

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PQR [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is PQR [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1973. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My parents separated when I was four. My mum met a new partner. He was an alcoholic and he could be quite violent. We all lived together in Whitfield in Dundee. I have one younger sister called [REDACTED] who is two and a half years younger than me.
3. My mum's partner used to leave us to be looked after by people when my mum was working. I was abused by my uncle and two strangers. My uncle was called [REDACTED]. I was around five when it started and it continued up until I was nine. It could happen up to three or four times every week. I have shut a lot of the details out. My uncle is dead now. I don't know the names of the other two people who abused me.
4. I went to three different primary schools in Dundee. I went to St Matthew's for a few months. We moved and I then went to St Peter and Paul's until I was in Primary Six. After that I went to St Clement's for Primary Six and Seven.

5. I went to Lawside Academy until I was in the start of Fourth Year. I never properly fitted in but I didn't know why. I found it really difficult to make friends. In the seventies, money was tight so we would get called names if we didn't have certain things.
6. I was born with a genetic eye condition called Retinitis Pigmentosa. I was monitored quite closely at Ninewells Hospital. I was slow at reading and my writing was atrocious. The secondary school teachers would send me to enlarge my own things at the photocopier quite a lot of the time. I didn't receive any support. I struggled a lot with bullying. The other kids would stick their feet out for me to trip over and sing nasty songs.
7. I had problems with wetting myself too. My mum was good at smacking me and I was scared of her. She could be quite controlling. She didn't know that I was being abused at the time.

The Royal Blind School, Edinburgh

8. My eyesight was deteriorating and I was struggling to adapt to it. The doctors thought that I could be completely blind by the time I was twenty. They wanted to get me up to speed with braille and with my exams so it was decided that it would be better for me to move from a mainstream school. They used to have meetings with the educational team to discuss the support I needed. I was asked what I wanted and I said that I wanted to go the blind school in Edinburgh. I was taken to see the school before I started and was shown around.
9. I was looking forward to a new start in Edinburgh. I started the school in [REDACTED] of 1987. It was in Craigmillar Park.

Routine at The Royal Blind School

First day

10. Mrs Mitchell, my educational social worker, drove my mum and me through on the first day of term. I felt excited because it was a new experience and I was looking forward to getting to do things that I wasn't allowed to do normally. It was a new adventure.
11. I remember it being quite chaotic when I arrived. There were lots of other people arriving too.
12. The school was huge. It was like a castle with a big clock tower. The class rooms were on the bottom level. The next two levels were the boys' floor and the girls' floor. The boys were on the first floor and the girls were on the second floor.
13. The staff that lived in stayed on the first floor too.
14. The oldest boys and girls stayed in the hostels. The hostels were two houses which were further out from the school. They had a wing of their own above the gym. The library was on the first floor too.
15. The school had big grounds and a head gardener's cottage. There was a swimming pool, a play park with slides, swings and a braille press. The primary school was connected to the main building. They had their own house attached to the primary school. There was a big extension at the back which housed the laundry room and the science rooms.
16. I met Mrs Thomson, the deputy head teacher. I think she was a lady in her forties. She was petite with ginger hair. I was introduced to the housemaster and shown my dormitory before going to class.

17. There were two dormitories for the girls in the main building. The dormitory had six beds. The older girls were in my dormitory. There were six of us. The girls were of mixed ability. The younger girls were in the other dormitory. The girls were aged eleven or twelve up to fifteen or sixteen. The dormitory had sinks in it. There were two beds at the top of the dormitory which were separated by a wardrobe, a chest of drawers and a desk.
18. My mum and I were taken to the 'day room' on the girls' floor. My mum stayed until it was time for me to go to class.
19. The dormitory took a bit of getting used to. I was in the bed next to PQB. She was in my class and she was two months older than me. PQB was from Wick. The other four girls had different needs, they didn't just have visual impairment, they had learning delays too. One of the girls called [REDACTED] was very child-like although she was older than us. She was eighteen. She could become quite violent when she went into a mood. We had to run and hide when she went off on one. The staff would have come and pin her down until she calmed down. There was another girl called [REDACTED] who had learning delays. We used to argue and have pillow fights. She was quite strong and feisty. [REDACTED] had cerebral palsy and [REDACTED] had educational delays. The staff would come in and out of the dormitory but they would always knock before coming in.

Staff

20. Fiona Gilchrist was the head of the girl's floor. I didn't get on with her. She was in charge of the other three housemistresses and the Community Service Volunteer. There was a Norwegian housemistress called Sue. I can't remember her second name but she was nice. There was also Kerry Redpath and PYA. I can't remember PYA's second name. I didn't get on with her.
21. I can't remember the Community Service Volunteer's name but she was lovely. Sometimes she helped in the classroom and other times she did other activities in the house. I can't remember how many nights she worked on the floor. She also

cleaned the duty room and did the laundry. The staff washed our uniforms and towels but we took our own clothes home to get washed.

22. Some staff actually stayed in the school. There were a couple of house-parents and a CSV who had a permanent room in the school. There would be two members of staff who stayed at night, one on each floor. There was also a married couple who stayed in the cottage. He was a caretaker and his wife was a server in the dining room.

Mornings and bedtime

23. The staff would come in and wake me up. I was lazy and didn't like getting up. I remember one time, the head teacher, Mrs Meek, jokingly came in with a cup of water and said she was going to throw it over me. I don't think she had water in the cup, she was just pretending.
24. I can't remember what time we got up at but it was a set breakfast time. I would always get up but I would leave it as long as I could.
25. I used to help set out the breakfast. I would help put out the plates, cups and bowls and sort out cereal into the bowls. We had breakfast in the dining room on the second floor. It was big as it would fit the whole school in at lunch time. There were eight of us at the table. The primary children and older ones ate in their own house.
26. The house-parents had breakfast with us. One houseparent stayed overnight. There were always two house-parents on duty on each floor during the day. The other one would come in for us getting up. There were four house-parents in the dining room to make sure that those who needed help got it. Mrs Meek would eat breakfast with us twice a week. There were also four server staff. They were the ones who served out breakfast.

27. We took our plates over to the trolley and scraped out plates into the buckets. I would sometimes put the slops in the bucket for the cutlery because I would get mixed up.
28. We finished school at four o'clock and we would go up to the day room for tea and biscuits. We had prep, which was like home work, from half past four until ten past five. Each year had a different classroom. As we got older, and were getting near our exams, we needed longer than the forty minutes in prep.
29. Mr Cave-Brown supervised prep time. He was also our mobility teacher. We used to call him "Captain Caveman". Everybody liked him. He was very eccentric with such a personality. He came to the blind school in Paris with us twice. He was an amazing man. He very much acted for us and tried to make our lives better. I think everybody had faith and trust in him because he kept us safe.
30. I needed to learn mobility. It was one of the reasons why I had gone to the school because I was losing my sight. Mr Cave-Brown would try to teach some of the kids markers so that they didn't get lost around the school. He took me out learning the basics of up and down kerbs with the cane when I was blindfolded. I eventually progressed and I was able to get on and off buses with the blindfold on. He taught me to be confident with using the cane and I learned how to negotiate things.
31. Mr Cave-Brown was dedicated to his job. He was in his sixties when he retired in my last year.

Mealtimes / Food

32. At breakfast we got cereal, there were rolls and toast. There would be a boiled egg one day and scrambled eggs the next day. There would be different options a couple of days a week. In my opinion, breakfast was the best meal of the day.

33. We came back to the dining room for lunch. There were set tables. It was a mixture of older and younger children with different members of staff at each table. We moved around every term. We were allocated our table at the start of each term. There might be house-staff at your table, depending on the ability of the other children, because some of them might need the extra help and support.
34. There was a salad bar in the dining room. We were given a main course like roast pork, macaroni and a vegetarian option. It worked on a rota system. There was also pudding. We would get fruit, yoghurt and fresh bread. There was a good variety.
35. Unfortunately, some of the meals were disgusting. We would be given Bernard Matthew's Chicken Kiev balls and tinned spaghetti. Some of the cakes were strange as well, for example, they gave us green coconut cake with big red cherries on it. I think they had a tight budget. The staff would say that the food was alright but they were only getting it once or twice a month. There used to be chaos if there were any rolls left over from the morning. People would be trying to get the rolls first so they had to start doing it that the boys' floor got it one night and the girl's the next night.
36. We had tea at half past five. The house-parents would be there at teatime. It was a mad dash after tea to go and watch Neighbours. You would miss half of it because it started it at half five.
37. Some of the kids went out to play outside and others would be in the duty room. I was too old to go outside and play on the swings. The older kids who were in the hostel sat in a classroom. The headmistress would sit in there so that they were able to have coffee with her. I would do that when I was older.
38. I was only on the girls' floor for a few months from the [REDACTED] to the Easter time. It was such a different experience for me and it was only for such a short time that stuck in my memory. I was then moved to the hostel.

Washing / bathing

39. We had a shared bathroom. You had to come out of our dormitory and go past a room with a line of sinks. Then there was a glass door and there were two baths and a shower in one room. It was public bathing. You had to make sure and hope that when you were in that nobody opened the door. It was strange and I found it hard to get used to at first.
40. We went at night time, there wasn't time in the morning and I was lazy. You would go and get your shower or bath. It wasn't supervised. We would queue up at the sinks and fight between the six of us who was going first to brush their teeth. We would get washed and brush our teeth at the sink in the dormitory sometimes.
41. We were encouraged to clean the bath after we used it. There was always a bottle of cleaning liquid and a cloth sitting on the bath. I used to clean it before going in and after it. It was the cream cleaner stuff that used to leave the rim around the bath.

Clothing / uniform

42. I was given my school uniform on the first day. It was a Marks and Spencer multi-coloured pastel shirt. The head mistress had actually bought it for herself and didn't realise it was the uniform. We wore our uniform on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. So she could only wear her shirt on the Monday and Friday. The skirt I had been given had a rip in it so the school seamstress made me my own new one. It was a long, pencil skirt with a split up the back. On the other days we wore our own clothes. I had taken in jeans, tops and skirts with me. I took in my toiletries and my alarm clock, I'm not sure why because I didn't need it.

Personal Possessions

43. I took in my tapes in. We used to sit with the old tape recorder listening to the charts on a Sunday night. We were given tape players in the school because some of our work was done on them. We used to listen to the Dirty Dancing theme track.

School

44. They thought that it would be better if I re-did third year of school because it was all different subjects from the ones I had been taught at my last school and it would also give me a chance to do braille. However, the teachers changed their minds after two weeks and put me back into fourth year.
45. We used to finish school at four o'clock.

Leisure time

46. There was a lot going on. We had planned activities every night. Volunteers would come from Edinburgh University to do different activities with us. There were brownies, rainbows, guides, rangers and scouts. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays there were activities. On Wednesdays, we went to the Commonwealth swimming pool in the mini-bus. I was made to go to Rangers because they didn't want me on the floor on my own. I had no choice. I think that was the Thursday night. I didn't really enjoy it.
47. I used to sometimes to go out to the shops at the Cameron Toll or we'd go to visit other friends outside the school. I went home every weekend. Some of the others from further afield went home every second week.

Trips / Holidays

48. We had sports trips and did competitions. I went to Lincolnshire and Coventry for athletic competitions. I also went to Glenrothes for swimming. We had the national blind reading competition in Glasgow. We went to Abernethy Barcaple once too.
49. We went to the Blind school in Paris twice. I was fifteen the first time and seventeen the second time. I was picked to go twice because I was still doing French. The first time I went with PQB, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We were all studying French. There

were five of us and two members of staff. Mr Cave-Brown and Mrs Thackery came with us. Mrs Thackery was a down to earth, lovely teacher.

50. I knew quite a lot of French vocabulary but my grammar was all wrong. It was a good experience going to the blind school. It was my first ever holiday abroad. The French students came to visit us the next year.
51. The second time we went, there was a group of students from the Hungarian blind school there. They spoke German. It was quite hard to communicate with them because they didn't speak French. We were all taken to Louis Braille's father's workshop in the village which I found interesting.

Birthdays and Christmas

52. At Christmas, parents would come through for the Christmas concerts. Some of the parents were able to come through but the ones who lived further away didn't tend to come.
53. I never celebrated my birthday in school because it's the [REDACTED] so I was always at home for the [REDACTED] holidays.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

54. We were visited by our educational social worker, Mrs Mitchell, once or twice a year. I only saw her and my educational psychologist, Mrs McPhee, for my Annual Review once I had started at the school. The Review would be to assess my care needs and to justify the expense of keeping me at the school for a another year. I saw both them frequently before I had started at the school. I would never have told her anything about what was happening. I didn't even tell my mum. I just kept it to myself. I didn't feel able to tell anyone.

Healthcare

55. There was a nurse called Nurse Goldie. She was Australian and very old school. She had a room in the clock tower on the girls' floor. She was there every day. Nurse Goldie sent you to bed if you were unwell, you didn't see anybody. Nobody would come and check on you. You were starved for 24 hours and you would just get a jug of water.
56. We had a doctor who would come into the school once a week. We also had an eye doctor who came to see us. The GP was called Dr Legg. The GP surgery was in Morningside. If you were very unwell you would get an emergency appointment and you would get a taxi to go and see the GP. I had bad sprains because I kept falling over so I had a couple of trips to A&E at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.
57. We had the dental caravan which came to the school. It would park in the school car park and we would all be marched there. We also had the orthodontist who would come in. I remember us all standing brushing our teeth and gargling mouthwash at the sinks.
58. The school had its' own physiotherapist. I had an accident on the trip to Ben More when I had fallen and slipped down a gorge. I had had an accident when I was two and had damaged the tendon in my finger. I had to have quite a lot of operations when I was young to keep extending the tendon to straighten my finger. So when I had fallen down the gorge I had hurt it again. I could feel my hand wasn't right so I told Mrs Thomson that I needed to get medical treatment but she refused. She told me that I didn't need treatment and that I was putting it on. When I got home on the Friday I told my mum and she took me to A&E in Dundee. She was angry about it. I think she phoned the school to complain.
59. I was referred to Edinburgh Infirmary. I had to go to the physiotherapist three days a week to get my finger back in shape. Mrs Thomson wasn't pleased about that.

Discipline

60. You would get sent to your dormitory or maybe get isolation at prep time. You would be punished for breaking rules or for not doing what you were supposed to. You might not be allowed to go out to the chip shop. Sometimes you might have asked the staff to go and they had said no but you still went anyway. We would be disciplined for things like that. It might mean that there would be a longer period of time that you weren't allowed to go to the shops.
61. We had a time that we were to back in the hostel. If you weren't in at that time then you would be grounded. I think it was quarter to ten and we had to be in bed by quarter past.
62. Some of the staff could be quite abusive to the pupils. The staff were very young. I remember PYA used to take the micky out of one of the girls, [REDACTED]. They would call the girls disgusting and lazy. It would be if they had leaked their periods in their underwear or on the bed or something. They would tell them to get in and get washed. It was quite degrading in some ways. The staff weren't trained. It was only when we were leaving that the staff were starting get training. The house-parents didn't have any qualifications or training.
63. I left the girl's floor after Easter to go into the girl's hostel. I was fifteen. I enjoyed being away from the school. The girls' hostel was in Fountainblow Drive. It was about a ten minute walk away from the main building. The other hostel was in West Mayfield. At the start of fifth year, the girl's hostel closed and joined with the boys' hostel. They made the decision because the pupil numbers with visual impairment were falling.
64. I was in the hostel for three years. There were ten of us. There were five girls and five boys. We were all sixteen to eighteen. We had a room upstairs for the girls that we could have coffee and tea making in. It had a TV in it so we didn't have to be down with the boys if we didn't want to. There was a pool table in the dining room downstairs and a big piano.

65. The girls slept upstairs and the boys were downstairs. We were separate. They had a door alarm and a night nurse. She was downstairs. She would be doing odds and ends. She didn't have a bed she was up all night. If we woke up and had a headache and needed paracetamol or something we would open the alarm door and she would hear us. She would come running.
66. We knew that the boys couldn't get upstairs. They weren't allowed to set one foot on the stairs. Once we had gone up to our room and the door was shut then the alarm was on. We could get out but it was locked for anyone trying to get in. The night nurse had a key. The girls shared a bath but there was a lock on the bathroom door.
67. In the last year there was a really mixed ability of children in the hostel. There was one member of staff called Helen O'Rourke or Rourke who was in the charge of the whole hostel. She lived in a flat above the hostel. She wasn't able to properly after look after them. She wasn't able to deal with the mixed abilities. There was a boy with Celiac disease who would eat stuff that he wasn't allowed and have accidents. We would have to tell him to get washed and changed. That wasn't our job. We ended up with two night nurses, one worked two days a week and the other worked three days a week.

Abuse at The Royal Blind School

David Penman

68. It was during my first couple of months at the blind school that the incident with David Penman happened. David was another pupil at the school. He was thirteen at the time. He was on the boys' floor in the main building. It was a new wing underneath the dining room.

69. I woke up in the middle of the night in the dark with a hand over my mouth and David on top of me. He had his full weight on me. It was [REDACTED], another pupil, who had his hand over my mouth. He was known as [REDACTED]. He ran off and David was trying to pin me down and get under my cover. He was trying to put his hand up my nightdress and I was fighting him off. He was groping at my body. I was trying to stop him from getting under my duvet. I was shouting at him to get off and he was laughing. Eventually I managed to get him off me. He didn't manage to get under my covers. He left my bed and tried to climb into bed with the other girls in the dormitory. Some of the other girls were much less able to get him off.
70. At that point, one girl, [REDACTED] was getting ready to go and tell the staff. She had cerebral palsy and was trying to get herself out of bed. He had woken us all up apart from [REDACTED]. We were trying not to wake her up because she would get violent and upset.
71. He then went off and went into the younger girls' dormitory. I went in and told him to get downstairs. He had been in bed with the other girls. At that point I think he was in [REDACTED]'s bed. He had been in [REDACTED]'s bed too. [REDACTED] was good at imitating voices. She had learning difficulties. [REDACTED] had a shunt in her brain and she learning difficulties and mobility problems. [REDACTED] was mimicking what David had been saying to her and about him touching her. I think David had succeeded in there. After that David and [REDACTED] left and went back to their rooms.

Reporting of abuse at The Royal Blind School

72. I didn't tell anybody about what had happened. Later on that week, I was summoned by the deputy head teacher, Alison Thomson, to her office. She told me they were considering suspending me because I had encouraged David and [REDACTED] to come up to the dormitory that night. She said that my behaviour was unacceptable. I told her that I hadn't invited them and explained that I had been woken up with the hand on my mouth. I told her that I had had to wrestle David off of me but she didn't seem to believe me.

73. She told me that she was going to inform my mum. I was petrified. My mum would've been so angry with me. I thought I was going to get a wallop off of her and taken out of the school.
74. Later on that day in prep, another pupil, [REDACTED] started to quiz [REDACTED] about what happened. He told him that it wasn't fair that I was in a state and that they should tell the truth. [REDACTED] admitted what had really happened to Mrs Thomson. I didn't even get an apology. She didn't say anything. It always made me feel angry.
75. A while later I discovered that they'd both done it again in another dormitory. One of the girls told me so I told PYA [REDACTED], the member of staff. They both ended up suspended and they were taken home for a few days. They came back to the school after a week or two. [REDACTED] was moved to the hostel and allocated a night nurse who patrolled all night. It wasn't mentioned again.
76. One day I ended up calling David a paedophile. I was called into Mrs Thomson's office. She told me to apologise to him but I refused. I knew that other children were being abused. I would see him with his arms around some of the other girls. One girl would have been about twelve but mentally she was about eight or nine years old.
77. The other children were reaching out for help. It was being spoken about amongst the pupils. David didn't hide it one bit, he was bragging about it. He would strut around the school like a peacock.
78. I tried to just blank him out over the years and just got on with it. I wasn't in David's class again until the last year because I repeated sixth year. I had my own life out of the school by then. PQB [REDACTED] and I would spend a lot of time out of the school to avoid him. He would try to belittle me and play mind games so I avoided him as much as possible. I was disgusted by him.
79. It didn't fully register how awful it actually was until after I left school and got older and looked back on it. My anger was partly with Alison Thomson because she was in

charge but I feel that she chose to cover up for David. I don't understand why she made those decisions. It was all hushed up.

80. He stayed in the school for four years after that first night. I hold her partly responsible in enabling David to continue abusing others over those years. Mrs Thomson was aware what David was doing throughout the whole time but he was allowed to do it. He never did it again to me. He knew that he couldn't get away with it with me because I wouldn't entertain him.
81. The police were never called. David was sent to a young person's psychiatric unit but he wasn't going. He would just go shopping instead. They discovered he wasn't going so he was thrown out of the school.
82. My sister, [REDACTED], was there for my last year when she was sixteen. I was in the hostel and she was on the mixed floor in the main building. I saw her quite a bit.

Leaving The Royal Blind School

83. Before I left, I was made to do a leaving programme. Alison Thomson had arranged it all. I was made to sit in a room with a group of pupils with severe learning difficulties discussing sexual health and education. At that point I had been sexually active with a boy out with the school. I had been taught about it at primary school and from my mum so it was a bit late to start giving us sex education at the age of eighteen. It was mortifying. I didn't want to discuss that with the other children.
84. We were told by Mrs Thomson that if we didn't take part in the leaver's programme that we would have to leave school there and then. It was meant to be our fun time at the school but she was trying to ruin it. We had our last sports day and the French students were coming on our end of leaver's trip to Burntisland. We wouldn't have been able to take part in any of that. Mrs Thomson made that perfectly clear. I left in [REDACTED] 1992.

Life after being in care

85. I went to Teesside University in Middlesbrough at the end of September to do my HND in Public Administration. I was quite independent by this time. I think I was more ready to be there than quite a lot of others who had been living with their parents. I was used to not living with my parents. I knew how to cook and do shopping. I was probably more equipped than some of them. I just had the limits of my sight.
86. I completed my HND. My uncle died in a car crash before I started on the degree course. It was the week before my 21st birthday. I came home and I got a job.
87. I met my ex-husband when I was 25. We got married in 2001 and it lasted a year. I discovered that he had been downloading indecent images of children on the computer so I ended the marriage.
88. I've been single now for seven years and it's much better. I can't cope with the extra stress. I like having time to myself.
89. I had a breakdown after my gran died. I had been depressed and started having horrendous flashbacks. I couldn't cope and things got too much for me. A bill came in one day and it sent me over the edge. I sat crying for days. It had all been locked away.
90. I ended up in Carseview Psychiatric Hospital. I was in there for over a week. I took two overdoses. One of them wasn't just a cry for help. The levels of [REDACTED] in my system were so high that I had to be given an antidote. I couldn't see a way of it. I hated closing my eyes and seeing things. I have been in and out of hospital over the years.
91. After I had my breakdown, I went to Dundee Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre. I had to learn that what happened wasn't my fault. I was reliving the trauma of it all. It was horrendous. I hadn't told anybody about what had happened to me. I

was 31. I spoke to them about everything. That was the first time I had spoken about it since it happened. I didn't even want to tell my mum. I only told her after the court case.

92. I had my daughter, [REDACTED]. She will be seven in [REDACTED]. I live with her and my guide dog [REDACTED].

Impact

93. I'm on anti-depressants and I'm still under the care of the psychiatric team. I can get help when I need it. My GP will send me to the out of hours team at Carseview if I become unwell again. I was diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder in 2005 after I had my breakdown.
94. I look back on my time at the school and realise that I got lots of opportunities that I wouldn't have had normally. However, I felt like Mrs Thomson was very manipulative and knew what she was doing. I think that she used my fear out of my mum as a way of black mailing me. I just don't understand how she could let so many people suffer to protect one person.
95. I don't know what the full effect has been on me. I believe that Mrs Thomson making me feel that it was my fault reinforced what had happened to me when I was younger. I know now that I didn't do anything wrong.
96. I still have commitment issues and problems getting close to people. I would try to help people in the past and I got taken advantage of financially. I just look after myself and [REDACTED] now. My whole world revolves around her.
97. I still have periods of starving myself. I have been doing that throughout my life. I battle everyday with thoughts but it's fleeting and I focus on [REDACTED]. She keeps me going. If I didn't have her I would think so much more about it. I'm 44 now but I'm still suffering from the effects of it. It still affects me some days more than others.

Reporting of Abuse

98. The police got in touch with me. I was asked if I knew a couple of names and they asked if they could come and see me. I knew right away why they wanted to see me. It was PC Nick Woods and a lady who came through to see me in Dundee. I told them about the night David pinned me down in my bed. I also told them about the time I called David a paedophile.
99. I gave evidence against David in the High Court in Edinburgh last June. He was found guilty of sexually assaulting me that night in my bed. There were a lot of other charges involving other people. He was found guilty of committing crimes against seven other people. My sister, [REDACTED], gave evidence in the case too. He was only sentenced a couple of weeks ago. I think he was given seven years imprisonment and as such, it will be very difficult for him to get out of jail. He was made subject to a Lifelong Restriction Order. I recently found out from the Procurator Fiscal's Office that he is appealing against his sentence.
100. I had already dealt with things through my counselling by the time the case finally came to court. I was able to cope with giving evidence against David. I felt that I was one of the lucky ones because he hadn't raped me. I wanted to help get closure and justice for the others. I was lucky because I had my guide dog, [REDACTED] in the witness box with me and I was able to stroke her. It was quite upsetting as lawyers were accusing me of lying but I had no reason to lie. I wasn't doing it for anything other than to help other people. I also wanted someone to say that the way I had been treated was wrong.

Records

101. I haven't obtained my records. I don't want to get mine. I have looked into it but I have made my decision.

Lessons to be learned

102. I think things have changed because staff are qualified and vetted now. Parents have to be able to trust people who are in jobs looking after their children. It is important for children who have been abused to know that it wasn't their fault and that they shouldn't blame themselves for not reporting what they might have known was happening to others. These people were entrusted to look after and supervise children.
103. I think things have improved in the care system but there is still a lot to be done. There is still a stigma for people who have been abused and there is shame associated with it. I also think that more money should be put into psychiatric services in the NHS. In my view, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and other treatments for child related trauma should be more accessible.

Other information

104. 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.. PQR

Dated... 24/07/2018