

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IXD

Support person present: No

1. My full name is IXD. That has been my name since birth. My date of birth is 1953. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I was born in Edinburgh and lived in the Drumbrae area with my family. My mother's name was and my father was. I had two older brothers called and, who were seven and four years older than me. I was the baby of the family.
3. My dad made money as an insurance broker and we were economically comfortable. I had a nice extended family. We were close to my mother's parents who visited a lot but were elderly by the time I came along. I was close to my papa, my maternal grandfather, who spent time with us. My dad wasn't very hands on unless we were playing golf or rugby with him, which I was too young to do.
4. We had family holidays in Elie in Fife with my family and grandparents when I was younger which were enjoyable. I wasn't aware then that there were any problems in my parents relationships until I was six or seven years old, but my brothers recall them always having had a tempestuous relationship. My father wasn't good with alcohol. There was some violence and he had affairs, whereas my mother was more family orientated.
5. My parents split up and my dad moved away and cut money off, so my mum's parents helped her financially. My grandfather bought my mother a holiday house in Elie, which we used for holidays. It got sold to pay off debts.

6. I was sent to Melville College, which was a private, fee paying school and I attended as a day pupil. This was probably my father's idea as an aspiring middle class man, as my elder brothers attended state schools at that time.
7. My dad kept in contact for a while, but he would introduce me to new women and once even said one would be my new mum. I remember staying with him while my mum went to London when I was about seven years old, and he left me sitting outside all day while he was in the pub. I later decided to stop contact with him in around 1967 when I was about thirteen years old.
8. I loathed school and was just not cut out for that kind of regime. They gave the kids the slipper as a punishment, which I got a few times. I was in the top stream in my classes for academic performance and then it just plummeted. That coincided with a disciplinarian teacher whose methods didn't fit in with the type of laddie I was.
9. I became a bit aggressive and would lash out when I was in primary four. I would refuse to eat food and became generally disruptive.
10. My mother, who was from a nursing background, sought advice from the family doctor, Robin Traquair-Thin, who had a practise at Heriot Row, and also from our local church minister because she was exasperated with my behaviour. They recommended that she make contact with the Sick Kids.
11. I ended up going to see a psychiatrist at Rillbank Terrace. I was cynical about it and got upset when he wanted to talk about my relationship with my parents. I was understandably reticent. He recommended that I have five weeks in Douglas House, which was linked to the Royal Edinburgh, to undergo further tests.

### **Douglas House, Edinburgh**

12. I went to Douglas House, which was on Lauder Road, in [REDACTED] 1961 when I was eight years old. It was during term time so I was taken out of school to go there for five weeks.
13. It was the psychiatric side of the Sick Kids Hospital, so was run by them. It was like a hospital and I spent a lot of time in bed there. I remember getting a cup of tea and a biscuit in the morning.
14. I remember doing a lot of art work and being out in the garden there. I also had some classes in Sciennes Primary School which was near Douglas House, and we used their swimming pool. We went for a supervised walk on a Saturday along to Marchmont, and got some sweeties and a comic from the shop.
15. I have a vague recollection that I had electro convulsive therapy to check my brain because I had been behaving in a way that the school and my mum saw as not being normal. I also remember meeting with a female doctor called Methven who I thought was the head child psychiatrist at Rillbank Terrace. I don't remember the content of the meetings other than building with bricks and doing jigsaw puzzles.
16. My mother and her parents came to visit me there. I also remember that my dad's mother came to visit me and I think that was maybe the last time I saw her before she died.

### **Back at home**

17. I went back home and was living with my mum and grandparents again, who were older and quite frail by this point. I went back to Melville College, but I was still misbehaving at school and also stealing from the house. I was a lot to handle. My father was away by this point and not involved, and I didn't have much more to do with him after that.

18. There were no social workers involved with me because it was before the Social Work Act of 1968, but there were other people involved. I remember meeting with were Miss Massie, who was a Barnardos worker that my mother got on well with.
19. It was agreed by my mother, probably on advice from others, that I be sent to Craigerne Residential School in Peebles. My mother explained why I was going but I didn't really understand at the time.

### **Craigerne Residential School, Peebles**

20. I was nine years old, almost ten, when I was taken to Craigerne, which was part of Barnardos. I don't think I went on a visit before I started. My mother took me the day I moved there, which was in [REDACTED] 1963, at the beginning of the new school term.
21. The place was set in the countryside. The building was maybe early Victorian and spacious with lovely big drawing rooms. It had three levels.
22. The schooling was done in situ. There was a new part of the school built on the grounds for the younger kids. The grounds were really nice, and had space to play, a football pitch and trees to climb. The place was equipped for education as well as care.
23. I was bewildered when I first arrived, and not fully in tune with what was going on. I remember meeting with the headmaster, who was called Mr Nicholson, in his office who then showed us around. Then my mother left and I remember her being quite distraught as she left me.
24. I was allocated a dormitory and met some of the other boys. It was an exclusively boys school. The age range was from about seven years old up to twelve, so primary school age. There were between twenty-five to thirty boys in the school who were mainly from the Edinburgh area.

25. There were about four to six boys per dormitory and you tended to be in a dorm with boys your own age, although there wasn't a huge age difference between the boys anyway.

*Staff*

26. Mr Nicholson was headmaster when I started and [BLI] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] soon after. He moved into a flat on the top floor of the building with his family. Things changed for the better when he took over. He was young, enthusiastic, and was a very politically aware libertarian. You got a sense of his aspiring to create a better world and he ran the place with egalitarian principles. He was very ahead of his time and dealt with what were considered to be troubled kids, in a way that would broaden their horizons, by engaging us in lots of activities and not using physical punishment.
27. There were a couple of cottages in the grounds where staff lived, but most of the staff lived locally in Peebles.
28. There were house parents, who we called aunty and uncle. I remember a nice house aunty from North East England. I also remember an Uncle John and an Uncle Lewis. They worked on a rota so didn't live on the grounds. They worked a certain amount of hours a week. I remember them as good and kind people, with a degree of professionalism beyond whatever qualifications were around at that time. They were dedicated vocationalists, probably, rather than qualified professionals.
29. I remember Mr Campbell and Mr [BDS] [REDACTED] who were the school teachers. I think they were qualified teachers but I don't know that for sure. I think there was one other teacher but I don't recall who that was. Mr [BLI] [REDACTED] did some teaching too, so there was a bit of an overlap between caring staff and teaching staff.
30. Mrs [REDACTED], [SNR] [REDACTED]'s wife, didn't have a formal role in the school but she took some art and singing classes, but I think that was more a hobby of hers.

31. There wasn't a huge turnover of staff during the time I was there.

**Daily routine at Craigerne**

32. We got up at about 7:30 am and got washed and dressed. We wore our own clothes that we brought from home and I dressed in shorts, t-shirts and hand me down jerseys from my brothers.
33. We went for breakfast in the dining room and then to morning assembly before going to school.
34. There was a big belief in play at Craigerne and it was adventurous play. There was an early days adventure playground. We had a lot of fun and generally mucked about. There were good relationships between the kids, who were often troubled kids and there for a reason.
35. We then had lunch and then went back to school. In the evening there would be some time to watch television and play games. We then had supper and went to bed.
36. There was a big walled garden that had apple trees and other fruits. We went swimming every week in Peebles. We played a lot of sport in the summer, which I really enjoyed. We took part in a lot of external activities at the weekend, including playing football on a Saturday. There was a good atmosphere about the place and it was a good regime.
37. There was church going on a Sunday, which was compulsory. The Catholic kids would go to Catholic Church and those of us who were non-denominational would walk down to Peebles and go to the Leckie Memorial Church, and walk back afterwards.



38. I don't ever recall cleaners, so I don't know how the cleaning was done. We didn't have to do any chores. It wasn't a tough regime. If we did have to do some cleaning, it couldn't have been a hardship because I don't remember it.

*Mealtimes / Food*

39. The food was good and plentiful. I don't ever remember being hungry. I also don't remember anybody ever being force fed. I remember tasting peanut butter for the first time there, and I still really enjoy it to this day. I can't remember who did the cooking. The house mother or father gave us our supper in the evenings.
40. We got tuck from our parents and that was distributed.

*Washing / bathing*

41. I don't remember taking showers, but I remember taking a bath about three times a week. I can't remember if they were supervised or in private. I think a house parent would be around, maybe in the corridor, but not in the room.

*School*

42. Schooling was done within Craigerne.
43. The teachers came from outside and didn't stay on site. Mr <sup>BDS</sup> taught younger children and was my teacher for a short while when I first started. Then I moved to Mr Campbell's class, who taught older kids.
44. Mr Campbell was a great teacher. He captured your imagination and encouraged you to achieve. He had an awards system and would give us sweeties at the end of a test if we did well. He still gave sweets to kids who didn't do as well, they just got a few less sweeties.

45. I had been under achieving before I went there, due to environmental and social reasons. I think I sat my eleven plus exam there. I recall sitting in the assembly hall with a lot of papers and sitting a test that covered maths, history, geography and a range of subjects over a long day or two.

*Extracurricular activities*

46. The experience at Craigerne wasn't just a residential one. We were part of the community. As I said earlier, we went swimming every week in Peebles. On a Saturday morning we played football against other schools. Mr **BLI** arranged this and football strips for us to play in. Then in the afternoons we could either stay and watch more football or go to the picture house with some friends. We would also be allowed to go into the staff room and listen to football commentary on the radio on Saturday evenings.
47. There was as much informal and adventurous learning outside of school as there was formal schooling. Mr **BLI** encouraged and organised outdoor pursuits like hill walking and wild swimming and other really sound activities. He would take us hill walking at nine years old and let us navigate, and see how fast a river was before we got in to swim when we went for walk. It was learning through problem solving. I also remember going on a trip and drawing Neidpath Castle on the River Tweed.
48. There was encouragement to take part in external activities from Mr **BLI**. We could go to Cubs or Scouts and you would get a lift if you wanted to go. I also remember aged ten or eleven, walking along the river to a youth hostel and staying the night there. I am sure there were clear measures to make sure we got there safe, but it showed trust in us.
49. I remember there was a fire in one of the mills in Peebles and Mr **BLI** took us to view it because it was a mark of history. We were tuned in to information and education about what was happening around us. Mr **BLI** discussed the Kennedy assassination with us the night that it happened, on a Friday night in November 1963.



### *Trips / Holidays*

50. We went home for holidays, which I think was Easter, Summer and Christmas. I don't think there were mid-term breaks because there was no point going home for just a few days.
51. One of the staff members, who was a Hearts fan like me, took us to see a rugby match at Murrayfield and then back to his parents' house for a meal before taking us back to school. There was a lot of kindness that way.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

52. I think we got a birthday cake at tea time and everyone sang happy birthday to you. You would also receive presents from home.
53. Birthdays were made special but you also longed to be home. I wanted to be with my mum and brothers, which was where my heart was.

### *Visits and contact with family*

54. I remember writing a letter to my mother soon after being there, asking her to let me come home for my tenth birthday. She kept the letter, which I have since read again. It was an emotional, heartfelt letter saying I wanted to be home with my brothers and play with my friends. I couldn't understand why I was there and not my brothers. Looking back now, I think they benefitted from my grandparents being more involved with them when they were younger, which provided stability. I had less of that because my grandparents were older when I came along and so they did less with me.
55. We got a fortnightly visit on a Sunday, after church. My mother, who had gone back to work as a nurse in 1965, still regularly came to see me. She would take me out for a run in the car or a walk along the river, and then bring me back to the home. My brothers sometimes came too, which was nice.

56. I was always home sick and wanted to go home so would spend most of the visit trying to convince her to take me home, which must have been hard for her. I remember always being upset after my mum left.
57. I went home for the holidays in Easter and summer. I got to know some of the local kids where my mother lived, because I would play football with them on the meadows during the holidays.

### *Healthcare*

58. There was a matron to deal with scrapes and bruises, and there was a lot of them. You would be taken to the hospital in Peebles for something more serious. My friend was taken there when he fell out of a tree and broke his arm, to get it plastered up. Another boy got a nail through his knee and had to go to the hospital to get stitches. I never got anything more than scrapes.
59. I saw a psychiatrist every term. She would come to the school and see everybody individually on a one to one basis. It was my space and my time with her. It felt like a conversation and we could say what we wanted. I am sure if she asked specific questions about the place and the staff, I would have told her, but she never did.

### *Running away*

60. Although I missed home, I never ran away. Other kids ran away quite a lot. I think they would run after having fight with another boy or because they missed their family. Some kids were seriously disturbed and further along the continuum of behaviour than I was, maybe because of their own personal experiences.
61. Some kids maybe just liked the adventure of running away to Peebles and getting a lift back by the police. There wouldn't be any punishment when they came back as far as I was aware.

62. I think there was a measure of trust put in the kids who didn't run away, so we would be allowed to go into Peebles or the youth hostel or other places because we could be trusted to come back. Maybe the kids who habitually ran away weren't allowed to do those things, but I don't know that for sure.

#### *Bed Wetting*

63. There were quite a few bed-wetters. I don't recall any ritual humiliation of them. I wasn't a bed wetter myself, but one of my good pals was a terrible bed wetter. Other than a few of the other kids giving him a bit of grief, they didn't get much bother for it. I don't remember the staff being verbally or physically abusive towards bed wetters.

#### *Discipline*

64. There was no prefectorial system or anything. The place was quite egalitarian in its principles.
65. If you were bad, you maybe had to go to a room for a time out, or you forfeited going out. The staff withdrew privileges as punishment. They didn't use physical punishment but there was a regime of discipline.

#### **Abuse at Craigerne**

66. Mr <sup>BDS</sup> [REDACTED], who taught the younger kids in the school, was a man in his fifties when I was at Craigerne. He was also in the choir at the Leckie Memorial Church that I went to. I remember thinking he had funny movements in the way he used his hands and mouth when he sang, and was a bit of an attention seeker. The boys all thought he was a bit bizarre.
67. He lived in a cottage nearby, [REDACTED]. He lived with a woman who I was led to believe was his sister.

68. He was my class teacher when I first arrived at Craigerne. I was in his class for my first few months there when I was about nine and a half years old. We were all vulnerable and emotionally disturbed children to some extent, and he would be quite involved with kids if they seemed quiet or withdrawn.
69. He sat behind a desk and sometimes he would call you out to do some maths or something. He would sit you on his knee.
70. The first time he did this to me, he put his hands down my trousers, under my pants and played with my genitals. I recall it being the first time I got an erection. This happened to me on about four or five occasions. He would whisper and blow into your ear as he did it and I was aware of him being aroused and feeling it against my bum area as I sat on his lap. I could also see his erection through his trousers when I got off his lap and walked away.
71. Sometimes, Mr **BDS** would ask boys to go into the cupboard with him and I would see him taking a boy into the cupboard and closing the door. I heard that the boys would be made to perform sexual acts on him in the cupboard, but that is hearsay. He never took me into the cupboard.
72. I never told anybody about it because I was ashamed and lacked confidence. Also, bizarrely, there was a state of enjoyment at first because I missed my mum and getting cuddles from her. Then I started to think, and wondered why my dad and brothers had never done anything like that to me. It was a horrific substitute for my mum's affection and after it happened the first few times I started trying to stay away from him.
73. I recall being in his house one time with him and the woman who was his sister or someone. I was with one of my pals and we had a cup of tea. Nothing happened that time and I never went back there again.
74. I was moved to Mr Campbell's class after a few months, before I turned eleven years old, and I thrived in his class. I never really saw Mr **BDS** after I was moved from his class, although he was still there teaching the younger kids up until I left there.

75. He was an evil man and abused kids who were vulnerable and lacked self-esteem, who were supposed to be in a protected environment and who people like BLI were trying to put back together. To this day, I am convinced that none of the other staff at Craigerne knew about Mr BDS's behaviour. I am sure that BLI would have done the right thing if he knew.

### **Leaving Craigerne**

76. Looking back, I think Craigerne was the right thing for me at that time. I learned a lot from the place, in many positive ways. It helped form my character, and my sense of justice and perception of how the world could be. Although I longed to be home with my family, it was made bearable because it was so well run. I felt safe, secure and well cared for in Craigerne, except for the negative parts because of Mr BDS.
77. Children left Craigerne at about twelve years old, and about half went on to other institutions and about half went back into mainstream education. There was discussion about me moving home with my mum and going to Boroughmuir High School in Edinburgh, which was a mainstream day school. I was even fitted for a blazer for the school when I was home for the summer. I was excited about this because I had got to know some of the boys during the holidays who would also be going to the same school.
78. I don't know why but my mother decided not to send me to Boroughmuir High School. She decided instead to send me to Lendrick Muir, another residential school, for another six years. I think she may have taken advice from the family doctor, psychiatrist and others. I don't remember much discussion around it but it was clearly thought that I wasn't ready to go back into mainstream education, although I thought I was at that time. I was disappointed that I wasn't going home.
79. I recall visiting Lendrick Muir before I started there.



### **Lendrick Muir School, Perth and Kinross**

80. I started Lendrick Muir in [REDACTED] 1965, when I was eleven years old, almost twelve. It was labelled as a residential school for maladjusted children of above average intelligence. It was a co-educational boarding school within the public sector, and local authorities across Scotland paid the fees for children to attend there.
81. I think you were admitted there based on your results from your eleven plus exams and maybe on recommendation from a psychiatrist or somebody who assessed your IQ, but I am not sure about this. The thinking was that this school would prepare you for university or a profession after the six years you could spend there.
82. It was an old building with three floors, which was a family home before it was a school. It was set in nice country side, with hockey and football pitches within the grounds. I think there was a fire after I started there and the place was renovated with new corridors, dormitories and central heating so there was quite a bit of change within the first year and a half of me being there. It became more recognisable as a school with the new changes.
83. The children there were predominantly from Edinburgh and Glasgow, with some from Dundee and even fewer from the Aberdeen area. There were about eighty pupils aged from eleven to seventeen years old, with most being boys and less than thirty being girls.
84. We were divided into three houses called the Ochil House, Devon House and I can't remember the name of the third. I was in the Devon House. The houses were mixed boys and girls and were used to score us on academia and sports to encourage a bit of competition between houses. It gave us a sense of identity.
85. There were prefects in the school who looked after the younger kids. There was some engagement between younger kids, who were eleven, and older seventeen year old boys.

86. I remember being extremely homesick for the first year.

#### *Staff*

87. Mr Nicholson was the headmaster. He had been the headmaster at Craigerne when I had started there and had left there and become the headmaster at Lendrick Muir.
88. There was a change in SNR [REDACTED] soon after I started and a man called Mr KVV [REDACTED] who was an old university friend of BLI [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]. He lived on flat on the top floor of the building. He got married and had a family of his own while I was there.
89. There was a lot of staff employed in the school including all the different teachers for different subjects. There were form teachers, and specialist teachers for science, maths, art, languages. There were between 25 to thirty staff members.

#### **Daily routine at Lendrick Muir**

90. The routine was very similar to that of Craigerne. We got up, got washed and ready for school into our green school uniforms. We had to make our beds and make sure our dorms were tidy, and our shoes were polished and clean. The prefects would be involved in inspecting the younger boys dorms to make sure they were tidy.
91. We then went for breakfast to the dining room. The prefects had the job of checking that the younger boys shoes were polished, which they did as you were walking into the dining room.
92. We had breakfast and then walked to school, which was in the main building. The girls stayed in a separate house in the village and travelled to the school for classes.

93. There was a cook and I remember him well. He always had a cigarette hanging out his mouth as he stirred the porridge and we would laugh if we saw the ash falling into the porridge.
94. The food was good there.
95. In the first couple of years, there were six to eight boys per dormitory, then it was about three to a room as you got older and in the last couple of years, it was two to a room. That was because there would be smaller number as you got into fifth year with kids leaving. By the time I was in sixth year. There were just three of us in the year.
96. We had a matron in Lendrick Muir who distributed aspirin and medicine when needed.

### *Schooling*

97. All the pupils were divided up into about six classes, and we moved classrooms for different subjects.
98. We had different teachers for different subjects as you would in any high school. There was a lot of good quality teachers, and many of them were brought on after Mr 

KVV		SNR
-----	--	-----

. He was a very forward thinking educationalist.
99. The most that were ever in a class was fifteen to sixteen kids, so it was a good ratio for learning. By the time I was in sixth year, there were just three of us in a class.
100. I got nine O levels and five Highers while I was there, so I had university entrance qualifications when I left. I was happy with the educational side of the school.
101. We had careers people come into the school to give us careers advice. At that time, they checked our eyesight and height to see if we could go into the armed forces or the police. I said I was thinking of going to university and they were aghast, as they expected you to go into the forces.

*Extracurricular activities*

102. There was a lot of sport, including cricket and hockey, which was pretty big in the school. We played hockey against other schools in Dundee, who would think we were Catholic because of our green uniforms and we would get a bit of abuse for that. That was the first time I became aware of these kind of differences, at age fourteen. I had been immune to anything like that up until that point.
103. We also played hockey against Gordonstoun, Fettes and Strathallan. We were almost half way between one of those types of private fee paying schools and a borstal.
104. I was still paying football. I got asked to play for an under sixteen club, which I did and enjoyed. I also had trials with Cowdenbeath and the Scottish School Boys Hockey Team.
105. There were a lot of after school activities, including a lot of outdoor pursuits. The place also had its own youth group, with its own youth worker and youth committee. Children themselves were responsible for organising the tuck shop in it and creating house newspapers using roneo print machines.
106. The headmaster started an investment scheme where we could invest some of our pocket money into buying shares. We had an annual general meeting about it and discussed our investments. The place was quite ahead of its time in that way with that sort of informal education.

*Visits and meetings*

107. There were visits every fortnight and my mother would come and visit me. My brothers would sometimes come too.
108. I used to see a psychiatrist on a one to one basis. That stopped around 1967 or 1968, when a residential social worker was added to the school staff.

109. The social worker got very involved with the kids and our everyday activities so you would see him all the time. We also had one on one sessions with him.

*Trips and holidays*

110. We went to the Highlands on residential holidays after our exams in fourth, fifth year and sixth year.
111. I went home for half terms and holidays. We had to wear our school uniforms for the journey home.

*Discipline*

112. There was a prefect system but I generally don't remember the older boys bullying us or being aggressive.
113. If you did something that required punishing, you got lines, but the staff were responsible for administering them, not the prefects. Another punishment was to get gated, which meant that you couldn't go to the youth club or to any after school activities. You would have to stay in the common room all evening and not be allowed any television. The teachers would threaten children with being gated if they misbehaved in class. There wasn't fear about it, the staff were just trying to get the children to behave reasonably.
114. There was a regime that we had to follow and if you didn't, there were expulsions. A boy got a girl pregnant, and they both got expelled. Some people also got expelled for bad behaviour. A boy got expelled for bringing open razors into the school.
115. A few people ran away but not a lot. We were so far away from anywhere already.



### **Abuse at Lendrick Muir**

116. There was some bullying and fighting, which you would get in any school but there wasn't any systematic bullying that I was aware of.
117. I didn't experience any physical or sexual abuse personally at Lendrick Muir, but a friend of mine was on one occasion physically assaulted quite badly by a staff member.

### **Leaving Lendrick Muir**

118. I don't think I remained maladjusted throughout my time there. That was just a label they put on us, but I think you could have said that about most kids at some stage in their lives.
119. The place had good education and a lot of informal education, which was ahead of its time. I felt nurtured there but I still missed home.
120. I was happy with the education I received there and had entrance to Heriot Watt University and also City of London Polytechnic to do accountancy and finance with advice and encouragement from the headmaster. He was keen for me to go to London, so I turned down the place at Heriot Watt.
121. Most of Lendrick Muir was a positive experience. I cried when I started there and I cried when I left, at seventeen years old. That shows how much it impacted my life.

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

122. I went back to stay with my mother in Marchmont in Edinburgh. I got close to my brothers who were a bit older but we could socialise together now.

123. I had decided to do accounting as it was the kind of vocation my mother wanted me to get into and I was planning on going to London. Over the course of the summer holidays, I realised I had been away too long and decided to stay home. I wanted to be with my family, make money and also stay and play football with the underage clubs and see if anything materialised from that but it didn't. I wasn't as good as other boys in the city.
124. I started work experience in an accountancy firm with Miss Helen Lowe, who was very well known in the field. She invited me for tea and scones in her office after I had been in work experience for six weeks. She was very forthright in telling me that she didn't think I was cut out to be an accountant. She did it gently and kindly, and it was actually a beautiful thing she did for me. It was a relief that she recognised this and told me because it put me on a path better suited to me. I stayed in touch with her and she remained interested in what I went on to do.
125. I stayed in Edinburgh and got a job in an insurance company, which I did for a few years.
126. I later started working at a youth club with a guy called John Hughes, who had been a youth worker at Lendrick Muir. He encouraged me to go into social work or community work. I went on to study community education at Moray House in Edinburgh. It started off as a diploma course and then became a degree course. I had a long career in social care and community education.
127. I met my wife in a nightclub in 1973 when I was about twenty years old, and we got married in 1977. She was a retail worker and then later went into social work. We had three daughters and a son, who were born in 1981, 1983, 1986 and 1993. We have four grandchildren with more to come.
128. My father died when I was about 24 years old. My mother told me about it and I went to his funeral. Neither of my brothers did. My mother died when she was 94 years old in 2014, a month after my daughter's wedding.

129. There was a memorial service for **BLI**, **SNR** at Craigerne, when he died. I went with a friend from Craigerne, and we saw three other boys who had also been there at the same time as us. I learned from speaking to them that Mr **BDS** had abused other boys besides me in Craigerne. These boys had gone on to have criminal records and had long stays in prison. One of them did time for attempted murder on a prison officer and was one of the people who led the Peterhead riots. I knew him since he was a wee laddie and he was a nice boy so I don't know where it went wrong for him. The other one did time for armed robbery, I think. It said a lot that they attended the memorial service for **BLI**.
130. I am now retired but I take an active interest in my grandsons activities as they are seven and four years old, and I look forward to being involved with my granddaughters.

### **Impact**

131. There were benefits to me going to Craigerne and Lendrick Muir. I made a career in social care and community education, which was influenced by the youth club in Lendrick Muir.
132. I was always wary of how people would react knowing that I went to Craigerne and Lendrick Muir. I would avoid telling people in case I got a negative response. This changed when I started my community education work because then my experience in those schools became a strength.
133. My time in care has had some bearing on the way my life was led. Now that I reflect, I can see that I hid things from myself and my family that I should have been more open about, like having a lack of confidence, low self-esteem and a lack of trust.
134. My career strategy and development was impacted because of a lack of being sufficiently confident. This made certain situations difficult and impacted decisions on whether or not I put myself forward for certain jobs. I put that down to always wanting

to be liked and accepted, and I think that is a legacy of BDS's behaviour in Craigerne.

135. Being in Craigerne and Lendrick Muir gave me a clear identity as an underdog, and made me over aggressive or hostile, which has led me to make decision that I regretted. I challenged authority and managers in a way that affected my career progress and stopped me getting promotions. I would become confrontational in certain situations when I should have walked away. A colleague described me as Don Quixote, who charged first without fully appraising the situation.
136. Throughout my working life, I was active in politics and was encouraged to become a candidate in local elections. I declined these overtures as I did not want any exposure of my childhood experiences. This was a detriment.
137. I was off work with stress at one point. It was overwhelming at the time and I couldn't understand why it was happening to me. I had some counselling and that was when I came to realise that I had a flaw in my make-up, that made me lack confidence and decisiveness, and made me aggressive and hostile.
138. This behaviour impacted my work and also sometimes impacted my wife and my home life too, as I would behave in ways that my wife found unreasonable.
139. I was over protective and sometimes irrational as a parent because I was not protected from the predator at Craigerne. I wouldn't let my kids sleep over at their friend's houses. I would be cautious of adults around my girls, such as their friend's dads and uncles because the age difference would have been the same between BDS and me when he abused me. This actually came to my mind based on my experience, and was something I was very cautious about.
140. One time someone "flashed" my daughter in a DIY store. My wife told me when we got outside and I was extremely angry and went back into the store and would have been violent if I had seen the guy. I complained about it. I realised at that point that despite

being level headed most of the time, there was a part of me that could turn into an aggressive individual.

- 141. The vast majority of my life has been the best as I could know. It has been great, but there has been a mark on my life. It hasn't affected me to a strong and horrible degree but it has been a part of my life that I have had to adjust and live with, and so have others around me.
- 142. I got lucky with my wife, job, kids and friends but other people have not been so lucky and their life has taken another turn. I think about the boys I was at Craigerne with who ended up in and out of prison.

### **Records**

- 143. I have registered to see my records at the schools and with the council. I am interested to see what they say, but these things have a habit of disappearing.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

- 144. There is no way that everything can be "bullet proof" from bad people, but what can be done is to improve recruitment selection, training and supervision to minimise the bad predators from getting access to vulnerable children.
- 145. There needs to be an encouragement to communicate with children so that they will disclose when bad things happen to them. Services for and engagement with children need to be improved. Children need to seriously be listened to.
- 146. There need to be more time and resources given to play therapy. It is too easy to just label kids and that shouldn't happen. I fear what has been happening to kids in their homes in the last twelve months when they haven't been able to get out of their homes and see their support workers due to COVID-19.



147. I think today, a child in my position would have been dealt with in the community rather than being sent away. I am not totally opposed to residential care because I believe some kids need it and there are good things about it that should not completely be thrown out, but there needs to be a way to properly assess this and know where to draw the line.
148. 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.....IXD.....

Dated.....18 June 2021.....