

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

KNH

Support person present: No

1. My name is KNH. My date of birth is 1954. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### **Background**

2. When I left school I became an apprentice engineer. I qualified and got my certificates to work as a mechanical engineer and technician. When I was doing my apprenticeship I got involved through a college youth club, with a group called Young Leaders. They organised discos and we had weekends away to outdoor activity centres. This was where I developed my interest in rock climbing.
3. I was working at Buckhaven Youth Club at the time and did night classes at Kirkcaldy College through Fife Training Committee and run by Fife Council. I did this when I was still doing my apprenticeship. At the end of the course, I can't recall if I got an actual certificate but I was told I was able to work as a temporary youth leader. I may have been around twenty at that time.
4. I got involved in a couple of overnight camps to Cameron House, outside Largo, where we had a great time with the kids. Around that time there was an 'It's a knockout' type event for kids in Sandwell Park in Buckhaven, organised by the community centre, but we needed some equipment. The organiser had a contact in Linwood Hall Children's Home in Leven who had said they could help out and we could borrow any equipment we wanted.

5. We went to Linnwood Hall where I met LUT [REDACTED] who was SNR [REDACTED] at the time. We chose some scaffolding from their adventure playground and other equipment we thought we could use for our event. I got shown around the grounds and I thought it was an amazing place. I was really impressed with the set up and I thought it was a wonderful resource.
6. After our event we took the equipment back and I learned that there was a temporary vacancy at Linnwood Hall for a houseparent. KNF [REDACTED], who had been in this post, was taking time off to go to college. By then I had finished my apprenticeship so I applied.

### **Linnwood Hall Children's Home, Leven**

7. Linnwood Hall's main building was huge. Adjacent to the main building were two cottages knocked into one. [REDACTED]
8. Through the double doors of the main building at the front was a beautiful entrance hall with two fireplaces, one on either side. In that area was a huge wooden ornate shoe storage box which had been used by the monks. In front of that was a single, glazed door. There was a main hall, which was the reception area and a telephone booth, and on the right hand side was a big, padded seat. Straight ahead was a pillar. To the right was the secretary's desk. On the other side was a really big mirror. There were stairs which led upstairs to the bedrooms. On either side were swing doors with reinforced glass. One side led to the headmaster's toilet, the office, then the dining room, which had access and a servery hatch leading to the kitchen area. Beside the headmaster's office was access to a stone stairwell, and a fire exit.
9. Going through the door on the left side was the staffroom and another room where all the staff and children gathered every morning for a meeting. Beside that was a classroom, then a doorway which led to a staff toilet and a children's toilet. Through another door was a concrete stairwell. On one side were double swing doors which led to an external exit door. The staircase took you upstairs to the recreation hall.

Through another swing door led you to the electricity switch and heating rooms and a room under the stairs for junk. Beside that was my room. Moving forward takes you into the boys' corridor. On the left was the bedroom for boys aged 14 to 15 who I mainly supervised. On the right was a hallway which led to the laundry and a clothes storage area. There were more bedrooms further along and on the other side was a lobby leading to the bathrooms containing toilets and baths. The youngest children were in one of these rooms at the bottom which had five beds. All the other rooms had four boys who were of varied ages.

### *First Impressions*

10. I got my first impressions of Linnwood before I actually started when I picked up the apparatus for our 'It's a knockout' competition. When I started I was impressed with the attitude of the staff towards the children. There was a lot of mutual jibing, between the staff and the children, but nothing that was hurtful. The atmosphere was friendly. The facilities were amazing and I wanted to use them to the fullest for the children. There were over thirteen acres of ground around the school, an animal project and a walled garden run by a qualified gardener.
11. Linnwood was classed as a List 'G' school. This meant the children had social, emotional and educational needs. Initially, I thought it was a List 'D' School but I learned that it was in fact a List 'G'.

### **My time at Linnwood Hall**

12. In 1974 or 1975, I applied for the temporary post of residential houseparent. I was interviewed by LUT [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED], and Magnus More, the senior assistant director of education. I thought I had done well at the interview and I was offered the post. I provided references from my engineering post, my manager and the safety officer. I am not aware if there was ever any contact with either of them.



13. I was residential from the very first day I started. My friend dropped me off with my suitcase on a Sunday. I met LUT and he gave me the key for the front door of the building and a key for my room. I stopped being residential when I got married in 1984.
14. I was a temporary residential houseparent for a year. Brian Adams left around that time and KNF was coming back. I thought, because KNF was coming back, that I would have been asked to leave but instead I was told that I was now a full time member of staff. After I was told I was permanent, I got myself a springer spaniel puppy which was six weeks old.
15. Around 1989 I was made a SNR. This was around the same time that Jack Tollan came to the school as headmaster. He was an absolute breath of fresh air. He was a very highly qualified and talented individual. He had the ability to speak to anybody and everybody and was a very nice man.

*My role within Linnwood*

16. At that time, when I joined, there was no training for new starts and I was placed, on a wing and prayer, with a senior houseparent, Brian Adams. I really didn't have a clue what I was supposed to be doing, apart from picking up things from the other staff in general. My initial role at Linnwood was basically to do what Brian Adams told me. Most of the time he would tell me to look after the bunch of kids when they were outside. I supervised the boys a lot, whether they were playing football or doing other stuff. I also helped KZP with the animals, because amongst other things, there were two Shetland ponies. The children didn't have an awful lot to do with the animals but were involved sometimes. We were a nationally registered seabird rescue centre organised through the SSPCA.
17. Within the house, in the morning I made sure the kids were up and had their breakfast. Some kids hid their breakfast and put it in the bin, so I had to make sure that didn't happen. The kids went to school about 9 am and that was the time to have a coffee

and catch my breath. I took that time to have a blether with Brian Adams and ask him questions about processes and why some things were done in certain ways.

18. I saw my role at Linnwood Hall as being to help the children to expand themselves and make sure they were safe when they were doing all the different outdoor activities. We used to do a thing called 'Nightline'. I took them to Keil's Den near Largo where there was a steep embankment and I would attach a climbing rope. We took the kids at night-time and the kids had to climb up in the dark. I made sure it was safe. The kids got really excited and they loved it. I also took them to the Elie Chainwalk. The kids learned to use their strength and balance and it helped build up confidence in their abilities. We went long coastal walks which led to doing the West Highland Way and other long walks we organised across Scotland. I worked a lot with the kids when they were doing their Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. KZP and I were instrumental in getting the kids involved in this and the kids thrived doing it.
19. Linnwood wasn't always a harmonious place but it was relatively peaceful.

#### *Training*

20. When I started, I didn't get any formal induction training on how to deal with children. I remember on my first day being shown around the building by Brian Adams. He showed me the room where the older boys slept. He told me I would be introduced to them to make sure we got on, and then I was to keep an ear out for them at night and nip it in the bud if they were getting up to any high jinks. Brian slept in another room upstairs in the other wing.
21. Around 1987 I trained and got my Certificate in Social Services (CSS). This was equivalent to the Certificate of Qualified Social Workers (CQSW). This was a two year course split into three eight month blocks.
22. I was trained when I was at Linnwood in sailing. The course was run by the army at Elie. I also did mountain rescue and mountain leadership at Ardroy Outdoor Education

Centre. KZP and myself started helping out at Ardroy, working at weekends, because they were short of staff.

23. The restraint training I got was held at Melville House which was a List D school. It was a two day course and hosted by a chap called PUA who was an ex champion. He was SNR at Melville House. It was all about restraining children kicking off. They expected two members of staff to approach the child from either side, take a hand each, then push the child by the shoulder to the floor, landing face first. The child, we were told, should be held on the floor until they had calmed down. I remember saying that I didn't agree with the training, saying it wasn't safe for the child. I considered it to more of an assault than a restraint. Another trainer called Josie Duffy, told me that Fife Council had advocated these methods. I never used this method in all the years I worked in care and I never saw or heard of any other member of staff using it. This method was apparently devised for adult prisoners in prison. No one working in a children's residential care setting has the right to treat a child like this.
24. At some point I spoke to Jack Tollan, the headmaster, and I expressed my concerns at using the restraint technique we had been trained to use. He accepted that I was worried about the restraint resulting in children's broken bones. He took it further and there were discussions with the senior management. We were never given an edict not to use the restraint, but were told it was in our toolbox should we ever need to use it.
25. All the staff, including the teachers and care staff, were trained in restraints.

#### **Structure and recruitment of staff**

26. When I started, LUT was SNR. He lived very close and was always available if anyone needed help. Margaret Burt was SNR. Another SNR member of care staff was RCE. He was SNR the care staff. Both RCE and LUT came together at the same time to Linnwood Hall from Corsbie Hall in Thornton. RCE was a time served joiner and



craftsman, not a qualified teacher. The care staff were split into two teams under Brian Adams and David Murphy, who were the senior houseparents.

27. In David Murphy's team were, KZP [REDACTED] and Marion Deas. Pearl McBride may have come later. Brian Adams was responsible for myself and [REDACTED]. The only staff who were residential were Brian Adams, myself, KZR [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], KZR [REDACTED] came from Dundee. He eventually married [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], KZR [REDACTED] was a great guy. [REDACTED] was a houseparent and was from Kennoway. I subsequently realised that they were both residential like I was.
28. The gardener when I started was Ken Henderson. His wife, Christine, worked in the kitchen. When they left, RCD [REDACTED] and his wife, [REDACTED], took over. RCD [REDACTED] was subsequently arrested by the police for soliciting young boys on the Kirkcaldy prom. He was replaced by a Christopher Nichol. He was a grumpy man.
29. All of the staff were sharing, caring people. As far as I could see, they did their best to help the children move on. There were volunteers who came in to work at Linnwood but I have no idea how they were chosen. Their role was basically to help the children, and generally just be another pair of hands. They were just people who loved working with children.
30. LUT [REDACTED], SNR [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] and he made it known that he was SNR [REDACTED]. His approach was that he would decide, in consultation with staff, how to work with children. Staff meetings were held once a week, every Monday, and lasted at least two hours. Most of the time it would be him doing all the talking. There was very little feedback to him from the staff. Consultation in these meetings was all about the children and what was planned and being set up for them, educationally, developmentally, socially and emotionally.
31. All children returned to school on Mondays. Care staff took it in turns to meet them and greet them at the bus station and get them to school in the minibus. We would ask them how their weekend was and when we got to the school we would wash their hair and check for any infestations.

32. When Jack Tollan became the headmaster in 1989 he had a different approach to how we were to deal with children. He gave all the staff handouts detailing how he wanted us to work. He was [REDACTED] involved with the staff. [REDACTED] LUT [REDACTED]. Jack Tollan explained his decision making, and everything was clear. LUT [REDACTED] would just say he had made a decision [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]

*Issues between Staff*

33. Initially my senior at Linnwood, and who I worked with, was Brian Adams. He was well spoken and initially I thought he was okay but in the first weeks I found out that he had a big problem and did not like LUT [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]. Brian had a habit of trying to circumvent authority because he felt he knew better. I tried to ignore it, because I wasn't in a position to question it, and did what Brian told me to do in the workplace. Brian Adams moaned a lot about LUT [REDACTED].
34. I just felt that Brian was a bit of a creep. He was a member of some sort of organisation outside Linnwood. I don't know anything about it but it was a big charity group and it was some sort of cult. 'Cult' might not be the correct word. It was a group of people who looked after everybody's mental, physical and upper level welfare. They were like a hippy group and they all enjoyed it as far as I am aware. I think they sometimes stayed on some sort of commune.
35. Brian bought a bag of porridge oats through the school supplier for this charity. An argument followed between Brian and KZP [REDACTED] who was the animal welfare person at the school. KZP [REDACTED] was more or less responsible for the animal welfare project at Linnwood. He objected to Brian buying the oats through the school. Brian and KZP [REDACTED] ultimately had an argument and I was there when it started but I left and they started fighting. I stopped them and Brian Adams was suspended as a result by LUT [REDACTED]. It all went to court and I gave evidence.
36. What didn't help, was that SNR [REDACTED] of the school, Margaret Burt was going out with Brian Adams at the time. I think LUT [REDACTED] was relieved when Margaret left, because Brian Adams left at the same time because he had been fired.



37. One night, Brian Adams appeared outside LUT's house. There was an incident between Brian and LUT's wife but there was no violence. At the time LUT wasn't there but his wife and two small children were. When LUT came back he was upset and apparently came up to the school. I didn't see LUT at the school but I heard the shouting. I never heard what was actually being said but later on I was told it was LUT venting his anger at Brian.
38. There was quite a bit of ill feeling between the staff. It all seemed to stem from the porridge oats incident. When KNF came back from college he made it blatantly obvious that he hated Brian Adams and just ignored him. When Brian Adams left, KZP was made temporary SNR.

#### *Recruitment of staff*

39. I had no involvement at all in the recruitment of staff. There were occasions, latterly, when I might have been asked my opinion on a member of staff if they had been working with me, but nothing more. I was never asked to be a reference.

#### **Staff Training**

40. I had no involvement in the training or personal development of staff. When I became SNR, myself and KZP, through Jack Tollan, organised training for new care staff coming in. This training event was to help the staff realise their choices and actions could be improved. KZP and I did this training.

#### **Supervision/ appraisal/ evaluation**

41. When I became SNR, I supervised Susan Carroll, Paul Baker, Tina Wilson and Dave Pipe. Dave has since passed away. They were non-residential houseparents. My role with them was to ensure that they had prepared evening activities properly and that there was a rolling programme with structure and

consistency. It was important that the children weren't doing too much and had some rest time too. If the non-residential houseparents wanted to arrange something, and I disagreed, I would have the final say, but I would always explain my reasons. We had a half hour meeting every day within the unit when these things were discussed. Although these staff were not residential they still had to work a shift rota which involved them sleeping-in overnight.

42. I had nothing to do with the evaluation of their performance and did not do any appraisals with them. My only involvement in this would be that I might be asked how an individual was performing or if there were any issues. It would all just be my opinion.
43. I gave a reference to some younger members of staff who had applied to do things like social work training. The certificate in social services training stopped the year after I qualified.
44. Sometimes I was included in discussions with senior members of staff, about the progress of some of the younger members of staff and how they were fitting in. I just gave them my honest opinion.

### **Policy**

45. I had no involvement or responsibility in relation to any policies relating to the care of children at Linnwood Hall. Jack Tollan wrote a lot of policy documents. We all worked to these policies or helped fine-tune.
46. I had no responsibility or involvement in policy making in relation to discipline or restraint. I don't remember seeing any written policy documents in relation to restraint when [LUT] was [SNR]. There may have been such a policy but I don't recall. I remember getting general information about it at some of the staff meetings.

## **Strategic planning**

47. I had nothing to do with strategic planning.

## **Children**

48. I had nothing to do with the arrangements and decision making regarding children coming to Linnwood. This was all done by the headmaster. The first we would know was when he told us that children were coming and he would give us a little bit about their background.
49. Children were generally placed at Linnwood by the social work department. Some also came from the education department but Linnwood Hall would be the last resort for them. They would need to be seen before they came to Linnwood Hall by educational psychologists who would carry out assessments.
50. In total, Linnwood held a maximum of 21 boys. I think there were 6 girls. The youngest boys at Linnwood were 11 or 12 and were in the bottom bedroom. The youngest girl was about 12 or 13. My main responsibility was for the boys in the room [REDACTED] and they were about 14 or 15.
51. Some children were only in Linnwood for a couple of days, but there were others who were there for much longer. We had a good relationship with the local police. Some would just pop in for a coffee. At other times we would call the police in if a child had run away or if there had been an incident. It was fairly unusual for us to call the police if a child was disruptive. We would have dealt with that ourselves. I do recall on one occasion we found that some boys had been sneaking out a window through the night and we subsequently found a larger than normal amount of football stickers and a lot of sweets and other stuff. The police were contacted and we later found out the boys had stolen bikes, and the other stuff we had found, from a local garage.



52. Other occasions where we may have contacted the police was, if we found out from the child that something had happened at home when they had been on weekend leave, or if they had any physical signs of abuse. Children generally went home to parents, or somewhere else, every second weekend.
53. In the evening there were six care staff and usually two teachers. The teachers, even though they had been working through the day, would work with the children into the evening. They came in at teatime and left about 9 pm, but earlier if they could. Overnight there were three members of staff. There would always be two males and one female.

#### *Food*

54. I thought the food for the children was good, possibly too good and there was lots of it. The staff sat with the kids at mealtimes and ate the same food. We just mingled with the children. David Murphy was interested in football so a lot of the boys sat near him to chat about it. There is no doubt that the children were well fed. The breakfast was porridge, cereal and rolls with jam, marmalade, spreading cheese and other things. At lunchtime was a proper meal. Teatime was another sit down meal and later on before bedtime there was supper. Supper might be toast with meat paste, jam, bananas, and spreading cheese. There was a good selection
55. There was never anything like force feeding the children. The domestic staff were always good at watching what the children were eating and sometimes they might encourage the children to eat vegetables. To be honest I think the children got too much food. There was no nonsense at mealtimes.

#### *Washing/bathing*

56. In the bathroom were rows of sinks and a row of toilet cubicles. and four baths. There were no showers. Showers were put in around 1978.

57. Every other Monday we washed the children's hair because sometimes they came back from weekend leave with nits. It was usually Margaret Thomson and myself who did this. We would wash their hair over the sink and at the same time it gave us a chance to have a chat with them about how things were at home and maybe pick up on things that needed to be passed on. We always made a joke if we found nits and didn't make a big deal of it.

#### *Trips/holidays*

58. There were no organised holidays for the children. There were times we went for long distance walks which took us the whole week. We got dropped off at the starting point then were picked up a week later at the finishing point. We camped in tents overnight on the way. The children and the staff really enjoyed it. Apart from camping trips and Duke of Edinburgh activities there were no other trips or holidays.

#### *Leisure time*

59. We did lots of outdoor activities. Outside the school we had archery, football and there was the adventure playground which was revamped by the army. Inside the building there was the recreation hall on the top floor where they could play football or 'unihoc' which is indoor hockey. There was a dartboard, Scalextric, train sets and a table tennis table. The staff were always there taking part or at least supervising the children.
60. Children never went to the homes of any of the care staff or the volunteers to stay overnight. This practice definitely never happened. There was one time some girls came to my house to see my second baby just after he was born. I took them there and dropped them off with my wife, then went back to pick them up one or two hours later. I think the same thing happened when my first child was born.
61. I think Pearl McBride sometimes took kids out for a cup of tea to her house then brought them back to the school. She lived just down the road.

### *Schooling*

62. When I first started there were only between three and five visiting teachers who came in to the school. The teaching staff were KZR [REDACTED], who taught English, Bill, whose last name I can't remember, but was an older chap and was quite an old fashioned teacher. Valerie Dow was a student teacher initially then qualified after a year of me being there. There was a leather-craft teacher, Mr Jim Noble, who came in one day a week. There was also a visiting music teacher whose name I can't recall. He lived in Kirkcaldy and got the bus to work and I think he was approaching retiral age. He was great with the kids. I vaguely remember that there was some sort of allegation made about him by young girls following an incident on a bus. I don't know any more about that but he left quickly afterwards.
63. The school tried, as far as possible, for the children to follow a normal school curriculum but there were limits. As the children got older, sometimes they were a bit more restricted as to what subjects they could do. I remember one girl, who was going on to university, who wanted to do higher German. They had to bring a teacher in specially to teach her. Each child had an individual timetable.

### *Health*

64. Care staff generally dealt with any minor health issues. If they needed medical attention we would contact the GP at the local health centre. If any child had a doctor's appointment a member of staff would go with them. If the child had prescribed medication, it was stored in a locked medicine cabinet. All medication was prescribed by the local GP. Care staff would administer it and it would be recorded on medication sheets in the cabinet.
65. There was only one boy, [REDACTED], who was given medication to control his behaviour which was often abnormal and unacceptable. He would come into your personal space and put his hand on your back which wasn't normal. One of the things he used to do was lean into Marion Dees, one of the houseparents, and press his face into her breasts, which was inappropriate. He was prescribed some sort of medication,



possibly Ritalin. There were other children who had mental and social problems. The ones with mental problems we tried to work with and help them, as much as we could. Mealtimes were often a flashpoint so staff were always alert and watching out to try and stop it from happening.

66. Some children were prescribed an ointment for a skin condition which caused spots all over their body. I can't remember the name of the ointment but one of the side effects was that it could cause depression. We were mindful to keep an extra eye on these children to watch out for this.
67. My understanding was that because the children were in care and we were acting 'in loco parentis' then SNR [REDACTED] was responsible for the children and could make decisions on their behalf. We did not need to seek parental consent to administer medication. The parents would always be notified by SNR [REDACTED] when medication was prescribed and administered. I am sure that LUT [REDACTED] sent letters to the parents to explain it to them, with the assurance that we would administer the medication and record it accordingly.

#### *Work*

68. The children would, through LUT [REDACTED] initially, do work within Linnwood called 'community work'. The idea was that this would help give back to the school. This wasn't seen as a punishment. I think the children were split into groups and tasks were allocated to the group. This would be things like clearing the drive, which was a nightmare in the autumn. There were other individual jobs like cleaning the fireplace in the stables and setting it again with kindling. They would also check the feed for the animals we had including the geese and the ducks. The children were never forced to do any task. If they refused we would try and work out why they didn't want to do it, and if they still refused we would refer them to SNR [REDACTED]. He might suggest alternatives.

### *Visits*

69. Parents rarely visited their children. Some didn't have a car and lived quite far away. We did occasionally take some children in the minibus to their homes to see their parents. Annoyingly, some of the parents weren't at home when we got there.
70. Some social workers were very good, came regularly, and were keen to know how things were going. Other social workers were very rarely seen. Social workers were allowed to speak to children privately. They could take them out for a coffee or something to eat and quite often it was to buy them new clothes.

### *Bedwetting*

71. Some of the children wet their beds. They would usually tell the staff and whilst we were getting clean sheets they would strip their beds and put the sheets in the laundry basket. Any time of the night I would hear the swing doors opening and closing and invariably it was a child coming to tell staff they had wet the bed. We would sort them out as best as we could. The bed would be stripped and the sheets were sent to the laundry. Fresh sheets were put on the bed. Each child had a wall mounted light over the headboard so there was no need to put the main light on and disturb the other children. The cleaning ladies would make the bed up again in the morning. Nothing derogatory was ever said to the children. We just dealt with it and got on with it
72. When I started I was a very raw rookie and a beginner. The bottom bedroom was the room with the biggest problem of bedwetting and Dave Murphy did his best to try and help them as much as he could. He got a mesh from district nurses which was connected to an alarm and activated when the bed started to get wet. The issue with this was that the alarm was very loud and woke up the other children. Dave Murphy went out his way to try and resolve the issue. He went to someone at an electronics factory to try and get a device that vibrated and was quieter but would still wake up the child. LUT gave him money and Dave was successful in getting such a device for the children who needed it. It seemed to work for all the affected children and was definite progress in reducing bedwetting.

73. There was another boy who had a tendency to defecate in his bed. Dave Murphy took him aside and had a very supportive chat with him, including that he shouldn't hide it when it happened. We were all very supportive of boys who had accidents like that, and we helped them take their sheets to the laundry.

*Review of care*

74. Children had to go to so many children's panels in a year. If children were badly behaved, and they didn't change, LUT would have meetings with the child's social worker then ultimately it might end up at an extra children's panel. The panel members always tried their best to make sure these children got the best help. Some panel members were stricter than others. The purpose of these panels was to see if their behaviour had improved since the previous panel, stayed the same or deteriorated. The panel would try and establish why things hadn't improved. They would then decide if the child was to stay in care or if other arrangements should be made for their care, which may mean a different institution, or return to their family home.

*Preparation/ help/support*

75. One of the reasons children would leave Linnwood Hall was when they were old enough to leave education. Initially, I don't think children got very much help or support when they were about to leave. LUT made sure that they had new clothes as far as possible. LUT would tell the social workers that children were leaving care, which sometimes came as a surprise to the social workers. He would tell them they haven't been to see the child for a long time so they should at least help the child by providing some new clothes.
76. There was no recognised process for giving support to children who were leaving Linnwood. KZP wanted to introduce a system, and he wrote a thesis as part of his training. He wanted a method by which children would be supported and local agencies would be advised that a child was leaving education to find out what support they could offer.



## Living arrangements

77. My colleague who worked on the opposite shift to me was **KNF**. His room was upstairs towards the back above the kitchen, which was quite far away from the children's dorms. Brian Adams stayed in the room next to **KNF**. His room had access to the outside via a fire-door and a metal ladder. **KZR** and **[REDACTED]** who subsequently got married, shared a room close to the classrooms. There was a duty rota on display all the time on the noticeboard.
78. Anyone who had reason to be in the building would have unrestricted access to the whole building, including the boys' dorm.
79. Overnight there would normally be two members of staff on duty. When I was on duty there would also be a female houseparent on duty for the girls. The senior houseparent, David Murphy, went home to where he lived in St Monans.

## Discipline and punishment

80. Discipline and punishment were the remit of **SNR** **LUT**. He would decide who should be disciplined and what the punishment should be. If children were being punished by **LUT** he would sometimes grab a hold of them by their shirt above the shoulder and shake them, but not violently. He would pull them back and forward, holding the fabric of the shirt, enough to unbalance them. This would last no more than a minute. At the same time, he would be explaining to them the error of their ways. If they were being spoken to because they were refusing to do a chore, he might allocate them a different job. Sometimes he might just shout and bawl at the child, but he sometimes also did that to the member of staff who was involved.
81. **LUT** sometimes threatened to use his belt on the child, but I never saw him use it on a child. He had a Lochgelly tawse, which he would produce in his room and would say to the child 'this is for you', then strike it on the desk, two or three times. He would then say it again and strike the desk another two or three times. He deliberately

left his door open so other children would hear and probably thought it was the child being hit. I think he had a code within himself that he would never use the belt on a child. I witnessed LUT doing this routine and I know there was always another member of staff in his room when he did this. At the end, he would make light of the situation with the child, have a laugh, then take the child to see Margaret, the cook, for a bun or a biscuit.

82. There was another time I heard a bit of noise between the staffroom and the assembly room. I went round and LUT was standing in front of a boy, . The boy had apparently been swearing at LUT and LUT was telling him off. The boy was tall and was standing with his back against the wall. LUT was tapping the underside of the boy's chin with his knuckles. It was like he was trying to make him keep his head up and look at LUT's face. RCE SNR was there too. You could tell LUT was angry at this boy. I thought it was going to turn into a fight because the boy's arms and wrists were clenched. The boy was taken into the assembly room and was told to sit on a chair.
83. There was no formal policy or code of conduct in relation to discipline and punishment. Older children were never given the responsibility to keep order or discipline the younger boys. They might be asked to keep an eye on the younger boys at night in the dormitories because it was common for the younger ones to be larking about or making a noise. They weren't given any power to punish them. If the younger boys started making a noise, the older boys would just shout and tell them to be quiet or to seek out a member of staff.
84. Bedtime was a tense time. Trying to get all the children into their beds without a commotion wasn't always easy. The younger ones would go to their bed first, usually 9:00 pm then it was later for the older boys. If there was a certain group who were making a noise, and if they didn't heed a warning, they would be made to stand in the corridor facing the wall. They might be held there until everyone else was in their bed. They weren't allowed to talk to each other. This was the most common and the worst punishment ever issued to the children. I would never do it to an individual child, there was usually three or four at the same time.

85. Each room had a speaker playing music at night before lights out. If the boys were making a noise or misbehaving we might switch the music off as a punishment. Sometimes the threat was enough. There was never any physical punishment used on a child. Children also had the option to switch the music off in their room if they so desired and if everyone else in the room agreed.
86. Children who had misbehaved were never segregated from the other children. Their weekend leave was never stopped. I don't remember their pocket money being reduced or withheld for bad behaviour but it may have been used as a threat.
87. I never disciplined any child. It wasn't my place to discipline a child. If a child behaved badly or did something that warranted it, I would send them to SNR or to LUT for them to deal with. I would usually be in the vicinity when SNR would have words with the child, sometimes at length.
88. There was no punishment book where there was a record kept of any punishments. I know that LUT had a school register where any belting or corporal punishment would be recorded. He was very proud of the fact this book was empty because he never physically punished a child.

### **Restraint**

89. I have been involved in restraints during my time at Linnwood and I have seen others using restraints on children. Part of the Fife Council training which I received was the restraint of children who were having tantrums, flying off the handle, lashing out, kicking, hitting off walls and being out of control. I was taught to put my arms around their shoulders from behind and try and hold their arms. I wouldn't squeeze them. I would then talk to them and try and calm them down. The aim was to hold them in place and limit their movement until someone else could help you. Latterly, hands-on restraints was something we had training on at Melville House. I did not agree with the content of this training for fear that it would hurt or injure the child.



90. If some children ran away from Linnwood we would give chase in the minibus. If we saw them we would try talking to them but sometimes they would run off again. Where possible a member of staff would get out and grab them. This might be by the hand or the cuff of their clothing. They would then be restrained. Restraint was seldom used at Linnwood Hall and instead we blocked the child's direction which often ended in laughter.
91. There was one time I saw a teacher in the classroom corridor restraining a boy. I don't know what the lead up to the incident was but when I came across them the teacher was sitting on the floor and he had his arms round a boy and he was lashing out with his arms. The boy's back was against the teacher's chest. Eventually the child would have calmed down.
92. Another time I was asked to go into LUT's office in case I was needed. When I went in, there were three boys and other staff already there. One boy may have been I don't know why they were there but they were all about fourteen or fifteen and were getting a strict talking to. The staff were LUT, RCE and KZZ. I don't know what got in these boys' heads but they made a move towards LUT. RCE had one boy pinned onto the seated area in the bay window with his hands on the back of his shoulders. The boy was face down into the cushion. KZZ was holding another boy telling him he wasn't going anywhere. At the time I thought RCE was perhaps a little too aggressive because you could hear the snarl in his voice, telling the boy not to dare moving. I have no idea what it was about and I have no idea how it all stopped.
93. Another time I remember being made aware of a disturbance within Jack Tollan's office. There was a lot of shouting and bawling. I went in and there was another member of staff there. Jack Tollan was sitting on the floor, with his arms round a boy, and he was holding his arms in front of him to stop him lashing out. I can't remember who the boy was but he was a big lad. Jack's legs were over the boys' legs to stop him kicking. By the end Jack was absolutely sweating.

94. Children were never given any medication to calm them down if they kicked off. They were never placed in a room on their own to calm down or to be punished. They might have been taken into the staffroom but there was always a member of staff there to supervise them.
95. I definitely never saw any restraint situations where I thought excessive force was being used.

#### **Concerns about Linnwood Hall**

96. To my knowledge, I am not aware of Linnwood Hall ever being the subject of concern because of the way children were treated, either from someone within Linnwood, or anyone externally.

#### **Reporting of complaints/concerns**

97. If any child or any person at Linnwood wanted to make a complaint or report a concern LUT [REDACTED]'s door was always open and they could make the complaint to him. I can't give any definite instances or if, when and why any child reported anything to him.
98. I was the key worker for one boy, [REDACTED] who made a disclosure of abuse to me. On the way to assembly one morning, he told me that he wanted to speak to me and I realised straight away that something was wrong. I took him for a walk down the school drive and we stopped at a bridge where we had a seat. We chatted for about half an hour and what he told me shocked me. He described to me incidents where he had been bribed with money and had been interfered with by a man in Kinghorn, where [REDACTED] stayed. [REDACTED] said he wanted it to stop.
99. I told [REDACTED] that I couldn't sit on this information and that I would have to pass it on to Jack Tollan. He understood. I felt really sad for the boy. I went straight back and told Jack Tollan. I am not sure after that what happened but the social work department

and the police were involved. I don't know if the man was arrested or what happened as a result. I felt quite proud and privileged that [REDACTED] trusted me enough that he was able to talk to me about it. Not long after that [REDACTED] left.

100. No child ever approached me and reported any kind of abuse or ill-treatment that had happened or was happening within Linnwood Hall.
101. There was a logbook that was completed every day before the end of that shift. I would imagine that if any complaints were made, they would be recorded in there.

### **Trusted adult/confidante**

102. Children could speak to any of the adult members of staff about any worries they had or even concerns about other children, staff or others, towards them. It just really depended on who that child trusted enough to tell. I think it was after Jack Tollan arrived that the keyworker role was introduced. Each member of staff was given a couple of children to support and work with and make sure all their paperwork was kept up to date and as complete as possible. A child could speak to their own keyworker or any other keyworker.

### **Abuse**

103. At Linnwood Hall I don't recall ever seeing any written definition of the term 'abuse'. I don't think any one of us, as members of staff, suspected any of the other members of staff could possibly be abusing a child. We were however always alert to what children were saying and would try to pick up on anything that was untoward or wrong.
104. I remember there was one boy, [REDACTED], who was of colour and he got quite a lot of verbal abuse from some of his peers. He subsequently took matters into his own hands and hit back physically at the boys who were doing it. As staff, we took the boys aside who had been doing the abusing and told them that this was not acceptable



behaviour. [REDACTED]'s mum, who was a social worker, was one of the few parents who visited children at Linnwood and she came as a parent.

105. I never saw any other behaviour that I considered could have been classed as abuse. I would like to think, and hope, that if abuse was going on, it would have come to light at the time it was happening.
106. I was never approached by any child who told me that they had been abused within Linnwood Hall. I am fairly confident that, if any child was being abused or ill-treated, it would have come to light at or around the time it was occurring. The reason I think that is because I think all the children had at least one adult they were comfortable to talk to.

#### **Child protection arrangements**

107. The only guidance and instruction that was given on how children in care at Linnwood Hall should be treated, cared for, and protected against abuse, ill-treatment or inappropriate behaviour came from general chat with LUT [REDACTED] initially. He advised us that some of the children in our care had been badly abused, some were likely to be abused, and that we needed to be aware of this and if we see any signs we should report it through the senior management or through the social work department. We were told to be alert to it. There was no written guidance on this process.
108. I don't know what the process was on how to handle and respond to reports of abuse or ill-treatment of children by staff, other adults or children. If it had happened I would have asked a colleague or a senior what to do.
109. If I had heard that someone had been abused, I would automatically report it to my seniors. There was no discretion in this matter.
110. Given that I was there to care for children, the best way to reduce the likelihood of abuse, ill-treatment or inappropriate conduct by staff, or other adults towards children

at Linnwood Hall would be to use good practice. This would involve being alert at all times and never being afraid to ask questions.

### **External monitoring**

111. LUT [REDACTED] once told me there had been an external review of our care and we had passed with flying colours. I can't remember when this happened. I know that the education needs of children within the school at Linnwood should have been inspected every year, but that didn't happen.

### **Record Keeping**

112. All the children's files were kept in a storage area. Initially as a houseparent I didn't get to see the children's admission reports and assessments when they arrived. I only started to get information like that when I became a key worker. The role of key worker only started when Jack Tollan started at Linnwood. I think it was essential to have this background information so I could work out how best to help that child. As an allocated key worker, I was allowed look through the child's file and make sure I was aware of specific information, like words which may trigger the child.
113. LUT [REDACTED] not long after I started, told me that I could look through the individual child's file. I was told I could go into the cabinet where they were stored and take one out at a time and read it through. I remember reading about lots of different tests the children had been through. The language used didn't mean anything to me so LUT [REDACTED] sat with me and explained what they all were. Occasionally there was a report from a social worker in relation to a visit.
114. I don't recall seeing anything in any child's individual file with details of any punishments or complaints they may have made about treatment in Linnwood. I don't know if SNR [REDACTED] kept a separate record of complaints made to him. Children running away would be recorded in the daily log. If they complained about a member

of staff there would be a record of that in the daily log, and if the member of staff went to see SNR [REDACTED] the result of that would be recorded.

115. Psychologists would visit some of the children, as well as other social workers from the psychology department. They would be given privacy to speak to the children. I think some recommendations would have been made through LUT [REDACTED] and if they affected us it would be passed down to us through the different levels of management. We would sometimes discuss these recommendations to see how we could implement them to try and help the child.

### **Allegations of abuse**

116. I was never the subject of an allegation of abuse or ill-treatment of a child or children who resided in Linnwood, when I was there. I was only made aware of one allegation from KXY [REDACTED] in 2001 which was well after I had left. I was not aware of any other allegations.
117. I didn't see or hear of any abuse when I was at Linnwood Hall so if it did happen when I was there it must have been very well hidden.

### **Investigations into abuse – personal involvement**

118. I was never involved in the investigation into allegations of abuse or ill-treatment. I was never involved in the handling of reports to Linnwood by former pupils about historical abuse.

### **Reports of abuse and civil claims**

119. I was never involved in the handling of any civil claim.



### **Police investigations/ criminal proceedings**

120. When I was at Linnwood Hall I was never made aware of any investigation in relation to abuse or ill-treatment of children. The first time I ever heard about any police investigation at Linnwood Hall was in relation to Dave Murphy. I had left Linnwood Hall by that point. I gave a statement to the police about my knowledge of Dave Murphy, whilst I was employed within the Inspection and Registration Unit. I was also interviewed by an ex-detective who was also investigating suspected abuse carried out by Dave Murphy. I have never given evidence at any trial in relation to the abuse of children at Linnwood Hall

### **Convicted abusers**

121. I understand that David Murphy was convicted of abuse of children but I am not sure exactly what the charges were. I never saw any behaviour when I was working with him that gave me any cause for concern.
122. David was recruited at the same time as me. There were adverts out for two vacancies as care staff and senior care staff. He applied for the senior post and I applied for the basic care staff post. I believe he told me he had some very old qualification but I cannot recall what it was. The qualification could have been in relation to being a Residential Care Worker or Residential Care Officer. I presume he had received training through the qualifications he had gained, and that he possibly had to do some form of mentorship with an agency during that course.
123. I heard, at some point, from another female member of staff at Linnwood Hall, that there had been allegations made against David Murphy from one of his previous employments. I don't know what the full story was or where his previous employments were. I never took that any further and blanked it from my mind as I didn't believe it could have been true. I don't know if any other members of staff or management were aware of the allegations made at his previous employment.

124. David Murphy would have been supervised in his role at Linnwood Hall by LUT and by RCE.
125. RCD was convicted in relation to incidents with boys outwith the school. I never found out what his sentence was, if in fact he received a sentence.

#### **Other staff working at Linnwood Hall at the same time**

LUT

126. LUT was SNR when I started in 1974 and retired in 1993. He would have been at retiral age when he left. I carried on working until 1995. I had no support when I first started, but LUT in his role SNR gave us the background to work from and probably told us what he expected from us. He was a benevolent person and was good with all the children. He was good towards me, because he knew this was a new environment for me and I was very raw to the profession. I had only had some training on youth and community stuff from work with the Young Leaders.
127. I can say that I only knew him reasonably well. I have already described how he disciplined children. I never saw him abusing any child and never heard that he had. The time where he was tapping the child under the chin is the closest I ever got to say he abused a child.

KZZ

128. I remember KZZ very well. He replaced Margaret Burt as SNR when she left. KZZ would have been there from 1976 until he retired in 1993. He was of retiral age. KZZ was a Dundonian. I was still young and very much in awe of teaching staff including KZZ. I spoke with him about the work I had been doing up until that point and he explained to me his role in relation to the teaching and the care staff. I didn't report to KZZ. His wife was a cook for a while at Linnwood too. He was a very family orientated man.

129. KZZ was interested in things we were doing with the children. One time I went to his house at New Year with a colleague and we had a good time. He was a very sociable individual and if there were issues between staff he always tried to resolve it amicably.
130. I saw him working with children and he was a bit of a soft touch. He would never give a child a telling-off, and instead would try speaking to them, to try and improve their behaviour. I think KZZ was disappointed some of the time when it was obvious that a child didn't want to accept his offer of help.
131. I never saw him disciplining children but saw him having words with them. I never saw or heard of him abusing children.

KZP

132. I remember KZP. He was at Linnwood Hall from 1974 until 1995. He died last year. He was one year older than me and was SNR on the opposite shift. His father was the minister at church and his mother was a special needs teacher at Primary School. I knew both of KZP's parents from going to his house.
133. We got on well and saw each other socially, outside work, too. We both progressed through outward-bound training although some courses were on different dates. He wanted to do a good job with the children.
134. If KZP was asked something by a child, in an aggressive manner, he would respond aggressively. I wouldn't have spoken to a child like he did. He was never derogatory or punitive and if he was disciplining a child it would only ever be verbal.
135. One time we were doing a weekend camp at Glen Doll and one of the boys, was being a bit verbal. was in the minibus and KZP was outside. KZP then raised his voice and I thought it was getting ugly so I ran over, just as KZP leant in and grabbed the boy by the clothes. I managed to calm things down and it was



over. KZP told me later that this boy had sparked every button on his panel and the first time he realised he was doing wrong was when he heard my boots on the gravel running over to separate them. KZP was a good man and was a good boy. I am glad it didn't develop into something they both might have regretted.

136. I never saw KZP lose his temper at any other time, but he did get angry, although it was all controlled. He sounded angry all the time when he spoke to the boys. It wasn't harsh or barking, more authoritative.

137. I never saw him discipline any child. I never saw, or heard, that he had abused any child. KZP calmed down as he got older and spoke more humanely to the children.

KZR

138. I remember KZR. He was the only KZR that was there when I was. He worked there from 1974, possibly until 1976. He was a teacher. I had limited contact with him. One time sticks in my mind when he suggested to me that a certain child should perhaps have a bath or a wash. This child had just come back from weekend leave and KZR thought the child was stinking.

139. KZR was a Dundonian, and a nice sociable guy but I didn't know him very well. We had many blethers together about work. He introduced me to who, at that time, was either his girlfriend or fiancé.

140. I saw him working with children, and from what I saw, I thought he was a good teacher and tried to help children as much as he could to understand the topics and spent a lot of time explaining things to them.

141. I never saw him disciplining a child. I never saw him abusing a child and never heard that he had.

HTZ

142. HTZ was a qualified woodwork teacher. I am not sure, but he would have been at Linnwood from around 1978 to 1995. I think he was a bit older than me. Initially he was going through a divorce and subsequently had a relationship with a married woman who was an assistant cook at Linnwood Hall. She and her husband divorced and her husband later became a nightwatchman at Linnwood Hall. He was very angry with HTZ about the whole situation.
143. I knew HTZ very well, and he was a very easy-going, amiable, guy. We chatted a lot about the kids. He was very skilled at drawing out skills in children who had very poor numeracy and literacy. Quite often we talked about individual children and how they were progressing in woodwork and we discussed plans for their development. Because I had an engineering background I understood the technical terms, more than others. He had a good relationship with the children. He had a jovial attitude with them and seemed to get the best out of them.
144. I never saw him disciplining children. I never saw him abuse a child and never heard that he had.

RCD

145. RCD was the gardener and he lived in the [REDACTED]. I knew of him, but not very well. We spoke quite a few times. I am not sure when he was at Linnwood Hall, possibly from 1976 and may have been there for two or three years. I can't say how old he was. He had been in the army and had been in the army band, possibly playing the flute. I liked him at first when I met him and his wife [REDACTED]. I would have been in my early twenties. RCD didn't like [REDACTED] smoking and he would talk down to her a lot of the time. We visited them at their house but only a couple of times. After visiting him at his home I had concerns about him. Partly because of the way he treated his wife. There were rumours that some of the YTS boys who were working for him, were being allowed to shower in his house. At some point he fell out with some of the kitchen staff but I am not sure what it was about. I think it was

something to do with the kitchen staff buying in vegetables rather than using vegetables he had grown on the grounds.

146. He was a good gardener, but there was definitely something shifty about him, and I didn't like him. One of my early 'key' kids was [REDACTED], who was physically small and lived near Lochgelly. One day, I was walking round the front of the house at Linnwood Hall and I saw [REDACTED] sitting on the knee of RCD [REDACTED] who was driving his car. I shouted at them and RCD [REDACTED] stopped. [REDACTED] got out and I told him that he shouldn't be sitting on people's laps when they are driving. RCD [REDACTED] said I was making an issue out of nothing and asked what I thought he was going to do. I was angry with him. My concern was more about the sexual implications of having a boy on his lap than the safety issue. LUT [REDACTED] was there and was aware of [REDACTED] sitting on RCD [REDACTED]'s knee but he blamed [REDACTED]. I also told Dave Murphy. I don't know what action was taken.

147. I never saw RCD [REDACTED] disciplining any child and I never saw him abusing a child. Sometime later LUT [REDACTED] told us that RCD [REDACTED] had been arrested by the police and it was something to do with picking up young boys on the prom in Kirkcaldy for money. As far as I know he was kept in jail until his trial. LUT [REDACTED] gave evidence about his character at the trial. I am not aware of the school doing any investigation about him at any point.

GLQ [REDACTED]

148. I remember GLQ [REDACTED]. He was a sports and geography teacher. He was at Linnwood Hall from around 1978 to 1995. He would have been in his forties. He was probably one of the best and most liked teachers. He was very sporty and the boys liked playing football with him. We were joint keyworkers for a number of children, so we compared notes a lot of the time especially in relation to some of the more difficult children. GLQ [REDACTED] was an amiable guy who liked a joke, and didn't mind if the joke was on him. I got to know him fairly well inside the school. I have no knowledge about his life outside the school apart from he had a wife and I believe had two daughters. He was great with the children.



149. He had an authoritative voice but I never saw him discipline a child. I never saw him, and never heard that he had, abused a child.

*David Murphy*

150. I worked with David Murphy. He was a good colleague and a good friend to me. He was there from the day I started until he retired which was just before I left. I think he was of retiral age. He was a senior houseparent and was the first person to support and supervise me do my job in the first few years, after Brian Adams. He was always very helpful and explained things clearly. He was very knowledgeable about children in care and what their needs were. He also advised me to get qualifications and overall was a good mentor. He told me he had worked at St Margarets and a charity foundation in the east coast where there were boys and girls. It was somewhere about Fochabers
151. I never saw any behaviours in him or indications that there was anything untoward in his relationships with the children.
152. I saw David working with the children almost constantly. He was firm but was very capable and generally was good with the children. He did a lot for the school and created other activities like the shooting range for the air-rifles, train set, darts, table tennis and a Scalextric track.
153. The only time I ever saw David Murphy discipline a child was when he held a child by the wrist and removed them from somewhere. I can't remember the full circumstances. I never saw him abuse a child.

**Leaving Linnwood**

154. I left Linnwood in 1995 and went to work for Inspection and Registration. I had been at Linnwood quite a long time by then and I heard about the vacancy so decided to go for it. I went on to further my career from that time learning about inspection and

registration. In 2001, my whole world collapsed as a result of the allegation by KXY [REDACTED] KXY [REDACTED]. I was suspended as a result of the allegation and subsequently fired. I appealed and was reinstated but could never go back and work for Fife Council due to the whole inaccuracies and ineptitudes of how my case was handled by them.

### **Helping the Inquiry**

155. If there is evidence or information to the effect that the experiences of abuse that some children had in Linnwood has continued to affect them and had an impact on their lives, I can't explain how I didn't see or hear of any abuse or ill-treatment when I was there.

### **Applicant allegations**

156. I have seen the redacted police report in relation to a police investigation alleging lewd, indecent and libidinous practices by me against KXY [REDACTED] and I have read it in its entirety.
157. I do not know who KXY [REDACTED] is. He wasn't a resident when I was at Linnwood. I can't picture him as I am certain that I have never met him.
158. I was working in Inspection and Regulation in 2001 when I was called in to my bosses' office. There was a female there from Fife Council. She told me they had received a complaint that I had interfered with a child when I was at Linnwood and I was immediately suspended. They wanted me to immediately leave the building but I insisted on going in and told my colleagues even though I was in tears.
159. Sometime later, I was contacted and asked to phone DC Teevan at Glenrothes police station. I contacted him and asked him what it was about. He told me that he would tell me when we met and asked if I could call at the police station and see him. I subsequently went at a prearranged time and date to Glenrothes police station. I was initially threatened at the start that I would be put in a police cell for a period of time if

I wasn't willing to sit down and talk to them about it. I told them I was happy to speak to them and I was taken upstairs. I was interviewed by DC Teevan who told me more details about the allegations. After being interviewed I left the police station. I subsequently received a letter from the Procurator Fiscal's office advising me that no proceedings were going to be taken against me.

160. There is no way that I abused this boy. I don't even know who he is. It is all a fabrication. One mistake he has made is that he says he would occasionally be met by me when he was coming out of the shower. The showers were not put in until 1978 or 1979. The bathroom was converted into three or four showers with curtains around each one. There wouldn't have been enough room in these showers for me, a big guy, to fit in these showers. My shirt would have ended up getting soaked and I couldn't have walked about the rest of my shift like that. The showers were in the corridor leading to the toilets so the boys were regularly using them and there were always staff in the area. Why would I want to abuse a child in the first place. It all so alien to me and anyone who knows me would know this is untrue.

*Allegation recorded by service provider*

161. I have been advised that the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry had been provided with information from the organisers who ran Linnwood to the effect that they had allegations against members of staff including David Murphy and myself. There was apparently no detail of what these allegations were or when they happened. I am not aware of any other allegation being made against me. The only allegation I was ever aware of was in 2001 in relation to the allegation made by KXY [REDACTED].

*Other information about allegation*

162. The complaint made by KXY [REDACTED] was also investigated by Fife Council and I was interviewed by Fife Council. In the first sentence of a report they compiled, it said that I admitted the allegations. This was rubbish. I did not admit the allegations because it never happened. Myself and my union rep went back and told them what



they had written wasn't true. I think they did this so they would get the result they wanted.

163. KZF [REDACTED] has given a statement to the Inquiry. At paragraphs 249 to 254 he says:

*"I went to this foster family one weekend, called Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]. One night when I was there, I was watching football with Mr. [REDACTED] and his son. After it finished he sent his laddie to bed and told me I'd be sleeping in with him I told him I wasn't and went to sleep in his laddies room.*

*When I went back to Linwood Hall on Sunday, I was hauled out of my bed at some godforsaken hour by KNH [REDACTED]. I was dragged and banged through three swing doors and into the staff sitting room.*

*KNH [REDACTED] had long dark hair, big glasses, and was a big guy, about six foot and six inches with a really big build.*

*When he dragged me into the staff sitting room, David Murphy, KZP [REDACTED] and KZR [REDACTED] were there too. They told me I was on report for a week, which meant I had to go to bed at 7 pm, wouldn't get any pocket money and wasn't allowed out.*

*I asked what for and they said I had disobeyed an order. I think that was because I had not done what Mr [REDACTED] had told me to do, and he'd complained about me."*

164. I don't remember KZF [REDACTED]. I thought I did, but I think I am confusing him with someone else. I did not abuse him. Because I don't know him, I don't know if he went to a foster family. I didn't have long dark hair, as he has described me, and at that time I was big built and didn't wear glasses. I think he is adding on more and more to his statement and is hoping that someone will believe him.

165. If we went through three sets of swing doors, as he described, we would have been outside. If, as he says it was through the middle of the night, David Murphy wouldn't have been there, because he was an early bedder. KZP [REDACTED] wouldn't have

been there if David Murphy was on duty. I can't understand why I would get up out my bed, through the night, to drag him out of his bed.

166. What he has described is absolute lies. The passage of time has not affected my recollection. My memory is clear. I do not know this guy, and don't recognise him or what he has described in any way. He is lying and I hope I can go on to prove it with some of the other things he has said. I can't explain why he would have said this about me.

167. It was mentioned in the statement of KZF that KZP had fled the country. That was not the case. He went to Australia to visit his parents who were both thought to be at the end of their lives. He has since come back.

168. Also, in the statement of KZF in paragraphs 254 to 256 he says:

*"Another time, I went to a children's home in St Andrew's called St David's Children's Home.*

*I had a feeling then that I was going to get dragged out of my bed in the middle of the night again, when I got back to Linwood. I wouldn't go to sleep because I was expecting it.*

*I finally dropped off, and the same thing happened. I was dragged out of bed and into the staff room by KNH."*

169. I would have been in my bed at this ungodly hour.

170. Also, in the statement of KZF in paragraphs 264 to 274 he says

*"We went on trips in mini buses. I remember going on a trip in two mini buses with a group of boys. There were two members of staff in each mini bus, and they were KZP David Murphy, KNH and that KZR*

*We were driven somewhere near the beach, where there were other cars and vans parked up on a verge. I remember seeing several men getting out of the vans.*

*We went into the wooded area nearby and there were about six or seven caravans there. I remember seeing the men that had gotten out of the vans, had gone behind the caravans.*

*We all sat around the caravans. The other boys from Linwood who I remember being there were ..., ..., ..., ..., .... It was a school day in late August, I think, because it was still light at night.*

*I remember being offered a can of beer by the staff, and it had already been opened. I drank it and so did the other boys. I had about three tins of beer and I don't remember anything after that. I was about eleven years old at the time.*

*I know what happened. I think I was raped by several people. I remember everything until after drinking the beer so I must have been drugged. It's not rocket science.*

*The next thing I remember is being back in Linwood the next day. I woke up with a pain in my back, which was sore right down to my buttock, and I don't know if that was caused by what happened.*

*None of the boys talked about the trip.*

*I didn't think anything of it at the time. It wasn't until the police spoke to me as an adult, that the penny dropped and I realised I must have been drugged and raped by more than one man that night. The police told me that some boys remembered things about being sexual abused on that trip and others didn't, so the drugs must not have worked more on some of the boys.*

*The police have told me that other people have said that I was taken to a ceilidh with them when we were boys in Linwood Hall, with the same members of staff. They told me there were between five and eight people who have said that I was there. They*



*think I was raped there too, but I remember absolutely nothing about that. I think I must have been drugged before even being taken there.*

*The police told me that there was a register of outings and they'd seen my name on it as having been taken out to this ceilidh."*

171. We only ever had one minibus. We never had two. The only time we ever had the use of two minibuses was when we borrowed one from Fife Council to go on a week's camping trip. We used the borrowed bus on the trip so the school wasn't left without a minibus.
172. He is saying that he went with two <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED], a houseparent and a teacher. David Murphy and <sup>KZP</sup> [REDACTED] wouldn't have both been on duty at the same time because they were the two seniors.
173. The grass verge where he says we parked, this could have been at Leven beach. This is the only place I can think of at a beach that has a grass verge. As you drive along this beach, Leven Thistle Golf Course is on your left and another course behind it. On the right hand side is a long strip of sand and on the other side is a small dyke which has been built up to keep the grass solid and cars either park on the verge or in the car park at the far end. There is no caravan site and there are no trees as <sup>KZF</sup> [REDACTED] has described. There has never been a caravan site there.
174. This would be the sort of trip to the beach that we would go on, but what he has described is wrong. He has invented a forest and a load of caravans.
175. David Murphy was a total anti-drinker and anti-smoker. His father was an alcoholic so David had a big thing about alcohol. When we had been on a night out he would always make comments to the effect that we shouldn't be in a pub. <sup>KZF</sup> [REDACTED] says that we fed him three cans of beer in a short while. This couldn't have happened unless <sup>KZF</sup> [REDACTED] was an alcoholic it wouldn't have taken a short while. He was only an eleven year old kid so slugging back three cans of beer is not true, and I don't believe what he has said.

176. KZF says that he thinks he was raped by several people but he can remember everything after he had drunk three cans of beer. Why then can't he remember who gave him the beer? None of us would have given the boys beer. There is a very important word in his allegation. He says he 'thinks' he was raped. He is asking for everyone to take a great leap of faith and believe all the things he has said.
177. He says the next thing he remembers was waking up at Linnwood Hall. So that means he was out all night. He would have had to have been carried by some person, or people, from the caravan site, all the way across the golf course back to the minibus. At Linnwood Hall staff must have carried him, undressed him, put his pyjamas on and put him to bed. I am sorry but that is absolute nonsense.
178. If we returned to the unit with children smelling of alcohol, the other staff would have noticed. David Murphy, whether he was or wasn't there would have gone ballistic. The other staff would have been asking lots of questions. If we were back later than 9:00 pm the female staff would have been fretting. We never stayed out after 9:00 pm.
179. KZF says that he was taken out to go to a ceilidh. Linnwood Hall was a traditional Scottish school and we celebrated all sorts of things like Burns suppers, Halloween, Christmas, and other occasions. We had a ceilidh and Burns supper within the school to which lots of local dignitaries were invited. The boys were not taken out to any ceilidh. They were held within the dining hall at Linnwood.
180. KZF has thrown in lots of allegations and is obviously hoping that one hits the target. I suspect this boy has some sort of difficulty with his brain. I can't understand why he has said all these things. The things he has described never happened and would never have happened. I have no idea why he would have said these things. I agree that if KZF was treated in the way he described then this would have been classed as abuse.
181. I would like to add that in paragraph 308 of the statement of KZF he says that he was made to fight by Mr LUT. LUT did not make the boys fight. The boys had the choice of fighting or not. It was just young boys given the chance to sort out

their issues. There was no dirty fighting, like kicking or spitting, and there were always referees there. LUT [REDACTED] organised these fights but if it got nasty he stopped it.

182. KPU [REDACTED] has given a statement to the Inquiry. At paragraphs 77 and 78 he says:

*"One evening in 1991 we went out on a trip to Falkland Hill. This is where things went really downhill for me after this night. On the way back we stopped at the shops in Falkland. KNH [REDACTED], the team leader, who was driving the minibus drove away and left me on my own at the shop. I didn't know what to do. I started walking and ended up walking about two and a half miles in the pitch dark and found myself at a farm. There were no street lights. It was at the start of winter so it was cold. The people at the farm phoned the school and KNH [REDACTED] drove the minibus back down to collect me. When I got back to Linwood all the other boys said that I had spoiled their night and I got a hard time from them. Some of them punched me. I was sent to my room by a member of staff but can't remember who it was, while all the others were having hot chocolate. I was on my own and I was upset and crying.*

*KNH [REDACTED] later came into the room and he was shouting and bawling at me and he raised his hands and I am sure he was going to hit me. Just at that moment Jim Henderson came in and KNH [REDACTED] must have seen him so didn't hit me. Jim Henderson told KNH [REDACTED] to go and said that he would deal with me. I was curled up in a ball and was crying. I was confused because I didn't know what I had done that was wrong. Jim Henderson told me that I hadn't done anything wrong. That night a couple of boys hit me through the night when I was in my bed. I don't know who it was that hit me. A short time after this incident KNH [REDACTED] left Linwood Hall. After KNH [REDACTED] left, if any of the other kids started picking on me, the staff turned a blind eye. It was almost like they were saying that I deserved to be punished for making KNH [REDACTED] leave. Jim Henderson shielded me from some of the other staff after KNH [REDACTED] left.*

183. I remember KPU [REDACTED]. He was a small lad who grew and developed in Linnwood Hall. He had very poor coordination and was a very quiet boy. He would cower away from you on any occasion you raised your voice, but he wasn't desperately shy. The



best time I had with him was when I was trying to teach him how to catch a ball. At lunchtime I would take him up to the gym and I started rolling the ball to him across the floor. He got better and better and eventually managed to catch a ball in his hands. I felt it was a fantastic achievement and I was so pleased for him.

184. At no time did I ever sanction or punish [KPU] I never punished any child. I definitely never abused him.
185. I think where [KPU] has named Jim Henderson he has got the name wrong. I believe this would be Jim McCartney who was [KPU]'s key worker. There are some things which [KPU] has said which are true, but my version is different. Yes we did go to Falkland Hill. On the way back it is alleged that I drove away and left them. What actually happened was that on the way back I stopped the minibus in Falkland so the kids could go into the shop to buy sweets with their pocket-money. The kids got back on the minibus and the kids said that everyone was there. I didn't double check and drove away. About 150 yards along the road, I realised something was afoot because of the giggling amongst the kids. I managed to find out that we had left [KPU] in the shop. There would have been another member of staff in the minibus but I am not sure who that was.
186. We went back to the shop but [KPU] had left and was nowhere to be seen. I was petrified. I drove about but couldn't find him. I went to the police house in Falkland and spoke to a woman who said the policeman wasn't there but she let me phone Linnwood Hall. I was told that he had turned up at a farm so I went to get him. From the distance he was away from the shop he must have taken off and ran as fast as he could to get so far away. There is no way he walked that far in that time.
187. I picked him up and we went back to Linnwood. I actually gave him a hug because I was relieved to see him. I didn't give him a row but asked him if he was alright and why he had done what he did. He said he had got a fright. The other kids thought it was really funny. The next day I told Mr Tollan, the headmaster, but he didn't put any blame on me and said it was [KPU]'s fault for not coming out the shop.

188. KPU did not get a hard time when we got back. He might have had a bit verbal abuse but there was definitely nothing physical. The rest of the kids weren't vindictive and were generally quite a good bunch.
189. I didn't go into his room that night, so saying that I went in with the intention of hitting him, is wrong. I accepted what he had said earlier that he had got a fright and that was the end of the matter. He was just a wee kid.
190. I admit that I made a mistake by not doing a head count when we left the shop. It was usually an automatic procedure. I never made that mistake again. There would have been someone else with me on any such occasion.
191. In KPU's statement at paragraph 48 he says that his bedroom was the only room that had bars on the window. There were no bars on his window. There were no bars on any of the windows.
192. In KPU's statement at paragraph 68 he made a comment that birthdays were very low key and there was no cake. That is not the case. Margaret, the cook, and the other female cook, always made every child a birthday cake and even made staff members one too if they knew it was their birthday. The cake would be brought out at lunch or tea-time and everyone would sing 'Happy Birthday'.

### **Lessons to be learned**

193. I was never trained in identifying the signs of abuse. I was a rookie when I started at Linnwood Hall and it was a completely new experience for me. Because of this, if the abuse was going on in front of me, it completely passed me by. I am not sure what the solution for this would be, but night cameras in each area where a child was sleeping, may have prevented it from happening. I realise this may be an invasion of the child's privacy so perhaps body camera's worn by staff could be another option. Unfortunately this could lead to injury caused by the camera when a child was being restrained.

194. The senior houseparent must be far more involved in the day to day running of the units and be fully aware of what was going on with the kids. Just because a person may have their own children, this does not automatically mean they are suitable and qualified to look after other children.
195. When I told RCE [REDACTED] who had been SNR [REDACTED] the houseparents, that I was the subject of allegations by KXY [REDACTED], he admitted that he had no knowledge of anything that was going on at Linnwood Hall. I approached him looking for guidance and support, but he didn't help me. He was supposed to be leading us all by example and was also responsible for ensuring that we were trained to an appropriate level. He should have known what was going on. SNR [REDACTED] should be a qualified social worker, or have some other formal qualification in the care setting.
196. This process with the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, is without doubt distressing to everyone, especially to my wife although she has nothing to do with it. How can staff, or ex-staff, protect themselves to ensure that allegations, which, as far as I am concerned are complete lies, don't continue to be made? Money has to be put into training to prevent and identify abuse. Vetting must also be done to the highest degree to ensure there is nothing in an applicant's background to suggest they are a risk.

#### **Other information**

197. I used to take groups of kids on the ferry to Arran and we spent the whole week camping. As far as I am aware there was never a moan or complaint about any aspect of the trip. Another houseparent was with me, so we could look after both the boys and the girls. We scrambled all over Arran including going up Goat Fell. One girl said quite early on that she wasn't going to make it, so I ended up holding her hand almost the whole way and she made it. This is just an example of the kind of relationship I had with the kids.



198. There was another time previously, and this was when Brian Adams was still there. It was a lovely evening. Brian Adams came in and spoke to myself, KZR and [REDACTED]. Brian announced that he wanted to take the kids a walk to Tentsmuir forest. It was getting late because it was about 8:00 pm so the kids should have shortly been getting ready for their beds. KZR came with Brian and I but [REDACTED] stayed at Linnwood. We got in the minibus and went along to Tentsmuir beach, which was quite a long drive from Linnwood, and had a walk along the headland and had a lovely walk on a beautiful moonlit night. The kids had a great time and by the end were asking to get home to their beds because they were tired. We headed back and [REDACTED] told us that LUT [REDACTED] had been asking where everyone was. He apparently freaked out when [REDACTED] told him where we were, saying that it was totally irresponsible of Brian. I agreed with LUT [REDACTED] because the children still had to get up in the morning. This was the start of the complete hatred between LUT [REDACTED] and Brian Adams.

199. 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

KNH [REDACTED]

Dated

19/05/25