

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Caroline CAMPBELL

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is Caroline Veronica Campbell. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1969. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Leith then we moved to Wester Hailes in August 1970 when I was just a wee baby. My mum was [REDACTED] and my dad was [REDACTED] but he was called [REDACTED]. They had been married since 1955. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
3. As I look back on it, it was a good upbringing. [REDACTED] never wanted for anything. My mum and dad both worked. My dad was a lorry driver for the freight liners. My dad worked during the day and my mum worked nightshift in [REDACTED] factory. I went to Dumbryden Primary and I loved it. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED] were disciplined but not to the point that some parents do. [REDACTED] did take a doing but in those days it wasn't against the law to batter your child. My dad was very strict. Your room would be checked every morning and god help you if anything was out of

place. My mum and dad went to church. They were Church of Scotland and went to Holy Trinity Church.

5. Social work weren't involved with our family until I went to high school and started skiving school. I went to Wester Hailes Education Centre, known as WHEC. I loved primary but when I went to Wester Hailes I met new people and every subject was in a different classroom. When you go to high school you have to be bigger than you are. I never bullied anyone but I could handle myself. People would ask me if I wanted to go up the town so I would do that and then I would go home twenty minutes after school so my parents would think that was where I had been.
6. I was chucked out of WHEC in first year for skiving. No one had asked why I was missing school or told me what would happen if I didn't go. I went to a couple of panels on Semple Street in Edinburgh. I went to Canonmills which was down from Drummond High in Broughton. That was a special school for people who skived school. It was a nice school. I stayed at home when I went there and I liked going. I had to get two buses so I was up the town and I was with people who were the same as me. I also went to Tynecastle High School. I was permanently excluded from Canonmills and then I think I went to Tynecastle before Guthrie's but I'm not sure about that.
7. I had a social worker called Fiona McCann. She was lovely. I was at panels a couple of times and I was put on a supervision order but it didn't stop me skiving school. I was never in any trouble. I never stole or drank or took drugs, it was just the fact I wasn't going to school. I would rather go up town with my pals and sit in Princes Street Gardens or in their houses.
8. There were three panel members. I used to sit with my mum and dad at panels. My social worker, Fiona, would be there and David from the court. No one spoke to me before the panel. They suggested that I went to Doctor Guthrie's so my mum and dad took me home to pack and then my social worker took me there. She came home with us while I packed. I didn't care about going there. I was a teenager and I thought I knew everything. I was twelve or thirteen and in second year at school.

Doctor Guthrie's Girls' School

9. There were three houses Angus, Brechin and Ogilvie. Angus was my house. It was all girls and they were all over twelve years old. There were eleven girls in Angus, it was full. Brechin had eight, nine or ten girls in it. There were three in Ogilvie. Two day pupils came in. [REDACTED] was one from Muirhouse and she came in for the classes. She was there from eight in the morning and stayed until five and went home.
10. Ogilvie was the leaver's house. There was no housemother in Ogilvie and no social workers walking in and out. Everything was there but they had to do all of their own cooking and cleaning. You were preparing yourself to leave.
11. I remember it was a big white building. You went upstairs to the front door and then to the right there was an office. To the left was Mr [REDACTED] office, he was [REDACTED]. You went past the main office and there was a double door to Brechin. There was another door before that which took you up a set of stairs to Angus. Under those stairs there were cupboards that we would be locked in overnight.
12. There was a tearoom downstairs which had old hard seats attached to the table. You went there to line up to go to class. The classrooms were on the other side of the tearoom. You had sewing class upstairs and along a bit from that you had your cooking class. If you came out of the tearoom then there were double doors that took you into a forecourt. At the bottom of the forecourt on the right hand side was the laundry with the big roller. I don't remember what Brechin looked like, I was only in there once.
13. When you came out and went to the upper floor then there was only one way up and one way down to Angus. When you walked in to Angus you had your sitting room to the front of you. To the left were rooms one and two and they were the only single rooms. Rooms three, four and five slept two girls and room six was for three girls. If you went to the right there was the dining and sitting room combined. There was a staff room for the housemother to sleep in at night. There was a smoker's room and a kitchen across from it. Through the kitchen there was a shower room and somewhere through that way you could go to Ogilvie.

14. Mr ^{MTA} was ^{SNR} and [REDACTED] was Mrs ^{EQE}. I didn't like Mrs ^{EQE}. She never listened to anything we would tell her. I knew she was a man because she told us. She would say that if you didn't have boobs then you can get fake ones and gesture to her own chest.
15. The housemothers were the only staff in Angus but there were other staff in the building. ^{EQL} was the beast. He was a social worker and he's the one that's dead. There was another social worker called ^{zHSB} who used to drive the minibus. Frusie, Miss Waters and Miss Greg were the housemothers. Miss Crighton was the sewing teacher and Mrs Rankin taught cooking. I liked Mrs Rankin, she was alright.
16. The downstairs main door was open from seven in the morning until ten or eleven at night then it would be locked. Whoever was in the office would go into the staffroom downstairs and go to sleep. Mr ^{MTA} lived in a house [REDACTED] but the door would be locked.

Routine at Doctor Guthrie's Girls' School

First day

17. A guy answered the door but dressed as a woman. That was Mrs ^{EQE} whose actual name was ^{EQE}. Fiona was still with me and my mum and dad came as well. My dad took us all up in the car. My mum and dad came in to reception and then they had to go and I was taken up to my house.

Mornings and bedtime

18. The housemother woke us up at 7 am. It would be either Frusie, Miss Waters or Miss Greg. Frusie was a wee old woman and she was lovely. You would hear her coming. She would be singing "three crows sitting on a wall". There would be one housemother on from about eight o'clock at night until eight in the morning then another housemother would take over. In the morning you got up and walked through to the

kitchen and it would be either porridge or toast. That was it. You would get washed and come back to get dressed. Then you would start cleaning the house, mopping floors and things like that.

19. When I first went in I was in room four and I shared with a girl from the Inch called [REDACTED]. After you had been in for a while you would be moved to a single room. There were two beds and two wardrobes when I was in room four. You couldn't put anything on the walls. I had my own clothes and my hairdryer. It was locked up in case it was stolen but the lassies in there wouldn't steal off you, they were like family. If I needed my hairdryer then I would need to go and ask for it and then put it back. That was also in case you used it to kill yourself. Guthrie's was like a prison.

Mealtimes/Food

20. You had three meals a day and toast at night but no snacks. We had porridge and toast every day for breakfast. I can't remember what was for lunch. I think it was chips and fish fingers or something like that. Tea time might be pie and chips. You always had chips or mash and they were disgusting. The food was cheap and nasty. You were never fed properly. You had to eat what you were given or you would starve. I often had nothing. I've had an eating disorder since the time I was in there. I didn't know where the food was cooked. I never saw a cook other than the cooking teacher and she wasn't making the meals.
21. I remember we had to show off the tops we had made in sewing class. They had invited people up and I think parents came as well. Mrs Rankin decided that all of the kids would cook lunch and we were to make frogs legs. I wouldn't eat it. [REDACTED] tried it.

Washing/bathing

22. Each house had a shower area. It was a big room and when you went in there were sinks in the middle with mirrors. There were toilets on one side and there were two baths and three or four showers.

23. The housemothers would stand at the door and watch. The bathroom didn't have a door so they would stand there. They thought everyone was suicidal so they would watch or they might come in and wash your hair. You would see EQL in the house walking up and down outside of the bathroom. He was always hovering about at the shower door.
24. When you came back on a Monday you had nit lotion put on you. It was green shampoo and it stunk. God help you if it got in your eyes or mouth. You had your hair washed over the sinks on a Monday in case you had brought head lice back with you.

Clothing/uniform

25. They thought they were being smart, torturing you with what they made you wear. They gave us Jesus sandals to wear. They would take your shoes off you and lock them away so you had to wear a skirt and Jesus sandals. It was to stop you running away and to embarrass you when you were out because people thought you were in a church when you weren't. You wore any top that you had but you had to wear the Jesus sandals.

Leisure time

26. There was nothing to do at the weekend. If you didn't go home, the staff might take you out on a walk. We did roller skating or basketball. Angus's sitting room and dining room was small. Half of it was the sitting room so you had a couch, two armchairs, a fireplace and a television and the other half was a dining area.
27. You weren't given any extra cigarettes at the weekend or anything. If Frusie was on then she would say that if you were quiet then you could have an extra fag. She was like a wee old granny.

Trips and holidays

28. They used to take us out in the minibus. There were no trips away overnight. They would take you out to get your hair cut once a month. They would take you to get new shoes once a month and then your old ones had to be binned. They didn't pay for that, my mum paid for me. If they took you to the dentist then it would be you, another girl and a staff member who would go. One weekend Miss Denholm took me and another six lassies out in Edinburgh and we legged it from there. Me and ██████████ ended up in Stranraer.
29. We used to go to the hairdresser in Dalkeith. They wanted short hair for every lassie in there to stop transporting nits. My hair was long when I went in there and then I ended up with it short and spiked but you weren't given gel to spike it up. It was a boy haircut.
30. We went to Doctor Guthrie's Boys' School for swimming. It was just down the road and it was a disgusting place. All the boys' dirty trunks were all over the place. There was glass above the changing rooms and the boys would climb up and peer in. The pool was dirty and that was where you had to swim.
31. Either ██████████ or ██████████ would take us because they drove the minibus. They would see the boys looking in but they never bothered. We used to shout and they would tell us to just get dressed and then go out and tell the boys to get down but they didn't say it with any force.
32. The cubicles were at the side of the pool with no curtains, just three white tile walls. ██████████ would walk up and down. We wised up to it and would put our swimming costumes on before we went. Coming back you had to put the towel round you and drop your swimming costume. Then you put your clothes on as fast as you could and basically still wet. ██████████ and one of the housemothers would go. ██████████ was always the driver of that minibus.

School

33. There was no education whatsoever. My classes consisted of sewing, cooking, learning how to wash clothes and how to clean a house. A twelve year old should be learning maths, English, history, geography and a foreign language. There was nothing. I feel they were getting me ready to go out and breed. A thirteen year old child shouldn't have to get down and scrub floors. I was there for skiving school and I got no education. I had been doing well at primary school, I was an athlete. I was the fastest runner and I had medals. At Guthrie's I wasn't encouraged to do sport apart from roller skating.
34. We did all of the things you do when you have your own house. There was no education whatsoever. I thought I was learning to have my own house when I was twelve or thirteen but I wasn't, I was cleaning the whole house because they didn't have cleaners coming in.

Healthcare

35. I never saw a doctor. I don't remember anyone needing to see a doctor. There was no nurse or doctor there.

Religious instruction

36. There was no religion and we didn't go to church.

Work

37. You washed and dried your own clothes as well as the laundry for your house. That was a class. There were no cleaners, it was us that cleaned. We would go downstairs and clean Mr ^{MTA} office and the reception area as well as our own house.

Birthdays and Christmas

38. You were given a cake and a card for your birthday. Your parents couldn't visit so they had to wait to see you at the weekend.
39. I went home at Christmas time but just at weekends. You didn't get a two week holiday. If Christmas fell on a Wednesday then that didn't matter, your family got to see you when you got home. Some girls stayed at Christmas. They weren't given presents but they would have been given a horrible Christmas dinner.
40. There was no summer holiday either. Once you were in, that was you in. You only got to go home Friday to Monday all year round. You were there to be punished for what you had done. Some of the lassies in there were crooks and everything else but a lot of us were just there for skiving school. That means there is a problem so you shouldn't have been stuck away at the hands of monsters. I felt like I was in jail but jail would have been easier.
41. They gave you enough to survive but no luxuries or treats. They were getting a lot of money from my mum because I remember seeing notes being handed over. There was no care or nurture.

Visits/Inspections

42. My mum and dad had to make an appointment to visit. I think they just popped in once but they were kept downstairs in the office with Mrs EQE. She came up and said they were there if I wanted to come down and see them. When I went down Mrs EQE was in the office so I didn't get to see them on my own. I only saw them for five minutes. That was during the first three weeks.
43. My parents visited a couple of times but you were always watched by staff members. You would be in the tearoom. There was a parents' day and they could go in your classrooms but a staff member would walk along with you so it would be me with my mum and dad and either EQL zHSB or a housemother.

44. I never once saw my social worker, Fiona, while I was in there. I saw her once when I absconded and that was it, I never saw her again. I don't remember any panels while I was in there, except when I was told that I could leave. My social workers when I went to Guthrie's were zHSB and EQL. They took over and Fiona wasn't involved as soon as I went in there. I never had a conversation with either of them and the only people I could speak to were my mum and dad.
45. I don't remember any inspections. I don't remember workmen or cleaners coming in. No outside people came in so they couldn't see what was going on. I don't know why they didn't have cleaners coming in other than because we could have approached them and told them what was happening.

Family contact

46. For the first three weekends I didn't get to go home because you had to stay in for twenty one days. Then I started going home at the weekend but if I was in solitary then I didn't get out and my parents weren't allowed to come and see me.
47. Going home at the weekend was brilliant. My dad would come and pick me up and take me up the road. There were a few times when I didn't go back on the Monday but the police would come and pick me up so I had to go back. It was the panel's decision that I went there.

Personal possessions

48. You took fags in with you when you came back on a Monday. You weren't given pocket money from the school. You never really needed money because if they took you out then a packed lunch came with you.

Running away

49. I ran away quite a few times and the police usually picked me up and brought me back. I ran away and managed to get all the way to Peterborough with another lassie. We

were brought back by plane and then picked up by social workers. There was a police escort when they heard that we were Doctor Guthrie's girls. They thought we were quite violent so we had a police escort which to me is ridiculous. I would have been about thirteen. When we stopped at the traffic lights I put the window down, opened the door from the outside and I was off. We had been at the top of the road, about two minutes away from Guthrie's. I was picked up by the police again that night and they took me back.

50. When I got in they never locked the door so twenty minutes later I was back out the door. I was in for a while but you could just walk in and out the building.

Discipline

51. You went home at the weekend if you had eighty points. You would get points for behaving. You would get ten points for five days of cleaning, ten points for keeping your temper down and ten points for attending classes.
52. If you didn't have eighty points then you had to make the points up by doing something like cleaning ^{SNR} office. We found out on a Thursday night who had made points and who was going home. If you knew you hadn't made points then you might bring a crochet blanket down for extra points. If I hadn't made points but someone else had made a crochet blanket then they would give me it so I could say I had made it. Mr ^{MTA} would say that I had seventy five points and now I could get the extra five to go home.
53. The points were recorded in Mr ^{MTA}'s notes. He was given a sheet from each housemother and if you were good then you were given full marks. If you were bad then they wrote a comment saying you were bad and Mr ^{MTA} made sure that you didn't get your eighty points and you would have to do something extra like clean his office. You saw them writing down all the time but they never let you see it. The housemothers, the staff in the office and the teachers were always writing things down.

Abuse at Doctor Guthrie's Girls' School

54. [EQL]'s first name was [EQL]. I don't know his second name. He was introduced as [EQL] but we were to call him [EQL]. There was a housemother in the house and there was no reason for [EQL] to be in the house but he was in there regularly. [EQL] was maybe in his forties and he had a moustache and glasses. [zHSB] was more the minibus driver but he was a social worker as well and he was more like your uncle. [EQL] was a paedophile.
55. I don't know when it was but I got my period and I asked the housemother for sanitary towels. She said that I had to go to the office to get them because they didn't keep them up there. When I went down to the office it was [EQL] that was on. [EQL] had to check to see if you had your period. He pushed you over a table and put his hand up your skirt to see if there was blood. If there was blood then he would give you a sanitary towel. I don't know if this happened to any other lassies but that is what happened to me. That wasn't the first time that I had had my period. I had my period since I was in primary six or seven but when I went there sanitary towels weren't something you would take in with you.
56. That same night I got into a fight with [EQL]. I was dragged screaming into the cells. I didn't drink the water so I didn't have anything to drink for twenty four hours. The following day I was put under the stairs, in an actual cupboard. If you were to go into Guthrie's then the stairs were just before the tearoom and there were cupboards underneath them. They were the cupboards that [EQL] would lock you in. He would lock you in there overnight. It was crouching space, you couldn't stand up straight. You would lean on the back wall and fall asleep. I think there were three cupboards under the stairs and only two were used like cells, the other was a cleaning cupboard.
57. The girl in the cupboard next to me was [REDACTED] and she pee'd while she was in there. She took a battering for it in the morning while we were still in the cupboards. It was [EQL] and a woman who battered her. I could smell [EQL] because he wore "Old Spice" aftershave. [REDACTED] was put in solitary after that. She was a wee skinny thing.

She had red marks on her. We never saw her for about a week after that. I'm still in contact with her. I'm still in contact with about six of the lassies from in there.

58. When you got out of there you went to the shower room. The staff stood there with [EQL] and his excuse for being there was that he would stay in case you kicked off. You did kick off again because the guy who was sexually abusing all the lassies was standing watching while you washed yourself. It was degrading. The only thing they never did was take pictures of it.
59. [EQL] would come in and pretend to be your pal. All of the staff in there knew what was happening but they turned a blind eye to it. Open your mouth and you're sacked. They knew what [EQL] was up to but it was punishment. [EQL] was always the one who would take you to solitary which was through beside Ogilvie. It was a mattress on the floor and that was it. [EQL] would come and get you from solitary every so often to take you down for a fag and then you would wake up in your bed. He was always the one who would give you a glass of water and you would see something fizzing at the bottom of it. He used to give you a sleeping tablet in your water. A couple of girls attacked him because they had seen it.
60. You went into solitary for running away or getting into a fight. In there, if you didn't fight then you wouldn't survive. The lassies were lovely but if you got into a fight then you fought until staff separated you.
61. You would be in solitary until they decided you could get out. It might be a month or it might be a week. They would bring you out to get washed and they would stand there and watch you getting washed. You were given three meals a day and a cigarette after each meal and then one before you went to bed. I never ate the meals at all, I chucked them away.
62. When you were in solitary [EQL] always gave you a glass of water. He would have his hand round the glass of water but there would be a tablet in the bottom of the glass and you could see it fizzing. One of the girls asked me on Facebook if I ever got [EQL]'s

favourite water” in solitary. I said yes but I never took it. He used to tell us it was a mint to make it taste better.

63. They would come and take you to the office for a fag. EQL would sometimes be in the office overnight. There was always a staff member in the office overnight. If it was zHSB then you never saw zHSB. He was lovely. If it was EQL then you knew he was there. He would come and take you down for a fag and you would wake up upstairs sore and covered in blood so you knew you had been sexually assaulted. You didn't know if the fag had been drugged but you knew that you had been drugged.
64. When I was twelve or thirteen my periods came regularly and then for two or three months I never got a period. I had been stuck in solitary and they told me it was the stress of being in there that had stopped my period from coming but I was a child going through a miscarriage.
65. I knew I was pregnant to EQL. I could tell from the feelings I had in my stomach. Two months down the line and I hadn't had a period even though I had been having periods every twenty six to twenty eight days. I took a doing off of EQL one night. He physically assaulted me because I wouldn't go down to the office and the following day I had big blood clots coming out of me. I wasn't taken to hospital. I was left in the cells for another two or three weeks and I wasn't given any medical attention.
66. Frusie came in and took the sheets away and she said it was just stress. She said women get that. She said being in solitary and being stressed affects your periods. They hit every lassies with that. They said the stress of being in here, the stress of going home at the weekends and the stress of seeing your pals made your periods stop. I knew what a period was like and I could tell the difference. This made me bend over with pain and I could feel it coming out.
67. I've had two miscarriages now. At the time I knew it wasn't normal when I saw the clots on the sheets and I saw the actual thing curled up. I know they say you don't see anything but you do and at eight weeks its face is starting to form. They took it away and told me it was just a really bad blood clot. Frusie took it away. She was the one

who would come in. She would sympathise with you but she couldn't say anything because she would have lost her job. She was an old lady in her sixties. All the staff knew what was going on.

68. I told my dad and my dad went in [REDACTED] and battered him. My dad was a big man and he had been a boxer. My dad went in and grabbed [EQL] by the throat but Mrs [EQE] and Mr [MTA] calmed my dad down and brought him into Mr [MTA] office. In those days it was their word against mine and all of the evidence was gone. [EQL] told me that I could be taken to hospital but they couldn't prove that I had been carrying a child because everything was away. He said no one was going to believe me because I was a slag.
69. I told my dad a couple of months later and that was when he went up and battered him but that didn't stop the fact that I had to go back. I refused to go back and my mum and dad kept me in the house. If the police came to one door then I would run out the other side but eventually I got caught and I was taken right back. I was face to face with [EQL] again. I told him that if he touched me again I would kill him. I would have gone to jail for it and it would have been better than there.
70. You could hear lassies screaming at night and it was always when [EQL] was on. The lassies didn't speak about what was happening but someone would be taken away and the next thing you heard them screaming "stop". You knew a painful cry from a rape cry. It is a different scream. I only learned that from going in there. A rape scream is a horrible scream to hear. You could tell a beating scream as well and you would hear the thud. A girl would come back and you would look at them but you wouldn't approach them because you might be next. You just let it go.
71. [EQL] would physically assault us regularly. He was the authority in there. He was the one who was right behind you if you did anything wrong. He would hit you on the back of the head and then grab you and you would be dragged. He would tell people that you had put up a fight. They were allowed to physically restrain you and to him that was hitting you. I didn't see him do that to other girls but I heard it.

72. EQL would slap you, kick you and drag you by your hair. If you fought back then EQL and another staff member would take hold of you. The other staff member would take your legs and he would always have his hands across your chest area. They would take you to solitary and then the other staff member would go. When EQL was on office duties there was always someone in solitary. He would start an argument with you. We would say that was his "midnight snack". It always happened that he would take you down to the office, give you a fag and a few hours later you would wake up back upstairs. You knew the cigarette was laced with something. We wised up to it and we would say no when he offered us a cigarette because you would get half way through it and then you would wake up in solitary sore down below and sometimes with blood on your pants. Your pants were never pulled up right so you knew.

Reporting of abuse at Doctor Guthrie's Girls' School

73. One of the police officers who brought me back to Guthrie's asked me why I kept running away and I said it was because they were sexually assaulting us. I actually said they were shagging us. Mrs EQE was standing on the doorstep, on the stairs, and she was telling me to come in and get a cup of tea and a cake and saying they had missed me. She told the police that we were always telling stories and the policeman told me to shut up and get in because I was wasting their time.
74. Mrs EQE heard me tell the police what had been happening and that was why she said we were always making up stories. We always had it thrown in our face that we were story tellers and we were put in Guthrie's for a reason. Some were put in for a lot worse than me but I was put in for skiving school. Nobody believed us.
75. I ran away to Stranraer at one time and I told a police officer there what had been happening in Guthrie's. They said that I should report it in Edinburgh and when I told them that I already had they said that it was "typical Edinburgh police".

Leaving Doctor Guthrie's Girls' School

76. I came out of Guthrie's when I was thirteen or fourteen. I had been on the run for a long time, about a year. They gave up looking for me because they knew that if they went in to one side of a house then I would come out of the other side and I was that violent, nobody would approach me.
77. I kept running away from Guthrie's and I finally got out because I got a job when I was fifteen. The job was in Scotmid and I told a lie that I was sixteen. They found out I was fifteen but I only worked a couple of days so I was able to stay.
78. It got to the point where the panel thought that they couldn't keep me in Guthrie's anymore. I went to the panel and it wasn't my social worker who went, it was an elderly woman. I told them that I had a part-time job in Scotmid. I got the job when I was fifteen but I was to be on supervision until I was sixteen. The social worker confirmed that I had a job. I told them that I was going to keep running away and every time they brought me back I would run away again. They never asked me why I was running away, they weren't interested. I told them that they would have a cost on their hands every day because I would run anywhere. The panel and David, the clerk from court, said that there was no option and I had a job so my supervision was dropped and I was allowed to leave Guthrie's.

Life after being in care

79. I left the job after my supervision was removed. I didn't want to do it anymore. My life went from bad to worse. I moved out of my parents' house and into a hostel [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. That was a hostel for people who had been in trouble and the staff there recommended that I speak to Rape Crisis. They knew I had been raped but not the details of it. Two women from Rape Crisis came up to see me twice at my bedsit but I didn't think it was helping me. I told them certain things but not everything and they told me how to cope with it. They said you have to live with it and that there was more support but I never took it.

80. Then I went to Stopover [REDACTED] and they got me my first house in Wester Hailes when I was twenty. I met my kids' dad and we had four kids.

Impact

81. It has affected me badly. Every day I wake up thinking that I want to kill myself that day. I wake up every morning with it in my head. My first and second child were fine going through childbirth but I didn't bond with my third and fourth child because my afterbirth came out first. I had Placenta Previa where your afterbirth comes out first and I had to have C-sections. It brought everything back to me. I was knocked out so it was seven or eight hours until I woke up and I hadn't bonded with my baby.

82. I'm very protective of my kids. I've not been a really good mother but I haven't been a bad mother. I've never really bonded with my kids. My kids have never went without but I have been a very strict parent.

83. I've been in violent relationships and I've been verbally abused in relationships. I know there are good guys out there but I couldn't find a good guy. I'd wonder why they were being nice to me because that's what [REDACTED] was like. He would be nicey-nice and then he would do things to you. If a guy's nice to me then I don't like it. I can't trust anybody. I don't like being in a room full of guys. I don't go out drinking or partying.

84. I came from a churchgoing family. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] none of my family are like me. If someone stares at me for too long then I'll challenge them and ask why they're staring at me. I now stand up for myself but I do it at the wrong time. I'm not as bad as I used to be.

85. I spoke to my doctor and she tried to get me to see a Community Psychiatric Nurse but I didn't want to do that. It was just as Covid hit so I didn't go to the appointment. I haven't had any diagnosis regarding my mental health. My family want me to get support but I tell them to be quiet. I don't have a mental thing that a lot of people have, I just have this in my head. I couldn't walk into a children's home now, I'd freak out.

86. I became a carer and I got all my SVQs but I couldn't take a telling off from anybody. If my boss told me something then I would stand and argue. I don't like the police. I know they're there to help. In certain cases they do help but sometimes they don't. I wanted to be a policewoman growing up but I couldn't become a policewoman because I had been in a List D school. I've nothing against the police but I'd rather deal with things on my own than go to the police.
87. I received no education from Guthrie's. When I went to the care company that I work for now I managed to get a five week course through Worktrack and I got all my certificates. I got Moving and Handling, First Appointed First Aider, Food Hygiene and Health and Safety. I ended up becoming a carer and through that my CV has over one hundred achievements on it. My work put me through lots of certificates. I have my SVQ3 Level 7. I'm sitting my SVQ 4, 5 and 6 now. I have done all of that myself. I never had an education so if I can't spell a word I go round it a different way and write six sentences instead of that one word. I won't look it up in the dictionary because if I can't spell it then I can't find it.
88. If I know someone is doing something wrong at work and they are wheeling someone through on say a hoist then I will say no to that. That is a stand aid and it's used to stand them up to put them onto a commode. I reported that. You don't feed someone sitting on a commode, that is disgusting. You wouldn't want to eat sitting on a toilet and it shouldn't be happening to an elderly person. I will pick up the phone and tell the person that I'm reporting them. To me that is mental cruelty to someone who hasn't asked for it. If I see someone being cruel, like to someone in a wheelchair, then I will stand up for them because they can't do it themselves. It's a job I have been doing for nineteen or twenty years and I will blow the whistle on someone if they are doing it wrong.
89. Both of my parents are dead now. My dad died in 1992 and my mum has only been dead for six years. My experiences at Guthrie's had an impact on my relationship with them because they could have said that they didn't want me to go there. They could have asked for a couple more months to try taking me to school or educating me at

home but they never did that. When my son didn't go to school I had work sent home for him.

90. I was never close to my mum. We had been close before I went to Guthrie's but now I'm not close to my family. I don't speak to [REDACTED]. Last time I spoke to them was just after my mum died. I get the odd message on Facebook and that is about it. I had been close to them before I went to Guthrie's. They should have stepped in and taken me out of there. As an adult I can look at it and see that it wasn't their decision, it was the panel's decision.
91. My mum was paying for me to be beasted. I sometimes resent her for that. My mum had to go every week and hand over money. She paid her child benefit and some extra because she and my dad worked. She never told me the exact amount because she knew I would end up freaking because you shouldn't have to pay for your child to be in care.
92. The Doctor Guthrie's Facebook group has been up for years. I had a Facebook page but I shut it down and only went back on about a year ago, in 2021. That's when I got involved. It's a Doctor Guthrie's survivor page and it gives you information about what to do. It was from that page that I found out about phoning the Inquiry. If I hadn't found that then I wouldn't have known what to do. I knew that my lawyer couldn't help me because they deal with different things. Rape Crisis people just speak to you to try and get you through it.
93. I have spoken to a couple of other people. They all knew what was happening but we were just seen as trouble makers. All the lassies are fighting to have the statue of Doctor Guthrie removed from Princes Street. We've got over a thousand signatures on our petition. It shouldn't be there. We don't talk about what happened, we talk about who you can contact to speak to about it. I have been in contact with [REDACTED] my whole life. People say they can't remember [REDACTED] being in there. She was the [REDACTED] in there so how they can't remember her I don't know. I got back in contact with [REDACTED] a few weeks ago. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in there

at the same time as me and they were constantly assaulted. [REDACTED] has mentioned the water to me but I never drank the water.

94. I have let it lie for so long when I should have let it out years ago and it could have stopped it happening. When I found out Guthrie's shut soon after I left in March 1985 I was happy but it's still happening in other homes. It's never going to stop. I'm just another person who has given another statement.

Reporting of Abuse

95. I haven't reported what happened in Guthrie's as an adult.

Records

96. Your records are kept with some national trust place. I have the name somewhere. If you ask for your records then they are completely blanked out. I approached this National place about a year ago, in 2021. I found out about it from someone else who had asked for theirs and she said you send an email. I can't get that email now because it's my old email account. They sent me something back asking if I wanted my records because they are completely blanked out. There was no point in getting them because all they would show would be my name at the top, the date I went in and the date I left.
97. Hearing that made me feel like a nobody. You can't even find out when the person was in solitary. By right that should all be written down. It was all written down but it was blanked out.
98. I have a photo I was sent online by a friend who had found it. I found one with Mrs [REDACTED] I am in one of the photos with a group of girls and some of the teachers. [REDACTED] is in it. The teachers are Miss Crighton and Mrs Rankin.

Lessons to be Learned

99. They should listen to kids, not every kid is going to come out with the same story. Kids make up stories but not every child at different times. If they had listened to us back then, something could have been done.
100. There should be someone in children's homes that you can have a one to one with. I think there is now. Your own social worker should still be in contact with you. My social worker, Fiona, and my mum and dad took me to Guthrie's and then they were gone. I saw Fiona in the street but she wasn't my social worker anymore, it was **EQL** or **zHSB**. Fiona was just a nice lassie, she was young. She didn't condemn you over anything, she would listen to you. But as soon as I went in there I was taken out of Wester Hailes social work department and I was handed to Guthrie's and that was it. You were there, the door was shut and that was it. You were to get your work done, they were paid for it and they didn't have to be nice to you.
101. There shouldn't have been male social workers in an all lassies' school. A female can talk to a female better especially about a sexual thing or a woman's problem. It's better woman to woman because they have been through it. Guys should go to a guys' school. The only two social workers in that school were male and there was no female social worker. You would think they would have said that there had to be a female social worker because it was a female school. A young girl of twelve is not going to approach a guy with any problems. It would be a lot easier with a woman. They could have a guy working in a lassies school but there should be a female social worker.
102. I want people to know that we were telling the truth. I have to live with this for the rest of my life but I want people to know that I wasn't telling stories. You don't know what happens behind closed doors but listen to them. I want an acknowledgment, I want an apology from them but I know Guthrie's is gone now. I want whoever it is to say that they should have listened to us and none of this would have happened. **EQL** is dead but the people who ran Guthrie's should be held accountable.

103. 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..... 7/11/2022