

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

GLO [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is GLO [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1962. I am 54 years old. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

**Background**

2. My parents divorced in 1966. My father had severe psychiatric problems and my mum would go out of her way to wind him up when he came home from work. He would then throw things at her, and she would pick me up and use me as a human shield. After my parents separated, my mother went to live with her own mother.

3. According to my records, my mother tried to kill me with an overdose of [REDACTED] when I was about three and a half years old. I don't remember if any prosecution followed from it. I was taken from her and put into a foster home for a short while after this. I was in foster care for three or four months but I don't remember it.

4. My father didn't try to get custody of me and my younger sister, [REDACTED], until 1969. He got custody of us in 1970.

5. I was about eight years old when my father took my sister and myself to live with him and his second wife in Portsmouth. His wife didn't want children, so she was pushing for my sister and I to move out. He collected us in March 1971 and

we were shipped back off to Aberdeen in December 1971. By [REDACTED] 1972, I was in care.

6. I assumed when we went up to Aberdeen in December that it was just for Christmas, and we'd go back home. My mother told me in January that my father didn't want me and we would be staying with her. My step-father wasn't welcoming of the addition to the family. My Mother had another four children, who lived in the family home, besides [REDACTED] and I. My step-father was not the biological father to them all. There were problems in the family home.

7. I have three sisters and two brothers. We have the same mother but different fathers. My sister [REDACTED] and I share the same father, although my father always disputed parentage of her. My sister [REDACTED] was the oldest, then it was me, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was the youngest. We stayed in a three bedroom house with the girls in one bedroom, the boys in the other, and my mum and her husband in the third.

8. I had a social worker called Marion Hunt assigned to me. I met her when I moved up to Aberdeen. I went to Kittybrewster primary school in Aberdeen, which I started just after the Christmas holidays.

9. My mother had never wanted me and found any excuse to get rid of me, whether it was shipping me off to my father or grandmother. My mother decided to run away to stay with her sister in England, and told the social worker that she would not return until they removed me. She just didn't want me in the house with her.


10. My mother told the social workers that I reminded her of her brother who had killed himself. This had happened when we lived in a small village in England. I was three and a half years old at the time. He had broken into our house and into the electric box. My mother didn't know it was her brother who had broken into the house so she called the police. A couple of days later his body was found in the local river.

11. The social worker said that I would need to be taken out the house. I am assuming I caused a few problems for them because they came to get me at 6pm. I was put in a car and taken to Kaimhill remand home by Marion Hunt. I wasn't told what was happening and didn't know where I was going. I didn't speak to my mum before I left and had not had contact with her. This was in [REDACTED] 1972, just after my tenth birthday.

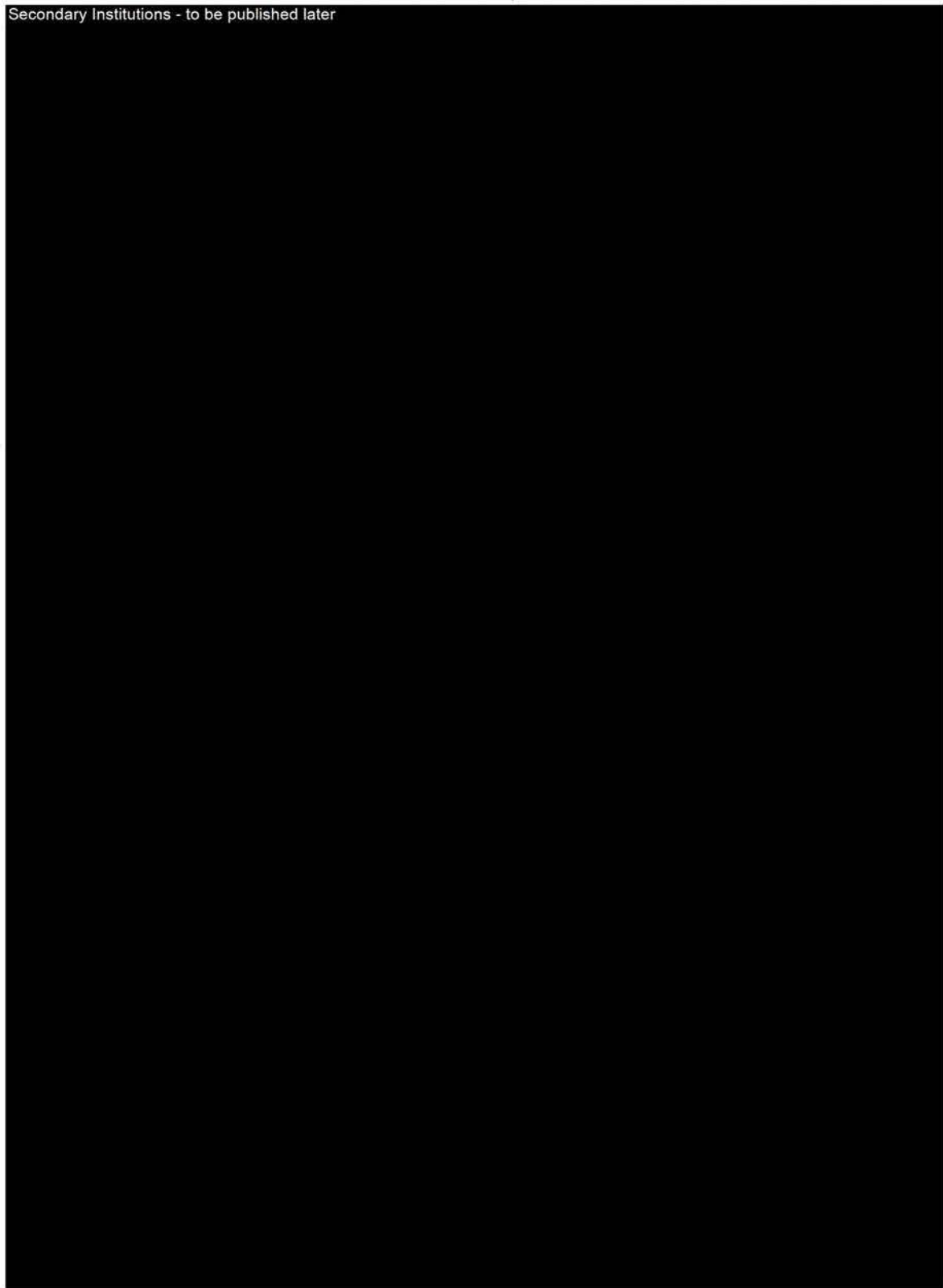
12. I was in Kaimhill twice. I was in for one week on the first occasion and about five weeks on the second occasion.

**Kaimhill remand home, Aberdeen – first time**

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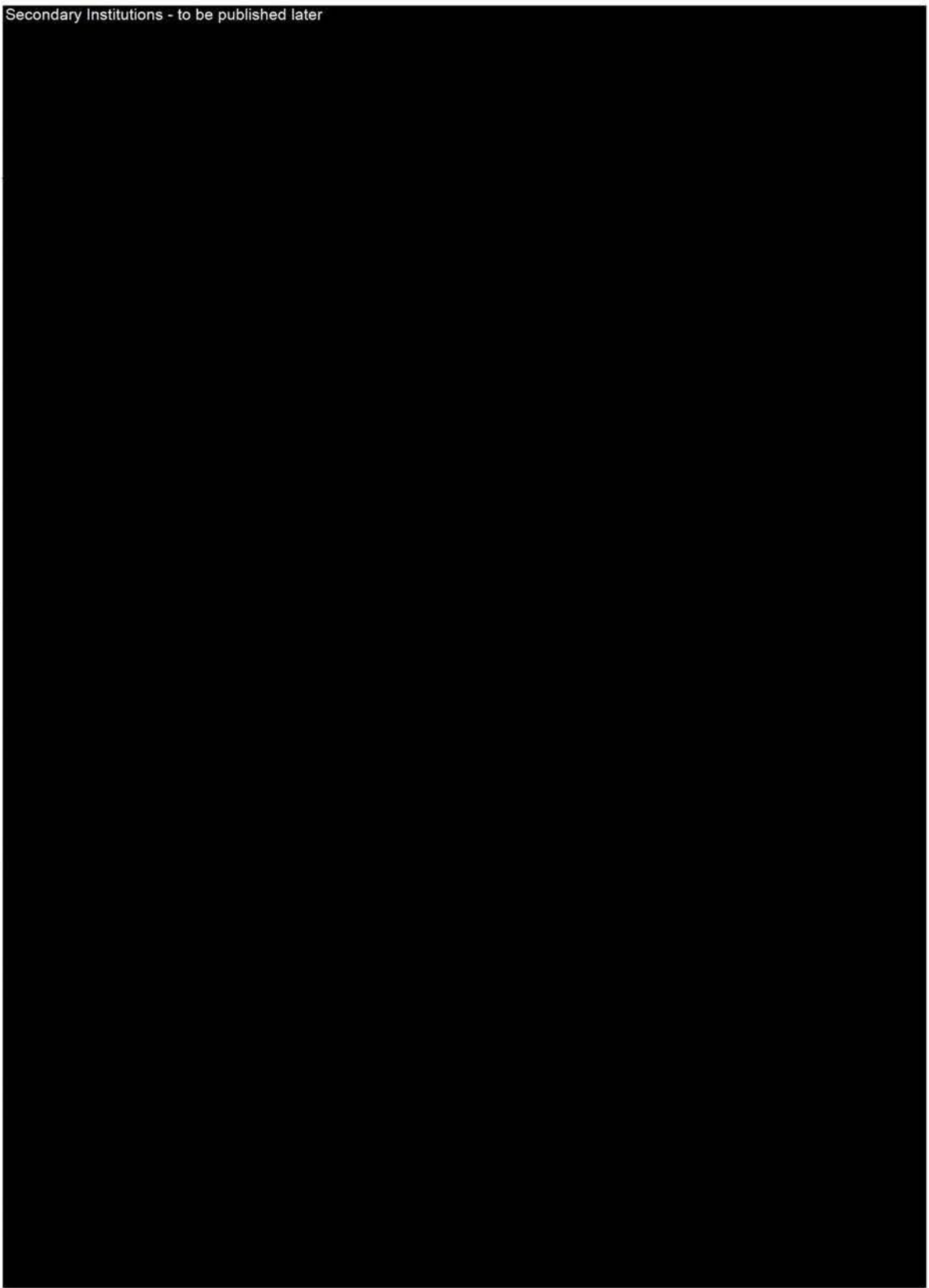
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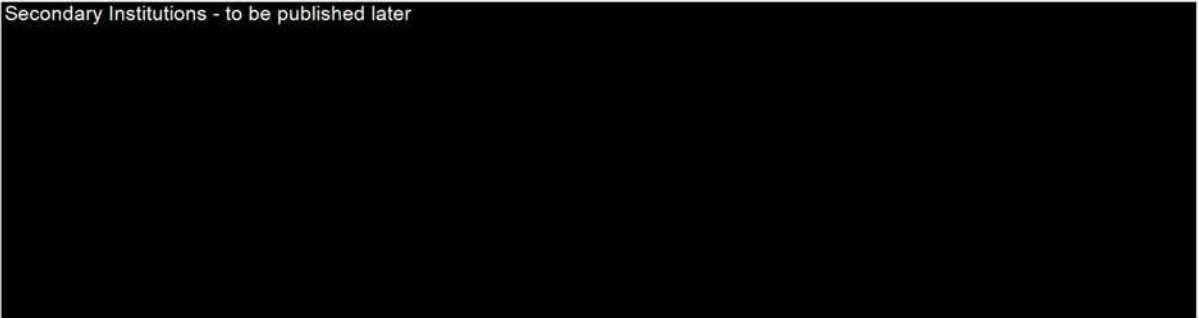
**Craigilea Children's home, Aberdeen**

35. I was transferred to Craigilea Children's home in the Airyhall area of Aberdeen around [REDACTED] 1972. Marion Hunt drove me in the car. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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40. I stayed in Craigilea for five months. It came to an end because the social work department wanted to get me back into the family unit. A date was set for me to go back home. My mum had already said to the social worker that she wasn't keen on me coming home. I was worried about how she would be if I went home. My step-dad would also be there and I was worried I would not be welcomed by him and the other children. I left [REDACTED] in 1972.

#### **Life back at home**

41. Marion Hunt took me home. The first couple of days was a weekend, which was fine. After a couple of days, my mother made it clear, through her attitude, that she didn't want me there. She would send two of us to the chipper to get suppers for everyone but would tell me I could just have whatever was left.

42. My mother would use her money to go for a drink or to the bingo. She would come back home at 10pm after the bingo or after drinking, and get me out of my bed to go to the chipper. She would then sit and deliberately eat something in front of me. When she had finished, she would ask if I wanted her leftovers. I would say that I did, and she would ball up the bag and throw it on the fire and tell me I was too slow.

43. I went back to Kittybrewster school. I would get meal tickets for a school meal. I would not get breakfast at home in the morning, and I wouldn't get fed when I went home in the evening. The school meal was the only time I would get fed in the day and the portions were not very big, so I would still be hungry. At school, they used to throw the unused food in the bin. I would go out to the bins and take the food out and eat that to fill myself up.



44. My relationship with my other siblings was strange. They didn't know how long I'd be home. It wasn't a normal family setting.

45. Marion Hunt was visiting the house at least once a week to check on me. My mother decided she definitely didn't want me there. I think the decision to finally remove me came about because when I was out playing with the other kids, I wouldn't come in straight away when my mother told me to. I would go in about half an hour after being asked, and my mother would kick off.

46. After I had been home for about five or six weeks, my mother ran away from the family home again. She again told the social work department that she wasn't coming back until I was taken away. Marion Hunt and her senior manager, John Butler, came to the house and told me that my mother was refusing to return until I was out of the house. I ran out of the house and John Butler chased me around the streets for about ten minutes. I was indifferent, but also confused because I hadn't been home long, and I didn't know what was going to happen next.

47. John finally caught up with me and took me back home. That's when they told me I was being removed, and Kaimhill was the only place available to take me.

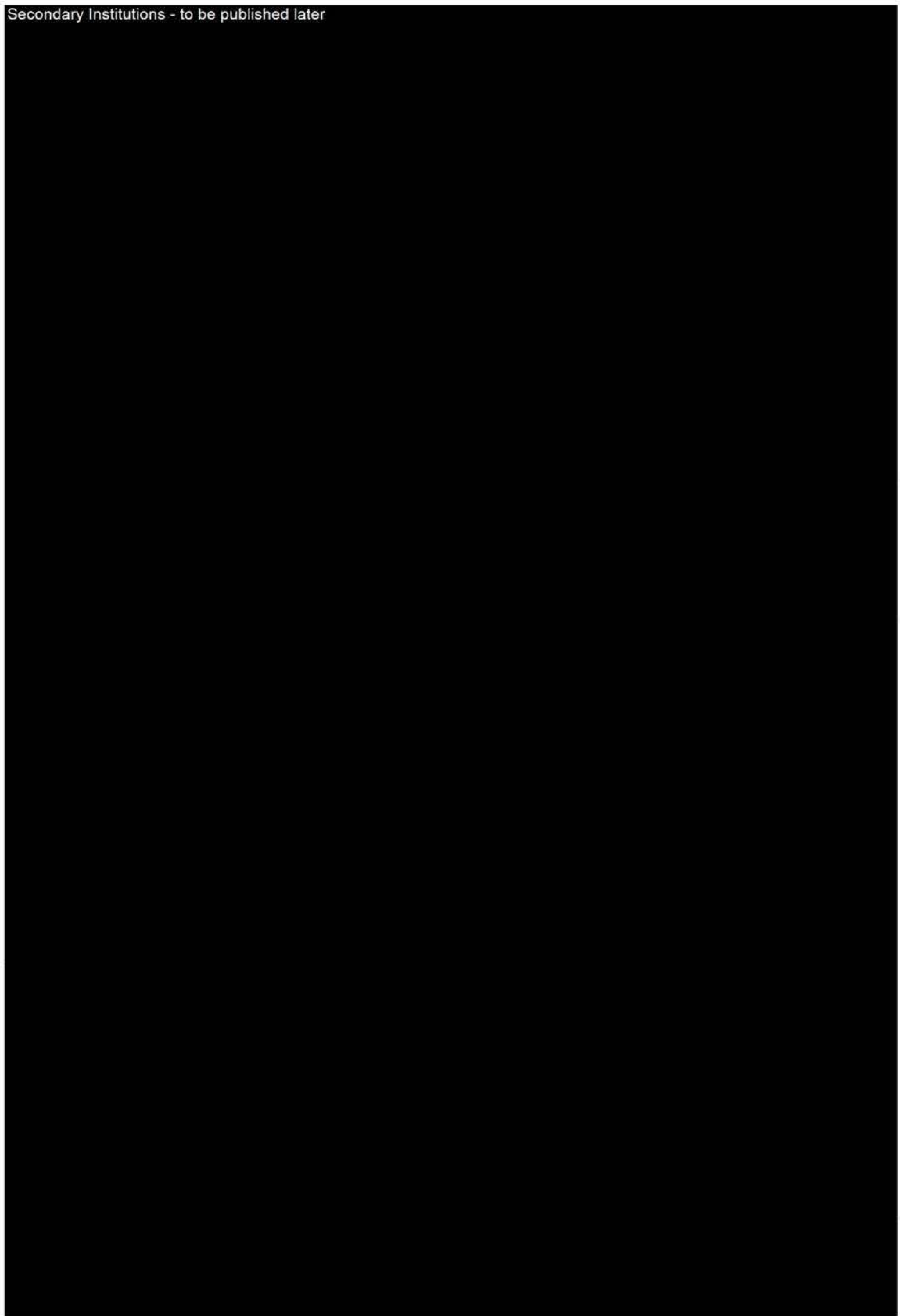
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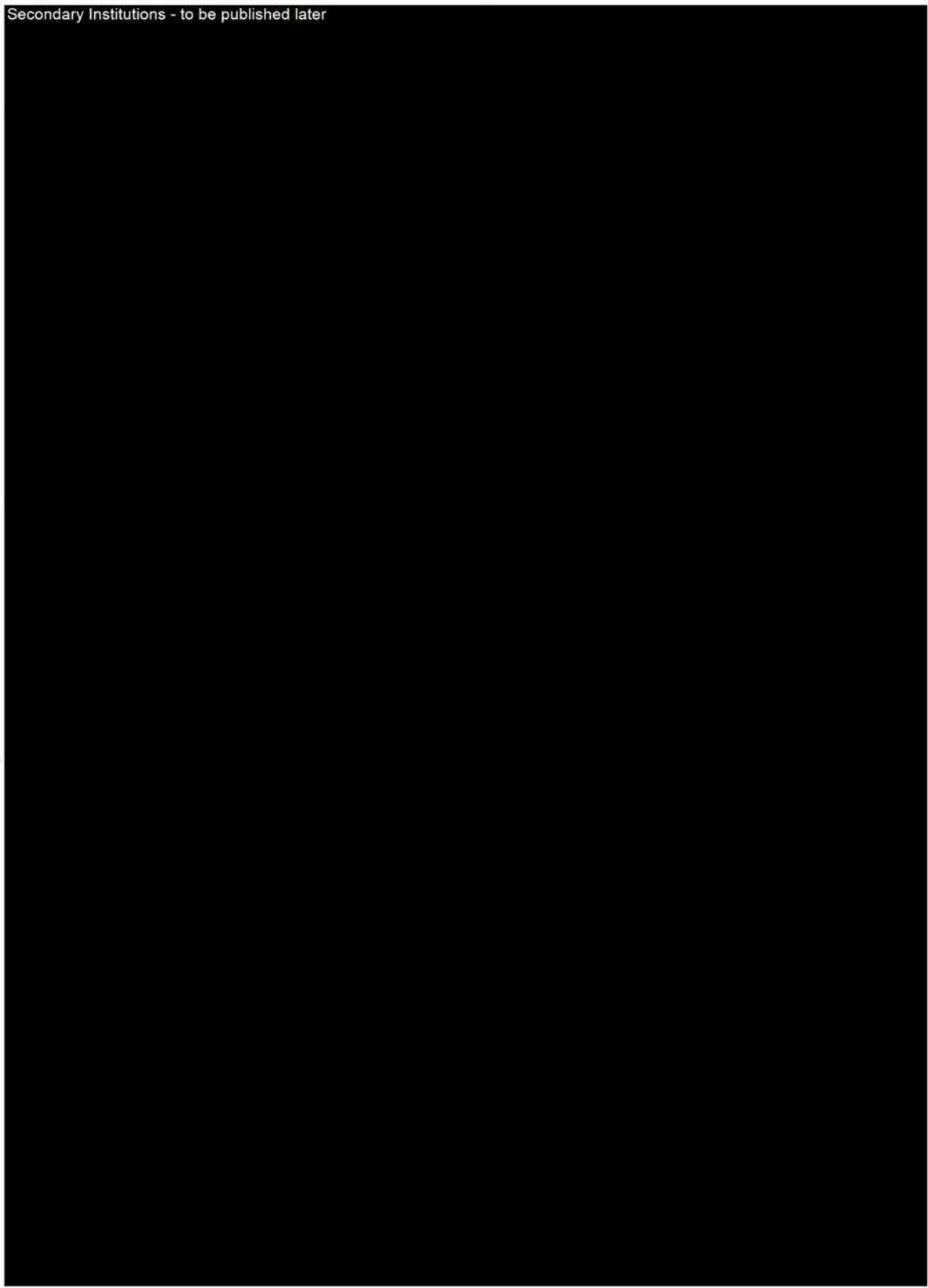
#### Kaimhill remand home – second time

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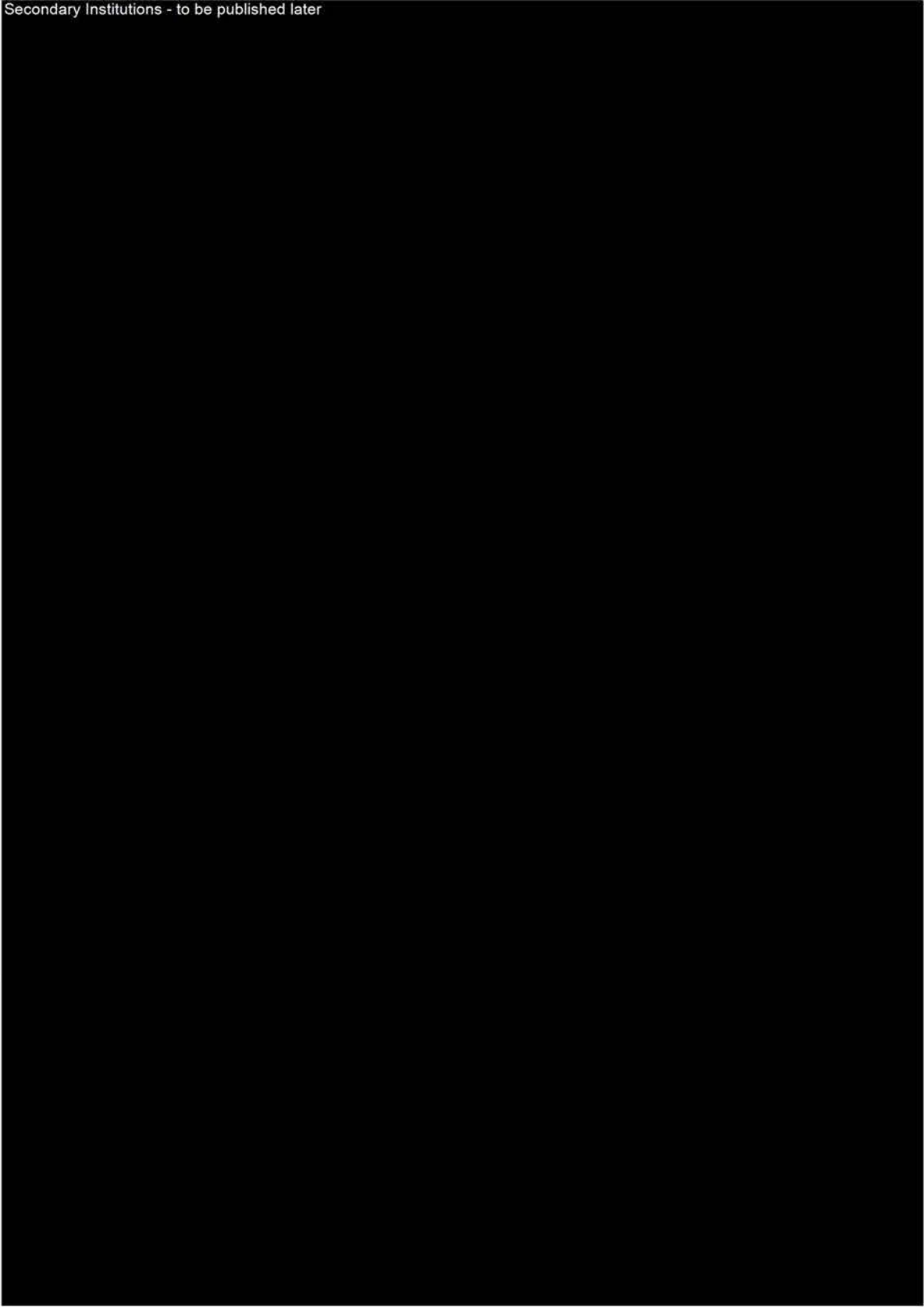
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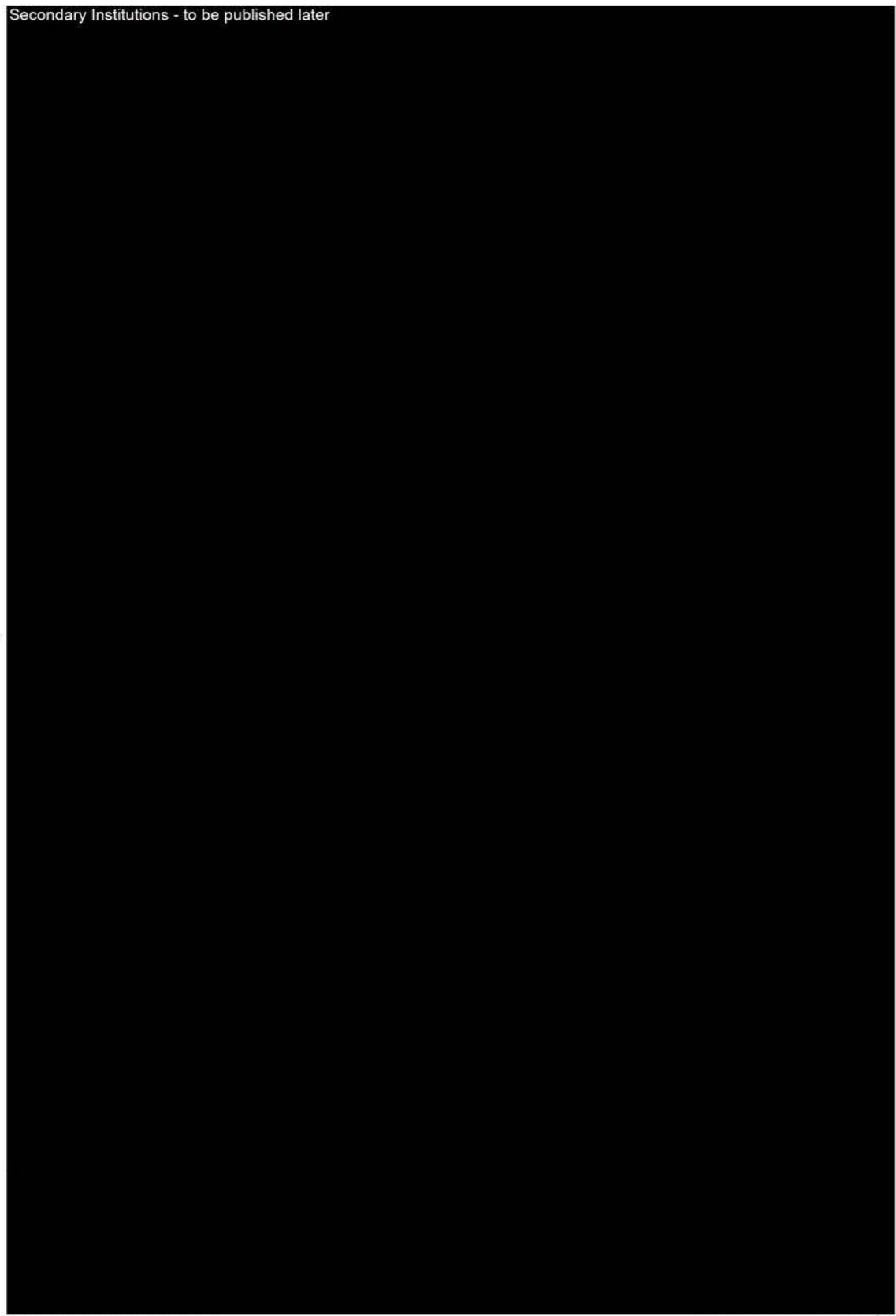
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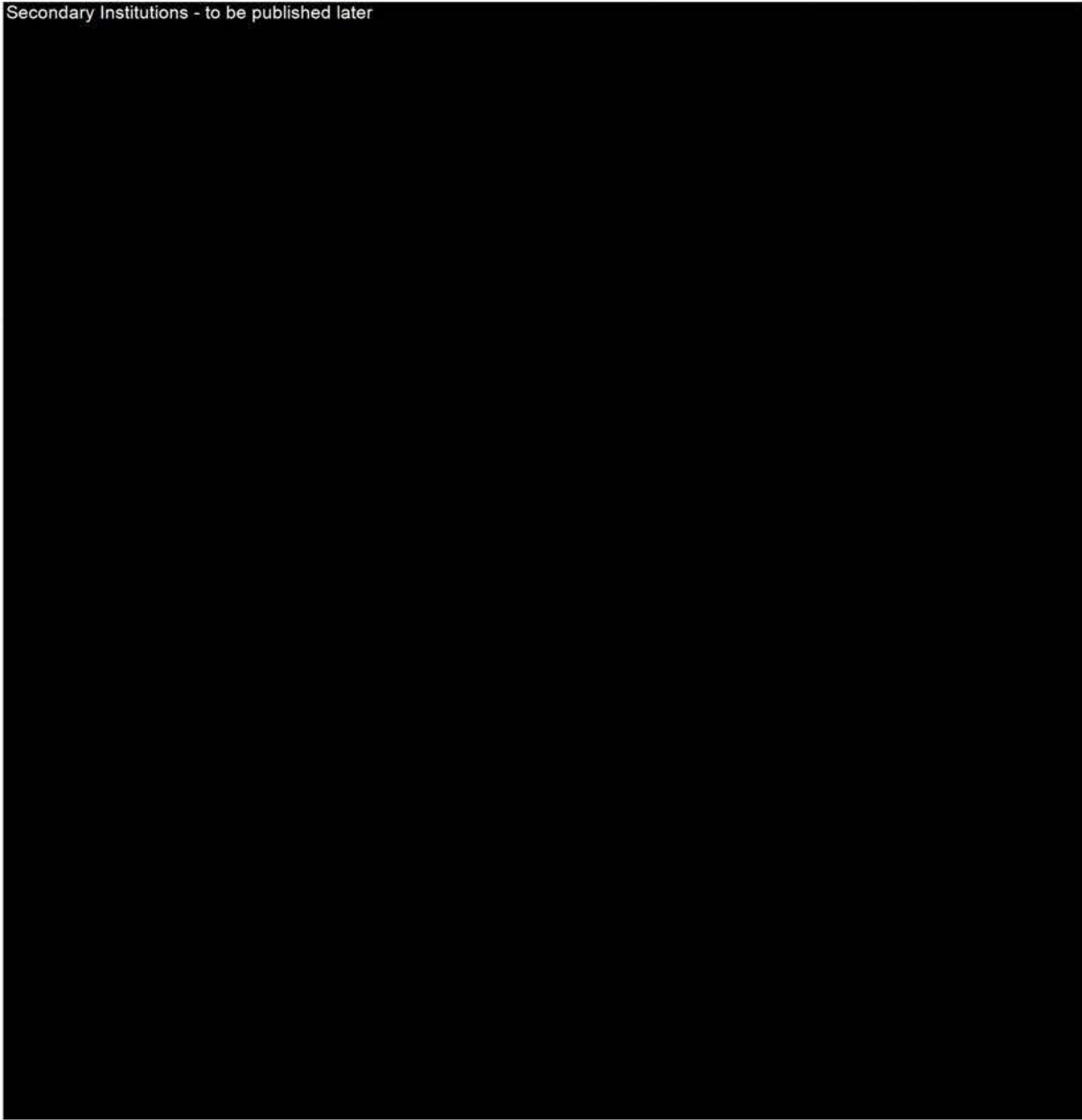
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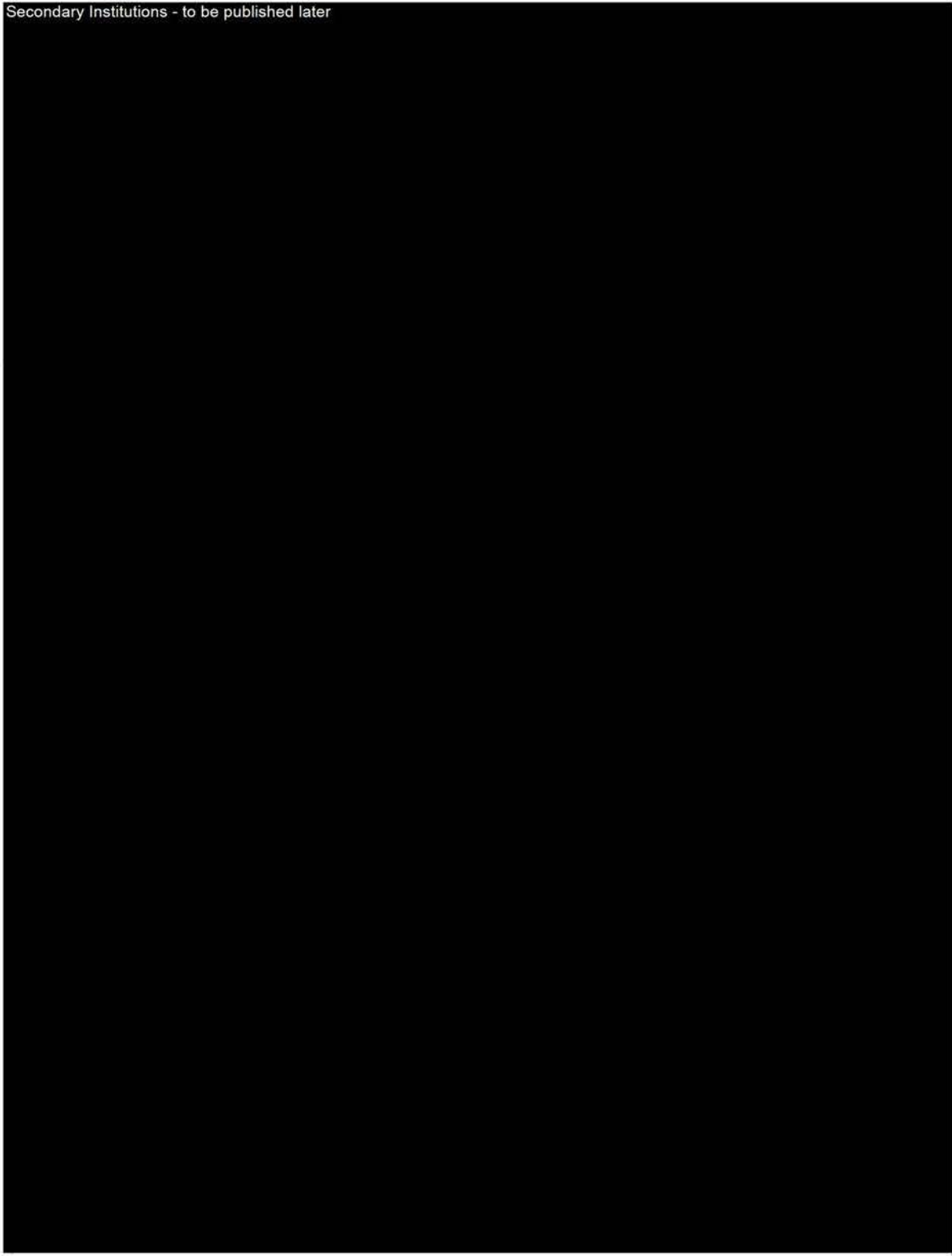
**Craiglarach Children's Home, Aboyne**

71. I went into Craiglarach in  1973. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

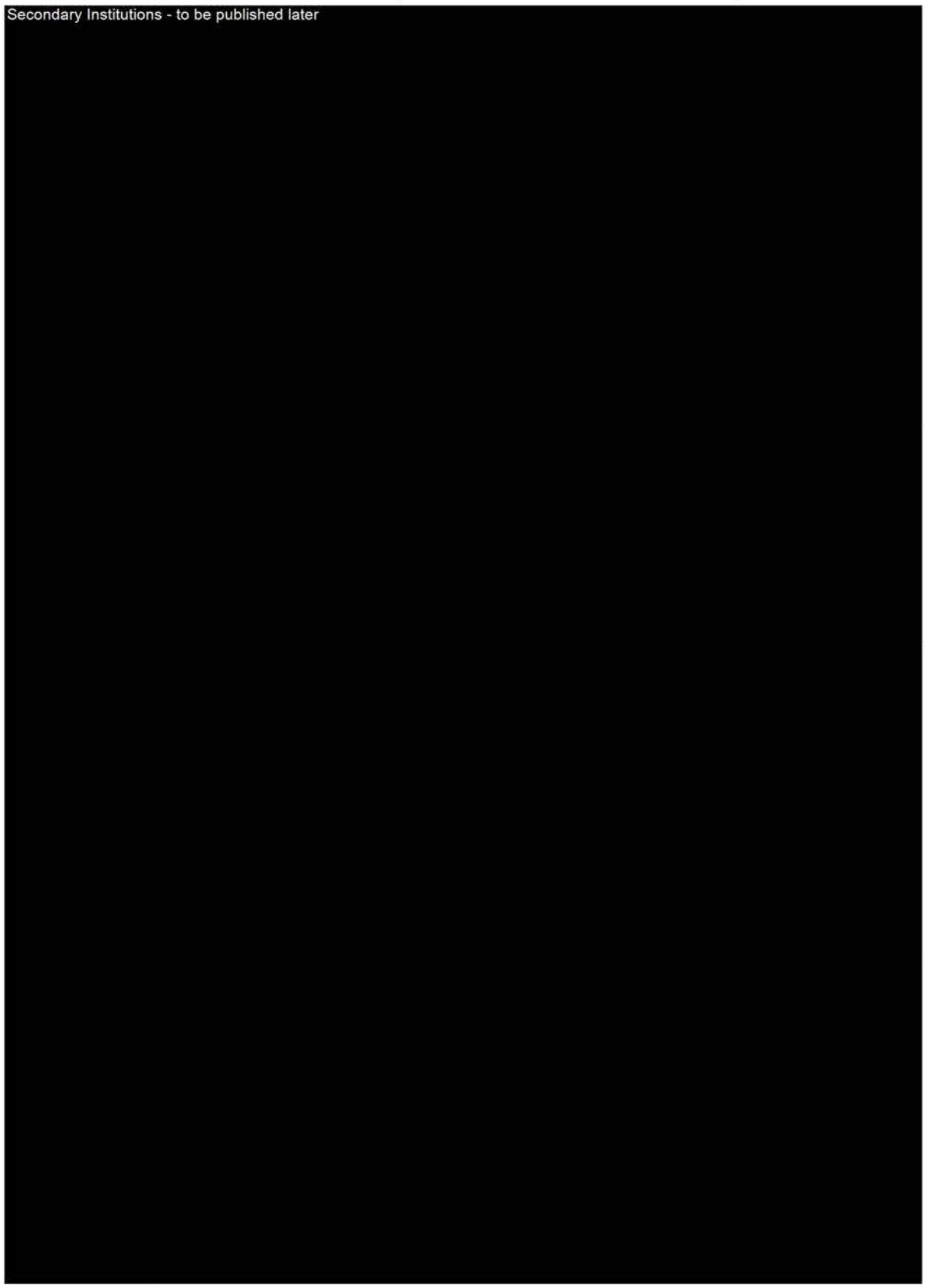
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Marion Hunt

came alone. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

She

then told me that I was leaving. My clothes and belongings had been bagged up by the time Marion arrived. I have to assume that me leaving had been pre-planned

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She simply took me

away in the car. She didn't talk to me about where I was going and why. I left by 2pm

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This was in 1974.

**Brimmond remand home, Aberdeen**

87. Brimmond was a purpose built remand home for kids and had been open for a few months. It was in Bucksburn in Aberdeen. It was a secure unit for children who were appearing before children's panels, and being sent on to approved schools. I had never appeared before a children's panel.

88. It had two long corridors and two offices. There were staff quarters. There was a communal TV room to the left of one corridor, and a quiet room on the right. Bedrooms, toilets and showers were upstairs. There was also a store room and gymnasium. There were open grounds outside.

89. The first person I met there was GJO [REDACTED], who had been transferred there after Kaimhill closed. He was SNR [REDACTED] there. It was somebody I recognised. Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] He filled out the forms with me when I first got there. He asked me what my religion was for the form. I didn't know what the word was for not being religious. Other people had said they were protestant, so I tried to say that, but said that I was a prostitute by mistake. He made me feel really small about that.

90. GJO [REDACTED] was supposed to be involved only in the day to day [REDACTED] of the home and to write reports for children go to hearings. A man called ERM [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] of the home. ERM [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] the whole time I was there, and GJO [REDACTED] worked [REDACTED]. The matron was a woman called ERL [REDACTED] who was ERM [REDACTED] s wife. She was supposed to look after the girls. GJP [REDACTED], who was GJO [REDACTED] s wife, was the assistant matron. GJQ [REDACTED] was also there as a residential social worker, until he got a home [REDACTED] in Dyce in 1975. When GJQ [REDACTED] left, KEF [REDACTED] replaced him. I believe that ERL [REDACTED] was having an affair with GJQ [REDACTED] until he left, then she began an affair with KEF [REDACTED]. This was common knowledge.

91. It was a mixed home with girls and boys. There were sixteen boys and six girls when the home was full. The age range of children was from nine years old to sixteen years old. There were three or four single beds in each dormitory. Children would be there short term for a few weeks until they appeared before the panel.

There was a high turnover of children there. Some children would be back about three or four times in the year. I was the only child that was there on a permanent basis. After I had been there for about five or six months, I got my own room. None of the other children had their own room.

92. I was there between 1974 and 1978. Marion Hunt left in June 1975. She told me she was going on maternity leave. I thought she would be back, but she never returned. Nobody replaced her as my social worker after that. No social worker came to speak to me. I never appeared before a panel.

#### Daily Routine

93. The daily routine was that you would wake up and get dressed in the morning then go downstairs and have your breakfast. I had chores in there, which involved cleaning and washing for an hour or two every day. I had to scrub the dining room floor every day, and do whatever else needed to be done. Nobody else had chores because they were coming and going. There was not really any other structure.

94. There was a television in there, but nothing was on for children until teatime. I had nothing to do. I was bored. The home got a radio cassette recorder in Christmas 1975. I used to have that. There was a spare television in a downstairs room. On a Saturday night, I'd go in there and record that night's episode of Starsky and Hutch. I would then listen to that recording over and over again, and build a picture of it up in my head. That was my activity because there was nothing else.

95. I was quite isolated in there because of the turnover of the people in there. If I did get to know somebody over a couple of days, they'd be here today and gone tomorrow. I didn't really have anybody to be friends with or confide in.

96. The boys would shower about once a week. If it was summer and we had been out playing, we could have a shower when we asked for one. There was a shower in a communal shower area. There would be five or six boys in the row of

showers at a time. ERL [REDACTED] would often come down when all the boys were undressed. If we were coming out of the shower, she would offer to rub your back. She would then take your towel and rub your back and between your legs. It was very uncomfortable, especially for a teenage boy. She did this to me and to other boys. She was only about five foot, two inches tall.

97. Birthdays and Christmas were just like any other normal day. There were no Christmas trees or decorations at Christmas. There was a turkey dinner on Christmas day, but that was all.

#### Schooling

98. I received no education the entire time I was in the home. There was no schooling within the home because children were in and out of the home all the time.

99. There were some primary schooled level books in the home. There was nothing suitable for my age.

#### Leisure time

100. I had a record player and records and I would spend hours listening to my records in my room. I liked Suzi Quatro and Lena Zavaroni. I had albums by David Soul, Telly Savalas and Dennis Waterman. I preferred classicals like Tchaikovsky. A member of staff, FFI [REDACTED], used to let me borrow his record player for an hour or two. He was a decent guy. He wasn't there long.

#### Trips and Visits

101. My mother never visited me in Brimmond. I was sometimes told she would come, but she never did.

### Religious instruction

102. A family came in on a Thursday night to run a bible class for an hour. It had to be attended. There wasn't a choice. They would do a reading and you had to ask questions about the reading at the end of the hour about what you had heard. I didn't want to be there. It wasn't my kind of thing. It was a protestant class.

### Medical Treatment

103. Dr Chisolm would come to the home when I first got there. I would be put in a small room with him and I would try to walk away. GJO [REDACTED], who was an ex-police officer and was about six foot and three inches tall, would trip me up so that I fell flat on my face. Then he would bring his leg down on my back, with his knee digging into my neck. He would bend my arm behind my back and lift me up, then put me back in the room to finish my session. This happened on a few occasions just outside the room and in view of Dr Chisolm. If I said to GJO [REDACTED] before the session that I did not want to go, he would be forceful also. He would pin me to the floor. If I was on my back, he'd have his leg on my chest, restricting my breathing. It was painful as he'd come right down on my back. I now have problems with my neck because of the constant abuse over the years.

104. When I was forced by GJO [REDACTED] to finish my sessions, I would just sit in the room for the remainder of the hour. GJO [REDACTED] would wait in an office down the corridor. I wouldn't answer any of the questions in the sessions. I had to see him every week for about three years, until 1977, unless he was on holiday. Sometimes I would visit the hospital. I always fought it. Sometimes I would swing a chair and really fight it when in the office. I always had the fear about what he wanted to do to me.

### Robert Hannah - abuse

105. In 1975, a man came to the home with comics and books and asked if any of the children didn't have regular family visits. I was pointed out to him. I had



been in the home less than a year. He gave me comics and books and asked if I would like to go on a camping trip. I thought somebody wanted to be nice and take me out so I said yes. He said if the staff allowed it, then there was a camping event in Perth the following weekend and he would make arrangements. I didn't know then that he had no connection to the school at all.

106. It was arranged that I would go with this man on a camping trip. He collected me on Friday afternoon and we reached Perth about teatime. There was a big marquee type tent. There were families staying there. He said, at about 7pm, that he only had one sleeping bag and we'd have to share. I woke up in the night because he had his hands inside my pyjamas. He said he was sorry, that he had been sleeping and didn't know what he was doing.

107. The following morning at breakfast, he said he was going to take me back to Aberdeen. He took me instead to a static caravan that he had in Bucksburn. We were there by Saturday dinner time. He said he would give me some dinner before taking me back. He told me to take a shower. When I came out of the shower, my clothes weren't there. He said he had put them in the wash in the communal washing area because they were dirty. He told me to wrap a towel around me and watch TV in the bedroom.

108. Robert Hannah followed me into the room with a towel wrapped around him. That is when the abuse started. He pushed me back on the bed and took my towel off. He was touching me and making me touch him. I tried to move my hand away so he grabbed my hand to make sure I couldn't move. After a couple of minutes, he performed oral sex on me. I was struggling but he was pinning me down. He then pushed my head down and tried to force me to give him oral sex. He then got me on my side and anally penetrated me. When he finished, he told me I should have another shower and he was going to make dinner. He said, "I hope you like sausages because I am making sausage sandwiches."

109. I had something to eat then he took me back to bed and abused me in the same way later in the afternoon and in the evening. He done the same thing

again on Sunday morning. He then brought me my clothes and I got dressed. He made me something to eat. Just before we were about to leave, he was standing in the kitchen with his hand on a knife. He told me that he knew people in the home and if I told anyone then the next time it would be a lot worse. This man had access to me more or less every weekend after that initial camping trip.

110. A few weeks after the abuse began, KEF took the boys shooting in the wooded area at the back of the home. KEF was new to the home and was trying to befriend people by taking the boys shooting two or three times a week. He had an air rifle and he would shoot cans, or rabbits, if he saw any. This one day he missed everything he shot at. One of the boys kicked a can and I jokingly said, "he's actually hit something!" The boys were laughing and joking as we returned to the home.

111. When we got back, I went to my room to change my T-shirt. KEF KEF room was along the corridor from mine. When I came out of my room, he was standing outside it with a rifle in his hand. He told me I was going to apologise for what I'd said and for making him look stupid. My attitude was one of, *as if I'm going to do that*. He pointed the gun in my face and was adamant I was going to apologise. I moved to walk away and he struck me on the back with the back of the gun. I went downstairs and he followed me down. He took me into the quiet room and told me he was ex SAS. He said he could kill me and get away with it, and that nobody would even bother.

112. KEF's threat to kill me came a few weeks after what Robert Hannah had said about knowing someone in the home. I assumed that KEF was the guy Robert Hannah had spoken about knowing in the home. I endured the abuse and suffering without telling anybody after that.

113. KEF often tried to intimidate me and provoke a reaction. I wouldn't take the bait. I tried to be brave and not let him get to me by laughing in his face, but I was always a bit fearful. It was scary to think that he might go and get a gun and pull the trigger like he said he would.

114. Robert Hannah would take me away nearly every weekend and also for a few days at a time during the holidays. All he had to do was call the home and say he wanted to take me. This carried on until I left the home. During the visits, he always took me to the static caravan. The only people around would be the owners of the other caravans on the site. He had an aviary at the side of his caravan. As soon as he took me there, I had to spend most of the time in the bedroom where the abuse happened. He would get dressed after abusing me and go away to do his own thing, almost as if I was out of sight and out of mind. I had to stay in the bedroom with a small portable TV until he came back. I was never allowed to leave the caravan or talk to anybody else.

115. I wanted to explain to Doug Chisolm what was happening, but I thought that he would then tell the staff and it would get back to KEF [REDACTED]. I never told anybody for the fear of what would happen, because I had somebody threaten me with their hand on a knife, and another threaten to kill me with a gun in my face. I gave up the fight. I thought that if I told anybody what Robert Hannah was doing, he'd have someone back him up, or he and KEF [REDACTED] would kill me. I was living in fear and there was nobody else there I could tell. The social worker assigned to me had gone and GJO [REDACTED] was physically abusing me more or less all the time.

116. I found out that Robert Hannah had been a stranger to the home. He had been convicted of child sex offences and put on probation for three years. Two weeks after his conviction, he walked into a newsagent, bought some comics and magazines and came to the home, which was when I was pointed out to him. He would have had to have spoken to members of staff before getting to me. The residential social workers would have passed anything like that onto ERM [REDACTED] or GJO [REDACTED] as only they could have made the decision to let Robert Hannah take me out. I saw Robert Hannah in the company of ERM [REDACTED] on the weekend when I was taken to Perth. They were talking to each other as I was coming down the stairs towards them, ready to leave with Robert Hannah. It was ERM [REDACTED] who opened the door to let us out.



117. I never found out whether there was a connection between KEF and Robert Hannah. I did find out that KEF had lied about being in the SAS.

#### Discipline and Punishment

118. There were times when I would not want to do my cleaning chores and walk away. GJO and ERM would intervene and use physical force. There was a small room in the upstairs area of the building, which they called the *detention cell*, and they would lock me in there. There were no toilet facilities in there. There was nothing to sit or lie on. There were no books in there. It was an empty room with a concrete floor. The door had a plastic window looking into a corridor. There was another plastic window in the room but you couldn't see out of it. The room had a buzzer system that you could buzz if you needed to use the toilet, but they switched the buzzer off as soon as they put anyone in it. I could be in there up to fourteen hours without being able to go to the toilet.

119. The detention cell was used more or less all of the time. Some children were put straight in there as soon as they came in. I have to assume that the police or social work suggested this. I think this because anybody who was already in there, would be taken out for the new arrival to go straight in. They would sometimes be left there for two or three days at a time, and taken out when being taken to their hearing or panel

120. I think I was put in the detention cell at least once a fortnight, and up to three times in a fortnight. Sometimes I would kick off and cause problems after they told me Robert Hannah was taking me away for the weekend, because I couldn't tell them what was happening. They would just stick me in the detention cell and take me out when Robert Hannah came to get me. If I kicked off five minutes before Robert Hannah was coming to collect me, I would still be made to go with him. I would then be put in the detention cell when I returned as a punishment. At the beginning I said that I didn't want to go with Robert Hannah, but then I stopped. It

became apparent that I had to go regardless of what I said or done so there was no point fighting a losing battle.

121. The only time anybody came into the detention cell when you were in there was at mealtimes. Staff would bring meals up after all the children and staff had eaten, and they would ask you then if you needed to use the toilet. You could only go at the times they came up. If I needed the toilet in there, I would try to hold it in as long as possible until somebody came, or just have to wet myself. I did wet myself on a few occasions and they would ridicule me. They would ask me if I thought I was a child or needed a nappy.

122. On the occasions that I was made to sleep in the detention cell, they would give me a little foam mattress on the floor and a blanket. When it was bedtime, they would come upstairs and give the mattress and blanket, and ask if I needed to use the toilet. There was no heating in the room. It was quite cold in there. I wouldn't get out to get a shower. I would be in there the whole time except for toilet breaks. If I had wet myself, it was a problem because I would have to stay in there wearing wet clothes until I was let out.

123. Reasons for being put in the detention cell included not cleaning something properly, or if there was a visitor coming and they wanted me out of the way. Sometimes I would feel that there was no reason for me to be put in the cell so I would resist. Force would then be used. GJO used to hold me down with his leg or foot on my chest, which restricted my breathing. If I struggled to get his foot off my chest, he would apply more weight. He would have been aware of the difficulties I had with breathing. He would wait for me to give up the struggle before taking his foot off. He would then get me on my stomach and wrench my arm up behind my back and push my head down. I would sometimes be dragged along the floor. If he had help from ERM he would grab me in a sleeper hold with his arm right around me so I was restricted and couldn't move. ERM would then grab my feet and I would be carried to the detention cell and thrown in. This happened over the whole time I was in there.

124. I tried to run away a few times. The home was on a hill and there was a police station at the bottom of the hill so every time you ran away, you just thought you'd better go back.

#### Healthcare

125. The injuries I had in the home at the hands of GJO [REDACTED] included carpet burns from the carpets, cracked ribs, bruises, hair line fractures. I had mumps, measles, coughs and regular illnesses whilst in there.

126. I never received any medical assistance. I didn't see a GP the whole time I was in there. The records that I have since retrieved from the social work department also mention that I had no GP contact while I was in the home. Neither the matron or assistant matron had any nursing experience.

#### Leaving the home

127. I was put on a work placement scheme in 1978 because I was now sixteen and they wanted to get me into work. I was given a job stacking shelves in [REDACTED] I was the butt of jokes there because of my lack of education. People there spent the week winding me up. On Friday night, the staff were telling me about a girl who wanted to go on a date with me and meet me at the pictures in town. I thought this would be ok so I called the home and they gave me permission, and told me to be back by a certain time. I went to the pictures and waited for a long time. She never showed up. I got annoyed and went into the pictures alone.

128. On my way home from the pictures, I took a walk through a secluded area. There was a young, sixteen year old girl there, walking her dog. I started a conversation with her. It was fine at first then something was triggered in my mind and I blacked out. The next thing I knew I was running away. I found out the next day that I had seriously physically assaulted her. I was charged for this offence, which I pled guilty to at Aberdeen court in [REDACTED] 1978. I was put on probation for three years with a provision that I spend at least a year of that in a psychiatric hospital.

**Life after care**

129. I was put in Royal Cornhill psychiatric hospital after leaving Brimmond, as part of my sentence. A few weeks after being in the psychiatric hospital, I found out that Hannah's caravan had caught fire. It was in the paper. My understanding was that he wouldn't last the night. I gradually put that behind me and tried to get on as best as possible with my life.

130. I stayed in Cornhill hospital for two years under the care of Dr Innes before I discharged myself. It was just like being in another place. There was no social work or psychiatric involvement throughout that time. I didn't know I was still on probation when I left, as I didn't have a social worker or probation officer. I went back down to Portsmouth to try and trace my father and settle there. That didn't work out so I returned to Aberdeen. I had nowhere to go and no food so I used to break into the hospital at night for food. I was caught and given a two year borstal order.

131. When I was ready to leave the borstal, I became involved with the social work department again. I was about twenty years old then. I didn't know anything about how to get a house or money. I was homeless. I survived by breaking into offices and finding cheque books. I would then write myself some cheques to have money. I'd wait until I was caught and spend a couple of months in prison. That was the way I would have a roof over my head. I was then in and out of prison then for a few years, until 1989, when I got my first house. I have convictions for theft and fraud.

132. After I got my first house in 1989, I done temporary contract work through agencies. Having not had an education meant that I was the butt of jokes every time I got a job. I decided I was not going to spend my life like this. I would go home and watch things that would give me knowledge so I could learn things, like Mastermind and University Challenge. I would look up words that I didn't know. I

could then use them in conversation so people wouldn't think I was some dumb idiot that they could push about. That is how I started to educate myself.

133. I was married but got divorced in 1996. I started seeing my neighbour, [REDACTED], on and off in 1999. I found out that she was pregnant and I was going to be a father. I was 34 years old at the time. I thought I would have a chance to be normal and planned to do all the things with my child that I was never allowed to do myself. I would make sure that he was looked after, got an education and that no harm would come to him. When my son, [REDACTED], was born he was put up for adoption due to concerns about his mother. I was not married to her so had no parental rights. [REDACTED] would be about 17 years old now.

134. [REDACTED] had problems. She was sexually abused as a child by her step-father, and she was also encouraged by him to sexually abuse her siblings. This was when she was a young teenager. She'd had a daughter before [REDACTED], and she and the baby had been put in a home so that she could be monitored to see how she coped. When the baby was three months old, [REDACTED] lost her temper with the baby. She also nearly gave her a boiling hot bottle to drink. If she hadn't been monitored, she would have caused damage to the child. The baby was taken from her. She told me about all of this when she was pregnant. She offered to let me have [REDACTED] when he was born, but on the condition that she could see him whenever she wanted. I was concerned because I didn't want my son to one day come to me and say that his mummy had done things to him. I refused and said that she could only have supervised contact. [REDACTED] wouldn't let me have him after that and agreed to his adoption.

135. I did get legal advice and the lawyer told me there was a problem due to me not having parental rights. I think I lost out because the lawyers practise was a like a conveyer belt. He didn't think about what was best for his client. I think I would have put up more of a fight for [REDACTED] if it happened now, but I wasn't very well educated then. [REDACTED] was taken into care from the day he was born.



136. When the abuse allegations started to come out in Wales and England in the mid-1980s, I used to wonder why they were bringing it all up now after so long. I didn't realise that it had also happened to me and so I should understand. Then I saw Hannah in 1998. I saw him as I was leaving the vet with my cat, and he was going in. Everything came flooding back. I knew exactly who he was and everything he had done. These were all memories I had managed to bury. I didn't know how to react and deal with it. I was now unable to bury it.

137. It did not sink in that I had just seen Hannah until I had walked to the end of the road. I thought to myself that I had to go back and confront him, say something or do something. I couldn't put my cat down and go back as I was worried somebody would take her, so I decided to take her home first then return. It took me fifteen minutes as I was deliberately taking my time, trying to figure out what I was going to do and how I was going to do it. By the time I got home, I thought that he would be long gone anyway so I told myself to try and forget about it. I couldn't forget about it.

138. I was having problems with one of my neighbours around the time that I saw Hannah. This was because my neighbour would throw stones at my cat and try to kick it if he saw it outside. He was a private tenant and had phoned the council about my cat. I was always very anti authority, and I was also still trying to get my head around having seen Hannah, so when the council came to my door, I kicked off and was verbally abusive. I went to the council office later to apologise but couldn't get a hold of anybody there. When I returned home, the police were at my door. They put me on a diversion programme instead of charging me.

139. I lived next door to my sister [REDACTED] which is where the diversion programme placed me. One Saturday night, in 1999, [REDACTED] was having a small party and my mother turned up with her then husband. Her first words to me were, "I hear you're involved with the police. What have you done this time?" I told her why I was involved with the police and about the allegations I had made against Hannah. She said that she knew that something was going on but hadn't said anything

because she didn't want anybody getting into trouble. I thought, *what parent does that?*

140. [REDACTED] was the only family member that I had any contact with. I had been in contact with her since 1989, when I first got my own place. I have never had any relationship with my mother or my other siblings. I have had no contact with any family member for over 20 years now. I didn't have contact with [REDACTED] after 1999. She moved to Fraserburgh where my mother was staying.

### **Reporting to the Police**

141. I had been on the diversion programme in 1998 for about three months when I explained to my social worker what had happened. She asked me if I would consider giving a statement to the police, and she arranged for a couple of officers speak to me informally about what this would involve.

142. A couple of officers from the child protection unit came to speak to me. They explained that they could take me to the police station and I could give a statement about everything that happened to me in care. They would then investigate. They explained it might come down to my word against his and if he denied it, there wouldn't be anything they could do about it.

143. When I went to the station and realised that I had to give an in depth statement about exactly what happened, and where and how I felt. That was the first time that I had to recite what had happened. I tried to cover everything but they just wanted to deal with Hannah at that point. That was in 1999. They never came back to me to ask about the other things. There was no offer of support or counselling. They didn't refer me to any support groups.

144. The police contacted me three months after I gave the statement. They told me Robert Hannah had admitted everything. He was then charged. I was invited into the procurator fiscal's office to go over everything. I was told what the procedure would be. Every time he had a court date, he would feign illness and even a heart

attack to get out of it. It dragged on for almost a year and half before he was sentenced. He was convicted of the offences against me in 2001 at Aberdeen court. He was given four months in prison and put on the sexual offenders register for five years.

145. Nobody offered me any support or counselling even after the court case. I know that Robert Hannah has other convictions against other children. I don't know if he is alive. He will be in Aberdeen if he is still alive.

146. Last year, in 2015, I went back to the police [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

[Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

[Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

They also told me at this point that KEF [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] died in 2006 so they couldn't take any action against him. [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

[Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

[Sec] They also would have been able to take action against KEF [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] back then. I found out that GJO [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] had died before I had first gone to the police. They didn't take action against ERL [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] because her son was a police inspector in the force.

### Records

147. The police told me that my records show that the social work department had written to NHS asking for a medical exemption for me from attending school. This was [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] 1972. This was just as I had moved to Craigilea. I don't know why they done this. I found this out quite recently in 2015. I do not know what was in the letter or what the exemption was for. I did actually attend school whilst I was at Craigilea. The police had copy of that exemption.

148. I asked Aberdeen Council for the medical exemption letter that the police told me about. They told me they don't have it and that they have never had anything like that. I have concerns that some of my records that should have been available are not now available. Social work tell me they don't have any information.



149. I have received some information. I have medical records which state that I was abused in care in 1972 and the subsequent diagnosis which was made in 1972. It is just one line that states, *sexual abuse while in care*. It is dated [REDACTED] 1972.

### Impact of Abuse

150. All of the trouble I have been in with the police is a direct result of my time in care and the abuse I suffered.

151. I can't trust anyone. The abuse I suffered in care has affected my relationships. I have never formed friendships with people because of trust issues. I can sometimes form a friendship with a woman, but I feel uncomfortable with men. I feel uncomfortable in long term relationships because I was always told I was ugly in the home and that nobody would ever want me or love me. I also had a lot of rejection from my mother. I always wonder how long a relationship will last. I was quite anti authority due to what had happened to me.

151. I never received any schooling after I left Aboyne school, which I attended during my time at Craiglarach home. I was there from [REDACTED] 1973 until [REDACTED] 1974. I was 12 years old and in first year when I left there. That was the last schooling I had. This means that I have only been able to work on a voluntary basis. I worked with Aberdeen city council from 2000 until 2012 in tenant participation.

152. I had a psychological evaluation carried out during the court case with Hannah. I only saw it recently. It said that I could not handle any pressure and I would explode under pressure. I thought to myself that I have been working in a high pressured job for twelve years. This has involved attending conferences and speaking at them, as well as doing presentations. I have never had a problem. It goes to show the level of person that I am. Throughout those twelve years, I was being educated on housing issues and how to address Councillors and MPs and how to speak in front of people and do presentations.

153. On two occasions, I have gotten up and performed at charity events dressed as David Soul and as Michael Ball. That was scarier than doing a presentation. I am proud of that. I am proud that I have been able to move forward in a way that I wasn't able to before. It doesn't matter how many times I give evidence, it doesn't get easier, but it is a step towards other people not becoming victims of any kind of abuse. As difficult as it is for me, if I can say that I have helped somebody else not become a victim, I would be proud of that.

154. 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. I would be happy to give evidence at a public inquiry if required to do so.

GLO

Signed.....

Dated *16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016*.....