

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**Witness Statement of**

PEH [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My full name is PEH [REDACTED]. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1943. I am 73 years old.

Life before entering care

2. The circumstances in which I was taken into care are as follows. I am showing the interview team an old photograph, possibly from around 1949 of the [REDACTED] family with my mother and father: Bundle A, page 2. My mother's name was [REDACTED] and my father was called [REDACTED]. My father's job was van driver and goods receiver. He was also a lay preacher and he preached in Mission Halls. My sister [REDACTED] and I used to go along and sing when he was preaching. Mine was a very happy family.

3. Dad used to play the accordion and whenever we went on bus trips. Everybody used to want to be on the same bus as my dad. The bus my dad was on used to have all the sing-alongs. Dad also used to make puff candy and hand it out. The photo shows my father holding my younger sister [REDACTED]. I am at the front and can be seen as a little boy wearing shorts and sandals. My sister [REDACTED] was a year older than me and can be seen. The photo shows a lovely family with my mother, father, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and me. This was taken before PGI [REDACTED] was born. He was the youngest, he was born in 1950.

My father's death

4. As our family got bigger the council moved us from where we had lived at [REDACTED] in the Lawnmarket. They moved us out to Sighthill. My father had become ill and he eventually underwent an operation for cancer of the stomach at the age of 39. I remember him showing us the scars from his operation. However dad never really recovered after the operation. He passed on aged 39 in 1952. We then moved from Sighthill to [REDACTED] in Ardmillan.

5. My sister [REDACTED] had a bit of a bust up with my mother and she went to stay with my Dad's sister, Auntie [REDACTED] and her husband [REDACTED] at Restalrig. After that she went to stay with Mrs [REDACTED] who was known as [REDACTED] and her husband [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was Auntie [REDACTED]'s daughter. [REDACTED] had a daughter [REDACTED] who was younger than [REDACTED]. The reason that they sent her there they said was for [REDACTED] to look after [REDACTED] and for [REDACTED] to be a companion to her. We found out years later that [REDACTED] sexually abused [REDACTED] while she was staying with them. This happened when she was between eleven and sixteen.

6. [REDACTED] couldn't wait to get out of there and she went on into nursing where she stayed in Nurse's accommodation. She went on to become very successful as a nurse and got all her degrees. She became a matron and eventually a tutor.

7. I understand that she underwent electric shock treatment when she was between about 31 and 36 years of age because of what happened to her. She had to have a leucotomy right across the top of her forehead. She says she always has this black cloud over her. [REDACTED] was later formally adopted by the [REDACTED] family. She formally changed her name from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. My younger sister [REDACTED] went into Caanan Lane.

My mother's death

8. My mother died on [REDACTED] 1953, aged 30. One day I came back from school and there were two men in the house. They said to my mother if you don't have the money by Friday we'll come back and take your children away. The next week on the Thursday night, we got the chairs together as a family. We had a fire in the grate and mum lit the fire. She must have got a bit of coal from somewhere. Mum asked me to go and get dad's bag. Dad used to sing in a male voice choir and the bag is where he kept all his songbooks. We got his songbooks out and we started to sing all through his songs.

9. After this mum asked me to take care of [PGI] overnight. [PGI] used to sleep in beside mum and on this evening she said she wanted to be on her own. We never thought anything of it. The children slept together in one room that night and my Mum slept alone in the other. In the morning I woke up and I could [REDACTED]. I got out of the bedroom and came through to mum's door.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I said, "Mother, Mother, Mother", but there was no response because she was dead. I closed her eyes. [REDACTED] was screaming, trying to wake her up.

10. After this [REDACTED] came through and we got [PGI] up. All there was to eat in the house was a heel of bread so I buttered it and halved it and gave a bit to [REDACTED] and a bit to [PGI]. I got [PGI] ready and took him up to his nursery. I asked them for the day off because our mother had died and I had to get things organised. They just said yes.

11. I then went back to the house to see if there was any change and there wasn't. So I took [PGI] in the buggy up to the school with me and I went to see my teacher Mr Gray. I told him mum had died and I had to look after my little

brother. I went to see [REDACTED]'s teacher and asked if [REDACTED] could get the day off school.

12. From there I then went to see the Headmaster and I said to him could we have free dinners because mother had died. [REDACTED] and I used to get free dinners and I asked if my brother could have them as well. He said it was alright and that we could come.

13. After that I went back home again to check if everything was the same and I decided that I should go and see Grandma. Our Grandma lived in [REDACTED] so we went there and when we got there we told her that mother had died. When we told her that, she fainted. She was on the ground, so I went and got her a cup of water and gave her a drink. When grandma came round she gave us some money and sent us to see a lady we knew called Mrs [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].

14. We sat on the wall and eventually the [REDACTED] girls came home from work. They were a bit more wise so they started phoning around and two men came from the council and they started trying to find accommodation for us. The men put us in a car and all three of us were then taken to Caanan Lane, Morningside later that day, [REDACTED] 1953.

15. From there Mr [REDACTED] turned up and took [REDACTED] away in the car. [REDACTED] was taken to the [REDACTED] home where [REDACTED] was living. I was really upset; I was running down the street shouting, "Bring back [REDACTED]". Mr [REDACTED] then arranged for [REDACTED] to go and stay with his brother in Derby. He didn't explain this to us in advance. [REDACTED] was just taken away by Mr [REDACTED] in a car. We never saw [REDACTED] again for twelve years.

16. [REDACTED] was very traumatised by all of this. She had to have extensive treatment for all that she had been through. We still don't know where our mother and father are buried. We think Dad may be in Liberton Cemetery in Edinburgh. We believe mother was buried in a pauper's grave.

17. On reflection, at that time, no one looked after us when we needed it. We had gone round churches singing with Dad while he preached. Everyone was nice to us then. But when we really needed it, no one helped us. My Mum was so short of money. She could not cope with the children on her own. I know that mum had a brother called [REDACTED] in the forces because she wrote to him. He sent her money for Christmas presents for us. He never got involved with us though.

Life in Care

Widowers' Children's Home, Corstorphine, Edinburgh

18. We were moved from council care at Caanan Lane to the Widowers' Children's Home. I don't know why [PGI] and I were placed in the Widowers' Children's Home as opposed to an orphanage. We were orphans.

19. I was ten years of age when I went into Widowers' Children's Home in Corstorphine, Edinburgh with my younger brother [PGI] also known as [PGI] when he was in care. He was about three at the time. I left the home on [REDACTED] 1959 when I was 16 years old. Ms [RJD] left some time in 1959. Auntie [HRF] came in as [SNR] after I had gone but also in 1959.

Document bundles referred to in this statement

20. I have passed to the Inquiry a file of papers [Bundle A] - consisting of 25 pages and numbered 1-25 by the Inquiry - which I consider may contain relevant information about me, my family, and my period in care. Some of the information relates specifically to the Widowers' Children's Home e.g. annual reports. Part of the file consists of comments and observations typed by me and signed by me and my brother [PGI]

21. On or around 4 April 2016, my brother PGI [REDACTED] posted to the Inquiry a number of documents running to 106 pages [Bundle B]. That bundle contains information about the Widowers' Children's Home and former residents of the Home, correspondence between me and the current Board of Trustees of the Widowers' Children's Home Trust, correspondence from HRF [REDACTED] to my brother PGI [REDACTED], and some medical and other records of Edinburgh Corporation relating to my brother PGI [REDACTED] (PGI [REDACTED]'s records). PGI [REDACTED]'s records contain some information about other members of the [REDACTED] family including me. Bundle B also contains a note of a meeting with the police, prepared by Ruth Berta. That meeting, which I attended, took place on 28 February 2014. The bundle also contains handwritten and typed lists of former residents of the Widowers' Children's Home.

Dormitory

22. I remained in the home between 1953 and 1959. When I went there, I was a little Christian lad. I would say my prayers at night, kneeling down by my bedside. I was placed in a dormitory with a load of other lads and my bed was before the big one at the bottom. I wanted to say my prayers but with all these lads there I wasn't sure how I was going to be able to do it. Eventually I did get down but I didn't actually pray. It was just the act of getting down. A big silence came across the whole room but I just kept on doing it at night.

23. One night RGO [REDACTED] the Boy's Nurse, came in and stood at the door, she said, "Well, we are all going to say our prayers". Well that was it, lads sat up in their beds. There were lads there who were just not into that. They didn't like it, so that started one or two of them pushing and shoving me. As the years went by I was starting to get further and further away from what I knew. I started to come out of this church bubble and into this home life.

Life at the home – peer abuse

24. I was starting to learn about swearing, I was starting to learn about fighting, things of the other world. I'm aware now that things happened to my brother PGI but at the time I didn't know what was happening to him.

25. I remember one particular boy called [REDACTED]. He was older than me. I was appointed to wake him up in the mornings to go to work with Mr RHM the janitor. This was because he couldn't get himself up in the mornings. [REDACTED] was the 'Billy Can Boy'; his job was making tea and sweeping up. Mr RHM was also the foreman of a road squad. He lived in a cottage at the home. His responsibilities were to look after the grounds and boilers. The boys looked after the boilers and ran the boiler house.

26. Looking back, [REDACTED] was a psychopath. I did know that they took people out of the dorm at night. They would come up and take a couple of lads out. [REDACTED] was the king pin in doing this.

27. I saw boys of [REDACTED]'s age taking younger boys out of the dorm at night supposedly to the toilet. The boys that were taken out were younger than me, aged about 7 and over. I don't know what happened when they took the younger boys out. The boys that came back would never speak about it.

28. There were three [REDACTED] in the home, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] beat [REDACTED] up for what he was doing to the boys. I know that [REDACTED] is now dead.

29. There was an older boy called [REDACTED]. I think that his first name was [REDACTED]. I saw other boys getting into his bed, under the covers with him, on several occasions. I didn't really think anything of it at the time. We were used to sleeping in the same bed as a family. His bed was about two beds down from mine. Just one boy would get in with [REDACTED] at a time. They'd be aged around 10 to 11. [REDACTED] was aged about 13 or 14 at the time. I'd say this usually happened around 8 to 9pm. I saw it happen more than once. I

simply don't know what, if anything happened. I was about twelve at the time. I can't remember the names of any of the people who went into [REDACTED]'s bed. The police have said that [REDACTED] has now gone to Australia.

Bed wetting

30. I wet the bed on occasions. It was because of nerves. I would try to hide it. I would turn the sheets down. I would try to wash the sheets myself because I was embarrassed. I didn't get beaten for it. But it was despised. Everyone got to know about it. Everyone got to know because you had to sit at the table for bedwetters in the dining room. It was in the early days at the home that I wet the bed. I used to pray to God to wake me up so I could go to the toilet and that worked.

Staff in the Home – Ms RGO

31. I remember one time I had a problem with my penis. When I pulled my foreskin back it formed into a 'rubber ring' and it wouldn't roll back. I talked to RGO [REDACTED] about it. She put some cream on it and bandaged it. All the other boys knew about it and it was embarrassing. She was dressed like a nurse. I was off school for two days because of that. She wore a blue gown with a white apron. I'm not sure looking back on it whether she actually was a nurse because of the way she dealt with my issue. She gave the impression she was a nurse. She was regarded as the nurse, at least on the boys' side.

Staff in the Home - Ms RJD

32. Ms RJD [REDACTED] wore a uniform and head covering on special occasions. One such occasion was the dedication of a plaque, seen in the group photograph with Ms RJD [REDACTED], called 'The [REDACTED] Bequest'. Then what happened was that the plaque was replaced with a picture. The play

room was never named in memory of [REDACTED]. The 'Bequest' was used for repairs of the Widower's Children's Home. The orphans themselves were forgotten.

33. We saw Ms RJD [REDACTED] on Sunday nights with Mrs Bonnar from the Women's Voluntary Service. It was our sing-along and sweetie night in the play room. Ms RJD [REDACTED] dressed casually and watched us enjoy ourselves. At the end Mrs Bonnar always brought a box of chocolates or biscuits.

34. Apart from seeing Ms RJD [REDACTED] on Sunday nights, we hardly saw her. We were confined to the basement. She seldom came near there. Even when playing or working in the grounds she would watch us from her window on the top floor. If we boys crossed on to the girl's side she would shout out her window, 'Get on your boy's side'. Not even allowed to chat or play together.

The home itself

35. There is a photo on page 17 of Bundle A which I am shown. This is a photo of the Widower's Children's home. It was purchased in 1911 for £2,500. The home is on the left. There is a convalescent home above it. The home was on 3 floors. The lowest floor was the basement.

36. The boys' side of the house was to the west. The girls' side was to the east. The infants were accommodated above the girls.

Bath time

37. Bath time was one of the most embarrassing times at the home. At bath time, there were two lines, one for each of the baths. There were long benches that went down the side. RGO [REDACTED] wasn't always on duty at bath time because she took days off. On those occasions the older boys like [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and other older boys would sit on the benches and instruct

you to stand against, and rub yourself against, the person in front, or gyrate. They did this in order to see the size of people's penises, whether it was round or bent or whatever. They wanted to see erect penises. When the boys were rubbing up against each other, the big boys would be getting excited by this.

38. Then if you'd not been too good some of the boys like [REDACTED] who had left the home and been in the Navy or the Army used to come back and introduce little things that they had learnt. They shouldn't have actually been in the home. One of the things was the sponge wash. They would get a lot of soap into a sponge and then they would rub it into someone's nose until they started to sneeze uncontrollably. These older boys didn't actually do this to the boys but they taught others to do it.

39. The bath water was very shallow, just over the ankles. There would be three boys standing in each bath. [REDACTED] would count to ten and everyone had to be out. Then the next ones were in. So you had ten seconds to get bathed. That was even if we had been playing football or something like that. Ms RGO [REDACTED] hardly ever came into the bathroom. I can count on two hands the amount of times Ms RGO [REDACTED] was ever present at bath time. I can't remember ever sitting in, or lying or enjoying a bath.

40. There was a young man who had previously been a boy in the home. I think his name was [REDACTED]. He came and stayed in the home when he was on leave from the army. He went into the Royal Signals or Merchant Navy. He would still have been a teenager but past fifteen or sixteen. He would come back and stay, and would be part of the bath time process with the residents.

41. Another older boy used the boys' bathing area to walk about naked. I don't know who he was or what he was doing there. I remember because he had [REDACTED]. We called him "[REDACTED]". Ms RGO [REDACTED] didn't go into the bathing area very often; if she had done I don't think that she would have allowed the big boys to make the other boys do the gyrating thing.

Education

42. I never got to read books. I only had a bible. I read it and I loved it. They called me the "██████████". We went to Corstorphine Primary School. I never had nor did any homework or revision. I did badly in exams. The children in the home spent most of their time in the basement. There were no books. There was no encouragement in academic matters beyond attending school.

43. At school I was put into the lowest class. I was put in B3. All the 'Homers' started in B3. There was a B2 and B1 above. I got up to B1. I went to Pentlands secondary school when I was thirteen. There was no place provided to do homework in the home. I didn't ever do any homework. Other people in my class at school did do homework. There was a Bible exam. I was first equal in that. The girl got the prize. I said let her have it. There was only one prize. The girl's mother talked to the headmaster and said that the prize should be given to her daughter because they were a 'Brethren' family.

44. I have been asked about the annual reports that are available about the home. There were no reports from SNR ██████████, Miss RJD ██████████ who ██████████ home. There were only reports from the Secretary of the Committee of Management plus reports about general, medical financial etc.

Abuse

Sexual Abuse whilst a resident of Widower's Home

45. There was a man called RJR ██████████. He was one of the Boys' Brigade ██████████. He lived in ██████████. He was one of the ██████████ in the ██████████ company. They met in the parish hall in ██████████. He took me to his house and sexually assaulted me. We used to play football at school and in the BBs. He said to me to come to his house. We went there. The fire was

on. He sat down beside me. He was talking about puberty and maturity, then about sex. He took me into the bedroom. There was a mirror on the wall. He got his penis out. He pulled my pants down. He then put his penis between my legs. There was no penetration. He stood before the mirror and masturbated. I was lying on my side on the bed. When he had done his business he put me in the car.

46. It was as if he was having sex with a girl. I can't remember if he ejaculated. He took me back to the home. I don't think I spoke to anyone about this. There was another lad he used to drive around. He bought him a present. I stopped going to the Boys Brigade. I was about thirteen to fourteen years old at the time. The boys knew. They said we know what he does. They had seen him interfering with others. It was evident that he'd done it with other boys. I cut him off. I stopped playing football.

The Janitor's room

47. This room was part of an initiation room and [REDACTED] used the room to introduce the younger boys to gang rape. I was there and I was in the janitor's room on the occasion that I'm going to describe. I was ordered there by [REDACTED]. They were trying to introduce the younger lads to sex, myself included. What there was, was the janitor's bench and there was a little ladder up to a shelf. The shelf had a mattress on it. The girl's name that was there was [REDACTED] and she's still alive today. She was interviewed by the police but was unable to give evidence about what had happened in the home.

48. I was present, [REDACTED] was present. I was about twelve or thirteen. She was older than me. I remember that because she sat on the big girl's table. There were other younger lads, younger than me, maybe aged about eleven or twelve years old. [REDACTED] was there and another older lad, [REDACTED]. There was a little ladder which you had to climb to get up onto a mattress. This was placed on top of a cupboard. He was up there on the

mattress when we arrived. I'd say the girl was terrified. They had her pants off. She was ready and prepared for gang rape. The first lad was sent up, and then two more. Then I was sent up to have sex with her.

49. We were ordered by [REDACTED]. He said it was an initiation ceremony. He was saying, "enjoy yourself, have your shot". It was an order. I had to lie over her. I didn't have sex with her. She didn't say anything. She was shaking like a leaf. She was in distress. She had a dress on. It was pulled up. I don't know if she had sex with anyone else. [REDACTED] didn't go up. I think he was in before. He took her in.

50. I was so taken aback by what was happening that I did as I was told to do. I saw another boy go up the ladder before I left. And there was someone went up before me. [REDACTED] was very distressed. She was shaking, I would say she was dumbstruck. This must have happened after 1956 because I didn't tell the police about it. I didn't tell anyone about it at the time.

51. I only saw this happen on one occasion, but it happened on other occasions too. I believe [REDACTED] was there. I don't have memory of discussing it with him. I think he didn't say anything but I knew that something was going on. I never had contact again with [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] after I left the home. It was known among the lads that this was the initiation room. The young lads were not sure what it was about. Before you went into the room you didn't know what was going to happen.

Boxing and bullying

52. Mr Bonnar taught us boxing in the scout hall. However, after this, boys fought with each other in the changing rooms until they were bleeding. [REDACTED] used to organise this, but there were no staff there at the time. This even happened with boys, such as the [REDACTED] brothers. Boys were being injured when they had to box each other. They were using their bare knuckles to hit each other. Their vests were soaked in blood.

53. [REDACTED] was about the same age as [REDACTED]. He'd punch you in the stomach to wind you and upper cut you as you bent over. It happened to me once. They made boys fight when they didn't want to. They regularly picked on [REDACTED]. The boys were picked to fight against each other. They were not necessarily fighting boys the same age. There was no referee, it was [REDACTED], an older boy, he was in charge. Some of the boys were crying they didn't want to do it. I never saw anyone being knocked out. This was one of the things that caused me to go to the police. Staff such as RGO [REDACTED], RJW [REDACTED] and RJD [REDACTED] knew about the boxing in the Scout Hall. The fights in the changings rooms were a different story.

54. I don't know if RGO [REDACTED] or SNR [REDACTED] knew about these fights taking place but they were definitely not there when they happened. I didn't know anywhere else to go to make some of this stuff stop so I think the boxing was one of the main reasons that I decided to go to the police.

Contacting the police

55. I was thinking that something had to be done about the bullying in the home. I remembered a police box that my father had gone to years before. I arranged to meet [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at the police box. That was in about 1956 when I was thirteen years old. I opened a police box and made a phone call. I said I was being bullied at the home. There was a police car outside the home by the time we got back there in the evening.

56. Ms RJD [REDACTED] and the police were in the playroom/ visitors' room. All of the boys were lined up and interviewed. [REDACTED] said to me, "PEH [REDACTED] see you, I'll see you afterwards". We all went back down to the basement and I was waiting for [REDACTED] to retaliate. But when he came back down he was shook up. Someone had told him that it wasn't right. Everything changed for about one month. [REDACTED] used to hit me on the head with a brush. He also

did hit me on the shoulder once. He did it to other boys too. That stopped for a few weeks.

Changing Room after dinner

57. I am asked about a reference at page 21 of Bundle A to the boys' changing room. We were routinely left in darkness. That was part of the routine. We weren't allowed to speak. In the corridor the only light was shining under the door. It was dark and the young lads were terrified. You went to the changing room after dinner. It was inhumane. It happened at least 3 times during a winter. We had to sit there until the call came for bed.

Segregation

58. I am asked about a reference to segregation at page 22 of Bundle A. Boys and girls were segregated except at meal times. There was a rule that there was no speaking at meal times.

Visits

59. There are entries within my records of people attending the home and there are things said about me like, 'He's a happy and healthy little boy'. Well I was a happy healthy boy and that is God's grace. However I do not recall ever meeting any visitors or being interviewed by people with regards my wellbeing. I don't know who would have said these things about me. The records have people's names blanked out.

Police visit

60. I am asked about the police visit to the home in 1956. The police interviewed RJD. The final conclusion was that it was just little boys having a fight with each other. That was the last of it. Nothing else was done.

61. My brother also remembers that he came back to the home from Corstorphine one day with staff and other children and there was a 'black Maria' police car outside the home. He and the others were kept downstairs and they didn't know what was happening.

Family Visits

62. our sister was never brought to see us, even although she only lived a few miles away. her adoptive father told her we were in a bad boys' home. He told her that would happen to her if she wasn't good.

Reporting to police/criminal proceedings

Police investigation 2014

63. There was a more recent police investigation. I am asked about the report signed by Ruth Berta: pages 92-96 of Bundle B. It is a report of a meeting on 28 February 2014. I went to the re-union for former residents of the home in 2004 or 2005. We were in the zoo. That was the final re-union. I was disappointed because there was hardly anyone there from my era. Then I went to talk to the trustees to ask about records. The word came back that the records had been destroyed.

64. We started to investigate. 'Birthlink' presented us with our council records. I got in touch with the police. An officer called Colin Johnstone came down. We didn't want to have a criminal investigation pursued. The difficulties for the police are summarised in Ruth Berta's report. But not

everyone was contacted. Those in America, Australia etc. were not. Police say that they did not have the resources.

Conclusion of 2014 police investigation

65. The conclusion of the police investigation was that there had been a systemic failure in the duty of care owed to children in the home.

Life after Care

66. I graduated from the [REDACTED] College in 1964/65 with a Diploma in [REDACTED]. I was [REDACTED] in 1968 at [REDACTED] General Conference. I was appointed as [REDACTED] at Wormwood Scrubs top security prison in 1982, a post which I continued to hold until 2000. The home prepared me for prison [REDACTED]. I could relate to the inmates and their prison regime because of my experiences in the home.

67. I also presented [REDACTED] for three years on [REDACTED] in London, called [REDACTED]. It was very successful and I went on to do [REDACTED] of the same name, which [REDACTED] for a year. I also founded the [REDACTED] and spent five years training over 500 leaders and workers for the [REDACTED].

68. I started my [REDACTED] work in 1966 and worked all over the country. In [REDACTED] 2013, I relinquished the [REDACTED] and also retired from [REDACTED] after 48 years. I then recommenced [REDACTED], which I had started in 2008 under the theme of [REDACTED].

Final Thoughts

69. There was a resident in the home called [REDACTED]. He is still alive and will remember bath times. Another resident, [REDACTED], committed suicide. It was something to do with his childhood experiences. They were both in the home.

70. [RJD] [REDACTED] who [REDACTED] home was appointed, but there is no reference to her having any qualifications whatsoever. She was appointed in her very early twenties after six months as [SNR] [REDACTED]. There was not a single report from [SNR] [REDACTED] in all the years that she was there.

71. [SNR] [REDACTED] selected the staff and never appointed any male staff. The older boys thought that they could do what they liked because they had some authority. The older children in there, in effect, became the staff. If suitably qualified male staff had been appointed, a lot of the things wouldn't have happened. Also, if we had been given the opportunity and encouragement to study, and had somebody in there to help us, we could have achieved more. I have achieved a lot in life but I feel I could have achieved even more. On a positive note, we were taught a lot of practical skills such as housework and cleaning in the home and we developed a good work ethic.

72. I have looked at the Annual General meetings records and they show that Edinburgh Council was making payments to the home, which started when [PGI] [REDACTED] and I went into the home. I believe these were supposed to be for our board, clothing and pocket money. Other boys had their dads coming to visit them on Saturdays, who would give them sweets and pocket money. [PGI] [REDACTED] and I didn't have a dad to do that for us. We shouldn't have even been in that home, as we were orphans. We never received this council money from the home. We never got any pocket money or new clothes. All of our clothes were hand me downs and old clothes that had been stitched up.

73. When we left the home, someone from the council took us to a clothing store at the West End and kitted me out. I got new clothes for going out into the world. I did not get any of the money provided by the council.

74. I believe that reports compiled by people responsible for the home have been distorted. They are not right.

75. 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 to be true as far as I can remember

Signed..... PEH [REDACTED]

Dated..... 2ND DECEMBER 2016