scone Children's Home twice. I remember they had a meeting in the sitting room. I came back from the child guidance centre and Christie told me I was going back to Dundee. I packed my clothes and that was it. That's how I learned I was going back to Burnside. I can't remember saying goodbye, it was all done within half an hour. My mother and father weren't there.

92. Christie told me I wasn't settling there. I had ended up in the child guidance centre and there wasn't any progress. I didn't think anyone was wanting any progress. I wasn't causing any upset at the child guidance centre. I was just sitting listening to John Lennon or whatever was on radio one at the time. I'm not saying I didn't get annoyed at some people and maybe swear but I wasn't out of control. I'm sure Christie's job was to represent my views but I didn't know anything about coming back to Dundee until she told me. She didn't tell me beforehand because I might have had something to say about it. Things had changed for me from my first visit to Scone. I'd never been in a home, never been outside my own house.

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I got to go home every weekend and I came back every weekend. I didn't know what the problem was. I just wanted to go home. I mentioned that to lots of people but no one was listening. No one was interested.

Routine at Burnside House Assessment Centre

First day

93. I went to Burnside to see where I was going next basically. You couldn't go outside after a certain time at Burnside. Everything was to do with staff. I think some people on work experience got more freedom. They were going to be leaving soon anyway. If you were new you weren't getting to wander about.
94. Burnside was on a main street and had double iron gates. Sometime they were open but most times closed. On the right hand side there was a door with two glass panels. Through there on the right hand side was an office space. Straight ahead were classrooms. Further on there was a gym hall. To the left from the front door was the dining room where everyone went for their meals. Coming out of there and through another door took you upstairs and through another door took you to the dorms. The second time I was there I remember there had been another door added. That separated the dorms between the boys and girls. The doors were locked at night and the windows had wire through them. There was no way you could get out.
95. Across from the dorms were the toilets. Next door to that was the cooling room. That was the punishment room. That's where they threw you in to cool off.
96. I'm sure I was in Burnside three times, Scone twice and Ellen Street once if I remember correctly. Scone was definitely the first place, Burnside definitely the last but in between that it's a bit of a muddle. There were no classes in Burnside the first time but were classes the second time. Maybe that was because I was going to be longer term second time. So you went to class in the morning or in the afternoon. I tried to learn something there. They had a lovely old teacher.
97. On arriving at Burnside I remember seeing this big guy called **MYD**. He was from the North East of England. That was my first experience, him shouting at some bairn. I got shown where I was sleeping and that was it. To be honest I just more or less

followed everyone else. They didn't have a smoke room they had a smoke box. I think I smoked Embassy Regal at the time. They would have your name on the packet. I was allowed up to six fags a day. That was what they allowed and they decided when you were having a smoke.

98. There were boys and girls at Burnside but no sharing. There wouldn't have been anyone younger than thirteen or fourteen there. And no one over sixteen.
99. Mr **GNK** and **GNO** were members of staff. There were good guys called Sonni and **EIF**, also members of staff. Jean Perrie was also a member of staff and a good woman. I don't remember who was in charge, a wee guy but I don't remember his name. I don't think I seen him more than once. **MYD** was assistant manager.

Mornings and bedtime

100. I think everybody in Burnside went to bed at the same time more or less. Again it was left in the hands of the staff. If there was a good film on until 11:30 pm you maybe got to watch it. I don't know if that's true or not. I'm not sure.
101. Every door was locked at bedtime. It may not have been like that the first time I was there. Certainly by the time I left it was like that. I can't remember much about the first time I was at Burnside to be honest. Because I was there three times, it all overlaps. I certainly never got out my bed at night time after one time when I was hit by the night watchman.

Mealtimes/Food

102. I don't remember much about mealtimes. I remember the staff would take over at night because all the cooks had gone home. So the cooks would leave out cakes or biscuits and we had what we wanted. We weren't going hungry. Not unless we decided to go hungry ourselves.

103. There was a great guy there call Harry Carnegie. Harry was old school. He was a magician and in the magic circle. If he knew you were feeling bad, depressed or sad he would do card tricks to try and cheer you up. They used Harry to try and encourage people to eat their meals. He was staff and like a Granny Mack character, really old guy. He wore a nylon coat like the barbers used to wear with all the pockets at the front.
104. Everybody knew and liked Harry because of his magic. They used him to try and entice folk. So he came to me and would tell me it was fish today and Friday and say I had to eat my fish. I told him I wasn't doing it. He said he would keep it warm for me. He would say the same things to most people just different ways. We didn't often get fish. Fish and chips and peas. I wonder if he ate it himself.

Washing/bathing

105. There was a shower at Burnside and if you wanted a shower you could have one. Anybody could walk in. I found that strange if someone opened the door the shower was right there. I'm not saying people showered during the day. But say someone did, people were going to the smoke box and young lassies were walking passed that door. The door wasn't open unless someone came in to use the toilet. But that's what could happen. Showering wasn't supervised as far as I can remember.

Clothing/uniform

106. I think maybe Burnside had their own gear for people who turned up without any clothes. They didn't have a uniform, like prisons or anything like that. I think they just had spare gear. But I took all my clothes from Scone with me to Burnside.

Leisure time

107. There was a TV room at Burnside and they had a place downstairs where you could play football. That was like a recreation area. There wasn't much, no books or toys although it got better after the hunger strike. We got a pool table.

108. The hunger strike was to get better equipment. It was also because of the way staff were dealing with some people. Some had their own agendas but as I understood, it was for a pool table or a snooker table, something we could use. The hunger strike lasted for more than one day. I wouldn't go as far as to say a week. They threatened us with the police and their police dogs, that was their usual. Nobody I'm aware of broke the strike. I'm not sure what happened. I'm not sure if a member of staff acted as a go between and told us we were going to get a pool table.
109. There was trouble after I left. It was way out of control. At that point there was lockers going through the windows. I don't know what kicked that one off. Something must have been promised and not delivered. The police were involved in that one.
110. Leisure time is supposed to be fun. I don't think I could call it that. You were either lying on your bed or in the communal area or having a smoke. Occasionally maybe the assault course. And if you really got fed up you run away.

Trips and holidays

111. I remember we went to Perth Theatre. That was to see Godspell. The reason I remember that was because of a lassie. She took a fancy to one of the actors and stole his poster of the wall. It was like a big crime the way she was carrying on. That's the reason I remember that.
112. I can't remember there being much else to be honest. I don't remember there being a lot there. It was down to the staff.

School

113. At Burnside we were either in the classroom in the morning or in the afternoon. You didn't spend the whole day there. I did go to the classes and remember they taught Gaelic. That was the only class I took an interest in. I suppose they had other things for people who wanted to learn to write or read. There was a lovely woman, I've met

her since, maybe ten or fifteen years ago. She came from the Isles. She would say this is our language, what Scots used to speak before the English came. So people like myself are really interested in that.

114. I wasn't interested in English or maths. I was at the stage where it just didn't matter. They never tried to get me to learn. I think they had people who wanted to learn and they put all their effort into that. If they see you as a problem child then you were a problem child, a lost cause. So they weren't interested. So I was a lost cause.

Healthcare

115. Burnside had their own surgery upstairs. I think that was because it was run by the council. I can't remember ever going to the surgery. I was never going to say anything after what happened to me. Let's be honest about it.
116. I don't remember them ever taking me to the dentist.

Religious instruction

117. A minister came to see me at Burnside, there was no priest. We had a talk and I mentioned Father Aldo. I don't remember what he said or if he was a Church of Scotland Minister. He did ask me if I wanted to see a priest. I told him I got on well with Father Aldo. He said Father Aldo was in Perth and Dundee had their own priest to come and see you. So I didn't bother to be honest.

Work

118. I did work experience when at Burnside. I was in the zoo, Camperdown Zoo. I really hated it. I'd been to the zoo as a bairn. Not that they were ill-treated in anyway but when you see the wee spaces they had to wonder about in. I just felt sorry for them. They were caged up. Maybe it was a reflection on how I was feeling and I felt it was the same for the animals. No I didn't want to stay there.

119. So I stopped going. I didn't tell the staff I wasn't going. They were still making up good lunch pieces every day and giving me fag money so I had no complaints. It didn't take them long to find out that I wasn't there. They must have got weekly reports. They didn't do anything about it. I think the next stage I was out because they needed the space.

Birthdays and Christmas

120. I don't remember my birthday or any Christmas at Burnside. I don't remember them ever celebrating a birthday or celebrating at Christmas.

Visits/Inspections

121. Helen Christie was still my social worker when I left Burnside for the last time. I never got rid of her. It came to the point where I didn't even want to speak to her. I just didn't want anything to do with her. The woman was hopeless as far as I was concerned. She came once to Burnside to take me to a children's panel. Then another time she followed the police car back to the home. She told the police to come up because I was going to try and escape which I wasn't. She got the wrong day. I did escape but not that time.

Family contact

122. Burnside would give me a day pass. Sometimes a weekend pass but they were quite strict. Burnside was the only place that gave you written permission. That was in case you got stopped by the Police. The pass said you were entitled to be out from the Friday PM until the Sunday PM or whatever it was. Burnside was about three miles from my home. It was within walking distance. Sometimes I walked, sometimes I got a bus or my uncle would pick me up. It was great to go home at the weekends.

Personal possessions

123. Burnside wasn't like Scone. They never bought me new clothes. I took all my clothes from Scone with me. That was all I had.

Running away

124. I did run away from Burnside. As I said, sometimes the gate was open sometime closed. I never understood their logic. It may have had something to do with the bin men.
125. There was one time, I think they were wanting me to move some rubbish from the assault course to the skip. This wasn't a thing I would normally be asked to do. Anyway I noticed the gates were open so I just took off. I'd had enough and I was off.
126. I would go to my brothers. He would always take me in because he had been in care himself and he knew what it was like. He would ask me if I was alright or if anybody was beating me up. I was continuously lying to him because I knew what he was like. So on a Saturday my brother would be drinking his beer and having a wee flutter on the horses. So I would maybe be there for a couple of weeks.
127. When you're on the run, you worry about every car light you see, I was moving in the dark obviously. They could be taxis, a private car or anything but you assume they are police cars. So I was diving in bushes and up closes. It took me for ever to get from one place to another.
128. I didn't always return from my weekend passes. If I didn't they would contact the police. I don't remember being punished when I didn't return on time.

Discipline

129. I don't recall there being any chores at Burnside.

Bed Wetting

130. I didn't have any bed wetting problems at any of the places I went to. I don't remember anyone having a problem. Maybe some did but didn't say. Bairns being bairns, they can be nasty. No I can't recall anything like that, not to say it didn't happen.

Abuse at Burnside Assessment Centre

131. GNO [REDACTED] the night watchman battered me with a torch. At Burnside the rooms were locked at night. He was on patrol. I was needing to go to the toilet. I don't know what time but it was during the night. I saw him heading up. We had those windows with the wire through them. There would be four in a room on that side of the building. So he seen that I was out my bed. He opened the door and asked me what I was doing out my bed. I told him I wanted to go to the toilet and he told me to get back into my bed. I was just about to put my knee on the bed, the next minute, wallop, right on the back of my neck. Flung me forward. I was a bit sore when I woke up the next day. I never did get to go to the toilet that night. I didn't wet myself or anything. Him hitting me with the torch was a bit scary.
132. They had these big toilets with three shower cubicles. I was in there the following day and could sense this man behind me. Sometimes you just get that feeling. I can't remember exactly what GNO [REDACTED] said. It was a warning not to open my mouth. Not to say things I shouldn't be saying. He punched me right below the left shoulder and I went flying again the wall. I always seemed to land against something like a door or the corner of a wall. That was pretty painful. Only for a wee while. Nothing was broken. GNO [REDACTED] told me in no uncertain terms to keep my mouth shut. That was within 24 hours of him hitting me with the torch. It was rapid.
133. GNO [REDACTED] had a reputation for behaving like that. When they liked the Mr title, they came from the 1950 home's style. With the stand at attention capers. He was one of them along with that GNK [REDACTED]. You worked it out for yourself, if they want to be called Mr you didn't call them by their first name.

134. Mr ^{GNK} [REDACTED] wasn't the same in terms of violence. If you were on a weekend pass he would want to know what you had been up to with your bird. There was a lassie I was quite close to. Her name was [REDACTED]. We used to be able to sit in the same room and watch TV. ^{GNK} [REDACTED] thought it would be a good idea for me to take [REDACTED] into the toilets. And not to worry about it because he would make sure no one disturbed me. I'll not go into detail but we know what he was talking about. He was a weirdo. This wasn't just me it was other people as well. If I had a weekend pass he would want to know if I had been to a party, ask if I got a bird and what happened. He would ask if certain things happened and was looking for detail. There is a difference guys telling each other stories. But him wanting to know in detail was different.
135. He had grey hair and a beer belly. He always wore a tie, no jacket just collar and tie and dress trousers. He was in his late forties, fifties. I did see him once about fifteen or twenty years ago near to Baxter Park. He was with a woman, it must have been his wife. He stays in Dundee or he did then. He's maybe dead now. I would be very surprised if no one else has mentioned ^{GNK} [REDACTED]. I think he must have been in the care system for a while. I think I've shut everything off because I'm scared of what I might remember. There's too much in my head already.
136. There was a female member of staff. She had black hair, thin, late twenties, thirties. She was quite polite spoken. I can't remember her name. The reason I remember this is because my uncle [REDACTED] had come to see me at Burnside. I think my brother [REDACTED] must have suggested to him to come to Burnside. The time he came some people had been planning an escape. But they were caught. I think the bit that shocked him was when this female member of staff had this young lassie by the back of her hair and was shouting at her saying if she was hers she would fucking kill her.
137. The bairn was greeting. This shocked my Uncle [REDACTED]. Bear in mind he had served in the war and been to Africa and this shocked him. He said the family needed to get me out of there. He seen it for himself.

138. If you were too much of a handful for them, you would get dragged to the cooling room. If you can imagine the bottom part of a divan bed. No mattress just a wooden block, chipboard or something. No glass, a plastic window and no heating. That was all you had. You would be put in there for anything at all. If you looked at them the wrong way, spoke out of turn. If a fight broke out and they had to break it up. If they thought you were responsible they would throw you in. Any reason really to be honest. It depended which staff member was on at the time.
139. If there was a fight the staff would get right in about it and separate you. I'm not saying they were laying out punches but it wouldn't be excuse me, they would just be right in there. Probably like the police would do nowadays.
140. I don't recall ever hearing about Sunni or Jean taking anyone to the cooling room. They had their own way of dealing with things, it's called talking.
141. I was once put in the cooling room. Things got a wee bit out of control. I think that was on my third visit. I don't recall being in there very long. I think this was during the hunger strike. I think they thought I had something to do with the hunger strike. I had nothing to do with it, absolutely nothing. If I did I would tell you. They were trying to force people to eat their meals. Then they would threaten you with the police and say the police dogs would be arriving.
142. I think they seen me as some kind of trouble maker. I think it was EIF who took me to the cooling room. EIF was a really good guy, it was nothing personal. EIF would do what he had to do. I think things were pretty much out of control. Apart from that I never had a problem with him. I'm not trying to stick up for him or say he did anything bad, nothing like that. I wasn't left in the cooling room long. They would keep people in there until they cooled down. Hours not days. Until they thought it was safe to open it. I don't remember anyone ever getting a blanket. Maybe that's why they didn't get kept in there all night.
143. As well as the cooling room we had the assault course at the back. We weren't forced to go on it or I'm not aware of anyone being forced to go on it. Maybe there were some

stories about that but it didn't happen when I was there. If things were starting to heat up, you could be sent to the assault course, just to tire you out basically. That was the only place I was in that had an assault course.

144. There were staff members at Burnside who would have slapped you or punched you. I'm only going on my experience but I don't think there were many homes where you didn't have a staff member like that. Depending on the size of the place there would be more than one. I can only go on experience. It just wasn't happening to me. People were being dragged to the cooling room. They weren't being nice to them. I appreciate some were out of control and they were trying to grab hold of them. But it was just however they managed to grab them. None of these people were trained in how to deal with it.
145. EIF was involved that time with me and I think GNK would have been in and around it. I would be really surprised if GNO wasn't involved.
146. I couldn't say if girls were ever put in the cooling room. They did have punch ups occasionally. Normally over guys but I can't recall ever seeing any girls being put in there.
147. Burnside was the only place I had ever been in that had a cooling room. It was the only room at the back of the building that was used. Whether it was a store room I don't know, certainly not a bedroom.

Reporting of abuse whilst at Burnside House Assessment Centre

148. The morning after GNO hit me with the torch, Sunni asked me what happened. Someone must have told him. I told him what had happened. He asked me how I was feeling and I said I was alright. He told me to pretend I wasn't because he wanted to give GNO a fright. So he came along with GNO. I didn't know he had already said to him that he had done serious damage to me and that I was going to end up in hospital. So GNO asked me what the matter was. He said there was

nothing the matter with me. I was holding my neck. Little did I realise this was going to come back to haunt me. He wasn't happy. I think Sunni was thinking he would teach GNO a lesson because that wasn't the first time he had done that. It obviously didn't teach him a lesson.

149. Other people must have heard about what happened. I never said anything to anybody. If they were that concerned, maybe Sunni did raise it with the management. Maybe the management weren't interested. I don't know. No one else ever came to me to speak about it. Sunni came to me because someone in the dorm had said something to him. That was the only time.

Leaving Burnside Assessment Centre

150. I left Burnside and went to Ellen Street. That was the children's panel. I remember my mum questioning it because they had mentioned the Church of Scotland. My mother's Protestant, my dad's Catholic. The back ground was all bairns would go to the same school, the closest school to their house. If the closest school was a Protestant school that's where they would go. They would measure it out with their feet. There was no way you could swing it, that is where the corporation put you.
151. Anyway they mentioned Church of Scotland and my mother objected to it. She said I couldn't go there because I was Catholic. A guy from the children's panel looked up his book and according to him there was nothing that said I couldn't go there. So that's where I went. Despite my mother objecting. I didn't say anything. I left it to my mother. If she couldn't win the argument, I wasn't going to win it.
152. The last time I was in Burnside I was kicked out two weeks before my sixteenth birthday. They told me they needed the room and said I would have to go and stay with my brother. I was gone that day. No one gave me a bus fare. I had to walk to Whitfield.

Routine at Ellen Street Home

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Life after being in care

178. I left Burnside and went to stay with my daughter and her mother in Mid Craigie. My daughter's name is [REDACTED], born [REDACTED] 1980. I went to stay there and things were good.
179. In those days there wasn't such a thing as an apprenticeship and because I hadn't stuck in at school I didn't have any 'O' Grades or Highers. I think about that time, eighty-one, eighty-two, there were so many people leaving university with degrees and not getting jobs. They were never going to pick someone like me. Whereas days before the local council would pick so many people and give the apprenticeships. That got stopped.
180. So I just did what I always did and went back to picking tatties and berries. It was good. My daughter got her first computer, Tandy Special it cost forty pounds. That got her interested in computers. Every time she did well at school it was another computer. You reward bairns that do well, it's important, it was great. That lasted until she was about eleven and then me and her mother broke up.
181. I still see my daughter every weekend. She's forty-two. I have three grandchildren. I'll never forget it. Scotland were in France in the World Cup. I had the Braveheart paint on because I was going to the pub with my mates to watch the football. Then my daughter had the bairn, [REDACTED]. So I had to go to the hospital, to the maternity ward with all this paint on my face. Then there was [REDACTED], he was much later, 2008.
182. [REDACTED] is a good singer, she won the [REDACTED] medal. It was a competition they had for singing at her school, [REDACTED] Society. She was only seven.

183. I was a taxi driver for nearly thirty years. When you work nightshift people don't phone you because they are scared they are going to wake you. But my brother [REDACTED] has been a great help to me. He is the only one I talk to about things. He is my youngest brother. He phones me every day, sometimes twice a day.
184. My mum had been in hospital. She was then put in an old folk's home down in Monifieth. She didn't like being there and wanted her own house. They figured if they got carers in a couple of times a day she would manage.
185. Then Covid came along. They didn't know what was happening and someone had to be there for my mother. She doesn't stay far from me. That's the way it has been ever since. I make her tea and supper and get her hot water bottle. I do all the washing, hang the clothes, take her shopping, everything. She is eighty-seven now. She likes to go out but her eyesight is going.

Impact

186. When I first passed my driving test I went back to Scone Children's Home for a look. It's an old folk's home now.
187. Years ago I read something about the enquiry into people that had been in care and that they wanted people to come forward. I thought about it and thought I'm not going there. It then came up in one of these Government emails and I realised they were still doing it. I thought maybe someone needs me to corroborate what they were saying. Someone may be needed me as a witness to go to court and I was sitting back not doing anything. I persuaded myself it wouldn't have an effect on me.
188. It was only when I started talking about, the first time in forty years. I tried to put it to the back of my mind but it wasn't going back. That's when I spoke to my doctor about it. He gave me tablets and said I had to go see a psychologist because I had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I had to wait for six months. My first three appointments were on the phone but ever since I've attended every fortnight.

189. I'm finding it helpful. I think it was the second time I went to see her she said we were going to try something. I didn't believe she could turn me around from how I was feeling to how I was feeling when I left. That feeling only lasted a day or two but it got me thinking if I persevered with it there would be an ending, a good ending. It's learning to live with what's at the front of my head and not at the back.
190. I would pass some of these care homes, **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
Secondary Institutions - to be published later I knew what the place represented. I would shut it off by swearing. They've bulldozed Burnside, it's gone never to be seen again.
191. I've been given breathing exercises. Everybody has nightmare now and again. I knew what mine were about and they got worse and worse and were coming closer to me. This person was at my front door. As I was looking through the peek hole I could see them as I remembered them then. That freaks me out. It got to the stage where I moved a set of drawers so I was blocking the front door.
192. I knew that no one was going to come through the door but I couldn't get to sleep knowing there was nothing stopping it. The stage I'm at now, I have to wait until the daylight arrives because there is protection with daylight. Although I have the curtains drawn, I have the TV and a lamp on so if I do fall asleep, I'm not waking up in the darkness. When I see the light coming in the morning, I open the curtains, that's when I get my best sleep.
193. I have a good relationship with my daughter and my mum. But I wouldn't tell them about any of this. My mum would blame herself and I'm not having that. It's nothing to do with my mum. I blame myself for so many things. Dr Redford told me I shouldn't play the blame game.
194. I blame myself for not sticking in at school. It all started for me with those teachers and their bits of leather hitting me. Violence, violence, violence, and it just went from there. I was beat by the time I went into care.

Reporting of Abuse

195. I've never spoken to the police about what happened to me whilst I was in care.

Records

196. I've never seen my records. I don't want to drag all that up going through them. There will be things in the back of my head that have stuck there. And it's best they stay there. I would probably read thing from that social worker Christie that probably won't be true. That would just annoy me.

Lessons to be Learned

197. I think if you put the whole thing together. Put a circle here and a circle there, they would all meet in the middle and be mostly the same. I tend not to watch the news but somethings I have heard recently has caused me a great deal of upset. I was in care in the seventies and things have happened in the nineties and two-thousands.
198. They've not learned because it's the same kind of things that happened all these years ago. I don't know, there's always going to be a certain amount of people who slip through the net. If the good people would come forward and stop the bad people. Because they all stick by each other because that's the way they see themselves winning. If you said something about another member of staff, they wouldn't call you a whistle blower they would call you a grass. If the good stand against the bad everybody's got a chance.
199. I'll continue to sing the praises of the good members of staff but those people knew something was going on. They probably witnessed it themselves. For whatever reason, it could be they were frightened of losing their job, maybe scared of these people. If they had got together and spoke up. Maybe not in the seventies but talking about the nineties and two-thousands, there is no excuse because society has

changed. If people thought, they better not do something because they would get reported. 2022 and I'm still hearing things on the news. It's not on, it really isn't.

200. If the Inquiry makes it easier for members of staff who witness something to come forward and proper investigations and people knew there was going to be consequences. There is always going to be bad people out there. It's up to the good people to say enough is enough.

201. When I think of Sunni from Burnside. He didn't say that was ridiculous what you did to that bairn I'm going to report you. He made him face me. Sunni didn't know he was going to come the next day and punch me in the toilet or he probably wouldn't have done it. But he took a lead in the hope this guy would be so embarrassed he wouldn't do it again. That guy was never going to change.

202. Training is a big thing. If asked what your experience was in care with the social work, I think some would be quite shocked and maybe deal with things differently. We give them all these pieces of paper but I think they need that wee bit more. If you hear people's stories, it doesn't matter what they are, hearing them from someone who has been through it is quite shocking.

Other information

203. 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... 
Dated... 26/08/2022 
GPP