

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PDT

Support person present: Yes

1. My full name is PDT My name at birth was PDT then it was changed to PDT when I was adopted. In later years my name was PDT My date of birth is 1963. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I learned as an adult, who my birth parents were and the circumstances that led to me being adopted and in care. My mother was called My father had been fostered as a child so he had a few names. He was called and also but he went by the name
3. My mother became pregnant at sixteen years old and my father had gone to London and America. My mother gave birth to me in a home on in Glasgow.
4. The Salvation Army arranged my adoption. My mother and father were Protestant, so I was adopted by a working class, Protestant family.
5. My adoptive parents were and My adoptive father came from and my mother was from Glasgow. They changed my name to PDT and I lived in Glasgow with them.

6. My parents adopted another child when I was six years old so I had a younger sister and her adopted name was [REDACTED].
7. I went to [REDACTED] Primary School in Glasgow, and then to [REDACTED] High School.
8. My father worked for the railways and buses. He was a violent alcoholic and my mother, by today's standards, would be deemed as having learning difficulties. My mother also became a violent alcoholic.
9. My father would be violent towards my mother, and then my mother would be violent towards me. She would break brushes over my back. My father would play games where he would make fists and ask you to smell the cheese, and you had to guess which hand. If you guessed wrong, that hand would punch you. Most of the time it was just drunken kicks and punches. My sister didn't get hit. I used to protect her from it. It was chaos and it wasn't a happy household. It was hellish.
10. Nobody from the Salvation Army came to see me after I was adopted. There was nobody I could speak to about it.
11. When I was about seven years old, my parents separated for a while, and my father left the family home. He moved in with a friend called [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I had never heard of this friend before. During the separation, around Easter 1970, [REDACTED] appeared at the door with Easter eggs from my father.
12. [REDACTED] befriended my mum, and would bring her drink. He didn't drink, but he would get my mum so drunk, that she would be in an alcoholic coma. Then he would come in to my parent's room where I was sleeping at the time, with my wee sister. He would sexually assault me. He raped me. He told me if I told anybody, that I would be killed or that I would be taken away. He never touched my wee sister.
13. [REDACTED] had a [REDACTED]. I also remember he smelled stale and unwashed.

14. I do remember that my mother caught him one night, and she called me a “wee hoor” so I got the blame for it.
15. My father came back home, and I never saw [REDACTED] again. It all seemed to happen quite quickly, from my father leaving, then the sexual abuse, and then my father returning. I think it all happened within a year.
16. During that time, the neighbours reported my mother to social “welfare,” and they came to the house. They must have told my mum before they came, because my mum warned me not to say anything and told me to lie or they would take me away. When they came, they spoke to me in front of my mum and I lied and said everything was fine. They never came back again.

Going into care

17. My adopted mother died on [REDACTED], when I was eleven years old. She asphyxiated on her own vomit when she was drunk. I was in the house when it happened. My father was out drinking and partying at the time and came home in the early hours of the following morning.
18. I had been sitting in front of the fire, which is where I would sit after putting my sister to bed. I would then sit and peel raw potatoes and eat them. I would keep a knife beside me.
19. When my father came in, I said to him that my mother was dead and told him that he had killed her. I don't know why I said that, but it was the first thing that came out of my mouth. My father ran away, and the next thing I knew, the police were there. My dad or neighbour must have called them.

20. When the police arrived, they found the knife on me. They took me and my sister to the police station first. I remember being at [REDACTED] police station and a police woman asked why I had the knife. She asked who had been hurting me and if anybody had touched me.
21. I remember thinking that my dad was going to get the blame for it, so I said it was my knife and nobody had hurt me. That was my opportunity to tell, but I thought I would get people into trouble, and that I would die if I told.
22. We were then taken to my adoptive mother's brother's house. We stayed there and the police spoke to us for a couple of hours. We were then taken to my adoptive mother's sister's house in [REDACTED].
23. Social workers from the east end of Glasgow got involved with me and my sister. The first social worker I remember was a man called Don Evans.
24. My sister and I were taken into care because my father was not deemed fit to look after us. Nobody sat me down and explained what was happening but I understood. I was told I was going to a nice place by the sea, and it was dressed up as an adventure. I can understand why they would do that, but I was still terrified.
25. I was twelve years old when I was taken to the children's home, with my sister. We didn't take anything with us because we lost everything when we were taken from our home. We had nothing to take to the new place, except the clothes we were standing in.

Dunclutha Children's Home, Dunoon

26. I remember going over the water on the ferry. It would have been Don Evans or an emergency social worker who took my sister and me.
27. The home had a drive way and a walking path that lead up to it. It was a huge, impressive building that was set back, and looked over the Clyde.
28. I remember it being noisy when I went into the home. A couple called FGG-SPO were SNR when I first went in. They were delightful when we went in with our social worker. They were smiling and welcoming, and shaking the social worker's hand. I still didn't want to be there and didn't trust them.
29. I remember sitting in front of a television on my first day there, in what was the TV room. I was wearing a red polo neck. My sister was crying and I was comforting her.
30. There were a lot of kids in the home, both boys and girls. I remember a very young girl who was possibly about two years old, as well as older girls who were maybe about sixteen years old. There was a wide range of ages in there.
31. When you came into the front door, there was a dormitory to the left and one to the right. I think the girls slept in the ground floor dormitories. There was also a small reception room, a dining room, TV room, a play room and showers on the ground floor.
32. There were two floors in the home. There was a big oak stair case going up to the first floor, and there were stained glass windows. It was all very traditional. There was a fire door at the top of the stairs, and then a small room for the older girls and a fire exit. There were also more dormitories upstairs, which I think is where the boys slept.
33. There was more than two kids per room. There was about nine girls in my dormitory, including myself. My sister was in the same dormitory as me.

34. I think the only staff that lived on the premises were FGG-SPO [REDACTED] the children and possibly a man called FFX [REDACTED], who was care staff. The rest of the staff were day staff.

Daily routine

35. I remember going into the cupboard, which was along the wall in the dormitory, to get school clothes in the morning. I must have had a school uniform. Then we had breakfast and went to school.
36. I think I read a lot when I wasn't at school. I would sit at the front of the home with the other girls. We would maybe share a cigarette. Sometimes we would go to the local sweetie shop. I would have pocket money that I got from my aunt. I don't remember getting any pocket money from Dunclutha.
37. We had good times as well, when we would jump about on the beds, and singing Elvis songs. I did that with a girl called [REDACTED]. She had a little sister called [REDACTED]. You try to hold onto the happy memories. Those girls were going through hell too.
38. We weren't allowed to have any money. I remember getting some from my aunt and hiding it down the tubular part of the bunk bed. It went all the way to the bottom and I lost it.
39. We had to go to church every Sunday.

Mealtimes / Food

40. I don't remember the food being nice. It was basic, but it did sustain you. The porridge wasn't nice. If we didn't eat our dinner, we had to sit at the table until the sun went down, or you would get it the next morning for breakfast. Everybody learned to just eat the food.

41. I remember sitting at the table and filling my sleeves up with food, so it looked like I'd eaten. I didn't want to be sitting at the table all day, or get the food again for breakfast. I then went to the toilet and got rid of it. If you were caught doing that, you'd be told you were a liar and were deceitful.

Washing / bathing

42. We lined up with our towels to have showers. There was a female attendant there. You would go in the shower, but I wasn't allowed to shut the shower curtain. I had the audacity to ask why not, and I was told I was too young. I can't remember how often we showered.

Clothing / uniform

43. I remember feeling ashamed because we had to wear crimplene trousers, and certain types of shoes. I seem to remember shoes called Bobby washables, which were plastic shoes. I remember having a duffel coat, but this was before they were fashionable.
44. I was ashamed to go out with the grounds of the home. The clothes identified where you came from. They were more than unfashionable. I looked like a "homie" kid and stood out from the local kids in Dunoon. I always felt in the spotlight.

School

45. I went to Dunoon High School. I remember walking up the back of the woods to go to school in the morning. I don't remember being at school.
46. My only memory of school is seeing a boy, who used to live around the corner from me in Glasgow and we'd gone to primary school together. He had moved to Dunoon. He came to see me coming out of class, and he stood and looked at me. I remember I felt so ashamed.

Birthdays and Christmas

47. I don't think I spent a birthday there and I didn't have a Christmas there.

Visits and inspections

48. I don't remember getting a visit from a social worker, but I remember a social worker would take me and my sister over when we visited our aunt, and bring us back. We weren't allowed to go on the ferry myself.
49. I went to my aunt's for a few weekends. I knew I wasn't wanted there but it got me out of Dunclutha. I also knew that it gave me a level of protection if I went back to the home and spoke about my aunt.
50. I remember a stretch limousine would pick us up from my aunt's, which belonged to the social work department. I would sit in in the limousine with my plastic bag, which had clean underwear, a comic and stamps in it, so I could write to my aunt. My socks would be down to my ankles because the elastic had burst. It was awful. The driver had a false hand and was very kind.
51. I got one visit from my aunt and cousins at the home. I remember the visit taking place in the dormitory. I don't remember any privacy.

Healthcare

52. Every time we went into care, we got sent to a doctor who was assigned to the home. The doctor would check you for lice, nits and scabies. It was to see if you were clean so it wasn't really a health check.

Bed Wetting

53. I didn't have a problem with bed wetting, but other kids did. I remember their beds being stripped in front of all the other children. I think they had to strip the beds themselves.
54. I felt trapped and angry. I dealt with it by trying to make the person who was being humiliated, laugh.

Abuse at Dunclutha

55. There was one guy called FFX who was a carer in the home. He was a handyman in the home before he became a carer. I think he was an ex-army guy. He acted like a typical ex-army guy and was quite brash. I think he had a dachshund dog, and he would wear these leather gloves with the fingers cut off. He was a creepy man. He was quite small and had slick black hair. I thought he was in his forties, but he maybe wasn't.
56. FFX liked to hit people with a dog chain. I got hit regularly with it. I saw him hit other people too. He hit my wee sister with the dog chain once because he caught her eating her Easter egg lying in her bed. FFX whacked and whacked her with the dog chain, over the blanket that she had on her. She was only six or seven years old at the time.
57. I think the boys got it worse. They were taken down to the playroom, which was used as a gym or boxing room. FFX would take the boys down there and make them fight each other to make a man of them, or to sort their issues out. It must have been talked about for me to know about it. I remember being there one time, and the gym mats being down.
58. I do have a photograph of FFX.
59. There are three incidents of sexual abuse that happened at Dunclutha.

60. One was when I was lying in bed because I had the flu or something, and I had asthma. I was in the top bunk, and the shower lady came over. She asked if I was ok and was showing me some kindness, and rubbing my tummy. Then she sexually assaulted me. It stopped because another member of staff came in.
61. I think the shower lady was a residential social worker. I don't remember her name and I think that's because I've deliberately blocked it out, or because there was too much trauma happening too quickly.
62. There was **PQZ** who sometimes worked as a gardener and handy man in the home.
63. There was the **██████████** man, called **PQZ** I am not sure if it was the same one who was a handyman in the home. **PQZ** ran the **██████████** in Dunoon with his wife, which was a stone's throw from the home. I was sexually assaulted there.
64. I remember being taken down to the **██████████** by the older girls at the home, and through a door at the back that had the plastic strips hanging down. The girls said I would get sweets. I went in and I was made to sit on his knee. I got sweets afterwards.
65. One of the older girls, **██████████**, was a bully. She and the other older girls orchestrated the **██████████** thing. I know that the same thing was happening to them too at the **██████████**. I witnessed them sitting on **PQZ**'s knee, and his hand going up their skirts. He gave them sweets too.
66. I went to the **██████████** once and never went back. I would hide in the bushes in the grounds whenever the older girls would go so that I wouldn't be made to go.
67. Some of the older girls would get taken down to the submarines. I would hide under the bed or the bushes so I didn't have to go. I don't know who took them. They would come back with sweets, so I thought the same thing was happening that was happening at the **██████████**. It was the same girls that would go.

68. I felt trapped and angry being in the home. I was so traumatised and terrified, that I can't remember things. I have memories but they are dislocated and I don't know where they fit in.
69. One girl later told me that she was so glad I was in the home because I protected them, but I've no idea what I had done.

Reporting of abuse at Dunclutha

70. I didn't tell anybody what was happening at Dunclutha. There was nobody to tell.
71. I've done a bit of digging, and there were accusations that were made in the 1970s and 1980s against Dunclutha.
72. Mr FGG was [REDACTED] of the home, and when the accusations were made, it was [REDACTED] Mrs [REDACTED] name, so nothing really changed at all.

Leaving Dunclutha

73. I was in Dunclutha for about six months. The biggest thing I remember about Dunclutha is feeling terrified all the time. I lied to my social worker, Don Evans, and said that I wanted to go back and live with my dad because I missed him so much. I knew it would be hell with my father but I wanted to get out of the home. It did get me out of Dunclutha, but just put me in another situation.

Life back at home

74. My sister and I went back to live with my father when I was twelve years old. He now lived in a wee flat in [REDACTED], which was a really rough area. We hadn't had any visits with him beforehand. The place was run down, and right next to the [REDACTED] school.

75. The social worker, Don Evans, never spoke to me after I moved home to see how things were. The social worker would sell furniture that had been donated, and use the money to go to the pub with my dad. I know this because neighbours phoned and told my aunty, who told me, and my dad would also say that he'd seen him.
76. Don Evans had a wee office at [REDACTED], across the road from [REDACTED] Primary.
77. I do remember once telling Don Evans that my dad was drinking, wasn't coming home and that there was no food in the house. He told me I was a bad girl for telling tales about my dad. He never took any action.
78. I had a great sense of responsibility towards my sister.
79. Once I was back with my dad, I started to think of a strategy of how to get out of that situation.
80. About a year after being with my dad, the neighbours called the social work department one day and said that we were being left on our own. The cruelty people arrived. It is noted in my records that I was covered in bruises and that there was no food in the house.
81. I was taken to my aunt's house in [REDACTED] again. Then I was taken to Cathkin House. I was thirteen years old by then.

Cathkin House Children's Home, Strathclyde

82. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

83. [REDACTED]

84. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Cathkin House

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152. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

I was told there had been a meeting and that it was decided that I had to leave the home.

153. I packed my bags and had to say goodbye to my wee sister. I was thirteen years old, going on fourteen when I left Cathkin House.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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156. I had to go and stay with my aunt again until they found me another placement.

Going to Broomhouse Hostel, Glasgow

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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159. I wasn't at my aunt's house for long. I was then put into Broomhouse, which was a Church of Scotland hostel for young women.

160. Pat McNeil, my social worker, picked me up in the morning to take me to Broomhouse. Before he did, he took me to his house.
161. Pat had a big house on Mount Vernon, which was on a split level, and he lived on the bottom with his wife, Eileen. I think Pat had a wee soft spot for me. I had an interest in art and reading, and I think he liked conversing with me. I was good at deflecting from myself and talking about other things and appearing to be intelligent.
162. I remember he had an impressionist painting above his fireplace. He asked me what I thought it was. I said it looked like an ox pulling a car to me. He asked me if I was sure, and I said yes. I then felt a little panicked that I was revealing something about myself. I think he was just making a point that there was no right or wrong, but that's not how it felt.
163. He then took me downstairs to his basement, which had been converted and had pinball machines. I had never seen anything like it and I remember thinking I wish he would adopt me.
164. Pat then took me to Broomhouse Hostel, which was on Circus Drive in Dennistoun, Glasgow.
165. Nazareth House Children's Home was next door. Protestants were in Broomhouse and Catholics were in Nazareth House next door. There was a convent across the road.
166. I remember going through the doors and just feeling abandoned and depressed. Nobody wanted me. My aunt, mother and father hated me and were ashamed of me. I was thinking it was all my fault and that I would try to be a good girl now.
167. I don't know if it was a good idea, on reflection, for Pat to have taken me to his house first. To go from that house to the hostel made me feel depressed. The complicated nature of my emotions were never explained to me.

Broomhouse Hostel, Glasgow

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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200. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Leaving Broomhouse Hostel

201. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

202. I moved back to my aunt's again in [REDACTED]. I was there for a short while, and then was put in Leaburn Children's Home in Hamilton. I don't understand why my sister and I weren't put there in the first place.

Leaburn Children's Home, Hamilton

203. I was fourteen years old when I went into Leaburn. My sister was brought from Cathkin House and moved there to join me.

204. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

205. I was in Leaburn until I was sixteen years old.

206. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Life after being in care – aged 16 - 18

272. When I left Leaburn, I went to stay with my aunt in [REDACTED] for about five or six months, until my son, KYW [REDACTED] was born.

273. I was sixteen and a half when KYW [REDACTED] was born. I had an emergency C-section so I was put in a room myself with him in a wee bed beside me. I remember seeing him and he was gorgeous. The song "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" by Queen was playing on the radio.

274. Somebody came into my room the next day and said that I had a really well behaved baby. All the other babies were crying. I knew something was wrong.

275. I went back to my aunt's with KYW [REDACTED]. The social work department had gotten me a cot and a silver cross pram. I experienced a lot of resentment from my family and neighbours because I had been given this new stuff. There was a lot of money being thrown about by social work in the 1970s. It was all money and no substance.

276. The social work then placed me in a council run homeless unit in [REDACTED]. It was an old Victorian house. I was the youngest in there by far. Everyone else in there was aged forty and upwards. It was ran by a woman called Mrs [REDACTED], who was the matron.

277. It was pretty bad in the homeless unit. I lived in a room with four beds, but there was just me and KYW in it. I stayed there for about six or seven months.
278. There was a phone box in the porch which would be locked by the matron at night, so we had no access to the phone. We weren't allowed to leave the premises without a pass so I couldn't go and visit my aunt or anybody without getting permission first. I also wasn't allowed to have visitors without getting a pass 24 hours before the visit. It was the same for everyone.
279. We had to hand over most of our money for things in the home, like cleaning stuff and clothes pegs and washing lines. They said they would keep the rest of the money for us.
280. There were cooking, laundry and bathroom facilities that you shared with the other people. We used some of our money, which we got to keep back, to buy food.
281. There were tiled floors and wood everywhere. In order to stay there, we had to clean every day. The cleaning duties got rotated, but the floors had to be cleaned and the wood had to be cleaned with vinegar, every day.
282. I remember thinking there was something wrong with KYW, and I thought he was deaf. Mrs █████ turned KYW upside down and shook him, and said there was something wrong with him and he wasn't deaf. I grabbed KYW off her.
283. I don't remember any visits or support from social work. They did make an application to get me into supported living.
284. There was a man who was the █████ in █████ District Council. I can't remember his name, but he was known for getting sexual favours from women in exchange for getting them housing. He used to visit the homeless unit in █████. Mrs █████ took me into an office to have a meeting with him one day. I don't know what happened or what he conversation was, but I was quite curt with him. I think I was scared and trying to protect myself.

285. I eventually got supported living accommodation in a house in a new scheme called [REDACTED], at the top of [REDACTED]. It was a brand new scheme built for Glasgow overspill.
286. It was a house with three girls in it, but I was the only one with a baby. There were also two members of staff who rotated so there was always one staff member there.
287. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED]
288. One of the girls was overdosing every weekend, and sniffing gas in her room. She would have her boyfriend around. It just got crazy.
289. The council then gave me a ground floor flat in one of the roughest areas of [REDACTED]. There had been a fire in it and the kitchen was burnt out and hadn't been repaired. The flat was black with smoke. I was put in there when I was seventeen years old and left there.
290. It was horrible being in that flat. The guy in the flat next to me was a violent drug dealer from a well-known family. They tapped into my electricity even though they had money and I didn't. He lived with his friend in the flat and they had samurai swords and things like that all over their walls.
291. One morning, I heard a guy screaming in the close. The close was splattered with blood.
292. I had gotten involved with a guy who was very violent and would break into the flat. He had broken the front door and the council wouldn't come and fix the door. I had to have a chair behind it. I was there with [REDACTED] who had whooping cough and nobody came to visit me.

293. I knew I had to get out of that flat and away from the violent relationship. The only way I could do that was to make myself homeless, and so I did. I was having to jump from the chip pan into the fire, to try and navigate a move that would be best to move forward, while trying not to appear weak so you could give off a vibe of self-protection.
294. I went to see my aunt and told her about the violent relationship. Then my cousin offered for me to stay with her and to help look after her child while she was at university. I did that for about eleven months, and then my cousin moved to [REDACTED], leaving me in the house with no furniture.
295. The council said I needed to be in a house for twelve months to be able to stay, but I was three weeks shy of that, so they threw me out of the house.
296. During this same time, I suspected [REDACTED] was deaf. I said this to my aunt and she said I was over-reacting. I said it to my doctor, who said there was something wrong with him. I took [REDACTED] for his six month hearing test and they told me I was being a neurotic teenage mother and nothing was wrong with him. [REDACTED] passed the hearing test because they rang a bell from the side of the room and [REDACTED] turned around. He turned because he could see the shadow, and I could tell that was what happened, but they couldn't.
297. [REDACTED] was diagnosed as being profoundly deaf when he was over a year old.

Life as an adult

298. I ended up back in the homeless unit in [REDACTED] when I was about eighteen years old. I remember Mrs [REDACTED] saying "oh, you're back now, are you?" It was really humiliating. It was just as bad the second time, and I was straight on a housing list again. As soon as I was in, I was trying to get out again. It was a sad, depressing place with women scrubbing with bleach and vinegar every day, just rotating where you cleaned.

299. I found out how to break in to use the phone. I contacted shelter and told them the conditions we were staying in. I told them that there was something not right with them taking our money off us. I got found out about the phone calls because somebody told on me, even though I had shared how to break in with them.
300. I was pulled into the office to be spoken to by [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] Council, again. I was threatened with being chucked out and having my son taken off me. He said he'd give me a flat but I had to sign something saying that I wouldn't talk to anybody about what went on in the homeless unit.
301. They gave me a flat in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED], which was near to where I was before. It was a decent, clean flat in a bad area. I had been in the homeless unit for about a year by that point.
302. After I got the keys to my new flat in [REDACTED] and moved, I did speak to the press about the homeless unit and what went on there, as the charity, Shelter, asked me to. Shelter went into the homeless unit, and there was an inquiry into the place. It was found out that they were taking peoples' money and about the [REDACTED] asking for sexual favours, so the place was shut down.
303. I stayed in my flat at [REDACTED] for a couple of years.
304. My son started school for the deaf in [REDACTED]. It was run by a very religious woman called Miss [REDACTED] who was violent towards the kids. The parents and the kids alike, disliked her.
305. I also started doing research into deaf education because although the school could communicate with my son, he and I couldn't communicate. There were no classes for parents, so [REDACTED] and I had our own little made up language, and he was coming up for four years old.
306. I knew I had to get him out of schemes and into the best school. I did my research and the best school for deaf kids at the time was Donaldson's, which was a residential

school for the deaf in Linlithgow. I fought to get **KYW** in there and he was accepted there.

307. **KYW** started Donaldson's and I later found out he was abused there. He later died. The things surrounding my son are far more difficult for me than the things that happened to me because I feel like I failed him.
308. I stayed in **██████████** when **KYW** went to Donaldson's. He would come home at weekends. I went to college to get my education so I could get out of schemes too.
309. My health was deteriorating at the time. I had had **██████████** after having **KYW** which had **██████████** so I was experiencing a lot of **██████████** pain. I ended up getting a **██████████**. I was in hospital during my exam time and missed my exams.
310. The doctor kept giving me Valium. I ended up throwing them away because I was scared of them.
311. I met somebody when I was 22 years old. He was a hairdresser and we went on a couple of dates, then I didn't hear from him for a few months. When he got back in touch, he said his mother had died. I was very empathetic and we started going out. We got married about six months later.
312. I suspected that he was gay quite soon into the marriage, or even bisexual. A few years into the marriage, he was caught in gay clubs with my cousin who he was having a relationship with.
313. My husband accused me of taking advantage of him when he was vulnerable after his mother had died.
314. My husband and I had a daughter, and I had gotten myself to university. I couldn't leave the marriage because I had nowhere to go. I didn't want to end up in a homeless shelter again. I needed to finish my degree to give myself a chance to get out of there.

315. I did go to my aunt and she just told me I had made my bed and had to lie in it.
316. I contracted [REDACTED] when I was 36 years old and during that time he was out with another man who was bisexual. I kept phoning and asking him to take me to hospital or call an ambulance. I barely remember it. It took them five days to call an ambulance.
317. I was almost dead when I was taken to hospital. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] That was what then triggered my [REDACTED]
318. My husband was an alcoholic at that time. He was drinking and abusive. I did try to leave him but by then things started to kick off with [REDACTED] at Donaldson's. I didn't know at the time that he was being abused. I brought him back home, and so, at that time, I needed to keep my kids altogether. I wanted to finish my degree but I wasn't able to.
319. I pretended to be an alcoholic at one point so my husband would follow me and get support, and so I could access support for my son. I wasn't an alcoholic but that was how far I would go to get any support.
320. My son committed suicide in 2002. I think this was because of his experiences at Donaldson's school for the Deaf in the late 1980s and later on when he was a resident in institutions in Gilsland and Kerelaw.
321. I did leave my husband. Now I have lost my daughter. I feel I lost her the day I became ill. I couldn't walk and I couldn't feed myself. I lost the ability to be the mother I needed to be. She had just lost her brother as well. She went to live with her dad. She doesn't know that my illness was due to not getting medical help in time. I know she believes that I took advantage of her dad after his mother died because she said that. She must have been told that.

322. [REDACTED] I got a certain amount of records, which allowed me to put the memories I had, into context of time and place. I focused on every detail because I was aware of false memory syndrome, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
323. [REDACTED] I have actually forgotten a lot, which is a good thing. The memories that went around in my head for my whole life, and were so sharp and keen, have been forgotten. It is almost like I don't need them anymore because I have made a record.
324. I don't want to go back into my records now because I exhausted myself over the details [REDACTED] I have a fear that I will drown in the details.
325. I never mentioned the abuse that happened to me until I was in my later thirties. I always thought that I would die if I spoke about it, but then I felt that I would die if I didn't speak about it. That is because [REDACTED] had told me, when I was seven years old, that I would be killed if I spoke about the abuse.
326. I know that other people suffered sexual abuse at [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to Dunclutha. That is something I have learned later, as an adult, from other people.
327. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] I went back to visit Dunclutha, which was hard. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Health

328. I learned from records that I hadn't been inoculated when I was in care and had gotten German measles. I didn't learn that until I was in my forties. I blamed myself for that causing my son's deafness for that. I didn't come to know this until after my son had died.

329. There were letters in my records from [REDACTED] hospital saying that what happened to me and my child shouldn't happen again.
330. I got [REDACTED] twenty years ago.
331. I have had problems with my back for years. I have been sent for x-ray, physiotherapy and all sorts of things. I have had to argue with doctors saying that they can't send me for physiotherapy because I have [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are part of that.
332. After fifteen years of trying to find out what was wrong with me, doctors started saying it was just part of the ageing process. I got an MRI recently and the results show an [REDACTED] I am trying not to be angry because if I had this MRI or ultra-scan earlier, when I had asked for it, this could have been detected years ago.
333. I don't know how long I can go on with my health the way it is.
334. I contacted my genetic mother when I was about 25 years old and then my genetic father a year later. My mother was in [REDACTED] and my father lived in [REDACTED] and came over to visit me. Neither could give me any information about my genetic background, which I wanted to know for myself and my children.
335. My mother said she didn't want to see me again when she found out I had contacted my father. They then got back together for a week and bizarrely went missing, and I got the blame from her kids for her being uncontactable. I don't have a relationship with either parent now.

Impact

336. Coming from the kind of care background that I had, left me wide open to everything around me, from a lack of education, to issues with housing, finances, health, family, friends, relationships and networks.

337. Being in care has had an effect on my self-worth and self-esteem. I grew up learning how I needed to appear to be in situations and what was expected of me. I learned how to mask what I was feeling and not talking about myself. I didn't communicate as me, but instead tried to please other people. Nobody could tell that from looking at me because I appear confident and have a comeback for everything but that is because I learned to do that to hide my vulnerabilities.
338. I never realised how vulnerable I was and wasn't able to protect myself. I never thought of my worth as a person or my own purpose, but just what I could do for others. I got the [REDACTED] after I had KYW because I knew for a person in my circumstances, sex would be expected of me
339. My experiences in care destroyed me sexually. Intellectually, I could understand sex and could feel sexual, but I shut down when it came to it. I always felt it was my fault. I never knew what it felt like to be a sexual woman until I was 45 years old, and after I had been in a relationship for a year and a half. I don't know if I could ever do that again or get that close to anybody again. Nobody would guess that from looking at me because I appear to be confident.
340. The impact of my childhood on my relationships has been huge. I stayed in a violent marriage because I didn't have money to leave, and wanted to keep my kids together.
341. I never got an proper education in care. I moved around so many schools and didn't even have any highers. This meant that as an adult, I had to work out strategies on how to get out of bad situations because I had nowhere to go and no education to help me move forward. I had to stay in abusive relationships because I wanted to get an education so I could provide for my kids, and not end up in homeless units with them. Pat O'Neil wrote in my records that I could be anything I wanted to be.
342. I didn't realise I was smart until I was told this at university that I was smart.

343. I have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I have had night terrors my entire life and I am paralysed by them when I have them. I didn't realise until my mid-thirties that it wasn't normal to have these nightmares.
344. I still live in constant fear and that doesn't go away. My lack of trust won't ever go away. I can't even trust the medical profession now.
345. I hate having showers out with my own home. I believe this comes from vulnerability and not wanting to undress.

Treatment and support

346. I asked my doctor for counselling and was referred when I was about 35 years old. I went to counselling expecting to talk about my marriage, but I ended up talking about my abuse in childhood.
347. I had counselling for about three years in [REDACTED].

Reporting of Abuse

348. I remember picking up the newspaper one day, on the way to university and in the middle of the paper was photographs of about six men who were paedophiles. For the rest of the day I thought the police were coming to get me because in my mind I was guilty of allowing myself to be abused and not speaking out. I am an intelligent woman and I was still thinking like that.
349. I went to the police because I was feeling so much rage after I got counselling and I knew I had to challenge that anger, [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED]
350. I went to [REDACTED] police station initially, and they sent me to [REDACTED] police station. I was referred to the female and child unit, I was told things had moved on and

I could trust them. I reported [REDACTED] for the rape and abuse when I was seven years old, the abuse at Dunclutha. This was around 1998 or 1999 when I was about 35 or 36 years old.

351. Nothing came of it. They said they couldn't find [REDACTED] and they needed somebody else to come forward about Dunclutha before they would even interview anyone.

352. I told them I knew of a boy who I had come to know who was treated badly in Dunclutha in the 1980s [REDACTED] My lawyer interviewed the boy and we took that to the police as corroboration but they said it was a different time frame from me.

353. I don't see how my abuse in the 1970s at Dunclutha is not related to someone else's abuse there in the 1980s. The police said that if I wanted to do something about it then I could go to Dunoon to report it to the police there. That means the police don't share information so maybe other people had come forward at other police stations.

354. I later saw in the [REDACTED], which is a Glasgow newspaper, and saw that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had died in a fire in [REDACTED] The page filler is given to the press by the police so they must have known who he was. I phoned the police and told them about the article. Someone from the female and child unit called me back and told me I was a witch, and that they weren't going to do anything because they didn't want the family to know.

355. I called the police station a week later, and the same woman who had called before, answered the phone and laughed and asked if I thought she had abandoned me. Then I never heard from her again.

356. My lawyers applied for criminal Injuries compensation for me for what happened at Dunclutha and [REDACTED] but I didn't get it. They said that I needed corroboration.

357. My lawyer, Alexander Morrison in Larkhall, messed up my cases. This included my Fatal Accident Inquiry, my divorce and name change. I reported him to the Law Society of Scotland, and the case took three years to get to the Scottish Solicitors Discipline Tribunal. He was found guilty of professional misconduct but continued working. He is still working even though he was later found guilty of professional misconduct again. In his defence, his lawyer said that I had been happy about with the outcome of my complaint, which wasn't true.

Records

358. I read my records in 2007. I applied for them and someone phoned me to talk about them and the woman was crying on the phone having read them. Then I went to [REDACTED] social work department to get them and the same female social worker was really upset. I ended up comforting her because I was embarrassed that my records had upset her so much. It meant I didn't have room to be upset. It was my life and it was normal to me so I didn't know why she was crying.

359. I spoke to the manager. He told me I wasn't supposed to show them to anyone or speak to anyone about them. I acted stupid and said it was just to let my kids know where I was from. I was made to sign something before I could have them.

360. I didn't feel much the first time I read my records. I felt sad when I later used them as a timeline [REDACTED].

Lessons to be Learned

361. I wasn't cared about medically. All they did was make sure us kids in care didn't have any contagious working class diseases. Children need to have access to the best medical care they can get. They are already coming from a disadvantaged background, sometimes without any genetic medical history.

362. I know there is talk about a named person for children, but there should be a named body who is permanent that the child could go to at any time and any age. If someone had been a permanent fixture in my life, I could have spoken to them and worked things out, and my life would have been different. If you don't have your health physically or mentally then you don't have anything.

363. 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... PDT

Dated... 5th Feb 2020