

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

UUU

Support person present: No

1. My full name is UUU This has been my name since birth. My date of birth is 1963.

### Life before care

2. I was born in a private hospital in Glasgow and lived in Dumbarton with my parents and brother. My mother was and my father was I had an older brother called who was about a year and nine months older than me. My dad was a teacher in technical subjects in Beirut and later a technical advisor back in Scotland. My mum was a radiographer, although she was a stay at home mum when we were young.
3. I had some health problems as a baby. I had a Pyloric Stenosis Ramstedts operation, which is a stomach operation, when I was four weeks old. Life at home with my family was miserable for me. I was always treated like I was a problem because I had difficulties at pre-school and school as well.
4. I got my medical records as an adult, and I found out that I had gone to Beirut with my parents as a toddler and got an infection that caused brain swelling. I think it is called Encephalitis. We came back to Dumbarton when I was still about two or three years old, then moved we all moved to Cults in Aberdeen in 1966 when I was still three years old. I had a brain scan at the time which showed that the swelling had caused damage to my brain. I think that was what caused my difficulties with

learning and my speech. My mother never told me about this though, and just treated me like I was stupid when I was a child.

5. I started Cults Primary School and struggled to learn because there were about thirty kids in the class and I needed more time and attention from the teacher. I remember my teacher would lose patience with me when I couldn't do fractions or whatever and would yell at me. She would take me to SNR [REDACTED] office to get punished. SNR [REDACTED] then gave me the belt. One time he threw me across his office and my teeth came through my lip. I still have a scar under my lip from that. I think I was about five or six years old when that happened.
6. I wasn't getting on well at home either because I was wetting the bed and my mum would lose her temper with me. I was put into Sick Kids Hospital in Aberdeen when I was eight years old because I wasn't coping well at home or at school. The teachers at school said I was disturbing the class.

#### **Sick Kids Hospital, Aberdeen**

7. I was about eight years old when I was put into Sick Kids Hospital. I stayed on a ward there for about six months.
8. I have some memories of my time there but not a lot. The unit had girls and boys in it. I slept in a dormitory with six beds in it, and we were all girls. There was another room where the boys slept. There was a playground at the back. They had a school within the hospital that I went to but I don't remember exactly where the classrooms were.
9. I didn't have very many friends when I was there. It was quite boring. The staff weren't nasty to me or anything but I was just one of a bunch of kids. There was nothing special about me.

10. I remember a staff member there who took a shine to me. I never liked washing in the big bath in the bathroom and asked her not to bathe me there, so she would bathe me in the utility sink. There was nothing sinister in it and she didn't do anything nasty, but she did tell me not to tell anybody that I had a bath in the sink instead of in the big bath. I did tell someone and then it was stopped. I felt bad because I felt like I had ruined things and so didn't know what I should and shouldn't speak out about after that.
11. I remember my mum would come in and talk to a psychologist and staff. Having read my records as an adult, I have learned that the professionals who were dealing with me had picked up on my mum's lack of empathy and warmth, and that my dad wasn't interested. I wish I had known that at the time because I was always made to feel like that was in my head and nobody believed me.
12. I remember a woman called Mrs Sheldon came to see me. I think she was a social worker. I told her something and asked her not to tell my mum, but she did. That caused a lot of misery between my mother and me. It made me not want to share things after that.
13. I was in the hospital through the week and would go home at the weekends.

#### **Ladymary Residential School, Edinburgh**

14. I was nine years old when I started at Ladymary School in [REDACTED] 1973. I don't know who decided I was to go to this school or why it was picked. I don't know if my parents paid any fees. I wasn't happy about going because it was new territory and I was scared, but then I was not happy being at home with my family either.
15. I remember my mum taking me there on the first day in her little Mini. I remember driving up this long drive with lots of trees, and I was seeing spooky faces in the trees. We drove up to a bonnie, sandstone building which had a nice playground area outside. The grounds around the building were quite nice.

16. When I got there, there were lots of nuns about. There was a Sister MHT and a Sister Josephine. I hadn't been brought up Catholic so it was all weird to me. I remember my mum walking about with her own self-importance.

#### *Layout*

17. When you went in the main door, there was an area with a one way shiny mirrored window. I thought that was a bit odd. On the same floor there was a communal area and a dining room. The classrooms were on the ground floor too, down the corridor, I think. I don't remember the classrooms too clearly. The place had a little swimming pool as well.
18. There were units upstairs where we all slept. The place was mixed, girls and boys, aged from nine to twelve years old when I was there. I don't know if they took kids younger than me. There were about 25 kids in the school.
19. There were three units, which were divided up by age group. I can't remember if they had names. Each unit had bedrooms, its own kitchen and living room with a TV. The first unit was at the top of the stairs to the right. Then the next one was along the landing, and the third one was upstairs again, on another landing. I never saw the third one. I think you were moved up each unit as you got older.
20. When I first went in, I was in the first unit which was quite small. There was a phone in a cupboard just outside of the door. As you went in the door, there was a narrow lounge and dining area on the left hand side, and the kitchen came off the end of that. Further along the corridor, there was maybe a small room for kids on the right hand side, and then right at the end there was the bathroom and maybe a couple of other rooms. Before you got to the bathrooms, there was a corridor to the left and there was a boy's room with about four to six beds in it, on the left hand side, then my room was on the right. I was the only girl in there so I had a room to myself with a single bed in it. A female staff member had a room just passed mine which backed on to mine. There were about five to seven of us in total in that unit, maybe eight but no more than that. I was the only girl and the youngest there.

21. After about a year, when I was about ten years old, I was moved to the second unit, which was quite a bit bigger. The door opened straight into the living and dining area, which had two dining tables in it and a seating area. There was a kitchen with a counter. When you went passed that and along the corridor, the bathroom was on the left and my dormitory was past that on the right. The dormitory was a room with about three beds, so I shared a room with two other girls there. Along from there was a living area for a female member of staff and then further along that corridor was a room for boys on the right and left hand side. I think there were about eight boys so there were about twelve kids in unit two. Then at the end of the corridor was Brian Dailey's room who was a male staff member.
22. I think the third unit only had four kids in it, but I never saw it.
23. I don't really remember many names of the other kids. I think I buried it all. I remember [REDACTED] who was one of the girls I shared a room with in unit two, and a boy called [REDACTED] who was from Aberdeen. There was a girl called [REDACTED] who had a bed in a cupboard. Looking back now, I think she might have been autistic.

#### *Staff*

24. I don't remember Sister MHT [REDACTED] and Sister Josephine really having anything to do with us. I only saw the nuns very occasionally after my first day there. They might have taken the odd class but other than that we never really saw them. The place was run by civilian staff.
25. The staff who looked after us in the units were civilian staff. There was one heavy set female member of staff who had a room in unit one. There was another heavy set female member of staff in unit two had had her own quarters and also Brian Dailey who had his own room. They would usually be on separate shifts and not working together.



### **Daily routine at Ladymary School**

26. The staff would wake us up and tell us to get washed and ready. We would get dressed and go for breakfast at the dining table in our own units. Then we would go to school for the morning. Then the bell would ring for lunch time. I think it was a hand bell.
27. All the kids in the school had lunch together in the main dining hall downstairs. Then we went back to school for the afternoon. We would get our tea in our own units and then we got outside to play for a wee while. We would maybe get some time to watch TV in our own units.
28. In the evening we had an evening routine to get ready for bed. Bedtime was quite early. I think we would have been settled in bed by eight or nine pm.
29. I don't remember going to church or anything religious, thankfully. I usually went home at the weekends.

### *Mealtimes / Food*

30. The kids and staff members would sit around the dining table in the unit at breakfast. We all had our own places where we sat at the dining table, and our own personalised things there, like drinking cups and egg cups. I had a hippo cup that I liked but I broke it by mistake.
31. We got a good breakfast in the unit, with bacon and egg and toast.
32. At lunch times we ate in the main dining hall downstairs with all the kids in the home. We sat down and the food was brought to us. We didn't have a choice about what to eat. We always had fish and chips on a Friday, which I liked. The food was generally good if you liked it.

33. I didn't like it when I got semolina or anything with cheese. I really had an issue with cheese, which was openly known in there. One time when I was in unit one, I was given quiche which had cheese all over it and I wouldn't eat it. One of the staff members in unit one made me sit and eat it, and I vomited all over myself. I then got in trouble for being sick and was put to my bed. I was forced to eat cheese a few times in unit one and made to sit there until I did.
34. One time we were all fed partially cooked and re-heated mince. The whole school was sick and was shut down for food poisoning.

#### *Washing / bathing*

35. We had a bath once a week or something. I don't know if it was on a rota. It was like a normal family. The staff would just tell you to go and get a bath.
36. I think the first unit had a shower over a bath. We got privacy to shut the door and wash by ourselves.
37. In the second unit there was a bath in its own cubicle and about four cubicles with showers that had a shower curtain so we had our privacy.

#### *Weekends*

38. I can't remember if I went home every weekend or every second weekend. I think it changed from every week to every second week.
39. I used to fly from Edinburgh to Aberdeen to see my parents, on a Friday probably. There was a boy called [REDACTED] in the home who would also be going to see his family and he would fly with me. He was in a different unit from me. He used to pick on me.

40. My mum would drive me back to the school on a Sunday and that was always a miserable journey. The car would always be freezing because she would have the windows open to stop me being sick, but I would be sick because of the anxiety of going back to school. My neck would seize up because of the cold. I hated travelling with her.

#### *Clothing / uniform*

41. I had my own clothes but there was a kind of uniform in the sense that the girls all wore the same kind of things, like smocks.
42. I had this horrible dress that mother always wanted me to wear. I hated it. The staff would always tell me I couldn't climb trees because I was wearing a dress. It annoyed me. I still climbed trees and I just thought that if they had a problem with me climbing trees in a dress then they could put trousers on me.

#### *Schooling*

43. I don't remember much about school. I think it was mostly civilian staff but I saw the nuns very occasionally too so maybe they taught us sometimes. I remember being made to watch "Living and Growing," which was like sex education and cartoons, as part of our learning in the TV room. That was one of those silly moments.
44. I remember I was picked on a lot by other kids in class and the teachers didn't do anything to stop it. I reconnected with a boy from Ladymary's as an adult. His name is [REDACTED] and his nickname was [REDACTED]. He said he remembered kids that used to pick on me about my awful handwriting. That is something I am very touchy about, even to this day.

#### *Free time and activities*

45. There were very few toys in the unit. Most of the play was done outside so there was nothing really to do in the units.



46. I liked whittling wood and working with my hands. One time I was out and found a stick which I picked up so I could strip the bark of it and whittle it. The staff wouldn't let me finish it that night and took it off me and put it in a cupboard. It was a hot cupboard, which dried it up and it ruined it. It just made me think that we were left with nothing to tinker with.
47. We would get to play outside in the early evening after our tea or watch TV in our units before bedtime. Sometimes all the kids watched TV in the communal area downstairs if a few of us wanted to watch the same thing, like Top of The Pops or something.
48. I was made to do ballet on a Tuesday after tea. It would be in the dining room with the tables pushed to the side. I hated doing it because it seemed too girly with the frilly dresses, which just wasn't me, plus my feet just never moved the right way for it. zPRU who took the class would get angry and hit my ankles with a stick.
49. There was a move where you could use a bungee cord with a belt to jump and do twists. I wanted to try that because it looked fun, but he never let me do that because I couldn't get my feet right first so I was being punished for something I physically couldn't do. He let other girls do it. I think if he had let me do something fun that I wanted to do then maybe I would have had more of an interest in doing it. I would have preferred to do gymnastics instead of ballet but that wasn't an option.
50. I refused to do ballet after a while so I would just be sent to my bed instead. I would be in there from teatime for the rest of the night.
51. I think we were let out occasionally as we got a bit older. I remember we did get out to see the film Tommy, which came out in 1975. It was a fifteen and I was underage but I did get to see it. Other than that, I don't remember any outings. I think we mainly played in the grounds.

### *Chores*

- 52. We didn't have to do many chores. We would help to clean up the dishes after meals and things. One time, when everyone was sick with food poisoning, I helped out with the laundry because there was so much of it from people being sick.
- 53. We didn't Hoover and clean or anything like that. I think they had cleaners who came to do that in the units when we were at school.

### *Family contact*

- 54. There was a telephone in a cupboard outside of unit one. We could take a call there if someone phoned in to speak to you. My mum would sometimes call me. I once snuck out of my unit to use that to call my mother using a reverse charge.
- 55. I got home either every weekend or every fortnight. I can't remember which.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

- 56. I think I had my tenth birthday while I was in the first unit. I don't remember much about it but I think they did acknowledge it and probably generated a wee cake or something for us.
- 57. I would go home to my family for Christmas.

### **Abuse at Ladymary School**

- 58. The staff would smack you at times. It was usually with their hand on your backside but it didn't happen too often.

59. [REDACTED] who took the ballet class on a Tuesday after school would get angry and call me "pigeon feet" when I didn't get the moves right. He would hit my ankles with an old fashioned wooden stick with a curved handle. He did that in every class and I would have bruised ankles from it. He used to wear a yucky fawn jacket but I can't remember his name.
60. There was a room called "the quiet room" that you would be put in as a punishment if the staff thought you were being bad. It was just a dirty little room with only a bare, hard wood, single bed and a mucky carpet. I remember lifting the corner of the carpet one time and somebody had pooped under it.
61. You would be left in the room for hours sometimes. You weren't locked into the room but you would be taking your life into your own hands if you came out.
62. One day when the ballet teacher was hitting my ankles, I lost the plot and took his stick off him and hit him back with it. Staff came and took me away and put me in the quiet room. I lost the plot in the quiet room and exploded so the staff pinned me down and sat on me to calm me down. There were three of them, which I thought was a bit much for a nine year old girl. One of them was Brian Dailey and he was a pretty strong guy. That didn't happen to me a lot but I saw it happen to other kids. I didn't think they needed three adults to pin down one kid and sit on them. They seemed to think that was ok. I don't remember the names of the kids because I have suppressed so much.

*Brian Dailey*

63. Brian Dailey first sexually abused me when I was in the first unit after I had been there for two or three months, so I would have been about nine years old. I didn't know who Brian was at the time because he didn't work in my unit. He came into my room at night with a boy. I still don't know the boy's name. He was about sixteen years old, I think. Brian Dailey made me perform oral sex on the boy. I didn't want to do it and tried to say no and kept pushing the boy away. Brian kept telling me to do it and I kept pushing it away. Brian then punched me in the nose. My nose started

bleeding but he still made me do it. The boy ejaculated in my mouth. It was horrible and left me in a right state that night. I didn't know the boy or how old he was but he was definitely older than me. The oldest kids in the home were twelve years old but I thought the boy was older than that but he might not have been. He might also have been a friend of Brian's. I have no idea who he was.

64. There was a female staff member in the first unit whose room backed onto mine. I spoke to her the next day and told her I was made to do stuff with a man and a boy the night before. I didn't have the language to explain it properly because I was so young. She didn't really ask me anything about it and didn't seem to want to deal with it. I even asked if she heard anything and she said no. I told her I was scared it would happen again and was really upset. Her answer was to lock me in my bedroom at night, so she must have believed me and been aware of what was going on. She must have got into trouble for locking my door at night, because after a while she told me that she wasn't allowed to do it and stopped locking my door. The abuse started again after that.
65. A few days after the abuse happened, I snuck out of unit one and used the phone in the cupboard to phone my mum. I told her that a man had punched me and that he had made me do things to a boy. I didn't know what his name was at the time, but it didn't matter because she didn't believe me and hung the phone up on me.
66. My nose would bleed regularly after the punch from Brian Dailey. I have had problems with that my whole life. A doctor who examined me as an adult said it had been broken and the punch is the only incident that I know could have broken it.
67. After that first incident, I would only ever see Brian Dailey when he was coming into my room to sexually abuse me with the same boy. I was making noise by crying and saying no. I don't know how the staff member in the room beside me didn't hear anything, especially after I had already told her. Brian started taking me to the bathroom to abuse me, which was away from my room. He probably did that so the staff member wouldn't hear. It happened about six times when I was in that first unit

and each time it was with that same boy. Brian would make me do stuff with the boy while he would masturbate and then ejaculate into a hanky that he had with him.

68. I didn't know where Brian was coming from until about a year later when I was moved into the second unit and introduced to the staff there. I would have been about ten years old then. That was when I saw Brian come into the lounge area and realised that he was one of the workers in the second unit. I felt sick and so vulnerable. I froze and went into myself when I saw him but none of the other staff picked up on it. If they had any empathy, they would have picked up on my reaction. I was glad that I was going to be in a dormitory with two other girls because I thought he surely wouldn't be able to abuse me with other girls in the room.
69. My bed was in line with the dormitory door and the door would be left open at night. Nothing happened for the first wee while then he came in, tapped me quietly to wake me and beckoned for me to follow him without making any noise. I didn't want to but I would because I was scared what would happen if I didn't. He took me down to his room, which was at the end of the corridor on the right. I remember his room was tidy and his bed was along the wall. There was a window with a wash basin beside it, and heater pipes. I remember his hanky hanging on the side of the heater, and I recognised it as the hanky he would previously use to ejaculate in.
70. That first time he took me to his room, he told me to take my jim-jams down and bent me over his bed. Then he took this cast iron bracket thing that was about a foot and a half long and was hanging over the heating pipes. I think it was supposed to be bolted down but wasn't. He took it and pressed it onto my buttocks. It was absolutely roasting and really painful. It seemed like a bizarre thing to do but he obviously got a kick out of it. Horrible man. Then he ejaculated all over me and made me go to bed all covered in his stuff.
71. After that, he would come into my room at night every few weeks and tap me awake and make me follow him to his room to abuse me. It was always him on his own when I was in the second unit. He digitally penetrated me and rubbed his penis over my private parts but didn't penetrate me with his penis. He would ejaculate onto my

private parts. He abused me about six times when I was in that second unit, but I was never able to sleep properly because I was always expecting him to come in at any time and then having nightmares and wetting the bed.

72. Brian Dailey was quite a solid, brash guy with dark hair. I wasn't sure of his age. I also forgot his name when I left the home because I must have been compartmentalising things. It wasn't until years later when I gave my evidence to the police, and when speaking with [REDACTED] that the connections were made that the man I was talking about was Brian Dailey.
73. I didn't know at the time if he was abusing anybody else. I found out years later, as an adult, that he was abusing other kids at the same time as he was abusing me. I found out that he had been abusing boys in the boys' dormitory and all the boys in the dormitory were aware it was happening. I found this out in 2017 when he was charged. I was shocked when I found this out because I thought it had only been me getting abused.
74. I did think about running away at the time but I didn't because I had nowhere to go and nobody to help me. Nobody had helped me up to this time.

#### *Healthcare*

75. I used to get a lot of headaches and staff would just give me Disprin or Paracetamol. I would be in bed for a week in a darkened room and I would be quite ill. They never got me a doctor or anything. I found out later, after I left care, that I suffered from migraines.
76. I enjoyed using the swimming pool but I did get burned with the chlorine once because they had got the levels wrong. My eyes were nipping and my skin was burnt in patches. I never got any treatment for it.



77. There was the time when the whole place was shut down for food poisoning. Everyone got exceptionally sick from partially cooked and re-heated mince. I was vomiting for about a week. I remember we all had to give samples to a doctor who was called in. I think there were only about four people in the home who hadn't eaten the mince who weren't sick. I started to feel better before everybody else and so helped out in the laundry because there was so much washing from all the vomiting, but then I ended up getting sick again and ended up back in bed.
78. Whenever I would come back from a weekend at home, I would be violently sick for a couple of nights. The staff just give me a basin and left me to it. They started leaving the basin there when I came back from a visit because they knew I would be sick. They dismissed it by saying it was because I was homesick but it wasn't. It was because I was terrified about the abuse that I always knew was coming from Brian Dailey.
79. My nose started bleeding regularly after Brian Dailey punched me in the face. I would bend over to tie a shoelace or something, and it would bleed for about an hour. This was happening a few times a week and would happen when I was home visiting my mother. After about two years of having these nose bleeds, my mum took me to a private hospital and got my nose cauterised to stop the bleeding. Nobody asked me at the hospital if anything had happened. My mother was there and I remember she was more interested in talking to the doctor about my brother's issues as he had hurt his nose playing football, so nobody even asked me any questions or spoke to me by myself. I don't know if the cause of my nose bleeds would have been picked up on if it had been done on NHS. Maybe they would have asked more questions and spoke to me by myself.
80. I used to get tingly legs a lot, which started when I was at Ladymary and I never knew what it was. I found out as an adult that it was from Herpes, which I must have caught from Brian Dailey.

81. At one time, when I was in the second unit, I was taken to a dentist in Edinburgh because I was having problems with my teeth. The male dentist wanted to strap me to the chair. I panicked because I thought something bad was going to happen to me. I got up and ran out of the room, out of the practise, and across a main road. I nearly got knocked over in the process. I then just made my way back to the school. I don't know if I reacted like that because of the abuse that was happening. I don't know if it was Brian Dailey who had taken me to the dentist. I then didn't see a dentist until I was home in Aberdeen, and my mum made a decision that I would only see the dentist in Aberdeen.

*Bed wetting*

82. I started wetting the bed horrendously after the abuse started. I had wet the bed before but it was occasional. It happened every night when the abuse started. When I was in the second unit, I was given this machine with these two metal mesh things with a buzzer, which would buzz when I wet the bed. It was supposed to train me out of wetting the bed. It did work though because I did stop wetting the bed.
83. When I wet the bed, the thing would buzz me awake. I would then get up in the middle of the night and have to change my bedding in the dark. The staff would leave me dry bedding just in case. I would just leave my wet bedding at the bottom of the bed.
84. The bed wetting was hard to hide from the other girls in the room because they would be asking what the machine was. I would have preferred to have had my own room because of that so I could have had the privacy to deal with it. I said that to the female staff member in unit two and she said that she would have liked to have given me a room to myself but Brian Dailey had that room. That makes me think that he was maybe an extra member of staff in that unit and his room should have been used for kids.

### **Reporting of abuse at Ladymary School**

85. I told the female staff member in unit one who slept in the room next to me about the sexual abuse by Brian Dailey after the first time it happened, when I was nine years old. She didn't do anything about it apart from locking me in my bedroom at night, but she stopped doing that after she got in trouble. Then the abuse started again. I also told my mum on the phone that a man had tried to make me do sexual stuff to a boy and punched me in the face but she didn't believe me and hung up on me. This was a few days after it first happened.

### **Leaving Ladymary School**

86. I kind of knew I would leave when I reached twelve years old because my mum had told me that. I don't remember anyone preparing me to leave.
87. I was scared to leave because I knew I was going to Cranley Boarding School, which I knew nothing about. I was also happy to leave because I was glad to be getting away from him. I went straight from one term at Ladymary into a new term at Cranley Boarding School.

### **Cranley Boarding School, Edinburgh**

88. I went to Cranley Boarding School when I was twelve years old and stayed for a about a year or two. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### **Leaving Cranley Boarding School**

130. When I was home during a holiday, my mum told me that I was going to be leaving Cranley and going to Forteviot Royal Hospital for Sick Children. I was about fourteen years old when I left Cranley. I think it was because I had been struggling there.

### **Forteviot Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh**

131. I went to Forteviot when I was about fourteen years old and stayed for a few months. It was a much smaller place than Cranley. The school was more for children with special needs.
132. There were boys and girls there, and we slept in separate, small dormitories. There were three or four girls in my dorm. The cabinets by the bed for our stuff wasn't locked or anything and were like hospital type bedside cabinets with an open long bit and then a small drawer so we didn't have much space to close our things away.

### *Schooling*

133. I remember the term "gay" being used to explain someone being happy, and it was around the time that it was starting to be used as a word to explain homosexuals. I remember having to read out of a book and having to read that word and the other kids starting to giggle about it. That was an eye opener for me because I never knew until then that the word had another meaning.
134. I remember I got to make some enamel jewellery and I made an eye with a tear coming from it because that was how I was feeling. I was expressing how I was feeling through my art but nobody wanted to know. Nobody spoke to me about it or asked why I had made that.

### *Peer interaction*

135. I remember a lassie in one of the dorms who was from a bit more of a common background and she must have realised I was from a different background from her and decided to make my life a misery. I had a bright purple radio that my nana had given me and the girl would interfere with it by hiding it or taking batteries out or using it without my permission. I hated that because it was my pride and joy but there was nowhere to lock your stuff away so everyone helped themselves. Someone broke it and broke the battery bit so I then had to Sellotape it.
136. There was a girl in my dorm who had head lice and she would always swap our pillows, which I hated. She did it on purpose to annoy me. I would tell the staff and they would do nothing about it.
137. I remember the kids decided to teach me to kiss a boy. I didn't want to because of what had happened to me before but they were making me kiss this boy. It was horrible but there was no staff around to stop it or deal with it. There was a complete lack of supervision.

### **Leaving Forteviot**

138. Gordon Reid from Cordyce Residential School in Aberdeen came to assess my suitability to go to Cordyce which was for kids with some special needs but not too bad. I begged that man to get me out of Forteviot. I remember he gave me a wink and said not to worry and he'd have me in that school.
139. I was only in Forteviot for a few months but it was a very long few months. I was so fed up by this time after being in a few places where nobody cared about me. I felt really alone and nothing good was happening in my life. I didn't feel much about leaving and going to Cordyce. I didn't think things could get worse.



## **Cordyce Residential School, Aberdeen**

140. I was fourteen years old when I went to Cordyce Residential School, and I stayed there until I was sixteen. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### **Life after being in care**

157. I was a day pupil by the end of my time at Cordyce so was living at home with mum and dad. I carried on living there after I left Cordyce and was there until I was 23 years old because I couldn't afford to move out before that even though I wanted to.
158. At first, I carried on working one day a week at Cordyce Nursery. I had some nice experiences there but I didn't want a career in it. I ended up on the Youth Opportunity scheme, and got a job at the Teachers Resource Centre, which designed and produced learning materials for teachers. It was a big learning curve and a good experience for me. I was doing printing and admin work, and I really enjoyed it. I got an extension and worked there for over a year. They knew I had come from a special needs school and could see that I had some issues but I worked really hard and they could see something good in me. I then moved around a few jobs for a few years then managed to get a permanent job at the Teachers Resource Centre, where I worked for fourteen years. Then I got an HNC in photography. I am currently a technician in a school and I facilitate the teaching staff there, and I enjoy the job.
159. I didn't have a good relationship with my mother and home life was not a happy one because of the way my mother was. I didn't have a good relationship with my brother, [REDACTED] either because my mum always set us up against each other. She couldn't pay for me to have saxophone lessons as a kid but he got to have horse riding lessons, which were more expensive. I didn't have much contact with [REDACTED] while I was away at boarding school except when I was home. I don't have much of a relationship with him now because he has a lot of my mother's traits.
160. I tried to tell my parents about my experiences in care but my mother got up and walked out the room and my dad sat and did nothing. It was a bit disappointing but that is how they were. My mother is still alive and in a nursing home now and I don't see much of her.

## Impact

161. I have flashbacks about being made to eat the quiche when I was in Ladymary School and being sick. I have also wet the bed a few times as an adult when I have had to think or talk about my childhood trauma.
162. I have had nose bleeds and problems with my nose since I was punched by Brian Dailey when I was nine years old. I had it examined recently after having a nosebleed that lasted an hour and the doctor said it had been broken, and the punch from Brian Dailey is the only thing I know that could have caused it. My nose still bleeds heavily when I am under stress. I had it cauterised as a child and I recently had it cauterised again. I had anti-biotic cream, and now nasal sprays, to put up my nose because it gets infected a lot.
163. I used to get tingling in my legs as a child, which started in Ladymary School and I sometimes would get it as an adult when I was really stressed. It turns out that it is Herpes, which I must have got from Brian Dailey.
164. I suffer from Irritable Bowel Syndrome and it is said that it can be triggered by anxiety from sexual abuse or from food poisoning. Both of those happened to me at Ladymary School.
165. I tore up my childhood photos from my time at Ladymary because I couldn't handle the memories. I also hated the dress I am wearing in them that my mother made me wear. I had to get rid of the purple radio my nana had given me as a child because it brought back so many bad memories of being a child because I had it with me in the institutions I had been in.

166. I don't really remember names of people at Ladymary School because I have suppressed so much. One guy, [REDACTED], who was involved with the court case made contact with me because he said he remembered me, but I didn't remember him. It was scary how much he remembered people's names and things about the place and me. He remembered that kids would tease me about my handwriting and the dress I wore. I didn't stay in touch with him because I found him to be too much and I didn't need to be reminded about those things. I had other things going on in my life at the time.

167. I had very few of my own things when I was in these institutions as a child, and when I would go home for visits, my mother would have gotten rid of my things and de-personalised my room as well. My brother would also have nicked stuff. I felt like I had no belongings of my own, or my own space anywhere. As a result, I got a bit funny about my personal things and became a bit of a hoarder as an adult. I need my own space, my own desk and my own things so I can't hot desk at work. I am trying to get psychological help to deal with that now. It is really frustrating because the condition is interfering with my life but is also really hard to stop.

168. I was never believed as a child when I told anybody about what happened to me.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

I have always struggled to trust people because of what I have been through, and when I did speak out when I was a child, my trust was breached. I don't share anything about myself with people now.

169. The emotional impact has been huge. I have always had issues with interpersonal relations and work relationships. I would always worry I wouldn't be believed. I felt like I was never fully included and always felt a little bit on the outside.

170. I feel like I have been held back in my life because of my experiences as a child. I have had to move jobs because I haven't been happy. I feel like I should have done better in my career and be earning more money.

171. I have given up on the idea of being in a relationship because I don't like the physical side. I feel uncomfortable with it. Men say they understand but then try to get you to do stuff anyway, and I don't want that. The last time I met a man I lost my temper with him because he wasn't listening. He worked at the university and ended up stalking me. I reported him to the university and they sorted it. I just thought then that men were never going to be an easy part of my life and they put me into vulnerable positions so I have now given up completely. I just can't trust them.
172. I have suffered from anxiety and depression a lot over my life. I ended up being off work with anxiety during the court case and dealing with Covid, while working as a Technician. The case kept getting pushed back because of Covid and I was worried Brian Dailey would die before it happened. I was off work for ten months. I had to see an occupational therapist. I had a lot of flare ups of Herpes due to the stress as well.

### **Treatment and Support**

173. I have had a lot of counselling over the years and saw an occupational therapist. One thing that I was able to explore and get my head round was the narcissistic traits of my mother. She made me feel worthless because of the way she treated me so that was normal to me when other people treated me the same. I am on antidepressant medication at the moment.
174. I have worked with Rape Crisis doing one on one work and have now started doing group work as well as one to one work. It has been really good to learn that there are other people who feel the same way that I feel in a lot of ways.
175. I am seeking more general counselling after giving evidence to the court and to the Inquiry. It is to deal with the wider picture in my life, and other triggers.

## Reporting of Abuse

176. The Glasgow police phoned me in November 2019 while I was at work. They wanted me to be a witness for other complainers in a case against Brian Dailey. At that time, I wasn't certain about my abuser's name but I told them I had been abused as well. They said they would get someone from Aberdeen to come out and speak to me. That took months to happen and I was getting hacked off because I just wanted it to get done. I gave a statement to two female police officers at Aberdeen police station. I was not looked after. I was there for more than five and a half hours, and I was lucky if I got one cup of tea and one glass of water, which I had to ask for. It was a lot of stopping and starting so one of them could write it down. It was really frustrating because I just wanted to get it all out. I was mentally sucked dry by the end of the day. They read the statement back to me and it didn't sound like my words because I had been stopped so often. A different person took my second statement. It was a woman by herself and she did a better, more fluid, job. Then I gave a third statement, which was about the Herpes.
177. Nothing happened then for a long time because Covid put a stop to everything. I gave another statement after Covid.
178. Brian Dailey had 21 charges from ten complainers, including me. I am not sure how many charges were pertaining to me but I was told that my charges were classed as "complicated" but they didn't explain to me what that meant. The worst part was that they were classed as sexual assault and not rape because that is what they would have been back then. Rape now would include oral and digital penetration but it didn't back then. I don't agree that he should be charged with what the law was back then. He should be charged with the law as it is now. He has already benefitted from walking free for fifty years and now he benefits from lesser charges.
179. The trial was in Edinburgh in 2022. I gave my evidence on commission via TV link in [REDACTED] 2022, before the trial. I was terrified. I had said in my police statement that I was about eleven years old when I was abused by Brian Dailey because I wasn't sure about the year and age I was when I went to Ladymary School. During the trial,



the defence lawyer spent ages trying to confuse me about where in the building the abuse happened, and said to me that I had actually been nine years old and not eleven, like I had said in my police statement. I said that made it even worse, then, if he had done all those horrible things to me when I was an even younger child than what I had thought. I got a bit sarcastic and told him what I thought and asked if he could remember precisely to the day what he was doing fifty years ago. I was really quite cross with him. I did think he didn't have much to defend him if that was all he could question me about.

180. Brian Dailey was found guilty of sixteen charges. I went to court for the sentencing. I saw that he didn't have an ounce of remorse in him. He spent the whole time fidgeting with a wheelchair that he pretended he needed.
181. Brian Dailey had already been serving a jail term for similar offences against five other complainers in other locations, as well Ladymary's. [REDACTED] he was convicted and sentenced to eighteen years, but three years were going to be concurrent with his current sentence, so that made it fifteen years. He appealed it and it was brought down to twelve years. The Scottish Prison Service sent me a letter telling me the sentence was reduced, and the earliest he would be considered for parole would be in 2026. I thought it would have been later on that that. I am not happy with the sentence. There have been fifteen complainers in the two trials against him so he should be in jail for life. The damage to his victims is lifelong. I feel like the justice system is a disgrace in this country. It is geared up to protect the abusers. Nobody in this country actually spends a life sentence in prison.
182. I met a couple of guys in the public gallery at Brian Dailey's sentencing, who had also given evidence against him at the trial in 2017. We exchanged numbers and kept in contact for a while, but then I had to stop contact because it was just too much for me.
183. I applied for Criminal Injuries Compensation but was told that redress would be better suited for me because my experiences came from being in a system. I applied to get my records then.

## Records

184. The records are in a right state because lots of pages are missing. They have copied double sided pages on to single sided paper so every second page is missing. There is lots blacked out as well. They did help me figure out what age I was in each place.
185. A lot of it was hard to read because it was bad handwriting, plus my dyslexia. The language used wasn't nice and made me feel stupid. They did pick up on my mum's lack of warmth towards me.
186. I got my nose cauterised at Albyn Hospital when I was nine years old. I tried to get my records but they said they only keep records for two years so didn't have any.

## Lessons to be Learned

187. Children need to be listened to and when they do share something, they should be believed and it should be acted on.
188. There should always be two members of staff on at one time so they can keep an eye on each other. There needs to be more rules around restraining kids so three adults don't sit on one young child.
189. There needs to be better record keeping of children in care and then those records need to be kept safe. There's too many records that get lost or discreetly disappear.
190. 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..

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Dated..

20.5.23