

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GMX

Support person present: No

1. My name is GMX My date of birth is 1939. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Background and qualifications

2. My qualifications include a Master of Arts honours degree in Psychology, a Diploma in Education and a further Diploma in Educational Psychology. I was an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. I was a Chartered Clinical Psychologist and a Chartered Forensic Psychologist registered with my professional body the British Psychological Society and also with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).
3. Between 1963 and 1965 I was a teacher at Peebles High School. I then qualified as an educational psychologist and started with Glasgow Educational Services in 1965. From 1969 until 1983 I was the head of Psychological Services at Glasgow with a commitment to the Scottish Prison Service Polmont YOI and Glenochil YOI in addition to helping develop the Barlinnie Special Unit.
4. In 1983, after a thorough interview with references from my previous employers I was appointed as and subsequently at Carstairs State hospital. The interview was considerably more thorough because the post had been created and was based in the State

Hospital to service a number of facilities in addition to the State Hospital, namely the Scottish Prison Service, the National Health Service and the clinical psychology training courses at Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities. All these bodies were represented on the interview panel with also two top grade psychology assessors. These assessors from the English Special Hospitals are required for all top grade posts. References would have been essential for such a high grading post and would have been fully utilised in the interview and the decision making. The level of interview was considerably higher than that utilised for standard care related posts.

5. At Carstairs I ran national forensic training courses in conjunction with the universities. I was also an honorary senior lecturer at Glasgow University and an honorary fellow at Edinburgh University during that period. I remained there until 1993 when I retired to set up a private forensic psychology consultancy.
6. Between 1993 and 1996 I was employed as a consultant clinical psychologist by Lanarkshire Health Care Trust providing a clinical psychology service within the NHS department and by the Scottish Prison Service providing a forensic service to Shotts Prison, Low Moss Prison and Polmont YOI in addition to advising on the development of a prison based psychology service which began operation in 1996.
7. Between 1996 and 1999 I was employed by the Scottish Prison Service as a lead specialist working with and developing services for difficult, violent prisoners. Between 1999 and 2006 I was employed as a consultant clinical psychologist with Lanarkshire Primary Care Trust alongside providing a forensic psychology service to the courts and lawyers, carrying out both civil and criminal work. I found the travelling between home and Lanarkshire too much and stopped this work in 2006. I subsequently undertook medico-legal work for the Keil Centre, Edinburgh on an associate basis from 2006 until November 2018.
8. As a result of medical issues with my hip I was unable to drive and this forced me to stop work. I am now currently fully retired and not involved in any employment.

██████████, Glasgow

9. ██████████ in Glasgow is a ██████████ adolescent unit. It serves the west coast of Scotland and not just Glasgow. I worked as part of a clinical team within the centre from 1969 to 1983. There was a core group of psychiatrists, psychologists, teachers, social workers and occupational therapists. The occupational therapists would work with the children doing activities and help them at home in their family life.
10. The consultant psychiatrist Dr Margaret Smith was in overall charge of the clinical team below which were three other psychiatrists. Because ██████████ was run by the NHS the psychiatrists would be considered to be above me. I resented this mainly because I was accustomed to being autonomous but because multidisciplinary team working was evolving during this period and any resentment might have been in relation to management issues. This would have been resolved in the weekly multidisciplinary management meetings and would not have affected negatively our professional standards of patient care and the treatment of the patients.
11. In my role as head of psychological services I assessed and worked with clients in conjunction with other colleagues and also supervised the educational day centre. Half of my role was with the Scottish Prison Service working at Polmont, then eventually Glenochil and Barlinnie special unit. I also served as a civil service assessor in the appointment of prison governors. In parallel to this I was also involved in developing the services within ██████████.
12. The treatment model ██████████ was in those days based on the Maxwell Jones social psychiatry model with family therapy and community approaches. This was a popular method in the sixties and seventies and involved a lot of interpersonal interaction between patients and staff. This would explain some of the treatment which would possibly not have been used today.
13. In conjunction with the education department a day unit was established within ██████████ ██████████ for children who were unable to survive in school. It wasn't a residential unit. Children would come in for half a day, four days a week and be taught

by the two functioning teachers in one of the two classes along with an occupational therapist and a social worker. I would mostly be involved with this group of people who were dealing with the children. The teachers seconded to work with us came from the Glasgow education department. Both classes were in a normal class setup and there were usually about six or seven children in each class but sometimes less. In most cases the classwork was at a remedial level. We weren't equipped to provide a normal secondary education.

14. The children who were coming in on a daily basis came on their own to the centre without a social worker, member of staff or their families. Most of the children who came to us actually had socialisation issues where the children had problems fitting into the normal class situation. Some children, after class, would come and have a coffee and chat with me. They might talk about things that were going on in their families or things that had been happening to them. It was what we called group therapy.
15. I would do one to one therapy with the children in quite a few situations. More often than not it would be with the older children, both male and female, who were maybe fifteen or sixteen. They were quite happy to come and chat with me about things. Occasionally I would have a trainee student with me but usually I would be on my own with the child. At other times it would be in a group setting with other children. These sessions could last anything from a few minutes up to an hour or so. It just depended what they wanted to talk about. On occasion they would disclose abuse that was going on at home. There were no rules at that time about having a chaperone present when speaking to a child even a child of the opposite sex. At that time it wasn't something that we even thought about or considered.

*Referral process*

16. Children, both boys and girls, would be referred [REDACTED] mostly by the social work department but sometimes from the children's panel. Children came from both the home setting and from residential care homes. Most would be between the

ages of fourteen to sixteen. There was an occasional younger one who would go to the children's education psychology departments.

17. Children wouldn't be referred to me directly. They would be referred [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. When the referral was received there would be a multi-disciplinary case conference involving the psychiatrists, teachers, social worker and myself and we would decide if the unit was going to be useful to them, if we could manage them and what services we could provide to that child. If it was agreed that we could help, the next stage would be to invite the parents, the child and their own social worker to a meeting.
18. The sort of children that were referred to us were mostly referred because of behavioural issues at school, difficulties at home or generally getting into trouble. Some were because they weren't able to go to school for various reasons. The main thrust of the centre was to give the children some form of education. Most children were from the Glasgow area but there were some who came from further afield which caused its own difficulties for them but they were a rarity.
19. I mostly dealt with the children within the unit but occasionally there were adults who were also referred to the centre by the court. These included adult prisoners coming back into the community. Children were generally with us anything from a few months but sometimes some continued longer until they left school and continued into adult life. It really just depended on the individual. I would say in my case load I maybe saw about ten children spread over a month. I was working in Polmont, Glenochil and subsequently Barlinnie so I might only have been spending two or three days a week at the centre. At that time I was living in Polmont, near to Polmont YOI, although it was called Polmont Borstal at that time.
20. The teachers looked after the children on a day-to-day basis within the unit. Part of my role was to be provide a psychological backup if they wanted to talk to someone about particular difficulties within their home or elsewhere. I also ran small group activities from time to time. Sometimes if someone was playing up in the class the teacher would ask them if they wanted to come and speak to me. If they came to me I would give

them time and listen to what they had to say then try and find out what was bothering them.

21. I didn't work a lot directly with the children within the centre and it was more indirectly as part of the team which was operating within the framework of the centre. I would work along with the psychiatrist and the social worker in finding out exactly what the child needed and what would be best for them. This could be involvement in group discussions or specific educational assessments. Sometimes we found the child had dyslexia or other educational deficits like autism, attention deficit disorder and dyspraxia. Some of these became more evident in the 1980s.

*Review of children*

22. The multi-disciplinary team would have a meeting every Wednesday afternoon and we would discuss and review cases for each child. We would again decide and make sure we were following the best course of treatment for each child.

*Training in dealing with children*

23. Apart from my teacher training I was a qualified educational psychologist. I can only say I had experience dealing with children up to the age of eighteen from my time teaching at Peebles High School between 1963 and 1965.

*Vetting*

24. I am not sure what vetting was done before I started working [REDACTED]. I think this would have been done at the interview stage and through references. I don't imagine any police checks were ever carried out because back in the 60s and 70s things were not nearly as tight and controlled as they are now.

## Dee Buchanan

25. I remember Dee Buchanan from my dealings with her [REDACTED]. She was referred to Dr Margaret Smith the consultant psychiatrist by GIS [REDACTED] GIS SNR [REDACTED] at Balgay List 'D' School for Girls in Dundee when she was about 15 years old in order to provide therapeutic follow up when she was due to be returned to her home following her time at Balgay. Dr Margaret Smith took on responsibility for Dee and involved the rest of the team, including myself, in assessing Dee and establishing the best course of treatment for her.
26. Dee had been born and brought up in Aberdeen and appeared to have presented behavioural problems in the family. She had been placed in Balgay due to being outwith parental control. Her parents couldn't manage her. I think she was taken into care to protect her and her family. There was some incident with boys but I can't remember the exact details because it was so long ago. While she was in Balgay her family moved to Fairlie in Ayrshire.
27. Dee did not come [REDACTED] for the education side of things because she was deemed to be totally unsuitable. The treatment we moved into for Dee was all based on facilitating her move back into her family home in Ayrshire. She came into the centre on a couple of occasions with her parents to see the clinical team for family therapy. Dee upset her mother a lot and often the father acted like a referee between them. I also saw her on my own occasionally [REDACTED] about three or four times over a four-month period. These meetings would have been in my office.
28. There was one occasion when she ran away from home to stay with her boyfriend. Her boyfriend brought her in [REDACTED]. She refused to go back to Balgay with anybody else so I had to take her back and hand her over to the authorities there. We decided not to get the police involved. I drove her there in my car and it was just her and me in the car. That journey was probably about two and a half or three hours. We didn't stop anywhere. I have driven children home on a number of occasions but not very often and not for such a long journey.

29. After she was discharged from Balgay and went home to her parents it was agreed that she would continue to come in to see me [REDACTED] on an infrequent basis until she had settled. It was also arranged that I should do a home visit after Dee was home to try and help her settle in. I went to her home in Fairlie where I saw Dee with her mother. Dee was sometimes obnoxious and bullied her mother who was quite an anxious person. Dee suddenly got up and left the room going out into the back garden. I remained talking with her mother but eventually I suggested I should go to see what had happened to her as her mother was quite worried about her. I went and persuaded her to come back in with difficulty. She was angry as she thought I had come down to see her and I was speaking with her mother rather than with her. I tried to explain the situation and she came in. The atmosphere was very tense, and I eventually left and drove back home.

*Discipline/sanctions*

30. At no time did I ever sanction or discipline Dee. This would not have been part of my job. My role was to sit with her, listen to her, talk and discuss things and offer explanations or clarify behaviours. Punishment isn't something I would do.

*Dee's discharge from [REDACTED]*

31. We terminated contact with her [REDACTED] as it was considered that no further contact with her was necessary. The last clinical contact I had with Dee would have been in the 1980s when she was about sixteen. Dee's father maintained contact with me for support, and at some point he told me she had left home to go to London and had an older boyfriend there.

*Visit at Biggar*

32. The last time I saw Dee was when she came to see me with her boyfriend at my house in Biggar. She would have been in her twenties. They were driving back to Glasgow from England and were passing my house so they called in for a social visit. I was still keeping in touch with Dee's father and I must have given him my address to pass on



to Dee so she could pop in and see me. I didn't have an issue with this. A lot of my clients knew my house telephone number. There were no mobile phones at that time. They visited us and it was quite a pleasant but short visit. It should be borne in mind that I was not aware of any issues as has now emerged.

33. Her father subsequently phoned me and again expressed concern that Dee had applied for and been accepted on a course for hypnotherapy. He was concerned about what trouble she could get into with this. I understand that Dee's mother died around this time and after that I had no further contact with the family. I am not sure if Mr [REDACTED] is still alive and if he is, I am sure he would be able to corroborate much of what I have said.

### **Allegations of Abuse**

#### *Specific Allegations by Dee Buchanan*

34. In paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of Dee Buchanan she says "*On one occasion I went back to see my parents with [REDACTED] GMX He was the only person on my side. The meeting didn't last long and I stood up and ran off. [REDACTED] GMX followed me into some woods at the back of my house and that was the first occasion that he sexually assaulted me. He was kissing me and grabbing at my boobs and the rest of my body. He was lying on top of me. He put his hand down the front of my pants. I didn't have intercourse with him at this time. I was shocked by what he did.*"
35. Yes I did go back to see her mother in Fairlie and Dee became annoyed because I was speaking to her mother rather than to her. She stomped out into the back garden in a temper. Her mother was worried about her so I went out and talked her into coming back in. I wasn't aware there were woods there and we certainly didn't go into the woods and what she described happening couldn't have happened in the back garden. Her scenario of events is totally different relating more to her fantasies than reality. These were unknown to me until the police later disclosed her allegations. The assault she refers to did not in fact take place.

36. In paragraph 31 Dee says *"This sexual assault continued through my teenage years from thirteen to sixteen. Most of the assaults took place within his office [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Glasgow. When I left Beechwood and went to Balgay Children's Home in Dundee he would get me to travel to see him most Fridays. I was the last appointment of the day. He often used to take me out for dinner in the evening which I am sure he charged as expenses. Some of the sexual assaults happened in his car."*
37. Dee was referred by <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] at Balgay and was never at Beechwood as is in her statement. She was fifteen or sixteen when she was referred [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and not thirteen as she states. I know she wasn't at Beechwood because I remember seeing the referral and discussing her background before she was accepted. She was admitted to Balgay because of her behaviour in the community when she was living in Aberdeen. The family then moved to Fairlie in Ayrshire.
38. In paragraphs 32, 34 and 49 she continues *"I didn't have sexual intercourse with him but I would have to masturbate him and perform oral sex. I managed somehow to stop him having full intercourse with me. He also chewed gum and slurped coffee and to this day I have a phobia of these things."*
39. *"I was thirteen years old when I first arrived at Balgay and was to stay there for about three years when I left at age sixteen. There were about sixty girls at the school and we lived in small dormitories. It was a girls only school and as far as I remember we were quite close in age. There was a communal dining room. The school was not locked and you could come and go as you pleased. I remember that all the bedrooms were upstairs in the building. I was still having to see <sup>GMX</sup> [REDACTED] every Friday afternoon and the sexual abuse continued."*
40. *"I was in regular touch with my social worker and could make a phone call by arrangement to her at any time I requested it. I never told her about <sup>GMX</sup> [REDACTED] I was visited on one occasion by <sup>GMX</sup> [REDACTED] at Balgay but the rest of the time I would have to take the train or bus most Fridays to keep my appointments with him. I had a cursory visit from my parents on one occasion during my stay at Balgay."*

41. I never visited Dee at Balgay. The only time I was at Balgay for Dee was when she ran away and I drove her back. In relation to what she says about coming to see me on Friday afternoons this is not possible because I worked in the Barlinnie Special unit every Friday afternoon.
42. In paragraphs 50 and 51 she goes on to say *"The regular Friday meeting and the sexual abuse by GMX continued throughout my time at Balgay. He told me that I would have to keep my mouth shut about what was happening as he was a respected psychologist and I was just a young delusional, delinquent child in care. No one would believe me and not believe him. I would get the bus or train to Glasgow every Friday. I was always the last appointment of the day. He would take me back to the station in Glasgow so that I could get back to Balgay. I was aware that GMX did not like menstrual blood so I used to pretend that I had my periods to protect me from his advances."*
43. She is delusional and a sexual fantasist. I realise that now in hindsight. Dee wasn't formally diagnosed with anything at the time she was at [REDACTED] and was just believed to have a behavioural disorder. I have never had any issues with menstrual blood.
44. In paragraph 52 Dee says *"On one occasion he took me to his own house in Biggar. It was to let me see what normal family life was like. I felt terrible as it was obvious to me what was going on between him and me and I am sure that his family must have picked up on this. I remember that his daughter was [REDACTED]. I know that GMX's wife has since divorced him."*
45. At some point it was agreed with the clinical team and her parents that she could come to my home and spend the weekend there. The reason was to get her out of the assessment centre and also to see her in another family setting. I seemed to be the only person who was able to manage her. My house was a four-bedroom bungalow near Polmont, not Biggar as she says. I picked her up in Glasgow on the Friday afternoon to spend the weekend with my family. My wife at that time was an experienced psychiatric nurse and we had two young children. We were together all

the time over that weekend. The visit was relaxed and uneventful. She was calm and played with my children. My wife found her to be quite pleasant and not problematic. I kept her father informed of progress. When she left I took her to get a train back home from Polmont to meet her father in Glasgow. My daughter [REDACTED].

46. I occasionally had other older adolescent girls [REDACTED] at my house. They were sixteen or older. I took them home just to get the girls away from the hostel they were in. They came over the weekend and babysat our children. This wasn't seen at that time as being unusual because this was the therapeutic approach we were using and people were trusted. This was the way things were done in those days.
47. In paragraph 53 Dee says "GMX [REDACTED] spoke about his "special girls" that he was seeing and I am very sure that these girls were also victims of his grooming and subsequent sexual abuse."
48. Almost everything she has said is untrue. There is very little that she has said that is actually true. I have never abused Dee Buchanan or any other child or young person.
49. In paragraph 54 Dee also says "GMX [REDACTED] discovered that I had a high IQ and was keen for me to complete my education. He wanted me to leave Balgay and move back to Ayrshire where I could attend Ardrossan Academy and complete my schooling. GMX [REDACTED] was pushing to get me into a flat on my own as I would not have to go back to my parents."
50. I had never pushed for her to get a flat and I never discussed this with her. In any case she didn't go into a flat. She went home to her parents when she left Balgay and started at Ardrossan Academy. This was all arranged by Balgay who did all the work. Her parents told me this. It was nothing to do with [REDACTED].
51. In paragraph 57 Dee says "In 1993 I was contacted by GMX [REDACTED] who had seen an article in a magazine that was about me. I was married at this time. He told me that he often came to Aberdeen on business and wanted to meet up with me. I told him I was

*married and couldn't meet with him. My husband at the time who was present when I took the call tried to encourage me to contact the police but I just couldn't do it."*

52. It wasn't in 1993, as I wasn't in Aberdeen then. It would have been between 1996 and 1999. At that time I was going up to Peterhead Prison every second Tuesday with work. While in the hotel I was reading a local magazine, the Leopard, and saw an advertisement about Dee doing hypnotherapy treatment in the Aberdeen area. I had spoken to her father at some point when Dee was in London and the fact that she was doing hypnotherapy petrified her father because he thought she could inflict a lot of damage to the people she was dealing with. I sent her a letter suggesting the possibility of meeting for a chat and told her the hotel where I was staying. She never contacted me back.
53. In paragraph 59 she says *"The abuse stopped when I was sixteen and I no longer had to see him. I was still under the care of the social work department and he did try to keep up the visits but I was finding more excuses to stop him coming to me or for me to visit him in Glasgow. I think that he only visited me twice at my flat."*
54. This isn't true. I had far more to do with my time than visit her or try and keep in touch with her. She is a fantasist and has picked up other people's life stories.

#### **General response to allegations**

55. Everything that Dee has alleged that I have done is untrue. None of these ever happened and they were all part of her fantasies and her delusional behaviour. I never abused Dee in any way. The passage of time has in no way affected my memory of events in relation to her allegations. Some of my memories are vague but the allegations she has made are definitely not true and did not happen.
56. I have no idea why Dee has made up these allegations about me. Looking back it could have been because in her mind she may have actually wanted these things to happen between us and for me to abuse her. Dee never made any advances towards

me. If what Dee has claimed had actually happened then I agree it would have been classed as abuse but they did not happen.

57. I am not even convinced that the information she has provided is accurate in timescale and specifying her age at the different events. It is unfortunate that there are not social work, medical or educational records available to provide a solid basis to start from but this is not surprising bearing in mind they would relate to a period some 40 years ago.
58. Her sequencing of events is distorted with her never having been in Beechwood nor attended [REDACTED] from there. She did not go on to Balgay from there. She states she attended to see me for appointments on a Friday afternoon. There were no arrangements made for appointments on Fridays last thing as she states. Between 1972 and 1982 I was providing a service to the Barlinnie Special Unit on Friday afternoons, returning home to Polmont at the end of the day.
59. Much of the information she gives in her statement is factually incorrect as is her constant reference to sexual activity in a range of settings, none of which took place apart from in her fantasy world. No sexual encounters ever took place. She presents herself very much as a sexual fantasist
60. I would like to add that if you looked at her background it is evident that she created a background for herself that wasn't real. I established this through her family and all the other things I found out. Her family would have supported me throughout all of this.

### **Police investigation**

61. I was contacted in 2005 by Strathclyde Police and advised that Dee Buchanan had made a complaint about me. Along with my lawyer I arranged to meet with the investigating team, who I believe were part of the specialist abuse team, at Bellshill police station. We went over the allegations and they took note of my responses with indications of people who might have been able to corroborate what I had said.

62. This was the first time that I had heard the stories that Dee was making up. The allegations she made against me were the same as she has made every time since, and the same as the ones that are in her statement which I have read.
63. I have had no further contact with Strathclyde Police, but my lawyer later confirmed that the police had followed up the information received from me and had decided to take no further action due to a lack of evidence. It was established by this police investigation in 2005 that it was all untrue. They also said that she could have been charged with malicious reporting.
64. I had heard from someone, although I cannot remember who, that she tried to pursue these allegations again in 2014 but I was never contacted by the police or told anything. I am not sure if there was a second investigation but I heard that Dee was telling people that the police were still investigating when they weren't.

#### **Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)**

65. I received papers in 2019 from the Health and Care Professions Council relating to Miss Buchanan's version of events. I believe she had spoken to another psychologist who had put in the complaint on her behalf based on what she had told them. There were hearings where I had the option to attend but I dealt with it all by correspondence. When I first read her allegations I was shocked to read the content which was on the whole factually incorrect and untruthful with a great deal of it bearing no relationship to reality. It dragged on until 2020 when there was a final hearing. At the end the decision of the tribunal was that she was inconsistent and her allegations were unsupported and there was no case to answer. I believe it dragged on for so long because she was difficult to contact and it was difficult to get the information from her. She seemed to avoid putting things on paper.

## **Record Keeping**

66. I don't imagine that after this length of time [REDACTED] will still hold any of these records. Any records which I may have kept personally when I was doing private work would have been destroyed after five years. I used to use a shredding company to dispose of my confidential waste. I do not hold any personal records on Dee Buchanan.

## **Other dealings with Health and Care Professions Council**

67. I have been involved in a separate unrelated hearing with the Health and Care Professions Council. In January 2018 I was asked to provide a report for a 41-year-old female, [REDACTED] who was appearing in court. I saw her on one occasion in my office that I used in Edinburgh and provided a report for the lawyer. In this report I detailed the fact that she was very suggestible and easily led. She had a male friend who sat in during the interview.
68. Two years later she contacted me having managed to trace me through [REDACTED] and asked me for advice. This shows she was actively looking for me. I told her I couldn't as I had retired but agreed to give her informal advice. I subsequently kept in contact with her over a period of around two months. This was a mutual relationship and there was never any physical or sexual behaviour between us. I realise now that I shouldn't have carried on contacting her but there were no criminal offences involved. I have never met her or spoke to her since 2018. All contact was by email.
69. The Health and Care Professions Council held that my behaviour was inappropriate and I was told I have been struck off and was not allowed to practice. I am currently in the process of challenging this decision. I cannot see how I can be struck off when I had retired and left the HCPC in 2018. I cannot be guilty of any breach of the rules or inappropriate behaviour when I was not registered with the HCPC. If I had been a



registered psychotherapist then my contact with her could have been considered to be inappropriate but I wasn't. I am still awaiting a decision.

**Other information**

- 70. 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..... 04 December 2023 .....