

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PYC

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is PYC. My surname was PYC when I was a child. My date of birth is 1967. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was brought up in [REDACTED], which is outside Castle Douglas. My great granny had a farm there. I lived with my mum, [REDACTED], my dad, [REDACTED], and my three sisters. My dad was never there because he was working. I have an older sister, [REDACTED], who is a year older than me. [REDACTED] is one year younger than me and we're actually the same age for 23 days of the year. My sister, [REDACTED], is six years younger than [REDACTED].
3. My dad was a paratrooper and then he was in the special forces. He came out of the army when I was about nine. He set up a business called [REDACTED], because he was an [REDACTED] engineer, but he was still away a lot. My mum had some mental health issues. She lost some babies. According to my medical records, she had three miscarriages in succession after I was born. My dad wasn't there because of his work. I do understand that would have been traumatic for anybody. But she shouldn't have been cruel to me.
4. Life at home was horrible. It was torture. I was left out by my mum. I wasn't good enough. My mum was cruel. She admitted hitting me when I was one year old. It's on my medical notes. At the age of one, I didn't conform to my mum's expectations. All my life, I've not been good enough for her. My dad was my protector. He was the

person I loved the most. It was great when he was back, but that was quite rare. My mum was jealous of me and my dad. I knew that as I got older but I didn't realise that at the time.

5. I can remember my childhood because it wasn't nice. There was nothing nice unless my dad came home. My mum would frighten me. She took the hatch to the attic roof off and told me there was a bogeyman. I was tiny. I wouldn't eat. I couldn't go to the toilet, so I would wet the bed or go on the floor. I would be hit for that.
6. My sisters knew how badly I was treated. I got on well with [REDACTED]. She's soft and timid, so she would shy away. I didn't get on with [REDACTED]. She bullied me because she saw the way my mum treated me.
7. My mum wouldn't see me in the morning. I would get up and make myself a jam piece. I would run away for the day and hide in the farm building. I loved being outside. I couldn't stand being shut in. I was running away all the time.
8. I would run away before I had even started school. People would recognise me because I had long, blonde hair and it was rural. I would be six miles away, walking along a main road. They would put me in a car and bring me back.
9. I was very young, but I know my mum took me to a few different places. I didn't know there was anything wrong, neither did my dad. We had a family doctor and he would come to the house. I know I saw him a few times. I didn't like him either because I thought I was fine. My mum took me to Ladyfield Hospital when I was four years old. When I was older, she told me I was taken there because I was naughty.

Ladyfield Children's Hospital, Dumfries

10. I didn't know the name of the place I went to until I was an adult. I contacted Dumfries and Galloway Health Board to make a complaint. I spoke to a man there called John

Glover. I described where I'd been and he knew I'd been in Ladyfield. My mum also told me the names of the places I'd been to when I was older.

11. I remember going down some steps and there were bars on the windows. The building was a bit like a school, but it was cold and it had a horrible smell. It was a psychiatric hospital.

Routine at Ladyfield

First day

12. We had a chauffeur, [REDACTED]. My mum didn't drive and my dad was away so [REDACTED] used to drive us around. We got into the car and the chauffeur took us to this place. Mum took me inside. She spoke to someone in a white coat, so I knew he was a doctor. When she'd finished talking to the doctor, she left. She never told me what I was there for or that she'd be back. She never said goodbye. I could see my sisters on the swing right outside the building. It wasn't night time. It was a sunny day. I could hear my sisters laughing on the swings.
13. My mum never told me she was going away. I thought I was never going to see my family again. As I've got older, I feel that it was quite cruel, to take my sisters and let me see them there. I really don't like my mum at all.
14. I was left in a room. The doctor left and I just thought my mum was coming back. The door closed. I saw my sisters and my mum go away in the car. I didn't know that I was staying there. There were bars on the window. There were two old fashioned cot beds with sides all round that could fold down. It had a hospital smell. There were no toys in the room. There was nothing.
15. I stayed in that room with a little boy. The boy wasn't there when I first arrived. They must have taken him out. He came in afterwards. His name was [REDACTED] and he was about the same age as me. The doctor came back as well but he didn't explain why I

was there. I asked where my mum was. I was screaming and crying, but he didn't answer me.

16. There were no curtains on the window. When it got dark, I knew I was staying there. It was horrible. I was scared. I thought my mum would come the next day, but she never came.

Mornings and bedtime

17. The bedroom door was locked. There was a nurse that came in. She would look in the door. The door had a window with metal squares on it. She wore a white fluffy hat. She was horrible. She was really stern and she shouted at us. We were in there all the time. I only got out of the room when I needed a shower or to go to the toilet. In the mornings, I would look out of the window to see if my family were coming back. I could see the park outside my window, but we didn't get to use it. We had to wait in our cots until they came and let the sides down. It was boring. We had no toys, nothing.

Mealtimes / Food

18. We ate our meals in the cot beds. One of the nurses brought the food. I never ate anyway. I was anorexic in the hospital at the age of four. I know they moaned when I didn't eat, but it was the shock. I couldn't eat. I just cried all the time.

Abuse at Ladyfield

19. On the second day, I remember [REDACTED] crying for his mum. He was taken out by the nurse. I saw the doctor. I never knew his name. He was really tall with dark hair and a pointed nose. He was a similar age to my dad at the time, so I think he would have been in his late twenties or early thirties. He took the side of the bed down. I didn't know what he was doing at the time because I was a child. He came up over the bed and his nose was touching my face. I was putting my head back because it was sore.

He was on top. I didn't know what rape was at that time. It was only when my sister spoke to me later she said I'd been abused.

20. I looked out and I could see the nurse at the window of the door. All I can remember is that it was sore. I was in a lot of pain and I was really screaming. I had to take my clothes off and walk naked to the shower. The nurse took me. It was quite a distance. I can still smell the soap there. I've never been in a shower since.
21. Every day I was there, the doctor hurt me. Every day, I had to go into that shower. [REDACTED] got the same thing as well after me. I had to stay outside, just at the door. I could hear him screaming and I was shouting. He'd been in Ladyfield for a while before me. He said that they were very bad people.

Leaving Ladyfield

22. My medical files say that I was kept in that room for a week but it felt like forever. Eventually, my dad came to get me. He hadn't known that I had been put into Ladyfield. [REDACTED] was still there when I left. I asked my dad to go and get him a toy and he did, but I don't know if [REDACTED] ever got it.
23. My dad told me that we wouldn't talk about Ladyfield so I wasn't allowed to talk about it. My mum and dad didn't know what had happened to me. I thought they did and I hated my mum for letting it happen. Because I was told not to talk about it, I just thought they both knew.
24. I wasn't at home for very long. I think I was there until my dad went away again.

Parkhead Hospital, Dumfries

25. Not long after my dad went away, my mum took me to a different hospital. I was in a place called Parkhead after Ladyfield. It was a similar place. There were four

connected hospitals in the same trust. They were all in the Dumfries area, about a mile apart from each other. All the children's doctors employed by the health board went between the four places.

26. I went to Parkhead a couple of times before I was admitted. My mum took me to a few places for appointments. I think she just wanted rid of me. I remember going down steps to Parkhead. There were different units. I shared a room with other children. There were beds rather than cot beds. There were about four children in my room, but there was space for more children. There were children who did a lot of screaming so they were kept away.
27. We got out to play outside at Parkhead for a little while each day. I played with the other children. There were toys and fun things there. There were paintings and drawings on the wall. It was much nicer than Ladyfield. The same doctor came to Parkhead, but he didn't do anything. There were more people around. He didn't come near me, but I was always scared.
28. I saw a different doctor in Parkhead. He was alright. He talked to me and asked me what I liked doing and what my sisters were like. I was a bit wary of him.
29. We were locked in at night time, but not during the day. We couldn't come and go all the time, but we were allowed out at certain times. I didn't eat because I didn't want to be there. I wouldn't shower or bath at Parkhead. We could get a bath there, but I wouldn't.
30. I was only in Parkhead for a short time. I don't know why I left. It didn't seem like I was there as long I was in Ladyfield. It seemed like I was in Ladyfield forever. I can remember [REDACTED] coming to pick me up from Parkhead. In recent years, my mum has told me that I was in four places altogether but I only remember being in Ladyfield and Parkhead.

Life after being in care

31. I thought differently when I came home from Ladyfield and Parkhead. I just didn't like my mum and I made sure she knew it.
32. I once asked my mum for a pram for Christmas. I was a tom boy, but I'd seen the pink pram in the toy shop. I loved it. My mum kept smiling as if I was going to have it. Christmas came and I was so excited. I went down the stairs. I saw a pink pram behind the door. But then I saw another one and another one. She'd bought my sisters the pram, but she never got me one. They didn't want prams. I smashed them all up. I got battered for that.
33. I carried on making my jam piece in the morning and going out. That was all I could get. It would do me the whole day. I never ate at home because my mum didn't feed me. That's why I was so tiny.
34. I attended [REDACTED] Primary School. My sister [REDACTED] went there too. My mum was still taking me to a doctor in Castle Douglas, but that became less frequent. It was just a normal doctor. I also went to day appointments at psychiatric hospitals because my mum kept saying I was naughty. I think she wanted me to go back in.
35. By then, I know from my medical records that my mum had issues and the doctors had become suspicious of her. I was supposed to be taken away by the social work department. My mum always told me that somebody would come and get me. She would threaten me that I would be taken away if I was naughty. I waited every day, but they never came to get me. It was terrible. My mum missed some appointments and they closed the case. I think I was about six years old. They should never have closed the case. I was hoping they would come and take me. I didn't care where they took me. I would've gone anywhere.
36. I never spoke to my dad about the way my mum was treating me. When he was at home, he would take me away and do things with me. He knew my mum wasn't very nice to me, but he didn't know how bad it was. I wanted to get adopted all the way

through my childhood. [REDACTED] told me that I should've been because I had such a horrible life. She told the police that too when I reported the abuse at Ladyfield to the police. She spoke to an officer called Claire Torrance because I was unable to do so myself at that time.

37. We left [REDACTED] when I was nine years old. We went to live in Dalbeattie. By that time, my dad had left the special forces and started his own business. Things changed for the better when my dad came back. He used to take me out with him a lot. He was still away quite a lot. He was busy with his work and he would go out drinking.
38. We moved to a new build house in Dalbeattie. We used the cattle float to move our furniture. A local girl came into the cattle float and punched me in the face and said, "My mum wanted that house." That was on my first day there. The same girl was in my class at school and she bullied me throughout my time there.
39. I didn't pay attention at high school. My mum hit me with a belt when I was at high school. It ripped my throat. A friend saw it happen and told her to stop. I fell pregnant when I was fifteen. I didn't know I was pregnant until I was four and a half months. I left school straight away. My boyfriend, [REDACTED] was three and a half years older than me and he had just come out of a secure unit. My mum pushed me when I was pregnant. I didn't want to get married to my baby's father, but she made me. She was ashamed. I got married when I was sixteen. I cried on my wedding day. My dad was heartbroken. He never spoke about it. He didn't come to the wedding.
40. We were married for 25 years. I loved being a mum. [REDACTED] was a provider. Initially, he was a serial thief because he came out of borstal. He spent some time in jail when he was young. After that, he never got into trouble again. He turned his life around. He worked as a bus driver and on a fish farm. We had everything we wanted but I didn't love him. I wouldn't have married him if I hadn't fallen pregnant. I had four children with [REDACTED] but one has now passed away. My oldest son is 34. He works for his dad doing window cleaning. I have a 32 year old son and a 24 year old daughter, who is a trauma nurse. I get on well with all my children but I don't have a good relationship with my oldest son. He's never forgiven me for leaving his dad.

41. I was very unwell with anorexia in 2000. I weighed five and a half stones. I really wanted to leave [REDACTED] I felt trapped because my son wasn't well. I became more and more down. My big sister, [REDACTED], took me to North Berwick, where she lives, for a rest. She tried to make me see how small I had become. She would take photographs of me. I would say I looked fat. She would show me the Next catalogue and ask me what size I wanted to be. At that time, the smallest size was a size ten. I would tell her I'd love to be that size. I was too small to get into a size six in those days, but I still couldn't see it. I told her that I thought mum had let the doctor hurt me and that was when my family found out what had happened to me at Ladyfield.
42. I finally left my husband, [REDACTED] in 2001. My daughter, [REDACTED], was born in 2006. She doesn't see her own dad but she has a good relationship with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I had children together. We lost our son. We carried on doing things as parents. There's no fighting between us.
43. My son, [REDACTED], was ill for most of his life. He suffered a lot. I was his carer for many years. He took ill at the age of five or six. He had a sore tummy. I kept taking him to the doctors and they said I was an over anxious mother. They wouldn't listen to me. I knew there was something wrong with him. He was wasting away in front of me. Eventually, the doctor tested [REDACTED]'s blood. He was diagnosed with crohn's disease. They gave him lots of treatment but he got worse. It was the wrong diagnosis, but it was too late. He lost part of his eye sight. He couldn't walk and was in a wheelchair. I lived in Glasgow with him for nine months at a time. He had something called wegener's granulomatosis. It's like an ulcer, but then it becomes more than an ulcer. It was as if his body was eating itself.
44. In 2006, [REDACTED] was killed going to church with his cousin. They hit a gritter lorry a few days before [REDACTED]. He was twenty years old. After the accident, his father phoned my sister, [REDACTED], so she could break it to me. Because I lived in the country the signal was bad and she couldn't get to me. She told my mum and my sister, [REDACTED], but they never told me. I was the last to know that he'd died.

45. I went to see [REDACTED] at the mortuary. My husband and all of his family got to see him first. The mortuary had wrapped him like a mummy apart from a bit of his face. He looked okay but when I looked at his mouth I got a fright. I thought beasts had eaten him. I kissed him on his face, but that affected me for quite a while. I became anorexic again. I was struggling quite a bit because he had this strange thing in his mouth. My sister is a doctor. A couple of days later, I asked her why the beasts had eaten him. She told me it would have been his last breath, which crystallised in his mouth because of the sudden impact.
46. My dad was killed in an accident on the Dalmeny estate near South Queensferry eleven years ago. He had gone back to working in forestry when his business folded and a tree fell on his chest. My mum never even told me. My sister told me later that day. She said I needed to come up to Edinburgh quickly because dad was unconscious. I was the last to know and I had the biggest journey.
47. When I did get there, I was looking around the curtains in Accident and Emergency and I couldn't see my dad. A nurse took me into a room and all my family, aunts, uncles, everybody was there. My dad had already died. I wanted to see my dad. I'm a very timid person. I was trying to cover my eyes before I went in to the room so I could only see a little bit if it scared me. My mum told me to stop it and that I was showing myself up. The nurse gave her a row three times and told her he was my father. My dad was everything to me. It was supposed to be a nice thing, to say goodbye and give him a kiss, but my mum turned it to her way as usual. It was horrible. When my dad died, my mum sold his business. All my sisters got an inheritance and I got nothing. I asked for his hankies and that was all I got.
48. I still don't have a good relationship with my mum. She's about seventy now. I've always tried to please her, but if I won twenty millions pounds and gave it to her it still wouldn't be enough. I'm not allowed to go up to her house without making an appointment. Even [REDACTED] has to make an appointment to see her. You get fifteen minutes. I have to put my hand up if I want to speak to her. We're not allowed to wear shoes in the house.

Impact

49. The impact of what happened in Ladyfield has been terrible. I've never been able to have a shower because of what happened. I can't do it. I don't want to smell soap. I'm really timid. I'm scared of everything. I won't go on a train, I won't go on a boat. I've recently started going on the bus but I get really anxious because I feel trapped. I've complained about the drivers because they go too fast and I'm not used to it. I don't venture anywhere.
50. I don't like doctors. I can't be around white coats. I had a lump in my breast and I didn't go to the doctor. I've damaged my body quite a lot but I just can't go to the doctors. I always cancel appointments at the last minute. I really should be going to the doctor just now because I'm going through the change. I've got sore bits that I should be getting checked out but I've phoned up and cancelled again. I'm terrified of going to the doctors. I only go when I really have to and I'm pressurised to go. That'll never go away.
51. What happened in Ladyfield made me feel like I wasn't good enough all my life. I always thought I was bad because I was told that every day by my mum. I don't make friends easily. I'm scared of people. I'm scared of men. I think they're going to hurt me all the time.
52. The first time I had sexual intercourse was with the man I married. I didn't know we'd done it. I thought we were just cuddling. I had my clothes on. He said, "That's it, we've done it." I never felt a thing. My boyfriend was quite offended. My counsellor told me that was a classic sign of having been abused. I had shut it off.
53. I always wanted my mum's love. I became like a Cinderella. I would go down to her house and help her, but her nurse told me to stop going. My mum's still not even said sorry to me. I'm still not good enough for her. I've never drank. I've never taken drugs. I've never smoked. I've wasted so many years, thinking that the doctor hurt me as a punishment. I've felt unwanted and not good enough for a long time. I was anorexic at the age of four. I was so scared of everything when I was a child. I've suffered all of

my life and I attribute that to my mum and her mental and physical treatment of me. When I got my records in 2013 and that nurse told me it hadn't been my fault, it was a big relief. I always thought I was bad. I was told that every day.

54. I nearly passed away because of anorexia. It recurs all the time. I don't eat when I'm sad and I'm sad because I remember all the bad things that happened to me. I only have bad memories of being a youngster. I did have five sessions with a counsellor about six years ago. I was referred by my GP. The counsellor cried when I told her what had happened to me. She said there was nothing she could do to help me and that I was a strong woman. I did feel better for having told her what happened, but I thought she would do more for me.
55. I have sought support from my GP in Castle Douglas recently. I told him all the things that have happened to me and he swore. He thinks that I suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I have been referred to a mental health nurse. I am stronger now than I ever have been, but I've been thinking about what happened a lot recently and I don't sleep well. I self-help a lot. I like to get outdoors. I love the countryside. I love to train. That makes me feel free. I never like to be in enclosed spaces. I'm scared of being trapped. I've moved about a fair bit because I couldn't settle. I liked living in the countryside.
56. So many people that were in Ladyfield have turned to drugs or alcohol or, like me, anorexia. I've made it my mission to find out what happened. There are other people out there, saying the same thing as me. Why are people not helping these children? I'm trying to help myself. I need peace in my heart and in my head. I need to know everybody had done their best to help me. There was nobody there to support me when I was a child.

Reporting of Abuse

57. I was very ill with anorexia in 2000. My sister, [REDACTED], tried to help me. She thought my illness was all about my hatred for mum. She told me I had to deal with it. I spoke

- to my sister about the fact that my mum had let the doctor hurt me. I'd never told anybody before that. [REDACTED] told my parents and after that I had to go into the room with them. She told me that I'd been abused but I wouldn't have it. My parents were crying. I didn't know what they were crying for because I thought they knew what had happened to me. My dad had a tear in his eye and my mum was in shock. I thought what the doctor did to me was part of my punishment for being bad. I thought my mum told him to do that to me.
58. Mum, dad and I then went to see Doctor Christie, my GP. She said that there were no medical files that went back that far. My dad was heartbroken. He wanted answers but we never got any. He died not knowing. I didn't report it to the police at that time because there were no medical notes.
59. In 2013, my sister told me we had to try again. I phoned Dumfries and Galloway health board and managed to obtain some records. I was helped by a man there called John Glover. I discovered that a paediatrician, Doctor [REDACTED] had been sacked by Dumfries and Galloway health board for inappropriate behaviour with patients. Subsequently, I've found out that the hospital paid some families off. I asked John Glover if he could have been the doctor that hurt me. He said it was more than likely. I can't say that it was him because I never knew his name when I was little. I reported what happened to the police in Dalbeattie. I told the police that there had been a doctor abusing children, Doctor [REDACTED]
60. Other people who were patients in Ladyfield have posted comments online about abuse. There's [REDACTED] called, "[REDACTED]." I've shown those comments to the police. I believe that the nurse who took me into the shower at Ladyfield is a matron in a nursing home. She is now in her seventies. Her name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Why don't the police go and get her?
61. A couple of months ago, somebody sent me a private message online. He said he was raped and beaten and so were most of the people in Ladyfield. He said that everybody got hurt in that place. He said he couldn't report it. I took pictures of the messages on my phone. I've shown them to the police, but they're not doing anything. I've also tried

to find [REDACTED] who was in the room with me at Ladyfield. I've never managed to find him. Maybe he's not here anymore.

62. Despite all the information I've given them, the police have told me that they are not taking the investigation any further. They've told me that they've spoken to some of the doctors from Ladyfield. They say they're not going to charge them because they're 82. I've made three complaints about the police, which have all been upheld by the chief constable. One complaint related to the last officer in charge of my case, John Service. He lied in a letter to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority about my case. He said I had no information about my case, which wasn't true.
63. In 2013, Angus Cameron of the health board told the police that Doctor [REDACTED] was never employed by them. I don't know why the health board lied. I could definitely identify the doctor who abused me if I was shown a picture of him when he was younger. He's stuck in my mind. The police have never shown me any such pictures or asked me to try and identify him. They keep moving police officers from my case. Three have been taken off it. I don't feel like the police have taken my case seriously. They don't seem sympathetic to the fact I'm trying to tell them about things that have happened to me when I was a child. I'm really disappointed. No wonder people won't report abuse. The police seem unapproachable. I feel like the police have forgotten about us. It's not fair.

Records

64. After I disclosed the abuse in 2000, I went to my doctor with my parents. She told me that my records didn't go back as far as when I was in Ladyfield. My sister encouraged me to try and get my records again in 2013. I phoned up Dumfries and Galloway Health Board and spoke to John Glover. He told me that most of my records had been destroyed but he said he would do everything he could to find out. He was an amazing help.
65. John Glover organised a meeting with Angus Cameron, the head of the NHS in Dumfries and Galloway. I met him in April 2013. He brought a nurse with him to tell

me what information they had found out. They told me that nothing that had happened had been my fault. It was the first time somebody had said that to me. That was great. It was such a relief. I looked at the records and it was all my mum. It was a long time to feel not wanted and not good enough.

Hopes for the Inquiry

66. I want the person who hurt us to be punished. We need peace in our hearts. We've been living with it for a long time and it's never going to go away. Somebody should be accountable, surely. Somebody must stand up and say sorry. We're all affected differently. I could've died. My children could've been without their mum. I've damaged my body terribly. It's not fair. My mind needs peace.
67. I think it's a good thing that the Inquiry is being held and that vulnerable people and children are being helped. Without children, there's no future.
68. 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..

PYC

Dated..

13/9/2018