

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PKK

Support person present: No

1. My name is PKK. My birth name is PKK. My date of birth is ██████████ 1968. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I have little memory of my life before going into care. I was born in the east end of Glasgow. I think my family lived in a house in ██████████. I don't remember the time at home with my parents, but my adopted mother told me about it later. She told me that my sister and I were found in a house, we had been abandoned. I think we had been neglected. We were both taken away. I was two and a half years old and my sister, ██████████ was only two or three months old.
3. I don't think we were taken straight to Dunclotha House in Dunoon. I think ██████████ and I were taken to some sort of homeopathic hospital for a few days but I don't remember any of it. I only have a vague memory of a car ambulance which is one of my first memories.

Dunclotha House, Dunoon

4. I was taken to Dunclotha House in 1970. I don't really know why we were taken to Dunclotha House. I found out later that my mother had moved from Glasgow to Greenock. I suppose it must have been something to do with that.

5. Dunclutha House was SNR a couple called Mr and Mrs FGG-SPO. They had their own family who stayed in a house in the grounds. Dunclutha House was huge. It seemed a bit like a castle. There were many parts to it. Although, when you're young everything seems big.
6. There were between thirty to forty children staying in the home. I think there would have been eight or nine members of staff. You remember some staff for one thing and you remember some for other things.
7. There was the big house and a smaller house. It was called "the wee house". The "wee house" was situated behind the big house.
8. I don't remember going into the home but I would have gone into the smaller house. I think that is where we started off and then moved into the bigger house. I am assuming that was the progression.
9. My first memory of being there, in the wee house, was being held in the arms of a member of staff. They were just holding me in their arms looking out of the window. I must have been upset as I was being comforted. I think that must have been when I just arrived. I remember that comfort. It is a wonderful memory.

Routine at Dunclutha House

10. We slept in dormitories. In the bigger house you went upstairs to the dorm. There were bunk beds in the dorm. There were between six and eight children in each dorm. I think the children would have been around the same age in each dorm but I can't remember. The boys and girls were separate. There was a girls' dorm. It was probably the same size.
11. There was also a big, long dorm which had single beds. This dorm was for much older boys. I think there was also a dorm downstairs for younger girls. That was a bigger dorm.

12. We got up at about seven o'clock in the mornings. You don't necessarily check the clock when you're in care. I think we got ourselves dressed and went downstairs for breakfast. We ate breakfast in the dining room. We always showered the night before, we never showered in the morning.
13. After breakfast, we went back upstairs to the dorm. I think we had a bit of time before leaving for school. Then we were called to leave for school.

School

14. My first memory of school was the big, brown school building. I think that was the Protestant school. I ran away from the school on my first day there. After that I was taken to the Catholic school. It was called St Muns Primary School.
15. There were only a few of us who went to the Catholic school. [REDACTED] and I both went there. There were also one or two of the older boys. There weren't many. I don't know why my sister and I were chosen to go there.
16. St Muns was outside the home. We were taken there by mini bus. The older children walked to school. The younger ones were taken to school and dropped off. The mini bus was brown with two benches on either side. We sat facing each other in the back of it. I always remember that.
17. I just remember we were the children from the home. Some of the other children would say things like, "that's them in the brown van". I remember being told "we were the bad people".
18. At school, the other children called me 'PKK [REDACTED]'. I didn't know why. I didn't know what it meant. When I was older, I saw Oliver Twist and it made sense. I think people must have thought that that's what you were given [REDACTED] in the home. Looking back, there were a lot of assumptions made about the children from the home.

19. I was belted every day at school. Sometimes I was belted twice in one day. I was hit for attention seeking behaviour but it was nothing really bad. I don't really remember why I was hit.
20. I think the home made me into someone who was always seeking approval or attention. I think I used to show off. I was hyper. I suppose I might have had Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or something like that. I would always sit with one knee under the other. I would get belted for that.
21. We got back from school at around half past three in the afternoon but it might have been four o'clock. I think we changed out of our uniforms and put on our other clothes. We went outside to play after we changed. There were great woods surrounding the house. I loved playing there. We played until we had to go inside for dinner. I think dinner time was at about five o'clock, but I can't really remember.
22. I thought that meal times were alright. I thought that the food was great. I have always loved my food and for me it was one of the comforts of the day. I had no problems with the food at all.
23. After dinner we played some more. The younger ones went to bed earlier. I think shower time was at around half past six or seven o'clock. I remember we had to go downstairs to the shower room. It was on the ground floor of the house. We had to go downstairs to it and we had to run up when we came out. I didn't have any issues with it. It was fairly routine.
24. We didn't go to school on Saturdays and Sundays. I think we would get up a bit later. I always remember Saturdays were great because you had all your pals there. We would just play outside all day. We would play 'cowboys and Indians' and 'commandos'. We would make dens and have tribes. I have great memories of the dens. The people in my dorm were my best pals. It was like a wee gang.

25. There was a TV room in the house. It was next to the dining room. There were rows of seats in the TV room. The wee ones liked to sit down at the front and the bigger children sat at the back. It was a bit like a school bus.
26. I think we tidied up our beds. I think we collected our laundry and took it somewhere. We weren't made to scrub floors, wash down showers or anything like that.

Holidays

27. In the summer months we were taken out of the home on day trips. We went to an ice cream café. It was right in front of Dunclutha. I remember the Salvation Army would be there. I remember getting sweets for answering questions about Jesus or being the best singer. We also went to the Red Lion Caravan Park in Arbroath. We went on holidays there. We went to Islay on holidays quite a lot too.
28. They took us out and about. I don't know who would have paid for that. I remember you had to queue for your pocket money. I always remember getting to 15p. I think that was something of a milestone.

Birthdays and Christmas

29. One of my most vivid memories of school happened around Christmas time. SNR SNR, Mrs RBC or "Mrs RBC" as I like to remember her as, had come into my class room. She hated me. I remember her walking around and asking each of the other children what they wanted Santa to bring them. Then she came to me. She said "you'll be getting one present". She said it in front of the whole class. I've never forgotten that.
30. People were laughing. I felt humiliated. Mrs RBC had singled me out in front of my peers and even at that age, I felt that was wrong. The truth was that I didn't know what I would be getting from Santa.

31. I do have some fond memories of Christmas time in the home. I remember that we would all be sitting on the big set of stairs, as you first entered the big house, waiting on Santa to come through the front door. Those were nicer times.

Visits/Inspections

32. I was visited once by my grandfather, my mother's father. I remember nearly every moment of that visit. I was about six or seven years old. He gave me a jumper. I think he had bought it for me. I actually still have a photograph of that jumper. That was the only time he came to see me. I didn't have any other visitors.
33. I don't remember asking my grandfather any questions. I maybe did. I was just a child. I just remember having a wee fun afternoon. I found out later that my mother didn't have a good relationship with my grandfather.
34. I wasn't visited by anyone else when I was in Dunclutha. I never saw a social worker. I didn't know why I was in the home. I was always wondering where my mum and dad were and why nobody was coming to see me. Nobody told me why I was there. I wasn't allowed to ask. I was told to shut up. If you were ever upset, you would be thinking "where is my mum?" I didn't speak to anyone about that sort of thing. I just thought I was in there because I was a bad person.

Healthcare

35. I remember I cut my wrist accidentally through a glass door. I was taken to hospital and I got stitches. I can't remember much about that. I remember that the dentist was actually in a caravan outside the school. It was horrible. This would have been the visiting dentist to the school. I don't remember being denied any medical or dental treatment.

Bed-wetting

36. If anyone wet the bed, they would be spanked when they got home from school. You had to gather up the bed clothes and there was a place you had to put them. You had to get washed or showered.
37. On one occasion, I had wet the bed and Mrs **RBD** held me under a cold shower. That didn't happen often though. I can remember the sheer panic when you woke up and discovered you had wet the bed. You didn't want to get out of bed in case they saw it. You would try to put your clothes on so that no one noticed but you couldn't hide it. They would check the beds.
38. They didn't punish us in the morning. I always knew that I would get spanked when I got back. They never spanked you before you went to school. They waited.

Abuse at Dunclutha House

39. The discipline in the house was brutal. There was a house master for each dorm. I remember getting spanked frequently. We were spanked by various members of staff. I remember **RCS** spanking me regularly. **RCS** was known as "**RCS**". I think she was the head of our dorm.
40. The spanking was brutal. It might have been that there had been too much noise the night before. You were told in the morning "when you come back today", so you knew the spanking was going to happen when you came back from school. I always remember that. I would be sitting in school waiting all day to go back for it. You knew what was going to happen when you got back. It was emotional cruelty. You couldn't concentrate on any of your work. How could you?
41. I remember our dorm standing in a queue with our trousers down. I would be in the queue with some of my friends. I would have been about five or six years old. I learned to cry quickly watching the terror in my friends' faces as they, too, waited to be spanked. You knew that you were next. After it, we would stand and compare our

marks with each other. There was a real camaraderie between us. We'd say "god look what they've done, look what they've done to [REDACTED]" or such like. It was like a support network. RCS [REDACTED] definitely did that to us in the queue.

42. Sometimes the staff used to put a slipper in the middle of the floor at night time. There would be a chair there too. They would listen at the door to hear who was talking and if someone made a noise that would be it. They would come in and we'd all be scared so somebody might point to somebody. We would all get the slipper.
43. I remember being away on a trip to the Red Lion Caravan Site. It was near the beach. The Americans used to come and visit us. We visited the boats. I was six or seven years old. RCS [REDACTED] was there with her boyfriend. He was American. I don't remember his name.
44. We were staying in a caravan. I think there were three or four other children there at the time. I don't know what I had done. I just remember being on the promenade with RCS [REDACTED] and she booted me from the start to the finish along this promenade. She was holding hands with her boyfriend while she kicked me. I was just being pushed and kicked. She was saying "you're useless". He was laughing but he didn't join in.
45. I have since wondered if he should even have been staying there. I also remember him being naked and her pointing at his penis, saying "look at the size of that."
46. I absolutely hated one particular person. She was a matron kind of person called Mrs RBD [REDACTED]. I still have nightmares about Mrs RBD [REDACTED]. She wore thick, milk bottle glasses and had really small eyes. She hated me. She would stare at me and I would try to look away. I don't think anybody liked her.
47. If I was cheeky she would take me to the toilet and I would get my mouth washed out with carbolic soup. I always remember her making me get the soap and bringing it over to her. RBD [REDACTED] used to say to me, "no wonder your mother sent you here". That really hurt me. It was the only reason I was given for being there. In my head it was like "No wonder your mother didn't want you, that's why you're here".

48. One time Mrs **RBD** was working on the nightshift. She took me to the toilet to get the carbolic soap. She washed my mouth out with it. I had to go back to my bed. My mouth burned like hell. I waited and I waited then I got up and went to the toilet. She was there waiting on me. I got spanked for leaving the dorm. It was kind of entrapment. I hated that woman. I never told anyone in the school about any of that. I didn't want anyone to know anything about the home.
49. On one trip to Islay we were staying in a big country house. I couldn't eat brussel sprouts. We had them for lunch one day. I can see them on the plate now, three brussel sprouts. I couldn't eat them. Mrs **RBD** said "you'll stay there until you eat them". I stayed there until bedtime. I tried to put sauce on them to eat them. I just couldn't eat them. I tried everything. They were there when I got up in the morning. I sat there all day with them.
50. I remember hiding them under a plant pot. I thought she would look in the plant pot so I put them underneath it. She checked the plant pots when she came in and I remember getting one over on her. I was sent straight to bed and that was it. I mean that was the best part of two days. I will never forgive her for that. It was the equivalent of putting a lump of shit down in front of me. I would have been sick.
51. I can remember a guy called **FFX**. I don't remember **FFX**'s surname. He was a significant person in the house. **FFX** ruled the roost. **FFX** did a lot of the spanking in the house too.
52. He was quite old. He had swept back grey hair and big hands. He was a big man. He could be quite brutal. He scared the living daylights out of me. He could quell you with a look, a bit like **RBD**. He walked around wearing a grey, nylon sort of overall and black trousers. It was kind of like a uniform. He always wore this outfit. He ran the tuck shop.
53. A bell always rang for us to come in for lunch. One day I was late because I didn't hear the bell. **FFX** grabbed me and dragged me in by my neck in front of everyone.

My feet didn't touch the ground. He leathered me with his hand and I was dragged by the scruff of the neck. I was choking. I felt helpless. I was only about seven years old.

54. To this day I can't wear anything around my neck. I have to have an open top on all the time. FFX used to do that to me all time. It would often happen in front of other children or staff. He made me feel so bad.
55. Mr and Mrs FGG-SPO had their own family. The FGG-SPO house was built onto the home. Their kids had bikes and used to make ice lollies. Their kids used to be able to go in and out of their kitchen. We would ask them to get us drinks.
56. They were quite different. I remember being jealous of them. It was like "this is you and this is what you could have had." I knew there was a difference there because it was like watching a family. Nobody would mess with their kids. The FGG-SPO were alright. You didn't see much of them. It was some of the staff that they employed that was the problem. Mr FGG would say "hello". He could be quite playful.
57. I received the belt from Mr FGG once. I think that for vandalism. I can't remember why that happened. That was the only time I was belted in the house.
58. I often remember waking up in the middle of night with somebody in my bed. It would be older kids, older boys. That would happen a lot. I don't remember who it was. I remember two of the older boys slept in an attic part of the dorm. I don't even know their names. One of the boys showed me his pubic hair and said, "Do you like that?" Then I had to wank him off. That happened quite a lot. Other times, I remember being held when I was in bed. I didn't tell anyone about that.
59. I couldn't tell anyone about the abuse. A few of the older boys told me not to tell anyone. I suppose it was a bit like grooming. You felt like the older person would protect you and that they liked you.

60. There were two sisters in the home. One of them was a really big girl and the other was thin. One day they took me into the woods. The bigger one took my trousers down and made me touch her private parts. When she finished she said "you wait, wait, wait" and her sister came over. Her sister did the same. The bigger one would then go away. I think people were scared of the big one. They were teenagers. I was only six or seven. This happened more than once. It was always initiated by the bigger one.

Religion

61. I specifically remember going to the Catholic school. I don't know why I had such a reaction to it. It was something that was drilled into me even though I was two and a half when I was taken into care. There are certain things that I remember. I remember I was Catholic and that I was a Celtic supporter. I didn't know why.
62. We were taken to mass. I became an altar boy. I fell on my first day. I always remember that. I have a recollection of lighting the candles. I loved doing that. There was a guy called Mr McDonald. His wife was called Theresa. He stayed in one of the wee houses near the home. It was just up the hill. Some of the staff stayed there.
63. I made my Confirmation or my First Holy Communion. I think I was seven or eight years old. I remember I was given a candle. It was carried out by the priest, Roddy Wright. He was later appointed the bishop of Argyll and the Isles. Mr McDonald was there as he was my sponsor. He gave me a book about dinosaurs. He and his wife were really nice people.
64. I remember hiding the candle behind a big chest of drawers at the front door of the home. I think it was so no one could get it. I don't know why. I always felt slightly different because I was a Catholic person. I was alright with it. I think I liked it because I was different.
65. I can remember Mr FGG being a mad Rangers fan. I remember Celtic were my team. Everybody else was a Rangers fan. I wouldn't give up on it. I don't remember

being picked on because of my religion in the home. I think that there was a bit of slagging because I was a Celtic fan. I didn't associate religion and Celtic at the time.

66. I can also remember the priest, Roddy, coming to visit us at the school. I can remember him coming into the class and throwing a duster around. He would come and talk to us during his visits. He would sometimes take his dinner out of the pig bin. I have a fond memory of that because I thought he didn't like waste. I still don't like waste.
67. I had some good times there. I remember there was a matron called Mrs **RCR** and she was lovely. She was always nice to me and never hit me. She gave me hugs.
68. I remember they changed the name of the little house to 'Taigh Beag' which is Gaelic for the 'little house'. I was moved into Taigh Beag. I didn't know why I had been moved. My mates were still in the big house but the staff were nicer in Taigh Beag.
69. There were two really nice people in there. One of them was a lady called Helen who worked there. She stayed in one of the houses near the little house. I was really good at art and we would spend time drawing. There was another lady called Heather. They were there just before I was adopted. I was treated differently in Taigh Beag. My sister **████████** was moved into Taigh Beag too. I had never been with my sister until then. I knew she was my sister but I didn't have a relationship with her.

Leaving Dunclutha House, Dunoon

70. I remember being visited by a social worker from Barnardos. That was the first time I'd ever seen a social worker. She told me about my family. She asked if I would like to have a mum and dad. I was then told that I was going to be adopted. **████████** and I left together on **████████** 1979. I was ten or eleven years old. I know this because my mum later provided me with this information. I felt very sad and upset the day that I left the home. I regarded all of my mates there as my family.

Reporting abuse

71. I never reported what happened at Dunclutha House. I didn't tell anyone about it, there was no one to tell.

Life after being in care

72. We went to live with my parents in North Uist. They lived in a wee house. It was freezing cold. At first I missed the home. I really missed my mates. They were like brothers to me. I had just been taken away from them.
73. It was a bit of a culture shock. Initially I didn't want to be there. I used to sleep walk and I remember waking up in front of the peat fire. I had become unconscious. I used to sleep walk constantly or would sleep with in my mum and dad.
74. My sister and I had to learn to have parents. My parents had to learn to have kids. There were difficulties but I got to really love them. I used to worry about going back. I don't think I was conscious of it. I was always asking "are we adopted yet?" They were good to us. They never threatened us with going back to the home. My parents are beautiful people.
75. We were finally adopted by my mum and dad on [REDACTED] 1981. Again my mum told me that subsequently. It was a slow process and a particular source of anxiety for my sister and me. I worried that I was going to be rejected again.
76. I went to school in North Uist. It was a good school with good teachers. We were woefully under educated. It was a source of embarrassment for me especially when we went to the islands and were in smaller classes with intelligent people. My mum worked really hard teaching us at home. I had to learn to read properly. She read us bed time stories. They were fantastic. She brought education to life. I think she did a really good job.

77. I was definitely the dunce of the class. I always thought that I was thick. I remember someone flying up to see me because I was the dunce in my school. I assume it must have been an educational psychologist.
78. I found out that my birthday was actually [REDACTED]. It had been changed to [REDACTED] when I was taken into care. I am not sure why they did that. I don't think it was malicious. I think it had been an administrative error somewhere along the line. So I celebrated my birthday [REDACTED] and then the following year my birthday had changed. I couldn't really explain it to any of the other kids. I tried but I couldn't. There were the usual comments about being an orphan and questions like "where did you come from?" That was difficult.
79. The school only catered up to fourth year. I had to go to The Nicolson Institute School in Lewis, Stornoway to complete my fifth and sixth year. I was fifteen at the time. It was a boy's only school. I was there for two years.
80. I stayed in a hostel with other kids during the full school term. It was called the Gibson Hostel. I would phone my mum and dad every week using my two pence. They always phoned me back straight away. The hostel was great fun. I made some of my best friends there and it all came together for me. I formed friendships for life.
81. I think it was because we were amongst 'the southerners' and we stuck together. I remember the closeness that I felt because we were "the Gibson Hostel Boys". We competed in everything.
82. We got dressed up and marched to chapel. I was very proud of it. It was an identity. We forged very good friendships and I learned a lot there. I still see those friends on a fortnightly basis. We go on holidays together.
83. After school, I wanted to study Art but I didn't have Higher English so I didn't get into The Glasgow School of Art. Instead I went to the Central College of Commerce in Glasgow. I did Commercial Art there for two years. I lived with a friend in a flat in [REDACTED] which my mum had organised. Most of my other mates were at

university. I had lots of mates and played a lot of snooker. I was playing music and living quite a bohemian lifestyle. Those were great days. I think they are for most people.

84. I went back to college to study for an HNC in social work. I went onto to Glasgow University to study social work for one year. I was working part-time as a 'befriender' in the social work department at the time. I think becoming a social worker was a natural process for me after that.
85. I never went back to Uist after I moved to Glasgow. My parents had moved down near to Dumfries. I would visit them on special occasions and holidays. It was an exciting period of my life. I felt very secure and I had loads of fun. I think, at that time, everything had been locked away.

Impact

86. I think being in care has had a huge impact on my life. I think, for me, it's been more than the earlier stuff about being 'the bad boy' from the home. There is lots of confusion. I think in my early years everything was behind me. I learned about attachment theory when I went to university and it was like a light going on. I started to think about these things and how I ended where I am.
87. I am constantly seeking approval. I try not to do it. I can move from friend to another like that. I have this thing about being a charity case. I will never go clothes shopping with anyone. I never think that I'm worthy. I remember being taken for clothes and not having much choice. That has always stuck in my memory. I can't take a compliment. I am never satisfied with anything. I can move from one thing to another. I can never finish anything. I'm creative and great at starting things but I can never finish them.
88. I can be overly kind and generous. I give my things away. I go home and think "why did you do that?" Somebody once pulled me up at work once and asked me "why do you keep buying people things?" and I would just say something like, "it's nice to be

nice". It's not about being nicer than other people. I think it stems from my fear of rejection.

89. I could sit and ruminate about it constantly. My head is like a fruit machine sometimes. If I start thinking about stuff like this I won't be able to sleep. I'll get so angry and I get really bitter. I think about the impact of my childhood and have tried to understand it. I am better at it now.
90. I have nightmares about RBD. She is always looking through a door at me with those eyes. I go through a door and she opens another door. I wake up soaking wet. The nightmares have been in the latter years when I've been lonely.
91. In the latter part of my life I have found myself on my own and unable to have relationships that were lasting. I find the loneliness very difficult. I find being on my own difficult. I've struggled to maintain relationships.
92. The author Christopher Hitchens wrote about the Germans having a word for children who have been abused. I think the Germans call it 'soul rape'. It confuses you when you were a young person and it affects you later in life. It impacts upon your ability to make intimate relationships, to be open and honest. I've never been able to talk to any partner.
93. I class myself as a bi-sexual person. I have always been confused about my sexuality. I didn't come out until I was 25. I had been with really lovely women who I couldn't be intimate with mentally. I would go between men and women, it has been confusing for any partners I've had and for their relatives. I could never talk about it.
94. I have chosen my sexuality because I need to have that more solid identity. I think I have been confused about my sexuality because I had a lot of sexual contact with males when I was young. You don't know as a kid and you haven't been directed. I would find the company of males more comforting. Men don't talk about their feelings. I suppose I could have been brought up by a family from the age of two and I'd still be a gay man.

95. It's been a hindrance not being able to hold down a relationship. In my relationships I have always seen the sexual act as something very different from the intimacy and the love thing. That has always come between me and having longer lasting relationships. I am highly impulsive.
96. I have had major bouts of depression. I have had alcoholism and bulimia. I have tried to console myself with food or tried to self-medicate with alcohol. I kept things to myself. I have been admitted to Parkhead Hospital a few times. I would be allowed to go home after I had sobered up.
97. I have even felt suicidal. I have sat on [REDACTED] at three o'clock in the morning. Sometimes I just don't want to be here. I hate this life sometimes. I hate how unjust it is. I take it all on myself.
98. Three years ago I became so depressed that I superficially cut my wrist. I was really drunk. Around about that time, I was admitted to hospital into a secure unit. I think it was Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock. There must not have been any beds in Glasgow. I was in there for nine days. They talked to me about counselling.
99. After I came out of hospital I was put in touch with the Tom Allan Counselling Centre. I made a donation. I couldn't have afforded to pay the full price. I spent 26 weeks there. I had a great counsellor. That was the first time I ever talked about it. It was a confidential person who I knew wasn't going to talk anyone. I could tell them anything. It was a real weight off my shoulders. I had always kept things to myself. That was the first time I had spoken about any of it. I think when you're in the care field it's hard to admit that you need a bit of care.
100. When I came out of hospital I read so much to try to find out about myself. I wanted to try to understand myself so that I could process it all. There was a wonderful guy called Gabor Mate, he is a physician. I read a lot of his work.

101. He has written about 'the hungry ghost'. It looks a bit like Casper. It has a wee head with a very small mouth. It's got a huge long skinny neck and a massive big belly. It resonated with me because it doesn't matter how much I get, I can never get enough because it can never fill me up. It can never fill up that belly. There is always an empty feeling. I thought that best described me in many ways.
102. I got a three month jail sentence when I was 22. It was my first offence. It was in the days of Poll Tax marches. The police had been brutal. I was a bit of a pacifist. I sat in front of the police van. I got lifted. I went to Kilmarnock Sheriff Court. After university I had to go through a set of interviews because of the conviction. I think they had been sending out a message down there.
103. The funny thing is I fitted like a glove when I was in hospital and prison. I knew then I had been institutionalised. That is the impact. That had been how my brain developed.
104. I met my blood mother when I was eighteen in Central Station. Her name was [REDACTED]. I met her three times. She could never talk about it. She had been in care from about two months old up until she was sixteen. She was in Quarriers Homes.
105. The first time I met [REDACTED] she said "I'm sorry you were in care for so long". She asked how it had been and I lied to her. I said it was okay. I didn't want to upset her. Now that I know she was in care I realise why she was so worried about me. I am glad I told her it was okay.
106. I later learned that when I was taken into care they promised my mother that we would be adopted straight away. The local authority hadn't obtained her consent. I now know that she thought we had been adopted and that's why she hadn't come to see me in the home. Nobody told me that in there. I had no answers. We were forgotten about. I think it would have broken her heart to know the truth about my time in care.

promised her I would be adopted. They robbed me of my relationship with her because she didn't feel she could contact me.

108. It was her funeral [REDACTED]. There was a poem in her Service of Remembrance called 'Two Mothers Remembered'. She had had Dementia. I thought that was strange because I had two mothers. I met quite a lot of my family for the first time at her funeral.
109. My sister [REDACTED] has had problems too. She didn't want to meet our blood mother. [REDACTED] was in Dunclutha from when she was few months old. She has struggled with food. Three years ago her husband paid for her to have a stomach operation. She lost twelve stone. After the compliments stopped, she hit a brick wall. She lost the weight but she's never lost the feelings.
110. She has a beautiful family but she once told me that she can be sitting in the living room with her family and she feels alone. I think it has been horrendous for her. Although she has a loving family she still feels it badly. When I came out of hospital we became close. I have tried to help her with her feelings but that's been difficult.
111. She would do anything for you. She is in the care field too and works with the elderly. She still has those feelings. She locked it away. She has been seeing a psychiatrist for a long time.
112. Since my admission to hospital I have had relapses. I should be back at counselling. I have good periods. I try to stay fit and I eat healthily. I feel more in control and regulated. I still have all the feelings I have described but I now understand them now. The feelings and the memories don't go away.
113. The fundamental impact upon me is the feeling of abandonment that I had as a child. I wasn't given any information from anyone and nothing was explained to me. As a result, I have an inbuilt fear of rejection as an adult that lives with me constantly.

Records

114. I have never sought my records. I have worked as a social worker for fifteen years. It has never sat easily with me to ask my employer for my own records. I am going to do it because there are a lot of questions that I haven't been able to answer today. For example, who oversaw me being taken into care? Who didn't follow it up? Why didn't they follow it up?

Other information

115. I think it's important that there is recognition that abuse happened. I have never been someone to blame people. I think I am one of those people who accept the way it was then. Why weren't the good people reporting the bad people? I assume that there wasn't a culture of whistle blowing then. I understand that retrospectively.
116. In terms of the Inquiry, I don't think there are huge lessons to be learned. I work in children's units. There have been big changes. Some of them still aren't fit for purpose. There are still fourteen children's units in Glasgow.
117. I oversaw my first adoption two years ago. I got to write the 'Life Letter'. It's an explanation of why you were taken into care. I took a lot of care and love over that. Through my work I have learned a lot and I am much more able to process it. I think I am a much better social worker for it as I have a good understanding of things. I know what troubled kids have been through. I worked in youth justice for many years.
118. I think that speed and time are important. In my opinion, children should be moved to permanence as soon as possible so that they can live within a family unit. I think children should be part of a family environment.
119. Children learn how to be parents through instruction by watching and having a long lasting relationship with people. Kids don't need to be in long term care.

120. I don't want any members of staff who treated me well to be tarnished with the same brush. I want to recognise the good work and some of the wonderful people who worked in Dunclutha House too. I think it is important for the Inquiry to acknowledge that there were caring and good people there too.
121. 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..... 

Dated..... 15.03.2018