

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PKM

Support person present: No

1. My name is PKM. My date of birth is [REDACTED], 1965. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I grew up in the Isle of Mull. I was born in the back bedroom in [REDACTED] in Tobermory. My dad was a sailor in the merchant navy. My mum was an alcoholic and hid bottles of whisky in the bath when she was doing her washing.
3. My mum is [REDACTED]. It's a gaelic name. My dad was [REDACTED]. They were married on the same day as my birthday, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], I had four siblings. [REDACTED] was the oldest, he was one year older than me. My younger sister [REDACTED] is about a year and a half younger than me. [REDACTED] is about four years younger and [REDACTED] is about a year younger than him.
4. I went to the little school in Tobermory. It's a café now for tourists. There's a big high school been built too. I went to the high school too, I remember because I won one of the races and got a chocolate bar. My dad said we were never at school there but I can remember it and my mum can remember it. I can't remember the name of the schools. We went to Sunday school too, although my mum was always drunk.
5. I remember my mum battering me all the time. We all got battered because she was drunk and wanted peace. My granny lived in a caravan about half a mile away, up in

the [REDACTED]. We moved in there for a little while. My dad was scared of her. My mum was born in 1943, her mother was having an affair with a soldier from Yorkshire and it was all hushed up. So my mum stayed with her granny. The man left the army in 1945 and came up to Tobermory and told her he wanted to marry her. He died about twenty-five years ago.

6. All five of us were in the caravan as well as my mum. My dad was at sea. I'm not sure how long we were there because I had another head injury before my main one. I jumped on the back of a coal lorry. Tobermory has a big hill and the lorry was speeding up going down this hill, so I thought I was going to fall off. I let go and battered my head. I was taken to the doctor. I was all bruised and did something to a bone at the bottom of my head. I was about five or six when this happened. I do think to myself that I had ADHD or something because even in the children's home they took me to a psychiatrist before I was twelve, a Dr Jollie. We did go back to my mum's for a little while, [REDACTED]. It was a lovely house with a big garden and woods behind it. It was beautiful.
7. One day my mum responded to an ad in a paper from a farmer who wanted a wife, so she packed us all up and we went to Crieff. My mum and dad weren't separated. I came home from school and all the bags were packed. It was dark and we went to the local ferry. It was blowing a gale and I nearly fell in the water. I just thought we were going on a little trip. It was dark when we arrived in Crieff. We went to bed with fur coats over us. I got spooked because I was positive I saw a hand crawling up the wall. The man was called [REDACTED]. His wife had committed suicide and that's why he put the ad in the paper. He had three of his own kids. There was no explanation given to us by my mum.
8. My dad came home from sea one day and there was no-one in the house. He was a freemason and so was the bank manager. He told my dad that she had his card and was up in Crieff, outside Perth. So my dad went there, went to the local pub and our new step father, [REDACTED], was [REDACTED]. My dad got talking to him, buying him drink and [REDACTED] told him he had a new wife from Mull. My dad said, "Oh have you?" At the end of the night he brought my dad into the house and my mum's face just

dropped. My dad left and all these social workers and police came and picked all of us up and we ended up in a place called Kippen House, which was a children's home. I was still five or six, [REDACTED] was about six, [REDACTED] about three and a half, [REDACTED] was one and [REDACTED] was a baby, about two months old.

9. The way my dad told me about it was that he went to the bar and was friendly to [REDACTED]. I knew my dad was in the house talking to him. We were supposed to be in bed but I wasn't sleeping because of the creepy hand crawling up the wall. I heard them talking and knew it was my dad. It was never mentioned that he had visited. Dad was a drinker too. My mum eventually married [REDACTED] in the eighties. He was a better fellow than my dad. He was a lovely man.
10. Everything was alright for a while. We all just got on with it. I made new friends and had new family members. Their names were [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I wasn't there long. After my dad visited we moved into a caravan two miles down the road. All eight children and two adults.
11. We went to school there. I wore shorts but my mum put woman's tights on me, so I didn't go to school. I jumped under a bridge before the school and hid under there. One day I peeped out and my mum and step-dad were passing. I ran into the school and she ran in after me, she was drunk. The head teacher told her she shouldn't be dressing me like that. [REDACTED] went to school there too. I can't remember the name of it.

Kippen House Children's Home, Dunning

12. It wasn't too long after going to the caravan when everybody surrounded it, the social work and police, and took the five of us into care and left [REDACTED]'s kids with him. We were taken to Dunning. It's between Perth and Stirling, up in the hills. It was a children's home. Nobody told us what was happening. We were just told, "follow us". We were taken away by the social work and police. I can't remember the details. It's now an old folks home. My sister and I went back a few years ago but they wouldn't let us look around.

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With my brain injury I have some long term and short term memory loss, but I can remember more about Lagarie than Kippen House. Just before he passed away my brother [REDACTED] gave me a phone call. We spoke for about an hour. He remembers everything, dates, times, days, everything.

27. No family visited us there. I think my dad was fighting with the courts at the time. In the sixties the mum automatically got the kids. Because he was in the merchant navy and Lagarie was a British Sailor Society children's home, my dad had words with them and the courts. Suddenly we were all moving down to Helensburgh.

28.



Leaving Kippen House Children's Home, Dunning

29. I didn't know I was leaving Kippen House. A social worker came and took us and told us we were going for a drive. It was a long drive. We went to Lagarie Children's Home in Helensburgh.

Lagarie House Children's Home, Helensburgh

30. We went through a gate and saw this huge white house. From the gate it was about four hundred yards to the front door. It was beautiful, there were rhododendrons, swings and a big rock. There was a gardeners hut at the side.

Routine at Lagarie House Children's Home, Helensburgh

First day

31. Me being me, I jumped out of the van and kids were playing on the grass. I saw a bow and arrow and picked it up and shot it at a member of staff. That was my first recollection of getting battered. It was a female staff member and she slapped me about the back of the head saying I was a naughty boy. I thought, 'I'm just playing'. I had been there for five minutes. This was Lagarie. I think the member of staff that hit me was **RDM**. I couldn't remember her name but my brother told me on

the phone last year. It was a shock being hit. I just thought I'd stay away from that staff member.

32. We were separated when we went into the home into dorms with our own age groups. I was in a dorm with four other boys, [REDACTED], who was a bully, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], me and I can't remember the other one. [REDACTED] was seven, the same age as me, [REDACTED] was six and [REDACTED] was five. That was it until we left Lagarie. We moved about the home, in different bedrooms, but we stayed together. The girls were in a room at the back. I can't remember the name of the member of staff that took us in and showed us where we were sleeping.
33. [REDACTED] was a member of staff. As soon as we arrived she took [REDACTED] in her arms. She took care of him there and he took care of her until she died a few years ago. I think there was a story that she used to be a prostitute or something before the Barrie's arrived at Lagarie and she was taken in to the home and given a job there. She was there until the day we left. She was one of the good staff.
34. We just ran around and saw the reading room, which was also the TV room, we called it the reading room. There was a separate play room. You went up a corridor and there was a big hall with a piano in it. The toilets were at the back. The hall was just massive, really long. You turned into a long corridor then into a laundry and kitchen. I loved running. It looked like a lovely place. It was massive.
35. My brother said we were there for seven years, I thought it was eight or nine years, but I might have been counting Kippen House in with that. The problem is, we didn't know our ages until we left the home and got our birth certificates. I found out I was a year older.
36. There were four big bedrooms upstairs. Sometimes the girls were in two back rooms. I was in the middle bedroom. That was the first one I went in. I was there a few years then went round the corner, where the bigger boys were. The girls were up on the same landing. When the boys got to sixteen Mr and Mrs Barrie had a cottage near the big house, about thirty yards away, where they learned to live themselves.

37. Mr and Mrs Barrie ran Lagarie. It was Mrs Miller before them. ^{GAA} [REDACTED] was a member of staff. She was an angel. I'm still in contact with her today. There was an old lady called Barbara. She drove up in a gold beetle car. She was as mad as a hatter, but lovely. We would hear her coming up the stairs because we were having a carry on but she was so slow we were sleeping by the time she got to our room. Mary Chambers was one of the cleaners. She became a member of staff. When you were ill she brought you sweets and told you to hide them under your pillow.
38. If the Barrie's were on there would be four or five others on duty. ^{PZH} [REDACTED] was a big woman, but lovely too. There were about twenty members of staff there over the years. There was one guy, ^{PZL} [REDACTED], but that was near the end of our stay. There were about twenty to thirty children in the home. There were others that came in, but they weren't there that long and went away again. The ages were from [REDACTED]'s age to about sixteen, then they all disappeared.

Mornings and bedtime

39. In the morning you got up and made your bed, put your school clothes on and went down to the dining room for breakfast. A staff member put the dorm light on and told you to get up. We had a school uniform. We had separate little lockers in the small bedroom. In the big room there were massive wardrobes built in across the wall with massive shelves. Your name was on a shelf. The lockers had your school clothes and play clothes in them. You had no other personal possessions. You only had toys at Christmas but you left them in the playroom and everybody played with them.
40. After breakfast Mrs Barrie would give us all chores to do, two to do the washing up, two to dry the dishes, tidying the rooms, hoovering the floor. Between the ages of seven and twelve I could sew, knit, darn, be a waiter, everything.

Mealtimes / Food

41. We all sat in our families, there were the [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and us, the [REDACTED]. A staff member would be at each table. The Barrie's were at a top table. My big brother didn't want to sit with his family. At least twice a week he would erupt and batter me. I ate with my siblings but didn't play with them when we were outside.
42. The food was good, they had a cook who came in. A big lorry came in once a month with tons of food. You had to eat what you got. I hated lemon curd so I went off bread for about six months. We had our own orchard and they made their own jam. Christmas time was great, we would get strawberry or raspberry but the rest of the year it was gooseberry and things like that.
43. The only problem with the food was one night at supper time my little brother [REDACTED] got a potato scone and put it in the bin. Mr Barrie saw him do this, took it out and forced him to eat it.

Washing/Bathing

44. We showered twice a week, same as at Kippen House. There were two showers so you would wait to use them. Your named towels were on a hook. There was a curtain pulled over the shower but a female member of staff was outside when you pulled the curtain back. This happened right through my time there, no matter how old you were.

Clothing/Uniform

45. You had a name tag on the back of your clothes. When we outgrew them we had our own clothing store with second hand clothes in it. Mr or Mrs Barrie would take you up and get you to try clothes on. When something fitted then that was yours. When the bigger boys grew out of their clothes they went up to the clothes store. One time they

didn't have boys shoes to fit me so I got girls school shoes. I was seven or eight when this happened.

School

46. We walked to Rhu primary school. It was about a mile and a half to two miles away. We would walk round the backway, past the big houses and into Rhu that way. I wasn't very good at reading and writing until the last year. I had Mrs Johnstone, who got one of the clever girls to help me. I did quite well then.
47. We went to Hermitage Academy secondary school. We would get the bus there. Before we got on the bus we would sneak into the bushes and put our tracksuit tops on so that we didn't look out of place. The other kids at the school were going with play clothes on and we had uniforms on. The Barrie's didn't know until they found one of the boys clothes at the bottom of the drive one day. So that put a stop to that. The bus dropped us off then picked us up. I missed it a few times and had to walk home. They have knocked that school down now and built a new one about five hundred yards along the road. I loved school. I was in a class with a lot of hard men and they knew I was in a children's home, so they looked after me for four years.
48. Although I liked school, I got on terribly. I didn't get any qualifications. For the first couple of years I was still wetting the bed and trying to hide it. I thought I smelled. Nobody said anything but I could smell it. I got A's for history and geography but I didn't take 'O' levels in those subjects, just maths and things like that. I think I got an 'F' in them.
49. You done your homework in the playroom or reading room. You were made to do it. If anything happened at the school they called the home. So if you didn't do your homework they called the home. We had bible homework too, from Mr and Mrs Barrie. When it was raining and you couldn't play outside, you had to go into the reading room and read the bible for about four hours. They would then call you into their office and ask you what the story was about and ask questions about it. I never read it right, so I had to go back in and read it again.

50. I was at Hermitage for four years. I then went to Bellahouston Academy when I was in Overbridge, from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] but then they got my birth certificate through and found out I was a year older. I was told I could leave whenever I wanted when they found this out.
51. I got the belt a few times at Hermitage for bunking the school. I did it twice a week. I'd go to the pier and smoke cigarettes. We got caught by a gamekeeper one day. We were up in the woods in the estate, sitting there smoking. This guy came with a gun and told us to go with him. The police then took us back to school. We said we had a free period and they said that's alright, so we got out of that one.

Work/Chores

52. You had chores to do every day, morning and night. We did the same things later as we did in the morning, wash dishes, dry dishes, there was a big marble hall floor and two of us mopped that. Some people brought washing down for the Barrie's to put on. There were four cleaners there that cleaned the bedrooms, so I wondered why we had to make the beds and wash and mop the floors.

Leisure Time

53. When it was sunny we would run up to the woods and build a den in the trees. After tea and chores you were told to get out. When you came in, after an hour or so, you got to watch the TV, then different age groups went to bed at different times. If you were in the choir there was practice nights. After choir practice you could stay up and watch Sportscene if you liked it. I hated football so I just went to bed.
54. At weekends I would get my pocket money, go down to the beach and build a little fire and just sit on the beach. It was right outside the home. I think we got about three pence pocket money, but that bought you a lot. There was a wee newsagent in Rhu and you'd get sweeties and juice then go down to the beach. I did this from

seven or eight years old until I left Lagarie. I was usually on my own, but sometimes others came.

55. Usually when you were seven or eight one of the older kids would take you to Helensburgh, that was about two miles away. They wanted to go to Helensburgh because they were older and they knew boys. We had to tag along.
56. Most of the kids got caught stealing in Helensburgh. I did it once, but I owned up to it. The police came one day and gave us a lecture. I stuck my hand up and said, "She told me to get her a purse". I got battered for that, but from the girl. I can't remember who it was.
57. I was in the Sea Cadets, based in Helensburgh. We did our diving and swimming practice at Faslane naval base. I wanted to be a merchant sailor like my dad but I failed the test. Because it was a British Sailor Society home we had to join the Sea Cadets. I was there from when I was eleven until I was sixteen. Before that it was the Cubs.
58. We had the green uniform for the Cubs with the little toggle. The Sea Cadets uniform was really itchy. I wore my pyjamas underneath. Lagarie provided us with the uniforms.

Trips/Holidays

59. Every year we went to the firework display in Helensburgh. They hired a coach for us. We also went to the carnival at the SECC. It was the Kelvin Hall in those days.
60. We went choir singing at Christmas and we would go to big halls in places like Falkirk. We would go to clubs, big massive places with hundreds of old people and they would throw money at you. Mr Barrie would tell us to leave it and put it all in his pocket. We never saw it again. Choir practice was once a week, whenever he wanted to do it. He would tell you if you were in the choir. I did it because you got a sausage supper and could stay up later. Mr Barrie was off key with his squeeze box

but you just kept singing. We went out a few times a month to city missions all over the place, Glasgow, Falkirk and Edinburgh. The perk was a sausage supper on the way home.

61. Sometimes ^{GAA} [REDACTED] came to the choir because she was a Christian and she played the guitar and could sing. She had a beautiful voice. Mrs Barrie came sometimes. She sang but she was terrible. She thought she was excellent.
62. Every year we went to Arbroath for two weeks. I thought we were going on holiday but we were singing there during the Christian convention. We got the use of one of their halls to sleep in. We sang every night. I loved the two weeks there because it was always sunny. We got money every day to spend. Mr Barrie had a big bag of money and he would ask how much you wanted because you had saved up sixty pound. I'd ask for a fiver but he would say I wasn't getting that and gave me two pounds. Mr Barrie said we'd saved so much as you got pocket money and some was put away to save and sometimes your dad would leave you money. That was the only holiday, every year.

Birthdays and Christmas

63. The date of my birthday was right, I know that because it's my parents anniversary, [REDACTED]. On my first birthday there they gave me a cake with seven candles on it. I said I was eight but they told me I was seven. The cake came out at tea time, after school. I never ate cake but everyone else ate it. They sang happy birthday and you didn't have to do any chores. There was no present, just the cake. We got things from our parents when they eventually came.
64. Christmas was wonderful in Lagarie, like Hogwarts, the castle in Harry Potter. Christmas trees all over the place, lights everywhere, a sixteen foot Christmas tree in the hall. I sneaked down at night and sat between three trees and stared at the lights. There was a Christmas dinner.

65. On Christmas day you didn't do any work, the staff did it all. They would call your name out and you would go out the side door and be given a huge, big bag of toys. Everybody got their own sack. These came from donations and things. You got thousands of Easter eggs at Easter too, all handed in. The toys were spilled out and everybody played with them and after a couple of weeks everyone's toys were everyone's.

Religious Instruction

66. We had to go to church twice on a Sunday. I put my brown safari suit on and walked the two miles to the church in Helensburgh then walked back. At night we would visit certain people. They would feel sorry for us, feed us up, talk about God for a little bit then drive us home. My safari suit was brown trousers and a brown jacket with a belt in the middle. We all dressed differently depending on what you were given to wear. I just so happened to fit into the safari suit. We said Grace before every meal and prayers at bedtime.
67. I don't go to church nowadays because it was forced upon me then. I believe there is a Lord but I don't think I have to go to a church to celebrate him.

Visits/Inspections

68. My dad turned up one night after midnight when his ship came in. He brought us jumpers, but I didn't see mine again. I think it was taken because it fitted one of the older boys. We didn't get to keep them. They got us all out of bed to sit with him in the staff sitting room on a big orange couch. Mr and Mrs Barrie sat there too, to see what we said. That's the first time I'd seen my dad for a while. He came about six times altogether. When I was at his funeral his sister, my aunt [REDACTED], told me he could have done more. She said he was back in Glasgow or Greenock every two months or so, but went to the pub with his friends because he liked a good drink too.
69. My mum and stepdad came three times. I was wise, if she was staggering up the drive I knew she was drunk so I would run into the woods and they would have to

come and find me. There was a hotel next to the home and they took us there to have a coke, so that they could have a drink. We were in the staff room at first, but then they asked if they could take us to the hotel. They stayed about an hour. My mum was an alcoholic from the age of twelve. Years ago in the highlands they gave you a warm whisky for breakfast before school. My stepdad had a drink problem too. That's why they got on well. All my family turned out to be alcoholics. I was an alcoholic but I gave it up myself.

70. I'm sure Ron Creamer was still our social worker. Every year we went to a tribunal in Perth and our mother was supposed to turn up and give her evidence on why she wanted her kids back. We didn't want to stay in the home but our mother didn't turn up to the tribunals. Her or my father never came. Mrs Barrie drove us up and told the panel we were loving it at the home and they could keep us there another year.
71. We were under Ron Creamer's care because he had taken us from the caravan into the first home and he was still in charge of us when we went to Overbridge. He would pop down to Lagarie once or twice a year to see how we were getting on. All five of us were spoken to together. All of us wanted to go home to our mum. We told the social work and the panel but they wouldn't listen. The Barrie's would be in the room at first when the social work visited but then left, but you knew they were listening. Their office was next door. They were just your carers. There was no love. When we left Overbridge we all got a flat in the southside of Glasgow and the Shawlands social work department were looking after us then.

Healthcare

72. The doctor came when you weren't well. When I was at primary school I used to get migraines all the time and get sent home. Every year for a few weeks I'd have splitting headaches. I had to see the doctor. I would sit in the staff room and there was a long conservatory, I would see him in there and the staff would just leave you with him. The doctor would say, "You've got a sore head? Drop your trousers." He would then hold my genitals and tell me to cough. Mr Campbell was the doctor. Then I'd be told to go to bed and sleep it off, no paracetamol, no nothing. You would wake

up on the Saturday and they would say, "You've got a sore head, back to bed"; and you wouldn't get any pocket money that week. So I got used to thinking I better not say anything when I had a sore head because I'd get no pocket money. I can't remember ever seeing a dentist.

73. It was the summer time when I got the migraines. My nose was always blocked but they didn't give me any medicine. It was found out that I had sinus problems later on in life. That's what caused my meningitis. I had a blocked nose and I was in a hot country, America, and I just kept fainting and it seeped through into my skull.
74. Every few months the doctor was there to see someone. His house was just along the road. We would pass it when we went to Helensburgh on a Saturday to spend our pocket money. He had a lovely big house at the front, looking over the sea, but he came to the home.
75. One time when I was eleven or twelve I had to go to the ear, nose & throat hospital in Glasgow as I had a tooth growing at the back of my ear and they didn't know how it got there. So I was there for a couple of weeks. Mrs Barrie visited me twice a week and brought me sweets. I never got them though, they were shared with everyone.
76. If you split your head they got so worried. I did it once, when I walked into a wall. They had a little dispensary and bandaged me. I never saw a doctor, it just healed on its own. It wasn't in my files. My older brother had my files. We fell out for a few years and I think he might have burnt them. I had seen them, but when he died and we were clearing things out he only had files for the [REDACTED] family and my three younger siblings.
77. I was sent to see a psychologist by the Barrie's, a Dr Jollie, because I was play fighting with my brother [REDACTED] and jumping on couches. I probably had ADHD that kids are diagnosed with now. I can see in their behaviour what I was doing back then, but they thought there was something wrong with me. I remember in my files Dr Jollie wrote, "[REDACTED] would fight with his own shadow", but I only used to fight with

my brother on the couch. I can't remember seeing him, or where it was, but it's in my records.

Running away

78. We ran away one time when we were in Arbroath. About four of us got cheesed off and thought we would run away. We had a couple of rolls then we walked about twenty miles. We then called the police because we were cold. The Barrie's didn't hit us for some reason, we just got sent to bed. I was about fourteen or fifteen years old then.
79. I set the home on fire twice. I got sent to bed early and one of the older boys was snoring. I climbed the big cupboard and found matches. I went up to the clothing store and lit it. Half an hour later Mr Barrie came into the dorm. He said, "Just you lie there son, we're looking for something". For three months nobody got any pocket money. I told somebody it was me, they told the Barrie's and I got battered.
80. I set fire to the clothing store again but one of the staff saw me do it and put it out. I wouldn't call myself an arsonist. I wouldn't do it now.

Bed wetting

81. I continued to wet the bed in Lagarie. At the top of the stairs was our bedroom but the toilet was along a hall then a long corridor, but I thought I saw a nun sitting at the window and I was scared to go to the toilet. The story that Mr Barrie said was that before it was a children's home it used to be run by nuns and this woman turned up with a child and they couldn't let her in and she died. I always thought that was a bit spooky, seeing a nun. I wasn't the only one, after I left the home a few boys said they thought there was a nun sitting at the bottom of their beds. They were maybe there to protect us, but people don't believe in that.
82. Some of the staff were alright when I wet the bed. They would try to get me in the shower before Mrs Barrie came, but if she was there she would drag you out of bed,

was up the back with them, grabbed [REDACTED] and took her to the back. He touched her knees while he was driving. When we got back Mr Barrie took one of the older boys, [REDACTED], into his office and battered him. But it was like that every weekend, going to Glasgow City missions and places like that. On the way back he would always have one of the nice girls in the front seat. We had our own mini-bus with the Sailor Society written on the side of it. We could see the girls being uncomfortable. You could see he was doing something. We knew what he was up to.

87. When I was about eleven and my sister was about nine, on a rare occasion I was playing with her in the woods. In the prior two or three weeks some of the sailors from Faslane naval base came and built rope swings and climbing frames for us. My sister and I came in to the home hand in hand. We skipped round the corner of the kitchen and Mr Barrie was standing there and looked at me and said, "Take your sister up to the room to show her appreciation to the sailors". I wondered why because I was playing with her, but he said, "Now".
88. I took her up to the room and there were five beds. Everyone was full except the last one. The young kids were over at one side. As soon as we walked in my sister let go my hand and joined them. I just stood there looking. I thought, 'What are they all doing?'. The older girls were on the other side and the sailors had their hands where they're not supposed to be, up their skirts and down their blouses. They were men. One sailor was sitting at the bottom of a bed staring at me. He freaked me out so I ran. I knew I had taken my sister there but I hid from it for all these years.
89. About two years ago I was down at my mates in Clydebank and my sister phoned me and said the police wanted to talk to me. They had been on the phone to my sister speaking about Lagarie. I can't remember anything apart from sailors in a bedroom. I don't know what happened to her in there. I should have looked after her. We could have went along to my bedroom. She forgave me straight away. A psychologist said it wasn't my fault. I had to re-enact it to make it easier for me. During the re-enactment I went away, then came back and took her out of the room.

when he came out you knew something was going on. He was probably bribing her with sweets or pocket money.

94. ██████ would be about the same age as my brother ██████, because he fancied her. They were maybe eight upwards. She was there for years and came to Hermitage Academy with us. But it was strange how she had her own little single bedroom and all the girls slept in a dorm. Mr Barrie had a key for it. When we were in that room normally there would be a staff member there. There were another two staff bedrooms, on the left hand side going along to the girls bedroom, The staff that were in charge of you would be in those bedrooms. But that particular room was always empty until that little girl moved in. Mr Barrie was a dirty man, a bad man.
95. You couldn't say anything or do anything because Mr Barrie would just take you in the office and he had a lovely big wooden ruler sitting on top of his typewriter. It was bloody sore. Mrs Barrie would hold you down and he would belt you over the backside or he would hold you down and she would belt you. She wore wooden Scholl shoes and belted you over the backside with them. He would use his ruler. It happened to me a lot. We were all carrying on one day and ██████ and I were going to be sent to the office. ██████ said, "Grab a book and stick it down your pants". So he stuck a paperback, soft book down his pants. I went down with a hardback book and they saw it. That was sore.
96. They would do this for being naughty, or for just being kids. Kids run about. We weren't allowed to run. It was only the Barrie's who hit us, not the staff. If you ran along a corridor and they came round the corner they would slap you across the face and just keep going. If the staff had a problem they had to go to the Barrie's and the Barrie's would pull the person aside, take them in the office where no-one could see and shut the door. You knew what was going on.
97. There was mental abuse too. "You're useless", "You won't amount to much", were said to me regularly by Mrs Barrie. I was beaten once or twice a week, maybe more. I saw it happen to others too. One time my big brother ██████ was getting battered by Mr Barrie, getting slapped coming up the stair. I was sitting watching it. He slapped

him right across my bed. My brother got up and clenched his fists and Mr Barrie ran out the door. He came back in and said, "What are you doing?", and started punching him in front of me. I couldn't believe a minister would act like that.

98. Someone scraped PKM on the wooden staircase. You could spot it a mile away. There was [REDACTED] and myself with those initials, so it had to be one of us. I kept saying it wasn't me, then one of the bigger boys, [REDACTED], said it was him. He got battered for that. It was me, I was rebelling. Other than the abuse, the place was beautiful. It was a bit like the Harry Potter castle.
99. The Barrie's had their own little caravanette and they used to go touring. On one of those occasions there was a guy who came from a borstal to look after us for a couple of weeks. He was handy with a pool cue across your back. I can't remember his name. Before he came to look after us he took us to the borstal to show us around. It was somewhere outside Glasgow. On the drive back, Helensburgh has a big hill on it down to the waterfront, as we approached it he turned the engine off and took his hands off the wheel. We were all screaming in the back. He was laughing, saying, "Look at you all greeting". I was about thirteen. He was a grown man.
100. He had a son and daughter, I can't remember their names, and if you didn't let his son play pool he would hit you with the pool cue. On his first day there he put his foot down and started battering everyone, throwing us over tables and things like that. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He put fear into you. He never got back after that.
101. We went to church once and were sitting in the back of the mini-bus after it and my older brother started a fight with someone. Mr Barrie came in and started punching him, in front of the congregation who were standing outside the church. You could see all the crowd thinking, "What's he doing?" He gave himself away in front of a church crowd. He was evil when he wanted to be.

102. There were only eight kids left in Lagarie [REDACTED] and we all had to leave and went to Overbridge, which was part of Quarriers, at St Andrew's Drive, Glasgow. They only had about six to eight kids in there too. I laughed at the guy in charge of the home one time at breakfast and he grabbed me, took me outside and held me up against the wall by my throat. His daughter came out and pulled him off and told me to run. I ran down to the park. The next minute [REDACTED] drove his Mercedes right through the park looking for me. I jumped into someone's garden and he drove right into it, put me in the car, took me up to the home, took me round the back, grabbed me by the throat and head butted me. His name was Leslie Gilmore. He used to run shops in Glasgow. I know he was in court for doing something with one of the girls in there but he got off with it. Seemingly there wasn't enough evidence, as usual. I think he has left Glasgow now.
103. There were allegations about the gardener at Lagarie, Mr Skelton, and I think that was one of the reasons my brother [REDACTED] hanged himself. Seemingly the gardener was a bit of a touchy guy. I'd been in the shed with him myself but nothing happened to me, but [REDACTED] done his training with him for four years. He was going to college too and he was in the Barrie's little flat at the back and doing his course and working with Mr Skelton. Something came into his mind the night before his death but he never said to the person he was talking to what it was, then he was dead.
104. He was in contact with [REDACTED], they had stayed friends and she treated him like a big brother. He was on the phone to her and he said, "I'm going to do it", and she shouted at him, "No you're not going to do it". When he was talking to me he knew about dates, times, days, when the home shut down. The next day he was found dead.
105. There was seemingly something that happened to me, that I've blocked out, but the psychologist told me not to go there.

Leaving Lagarie House Children's Home, Helensburgh

106. I think I was sixteen when I left Lagarie. I never went into the little cottage. My brother [REDACTED] had moved into a guest house in Helensburgh by this time, doing his college work. [REDACTED] there were only eight kids left. I'd been there from the age of seven until I was sixteen. I was there with my three younger siblings and three or four others [REDACTED].

Quarriers – Overbridge Children's home, Glasgow

107. We were moved out of Lagarie and went to Overbridge, which was part of Quarriers, in Glasgow. Mr and Mrs QAX/QCN ran the home. He was an ex-sergeant in the police force. He sent for my birth certificate in Mull and found out I was actually eighteen. So I got an ultimatum from him, he was like a Sergeant Major. He said, "You've got a few months to leave, we're not in control of you anymore." I thought, "I'm not able to look after myself".
108. Mr Barrie had retired [REDACTED]. Mrs Barrie didn't want to retire so went to work in Overbridge as a staff member. We were taken there in a mini-bus. Mrs Barrie was so nice in Overbridge, she never hit anyone. She had totally changed. I would be up in my room myself and she would come in and ask if I was ok and liking the place. There were two people above her now, Mr and Mrs QAX/QCN. Mrs QAX [REDACTED] was the matron. Mrs Barrie and her didn't get on, they didn't see eye to eye.
109. Overbridge is a big Georgian house but it had a tiny postage stamp front garden, so it was a big change from four acres and woods and a football pitch as well as a big orchard. There were about ten children there. The youngest was about ten or eleven years old and the oldest was up to seventeen to eighteen. There was an older boy than me, [REDACTED] and his sister was a year older than me as well. There was only two girls, my sister and her.

110. The place wasn't bad, but similar to Lagarie. You had your seating arrangements with the top table watching you. They had a cook. She was scary. PZH was a member of staff there too, she came from Lagarie, and there were cleaners.
111. Upstairs there was a long landing where there was the boys and girls toilets, then there was a girls room and the small kids bedroom. Upstairs again to the first landing and all the boys were on the left hand side in a big, massive room. Onto the top floor and two girls rooms were there. On our landing, Mr and Mrs QAX/QCN had their bedroom. The level was split. There was like a new building built on to the back of this Georgian house.

Routine at Quarriers – Overbridge Children's home, Glasgow

Mornings & bedtime

112. We all went to bed together at the same time, about nine o'clock to nine thirty. In the morning we got up, made our bed, put on our school uniform, had our breakfast then out to school. We didn't have to do any chores there.
113. There was a shed outside and you had your own locker in it, but they weren't locked, you could look in anyone's locker. It was about five times the size of a normal shed. The play area was outside. We watched TV and saw guests within the home.

Mealtimes/Food

114. We all ate together, with staff at the top table. We sat where we wanted but most of the boys sat at the one table, with the younger ones at a different one. The food was okay. The cook was good. If you didn't eat what you were given you got nothing else.

School

115. I went to Bellahouston Academy. I walked there. We had our lunch at school. You had to do your homework out in the shed. It was heated, there were couches and a

big, long table. You weren't supervised doing homework. I didn't get much because I was leaving [REDACTED]. I just done mostly cooking and sewing at school. We wore a uniform to school and play clothes when we came home. These were kept in a cupboard next to your bed. I wasn't there long enough to get new clothes. I was there just over a year I think.

Leisure time

116. We had bikes. We could ride them on two streets outside the home because they were quiet roads. We could go out and meet friends at night. There was a bit more freedom because I was a bit older. The girl upstairs had a boyfriend so was allowed out until nine o'clock. The younger ones had to stay in.

Washing/bathing

117. They had baths, no showers. The first time I was in having a bath Mr QCN [REDACTED] came in and saw that we were a bit older and said, "Oh, I don't have to wash you lot" and left. I think he was used to washing the boys. We had a bath once or twice a week. The girls had a different bath day.

Birthdays & Christmas

118. I can't remember anything about birthdays or Christmas while I was there.

Visits

119. I know the social worker used to come down from Perth and talk to us in the violin room at the front of the home. We weren't allowed in there unless with a social worker. This was about twice a year. You could tell QAX/QCN [REDACTED] were outside listening, you could hear the floor creaking, so you couldn't say anything. There were no visits from my mum or dad while we were there.

Healthcare

120. There was a doctor's surgery and a dentist in Pollockshields that we went to if there was anything wrong with us.

Running away

121. A couple of boys and I ran away once. We only got to the west end of Glasgow. We went to a church, but someone fired a BB gun at us and it scared us so we called the police and got taken back to the home. It was the middle of the night but Mr QCN just told us to go to bed and we didn't get punished.

Religious instruction

122. We went to church in Pollockshields. I think it was Church of Scotland. We were told to go but no-one came with us. We walked there and back. We could sit where we wanted to in the church, so we sat at the back. I'm not sure if we had to say prayers in the home at mealtimes. We probably did, I can't remember.

Abuse at Quarriers – Overbridge Children's home, Glasgow

123. One time we were carrying on in the dining room and Mr QCN told us to be quiet. One of the boys told a joke and I kept laughing and he told me to get out. He ran out after me and grabbed me by the throat, right off the ground. His daughter came out, grabbed his hand and told me to run. I ran out and down the road. I saw Mercedes coming after me. He chased me all over and caught me in a garden. He took me back, round to the back of the building and head butted me. His name is Leslie Gilmore. I don't know the daughter's name. PZH argued with him because my head was all red, but he denied it.
124. Mr QCN was fair, he never hit me. There was only that one occasion he got to do it. One time a boy and I were having a joint round the back of the bins and

he caught me. He said, "I let everyone try something once. It's up to you whether you like it or not", and he walked away. It did nothing for me.

125. During my time at Overbridge I went on a Youth Training Scheme job in a bakers. When I got my first wage Mr ^{OCN} [REDACTED] allowed me to go into Glasgow. I bought a couple of Elvis records. I was standing at the bus stop with my grey suit on. It wasn't a suit, it was grey trousers, grey jacket and grey shoes. It was the first time I'd ever been in town and this guy chatted me up. He took me into St Enoch's Centre, which was Lewis's then, and into the toilets. He said the security guard was coming and I was to kid on I was doing the toilet. He sexually assaulted me. I don't want to say any more about that.

Leaving Overbridge – Quarriers Home, Glasgow

126. When it was found out that I was eighteen I was given an ultimatum to leave. Because my dad was a merchant sailor, I went to the merchant navy office and sat the test the next week. I failed the test so I went into the army office next door and passed the test. It was the same test. I didn't even want to go into the army.

Life after being in care

127. I went into the army when I was seventeen. It was worse than the children's home. It was as regimented, don't speak until they speak, throwing me up against the wall because I wasn't listening, bullies. I was in a room with twelve other guys. It was hard trying to shower when you've been abused. I waited until everyone else came out, then the sergeant would have a go, "What are you doing having a shower when the rest are out?" I couldn't tell him so I got forty press-ups to do.
128. One day we had a thirty mile hike to do then a parade in front of two captains. I put my dirty boots back on instead of clean boots and went on to the parade square. The bombardier, a corporal up here, told me he wanted my resignation in an hour. He told me to sit there now and write it, so I did. I was only there for six months. I was in

England. They hated the Scots because the Irish were bombing them at the time and they thought the Scots were in with the Irish.

129. When I left the army I had nowhere to stay. The [REDACTED] family, that I knew from the home, lived in Anniesland, Glasgow and said I could stay there, but [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were leaving the home so we were going to get a flat through the social work. My dad butted in and said that [REDACTED] should be in charge of the house. All five of us stayed there. We were fighting all the time and the police were up. We didn't know how to live ourselves. Shawbridge Arcade social work department got us the house. We still had social work supervision. Neighbours were complaining and the social work had to intervene. My brother [REDACTED] was still at Hillpark secondary school but he lived with us because [REDACTED] was over eighteen and my dad, who was still at sea, wanted us all living together.
130. [REDACTED] and I got a job in McDonald's just to get out of the house. [REDACTED] was a bully in the children's home and he was still a bully in the house. For the first time in my life I retaliated and I got him down, but I don't like fighting so I let it go.
131. I was up visiting my mum in Perth one night and I got a girlfriend and I brought her down. [REDACTED] wasn't happy and called my dad, who came up from Ayrshire. He pinned me against the wall and said, "Get that tart out or I'll put her over the balcony", so I left. I went back a couple of weeks later then found something out about [REDACTED], he had raped my sister. I knocked hell out of him, along with one of the other boys from the children's home. [REDACTED] called the police, I told them the story and the police officer said, "We didn't see anything", and walked out. [REDACTED] then called my dad in the morning and told him. He came up and told me I had an hour to pack my stuff and leave. So I left and moved up to my mum's.
132. I was still working in McDonald's when I got the chance out of fifty thousand people to go to the United States of America to look after kids in summer camps as a [REDACTED] instructor. I went but the weather was too hot and I got bacterial meningitis and collapsed. My dad was called and told I'd be dead in the morning and to get over there. He didn't come. In the morning I woke up and ripped all the machines off that

were attached to me. That was it, I couldn't remember a thing, I couldn't read or anything. I didn't know what nurses were. I had been in the USA for six weeks.

133. I was flown home and an ambulance was waiting on me at Glasgow airport. I was to go to Stobhill hospital but they took me to Ruchill for a night. My dad came to visit me and I didn't know who he was. I went to Stobhill the next day. I had to learn to read, write, walk, everything. I still have problems today, so I don't speak much to people. Sometimes I get my sentences mixed up.
134. The head surgeon said I wouldn't work again. I got a job in McDonald's again but I was telling people to 'Fuck off'. I was told that I had changed and I had to leave but I didn't even know I was doing it. The doctor said I had to learn to talk again and that I had anger issues.
135. I've never had another proper job. I work voluntarily with Barnardo's now. I've been there for twelve years. They keep me through the back looking at all the antiques and things because I say things I shouldn't do to customers. I say things first then think about them.
136. So in 1991 I had meningitis and spent four weeks in Stobhill. Within two to three months I had defied the psychiatrists and went back to work, but they told me to go because I was telling the people I love to 'fuck off' and didn't know.
137. I've been on my own for four years now. I was with a girl for twelve years before that and another girl for twelve years before that. I don't look after myself too well. I'm a bit of a hoarder, but not like the ones on the TV with bin bags all round them. It's just nice art work out of Barnardos. I've got about a hundred paintings and lovely Wedgewood figures because I love all these old things.
138. My brother [REDACTED] helps me three days a week with my mother. She is in an old folk's complex in Mount Florida, on the south side. I do her shopping and things. I am her financial guardian and do her washing and cleaning on a Friday. She just sits

and watches TV all day. She won't go out. My stepdad passed away ten years ago. My father passed away six years ago.

139. I was with a girl for four years down in London, [REDACTED], but there was no intimacy because of what happened to her in the home and I was just messing relationships up. It didn't work out. We're still best of friends. I went to her engagement party a couple of months ago. She was engaged to a professor out of university.

Impact

140. I want to climb trees, I don't think I had a childhood. You still try to be a kid, but I can't because I'm in my fifties. I just want to have time for me. My mum was an alcoholic and a bitch for what she done, but for the last seven years I have been looking after her. She has alcoholic dementia.

141. You get these feelings that you're near the end of your time, so I've got things to do and people to see. I'm waiting for results from a biopsy for cancer.

142. You're scared to commit to anyone. I still don't know things about looking after myself. I had sinus problems in care then got meningitis in the states. It might have nothing to do with the children's home, it might be just because it was a hot country.

143. I think it has had an impact on my mental health. I hadn't been going out for a few years but I've started going out with boys from the mental health club. I think they like me for some reason. You always think people don't like you but [REDACTED] the football team for six years and they all like me, so I went along to the jam session. I drive a couple of them home after it. I look after people. I'm still a member of the mental health club.

144. I just wish things were better and I had studied a bit better and had a nice job and things like that. I suppose God gave me this life and I've just got to make the best of it.

145. I had my last breakdown in March. We were talking about my brother's incident from last year. I was told by the doctor that there was a bed in Aberdeen and one in Argyll. I said I don't want a bed, I just want someone to get this out of my head. I saw the psychologist over three weeks and I started feeling happier again. I'm getting there.
146. I've been getting help with mental health issues since 1991. When I split up with [REDACTED] I came back up and was put in a hostel with junkies, alcoholics, rapists and murderers. They thought I was a bit posh so they put me upstairs to the old man's section, but they said I shouldn't be in there. They got the Glasgow Association for Mental Health to come in and a guy looked at me and said, "You've got mental health problems son". I asked how he knew and he said he could just tell by talking to me. He said he would get me a house, so he called SAMH, Scottish Association for Mental Health. They got me a flat and I've been there ever since.
147. I used to be on nine tablets a night, now I take five tablets in the morning and five at night. These are for mental health, blood pressure and cholesterol. I saw a psychologist for a year. We finished in August. She said she had given me the tools, it's up to me now. When I imagine the paedophile sailor who was staring at me in the room I've now got him looking away from me. I've trained my mind to do things like that and going back in the room in the home and taking my sister out.
148. I made up with my brother [REDACTED] before he died. I'm pleased with that and I think I did a good job with scattering his ashes. I'm in charge now, the one with mental health problems. I've just got to take one day at a time.
149. I have support. I have a project worker in my mental health club called Lea. I have Suzie from Future Pathways and a project worker from Cornerstone that I see on a Friday.
150. There is a man who lives below me who is a convicted murderer. You build yourself up to be a big man. My psychologist said as soon as the guy comes up asking for

money I turn into that sixteen year old boy who was abused. She is right. I am terrified of him. I had peace for six months this year because he went to jail in February. He got a tag put on him but cut it off and left it in his house so the authorities think he's there. Three months later he comes back and said, "Where's my money?" You think you're grown up now and that nobody will bully you. The counsellors know I'm getting used because I'm scared of him and I'll give him it. Now it's, "Give me some food", "Give me some fags". The housing have said I should tell the police, but what's the point?

Reporting of Abuse

151. In 2016 the police called me and asked me to come and see them about my sister. They said they wanted me to tell them everything. I said ok, but I don't remember much because of my injury. I was there for five hours. Someone interviewed my sister in another room. I met her later and she told me that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] molested her while we were in the home. Nothing came out of that interview.

152. I got a call from Thompson's solicitors out of the blue asking me to come in for a meeting with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

153. I told them what I'd witnessed in Lagarie. I don't exactly know how Thompson's knew about it. After the meeting with the police there was a meeting with different organisations in George Square. Thompsons were there and I gave them my details then. They are fighting the Scottish Government and Helensburgh City Council for compensation for us. They are trying to get files from Perth social work but they said they've lost all the files.

154. Mark Daly interviewed the head of the British Sailor Society, who said they would look after the kids that had been there, but they got rid of him a few months ago and they have a new head, but Thompsons said it's the lawyers they're fighting, they can put anyone they want in charge.
155. I have a photo of six of us round a mini-bus with Lagarie Children's Home written on the side of it. Thompsons took a photocopy of it. They said that's all the proof they need. I think Thompson's are only in it for the money. They get ten per cent if they win and I think they have over two hundred people to claim for.

Records

156. My older brother got all of our records and I read mine but when he died all that was found was my sister and two younger brothers records. Not mine or [REDACTED]'s. There was a big file on the [REDACTED] family and Thompson's solicitors said that proves we were in the home because the British Sailor Society said we weren't in the home. I think [REDACTED] burnt mine when we fell out, when I battered him when I found out he raped my sister with a knife up at her throat. But we made up just before he died.

Lessons to be Learned

157. Even today when you see programmes on mental health homes where staff were assaulting people, nothing changes until the camera catches them. I think organisations should turn up unannounced, come unexpectedly. They don't like that. The Barrie's knew when someone was coming so everyone was nicely dressed and all prim and proper. If they came unannounced they would see if they were dressed like tramps with girls shoes on.

Other information

158. 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  PKM

Dated 3/04/20  PKM