

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PRW

Support person present: No.

1. My name is PRW. My date of birth is /52. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Background and life before care

2. I was fostered from birth. I was fostered alongside two other girls. They became my foster sisters. To me my foster sisters were always my sisters. The lady who fostered us was called . I don't know her first name. We just called her mum. She was a single woman. It amazes me that a single woman in those days was allowed to foster.

### *Being placed into care*

3. I had two stints at St Margaret's children's home in Elie, Fife. The first was when I was five. That was for literally the holidays. It was for about six weeks. I went there because my foster mother was ill. She was beginning to have tests. I went there with my foster sister. I can't say that I enjoyed the experience but it wasn't horrendous. I went back home after the holidays.
4. I was told a couple of months later that I had to go back to St Margaret's because my foster mother was very ill and needed to go to hospital. I found out a long time later that my foster mother had actually had cancer and had gone to hospital to die. I went back to St Margaret's. My foster sister went to stay with my older foster sister. I remained at St Margaret's pretty much until I was fifteen.

**St Margaret's, Elie, Fife**

5. St Margaret's was a beautiful sandstone villa. As a place to put children it probably was ideal. The back garden was the beach. There was segregation between the girls and the boys. The number of children in St Margaret's was about fifteen boys and ten girls. Compared to some people who were in care at that time we probably had quite a high standard of living. Environmentally we weren't neglected. Environmentally we had a decent lifestyle. Emotionally we were totally neglected. Physically we were abused with violence and sex.
6. St Margaret's was a place where people dumped kids whilst they worked out what they could do with them. There was no plan. We didn't have social workers. I'm not quite sure why the other kids had ended up in St Margaret's. Others were like me inasmuch as they had been fostered at birth. There was only about four of us who were there for any length of time. The others used to come and go.
7. On the first floor there was a large room with a bay window overlooking the front. That had seven beds for seven boys. Next door was a smaller room with three beds. Two of the beds were a bunk bed. That was for the boys. On the other side of the landing was a bedroom with three beds for the boys. On the other side again was a big bedroom which was the mirror image of the boys' large bedroom. That was for the girls.

*Staff*

8. I can't remember the name of the two <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] that were at St Margaret's during my first stint and partially during my second stint. I have a vague recollection of them being called <sup>KNC-SPO</sup> [REDACTED]
9. Margaret Findlay was in charge of the girls. She was the matron. She stayed throughout my time at St Margaret's.

10. There was a cook. I can't remember her name. I think someone told me that she later became a resident in St Margaret's. It is now an old peoples home. She knew what was happening. She used to hide me. She tried to protect me quite a bit. There was also a couple of girls who came to clean a couple of days a week and there were some women in St Margaret's laundry. The women in the laundry had no contact with us.
11. We had another person who came to work in the home. His name was [KND]. He was there for about a year. He was the assistant house father.

*David Murphy*

12. When I went back to St Margaret's [KNC-SPO] were still there. Shortly after I arrived David Murphy (Murphy) took over the role as deputy house worker. Murphy was an ex-policeman. After he arrived he worked hard to undermine [REDACTED] [SNR] [REDACTED] [KNC-SPO] [REDACTED] I was told years later it was because they suspected [KNC-SPO] had been fiddling money. I wouldn't be surprised though if Murphy had set them up. That's how Murphy was.
13. When Murphy gained control there was only him and Margaret Findlay. From the minute that he took over everything changed. There was a tangible feeling of fear. People were pitted against each other. The kids were encouraged to tell on each other. There was a divide and conquer thing going on.
14. There was an instant hatred between myself and Murphy. I had the feeling that I didn't like this man and there was something not quite right about him. As a child you can't put it into words but you just know. I had a sense that this man had danger written all over him.
15. Murphy was a very evil man. He was very selfish and self-indulgent. I really don't think that any of us mattered to him. Maybe a couple of them did. He did have his little group. His sexual appetite must have been huge. I can't comprehend how many children he damaged.

16. Murphy didn't really like females. I think Murphy was purely a paedophile. I don't think he was gay. His tastes were probably all based around some form of sadomasochism. Anything provoked his violence. There was a direct link between Murphy's violence and his sexual behaviour. I don't know which one came first. I suspect it was the violence that created his arousal because that was the way it always seemed to happen. He was a very strange man.
17. Murphy had an external image but internally it was very different. The police told me that there was once a collection to put up a memorial for Murphy in one of the villages for his good work with children. Needless to say that was never put up. That's how good his image was. That was his protection. No one would believe you because here was this 'upstanding good man'.
18. When Fife Council launched their report after the inquiry a [REDACTED] reporter asked whether I would have liked to have got inside Murphy's head to find out what made him tick. I said "no because if I understood it I would be as bad as him." I then told the reporter that Murphy was in my head and he would be there till the day I die. I think that's the truth of it.

## **Routine**

### *Mornings*

19. Murphy would get us up. We would go and get washed and brush our teeth. We would then get dressed. Murphy would stand there and watch you doing all these things. When you dressed he had this rule that you couldn't tuck the tail of your shirt into your underpants. I think that was because if you tucked your shirt into your trousers he could see the outline of your backside. He would then give you castor oil and all of that. Then you had your breakfast and went off to school.

*Showering and washing*

20. Showering was done at night. The shower room wasn't like an open space with lots of showerheads. It was a private room with a shower, a bath in a cubicle and a row of sinks. It was all overseen by Murphy. If he decided you would have privacy he would allow it. There wasn't a locked door as such so there was never any real privacy anyway.
21. You knew that the washing was Murphy's cover. He would say that he was going to wash you. Depending on what he had done you might have to have a bath in the middle of the night as well. That was because you might be a mess. He would run that bath for you.

*Bedtime and bed wetting*

22. Murphy had us going to bed early. We headed to bed at two different bed times. Six o'clock for the young ones and eight o'clock for the rest of us. Even when I was fifteen I was going to bed at eight o'clock.
23. Quite a few children wet the bed through the night. If they did they would just lay in it until the morning. If Murphy came up and discovered that a kid had wet the bed he would make sure the kid would lie in it and make a point of telling them how filthy they were. I did see Murphy rub kids' faces in the sheets. He'd make them take the sheets off and wash them in the bath tub. I was lucky because I never had that problem.

*Food*

24. You sat in silence at breakfast and dinner. You didn't talk. If you did you would get thrown out and probably get a belting from Murphy. Breakfast was usually porridge and toast. I don't think we were ever hungry. We all had school lunches.

25. One night Murphy put macaroni cheese on the table for the evening meal. I couldn't eat it. Because I didn't eat it that same plate of macaroni cheese was put in front of me for every meal until it was green. Murphy just left it out in the kitchen to bring in at every meal. In the end he pushed my face into it. Once he made a decision that was it. He gave up this time because I think he got a bit frightened. He used to pull himself up quite abruptly. There were occasions where he thought he had gone too far and he would stop himself. There were other times when he didn't stop.

*School*

26. I went to Elie Primary in the village. I didn't receive much of an education. I found out years later that the reason I didn't receive a good education was because I suffered from dyslexia. My schools had probably just thought I was thick so they left me alone. That didn't stop me though because I pushed myself later on.
27. When I later went to Wade Academy in Anstruther all the kids from St Margaret's seemed to get dumped in the lowest classes. We were thought to not be very bright. The school treated us all against the lowest common denominator. The bottom class in school seemed to be made up of all the kids from St Margaret's.

*Murphy's power over you at school*

28. Whilst I was in Elie Primary I developed very bad bowel control. I don't know whether it was psychosomatic or what it was. I used to lose control of my bowels. In this day and age a school would clean the child up and comfort him. However, Murphy had an arrangement with the headmaster, Mr Egg. The arrangement with Mr Egg was that if I had an accident then I would be made to walk home to the children's home. In some ways that was worse than the violence. You had to go through the humiliation of walking through the school past your peers and past the village. I then had to clean my trousers myself. There was nothing left to the imagination.

29. I'd been used to growing up with two girls. I used to have a lot of friends who were girls. Murphy decided that that was not good. He told the Elie Primary to make sure that I did not mix with any females. The school agreed. I knew that was the arrangement Murphy had with the school because he told me. When he did things like that he gloated.
30. Murphy encouraged the school to give me the belt for anything that happened. Murphy expanded the abuse beyond the home. That, to my mind, was an indication that there was no safe space. There was nowhere I could go. There wasn't an adult I could speak to.

*Holidays and trips*

31. I know Murphy took kids on trips to places but the only time he took me out was one time in his caravan. We weren't allowed to go on school trips. They never even asked us. The school knew that we wouldn't be allowed.

*Activities and play*

32. Murphy created activities to keep you occupied. You played whatever he said you should play. In the summer months he arranged activities like shooting pistols and arrows. Murphy's activities never interested me. I used to just disappear. I went off for hours. That used to annoy him. I would just wander about. I would sit on the cliffs looking out to sea wondering what was on the other side.
33. Murphy did allow us to do things like the cubs and the sailing club, things where he was a member. It was his way of boosting his social standing. It was not about us enjoying ourselves. It was about him being seen in the village as a respectable person.
34. Murphy signed me up to go to the cubs. I went but I couldn't be bothered with tying knots and god knows what else. I said to the cub leader "this is a waste of time." I was always a mouthy kid. I then walked out. By the time I got back to the home the

other kids had told Murphy about all this. As soon as I walked in the door I was grabbed by the hair, taken into his room and slapped about. I was slapped about for showing him up. It wasn't for not enjoying the cubs but for embarrassing him.

35. We weren't allowed to do after school activities. The school didn't ask us because they knew we wouldn't be allowed to.
36. There weren't really any books in the home to read. I remember reading a couple of books but there was never really any books. What books there were had been damaged by the younger kids. There was a TV. We used to get half an hour before bed every night.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

37. At Christmas you would get presents but you lost them by Christmas night. They just became communal. They would go into a big toy box for everybody. That was the same for everybody.
38. No fuss was made of your birthday. It was like Christmas insomuch as anything you were given became communal. You weren't given a cake. I can't remember having anything like a party. I remember other kids having birthdays but not me. The special ones got birthdays.

#### *Personal Possessions*

39. You had no ownership of anything. You had no possessions. You did feel very much second class compared to other kids in that way. You never had anything nice. It was all part of the taking away of your individuality. If you didn't have anything that was yours then you didn't become anything. That's how Murphy made you feel. He made you feel like nothing.
40. Murphy confiscated things off us. I know I had things sent in by my foster sisters and never got them. My sisters told me that later on.

*Pocket Money*

41. We got two shillings a week pocket money. One shilling would be put into savings stamps and the rest would be given to us. Murphy kept the book. We had no access to our savings stamps at all. Murphy heavily controlled pocket money. I think that was to prevent us getting the funds to run away. Even so, you did used to see kids run away. An hour or two later the police would be bringing them back. That would leave you thinking "what's the point in running away?"
42. The money we put in the savings was pulled out at Christmas because we had to buy Christmas presents for the staff. All of our savings would go to that. That was just the way it was.

*Clothes*

43. There's a letter on my file from my foster mother. She sent it when she was alive. The letter says that I had come home for a weekend and she was concerned at the way I was dressed. She says that the good clothes that she had sent in for me appeared not to be getting used and that I looked as if I was being dressed in almost rags. Everything was hand me downs. It was clothes that kids wore before. I don't know what happened to the clothes my foster mother sent in.

*Chores*

44. We all had to do chores. We had to peel the potatoes, do the washing and drying up or do the shoes. We always had things to do. There was no rota. Murphy just gave you chores to do. I always either got the shoes or the potatoes to do because that would mean being out back on my own. Murphy would come through and whack you if you weren't doing your chores right.

*Religion*

45. We used to get marched to church on a Sunday. On Wednesdays we went to a service in the evening. We were only allowed to go in after everybody else had taken their pew. Murphy did that so he had a line of kids marching in for show. I don't think Murphy was a religious man. For him religion was a social thing that allowed him good standing.

*Visits with my sisters*

46. My foster sisters lived in Crossgates in Fife. They were not all that far away. [REDACTED] was widowed and looked after my younger foster sister. I found out years later that I should have been having contact with my two foster sisters. Murphy prevented me from going to see my foster sisters. He kept on saying "no you can't go see them this weekend because you haven't been good." My sisters were always given excuses by Murphy as to why I couldn't visit. Murphy blocked and controlled all of this.
47. I did see my sisters a couple of times but it was very seldom. As I got older it got less. It was obvious that Murphy wanted to divide and conquer the situation. If I didn't have any family then I wasn't a threat. I do know that my foster sisters tried to make contact with me whilst I was in St Margaret's.

*Inspections*

48. Nobody ever came to inspect the home. Social workers never came in to question him. It was Murphy's kingdom. Nobody got anywhere near his secrets. I don't think people even attempted to look beyond his front. They were prepared to accept it. They just thought that he was a good man for doing all these things. That's how he survived as a perpetrator.

*Potential foster parents*

49. ██████, my foster sister, wanted me to go and live with her. There was only about three years between myself and her son. It would have been ok but Murphy said it wouldn't be good.
50. One night I was going down one of the roads between Elie and Earlsferry. It was very dark and I was really frightened. I plucked up the courage to knock on the door of a house and ask if they'd take me through their grounds back to St Margaret's. The people there took me in and gave me a cup of tea. Their son, who was grown up, took me back to the home in his car. When they took me back they must have asked to see more of me because I was told that I could go and walk their dog. I know that they started to make inquiries about fostering me. Murphy, though, put his foot down. He stopped all contact. He said that it wouldn't be good for my psychological development and that I needed my own identity. I'd love to know where he got this all from.
51. One time, when I was in primary school, I had two very good friends in the village. ██████ and his sister ██████. They went to school with me for a couple of years. We were very close. I used to go to theirs to play a lot. I remember that ██████ and ██████'s parents asked to foster me. Murphy stepped in again and stopped it. I don't know why. In the end ██████ and his sister went to a secondary boarding school. We lost track of each other. That suited Murphy because he never liked the friendship.

*Friends*

52. We were actively discouraged from mixing with anybody else. It was an isolationist policy. We were very much from 'the home' and on our own. People in the village used to refer to us as 'one of the kids from the home'. It was a small village so it was generally known who you were. They would also be able to know you came from St Margaret's by the way that we were dressed.

53. During the three months I spent in hospital I made friends with a kid who was my age. He got out of hospital before me. He came to visit me at the home but Murphy took him home. I never saw the boy at the home again. It has always bothered me whether Murphy did something to that boy on the way home. Did I deliver that boy to his hands? I gave Murphy the opportunity. I never ever heard from the kid again. We had been really good friends. I don't know what happened. It could have been that Murphy was just isolating me further. I don't know what went through Murphy's head, I really don't.

*Medical care*

54. The only times I saw anyone outside Murphy's fiefdom were the times I went for medical care. I had to see the doctor because I kept losing my bowels. It had got that bad. I eventually had to go to hospital so that they could check on me. I was in hospital for about three months. That was a fantastic time for me. It meant I was away from him. When I came back to the home from hospital Murphy backed off a bit. He'd learnt that it was too dangerous.

*The child guidance clinic / hypnotism*

55. Out of nowhere one day, after a health scare concerning discharge from my nipples, Murphy told me that I had to go to a child guidance clinic in Methel, Fife. Murphy used to take me. He got advice from the clinic about how I should run my life and all the crazy things that were around in the sixties. He always told me "keep your mouth shut" and "don't tell them what was going on." After a few months I started to go on my own.
56. It's strange because I'd almost completely forgotten about the clinic. It was during Murphy's trial, when I was asked a question about going to the child guidance clinic, that something was triggered. I remember, right in the middle of the hearing, shooting up out of bed one night and saying to my wife "I went to a clinic and they hypnotised me." I don't know whether that is my imagination but I have very little recollection about what went on with the doctor.

57. I can't remember the doctor's name. I later heard that this doctor was now dead and that the police suspected something. I also found out that, after I left the home, Murphy started to send lots of kids to this doctor.
58. One of the things I remember is a group of us sitting on a golf course and I was trying to hypnotise them. I wouldn't have had any knowledge of hypnotism in the normal course of a day. The two memories are sort of linked. I can't remember anything that went on in that clinic. I can remember going and I can remember being called into the room. After that it's just blank. It's strange because my recall is normally pretty good.

### **Abuse during first stint in St Margaret's**

59. The first night I was in St Margaret's I had gone to bed. Later that night the husband of the couple (KNC-SPO ) got me up and took me through to the bathroom. He said that I'd have to have an injection because I would be staying with them during the [REDACTED] and you could catch many things on the beach. He had one of those pre-TB syringes with six needles. He injected me in my right buttock.
60. The husband then started to talk. He told me I was a special little boy and all the rest of it. To this day I can't stand hearing the phrase 'you're special'. I have met so many other survivors who rebel at that phrase. It seems that they all use it. All the abusers tell the children that they're special. It's horrible.
61. The husband then started to rub my back and gradually moved in close to me until he had me against the wall. He started to rub himself against me. At the age of five I didn't know what was happening. Looking back now I know he was starting to get aroused. He then ejaculated, cleaned me up and sent me back to bed.
62. At that point I just thought to myself "what was that all about?" To be honest I was more concerned about the injection because that was not particularly pleasant. After

that incident things just went on day in day out. Occasionally, he would come down and do the contact again. That went on throughout the holiday.

### **Abuse during second stint in St Margaret's**

*David Murphy*

63. Murphy started gradually. He started coming to get you out of bed at night to take you to the bathroom. In the beginning I didn't really know what to do. Not that I take responsibility for it but I allowed things to happen. It gradually got progressively more and more intimate and at the same time more and more violent.
64. It really started more with punishments than abuse. It became petty rules. It became more like an approved school or a borstal than a children's home at that time. Murphy introduced things like boxing and wrestling. He didn't allow the boys to mix with the girls. There was all this strange control going on. He was pretty viscous. He always used to get me fighting against other people. He did that even though he knew that I didn't like it and I wasn't particularly good at it. He used that to join in. The next thing you knew he would be on top of you.
65. I can say now looking back that he was using all this violence as a sexual stimulant. I knew he was having a reaction at the time but I didn't have the words to describe it. I was only six years old. He continued to divide and conquer and set up people against each other. There was one little boy who was the same age as me. He was his special little boy. The boy got whatever he wanted. Murphy used to pit him against me all the time. He used to encourage the boy to hurt me. All this went on almost on a daily basis.
66. One evening I asked Murphy if I could send a letter home to what I thought at the time was my mother. I only discovered later that she was actually my foster mother. I was taken into the sitting room. He sat me down and said "I've got something to tell you. You won't be writing to the woman you think is your mother. She died two

weeks ago and she is buried. She wasn't your mother anyway and [REDACTED] isn't your name, your name is PRW [REDACTED] from now on." That is how he broke the news.

67. Everything he did seemed to produce for him some sort of enjoyment. He got enjoyment through inflicting some sort of emotional or physical pain. I wasn't going to cry in front of him. There was no way I was going to show him my weakness. I then went to bed and I cried myself to sleep. I just couldn't understand what had happened. It was so fast. I was not only being told about the death of someone I loved but I was being told that my identity didn't exist anymore. If that wasn't my mother then who was my mother? All this sort of thing was going through my head. Murphy used that to start the sexual abuse.
68. The sexual abuse started slowly without me being able to put words to it. It very quickly escalated to the point of rape. He'd make me perform oral sex on him and all the rest of it. As a child you're very drawn to try and make the person who is hurting you stop doing what they are doing to hurt you. You do what they tell you in the hope that that will make them stop. It didn't with him.
69. On the back of the house was a modern extension which was basically a cloakroom. It had a low bench for keeping shoes, a toilet and a couple of other things. It was all tiled. It was a freezing cold room. One day, when I was about twelve, somebody broke a window at the back of the extension. They'd put a stone through it or something. Murphy claimed to have found the stone which had broken the window. He claimed it was a fancy stone which I had found on the beach. He knew that I had had it earlier that day. That day it went missing. I knew who broke the window but the code was that you didn't tell.
70. Murphy made me stand in my pyjamas and bare feet for hours in that freezing cold cloakroom. When I still wouldn't tell him who did it he made me stand outside his office for about half an hour. I was freezing. He then took me into his office and he started to say the usual things like "why do you make me do this?" and "why do you make me do things like this?" I don't know what I said but he literally launched himself across the room at me. I think that was the worst violence that I had suffered

from him at that point. He had a belt in his hand and he kept belting me. He didn't care where he was hitting me. I tried to crawl up in a ball under his desk. He then pulled me out by my hair and started kicking me. That night I actually thought he was going to kill me. He then held me up by my neck against a wall. I must have blacked out because all I can remember was coming to in the attic in a great deal of pain.

71. The attic was a furnished attic. It wasn't like a 1930s hovel. He didn't want the other kids to see me in case I would talk. He also didn't want anyone else seeing me in that state. If you were in the attic you were always off school. It also meant that he had the privacy to come up and do what he wanted without anyone else seeing.
72. I remember I couldn't open my eyes because they were so swollen. That was the first time that I thought he didn't know when to stop. Following that I spent about three weeks off school. I had cracked ribs and all sorts. I saw no doctor. That was maybe because you could explain away a black eye as being a fight between two kids but cracked ribs was something different. It would have been too obvious.
73. At one point, when I was in secondary school, Murphy brought home this tatty horrible caravan. I would have been about twelve or thirteen. He stripped it down and, with the help of his minions, he re-built it. I didn't have anything to do with it. He decided that he was going to take some kids away for a long weekend. It was either Crail or St Andrews. There was no way I was going to spend any time in a caravan with him and his little friends. But I didn't get a choice. He made me go.
74. At one point, after arriving at the caravan site, Murphy lost his temper with me. He battered me and threw me out of the caravan. He left me outside until well into the early hours of the morning. I know that people saw me in the caravan site and wondered what was going on. He then took me inside. He wanted me to take part in a threesome with him and a boy called [REDACTED]. I said "you can knock me out, you can kill me but I'm not doing it." Murphy then battered me again. After that he made me sleep under the bunk bed whilst he and [REDACTED] were having sex. I have no doubt that it was consensual sex, even though I know that legally it

couldn't have been. [REDACTED] was a willing participant. I could hear that [REDACTED] was finding it enjoyable. Murphy did that so that, although I wasn't involved in it, I was still locked into it. It is very difficult to lie there and be detached whilst somebody is having sex above your head.

75. There were a couple of other people in the caravan at the time. They were Murphy's friends and some other kids. They were out in the larger room during this. I think Tommy Wilson was there but I don't remember who the other kids were. They may have been kids who were at St Margaret's on a temporary basis.
76. The second time which was really bad was when I was about thirteen. Murphy took me out in his dinghy. It was August / September time. I thought it was weird because he never invited me out. He took me out and we left the bay. I didn't know where we were going. As he went around the headland he started to ask me why I couldn't behave like the other boys and keep my mouth shut. He asked me why I thought that I knew better than everyone else. I could see him getting more and more hyped up. Then he suddenly grabbed me and pushed my head over the side of the boat. He held my head underwater. I thought that I was going to drown. He did that a couple of times then he raped me over the side of the boat.
77. After he raped me he said "I could kill you now and nobody would miss you. There is nobody in this world who cares about you. Nobody would think anything about you if I killed you now." Then he pushed me over the side of the boat. I had to swim back in. It was quite a way from the shore. It took me ages to get to the shore. Between him and the water I thought I was dead. It was cold. To this day I don't know how I got back but I did. When you're faced with the ultimate you find courage somewhere.
78. Murphy must have been watching me because he came down the beach with a towel and wrapped it around me. I don't know what he had told everybody else but the other kids kept on coming up to me and saying "are you alright? You had an accident?" I wondered what he had told them. There must have been some sort of preparation. It was deliberate.

79. Sometime after the dinghy incident Murphy wanted me to perform oral sex on him. That wasn't different to any other time. However, on this occasion I had had enough. I didn't care what happened to me. I bit down on his penis as hard as I could. He went absolutely mad. I thought he was going to kill me. The memory of that scream though kept me going. It was so good that I had scored this point somehow. After that incident he slowed down and backed off a bit. I think he also backed off because he realised I was getting older. He wanted to go for younger children.
80. There were horrific instances of violence but there was normal violence as well. If Murphy wanted to do something sexual there was always some form of violence. He used to tie my hands above my head to his headboard and spit in my face or in my mouth. There was always a demeaning aspect to his abuse. He used to say "I am in charge and you are nothing."
81. Murphy used to do things like make you stand upstairs in your bare feet. He would slap the soles of your feet with a belt. It was incredibly painful. It meant you couldn't stand.
82. There were daily punishments. Murphy would do things like stop your pocket money for a bit or you would go to bed early without tea for a week. Those were the everyday punishments he gave out for usual kids' bad behaviour.
83. I remember I had homework on one occasion. I had to spell the word 'eye'. My brain would not equate the sounds with the spelling. Every time I spelt it wrongly he smacked me across the face. To him that was just a normal punishment.
84. I don't think Murphy ever abused the girls. I did hear that he once battered one of the girls but I don't know whether that happened. I think women and girls frightened Murphy. He didn't have the development to deal with them. He would never have anything to do with them. If he saw two girls having a fight he would get Margaret Findlay to deal with it. He wouldn't step in.

KND

85. KND seemed very nice. He said to me one day "you seem pretty upset. What's wrong?" I told him everything. Then he made me show him what had happened. It was like 'here we go again.' It was probably the worst thing I could have done because KND then started to abuse me. That just reinforced the feeling that there was no way out. KND abused me for about nine months. I gather he's dead now. The police told me that he had died of dementia. I don't know how old he was.
86. Murphy found out that KND was doing this and had a right go at me about it. He slapped me about and shouted and swore at me. At that time that was almost an everyday occurrence with Murphy. Murphy and KND then had an argument. I remember them shouting at each other. After that Murphy backed off me for a while. It was only a few weeks before KND was gone and it went back to the abuse from Murphy.

#### **Other residents at St Margaret's**

87. I remember that Tommy Wilson and [REDACTED] were Murphy's special kids. They were his 'sooks'. They got given guitars and bagpipes with private lessons. They went places with him all the time. All sorts of things like that.

#### *Tommy Wilson*

88. Tommy Wilson was [REDACTED]. He was in and out of St Margaret's. I understand now that he came from a dysfunctional unprivileged family. He had a drunken [REDACTED] who was violent. I know that Tommy Wilson ended up in borstal. He blames Murphy for this. He kept on running away. They didn't know what to do with him so they upped the ante. I now know that Murphy kept in touch with him when Tommy was later in prison. Tommy told me with some pride in his

voice that one time Murphy had sent him an expensive pair of trainers whilst he was in prison. I could still hear Tommy's attachment to Murphy in his voice.

89. I know that Tommy said that he had been abused and he had tried to stop it happening to [REDACTED] because he was younger. I don't remember that being the case.

[REDACTED]

90. [REDACTED] was the same age as me. He contacted me through the girl who was doing the counselling just after the Fife inquiry. He wanted to speak to me. I said no. I told the girl that if he tried to make contact with me one more time then I would instruct my lawyers to take out an injunction. I couldn't cope with talking with him.

91. [REDACTED] disgusted me. I think he was a paedophile in the making during his time in St Margaret's. I know that he interfered with some of the younger children. People can say things like "I didn't understand, it was what I was used to." I have never believed that. I believe that you make conscious decisions. We all have inhibitors that tell us what is right and wrong. I think instinctively you know that to inflict pain on a child is wrong. I could never prove that [REDACTED] was doing it in the home but I did batter him one day after finding him with a younger boy in the toilet.

92. [REDACTED] styled his hair like Murphy. He copied the inflections in Murphy's voice. He was like a clone of Murphy. [REDACTED] frightened me because of the potential of what he could do in the future.

### **Leaving St Margaret's**

93. As I got older I really didn't think I was going to get out of St Margaret's. When I look back at it I remember standing in Murphy's way between him and a younger kid. I threatened him that I would cause trouble and report him if he touched the kid. At

that time I was about fifteen. I think he knew that I really would do something. Because of this, out of blue one day, he told me there was couple by the name of [REDACTED] coming to visit at the weekend and that they wanted to foster me. For me it was an escape. I just grabbed it. I would have gone with Jack the Ripper at that stage. I just had to get out of there.

94. I know Murphy lined it all up because he told me. He said "you muck this up or cause trouble then you'll be back here and I will finish you." That was as close as he ever went to saying "I will kill you." I was then fostered by the couple.

### **Life after St Margaret's**

95. Six months after I left St Margaret's I went to a technical college to do a course in hotel management. I then ended up working in catering at the [REDACTED] Hotel. It was then that I didn't really go back to my foster parents. I had nothing really in common with them. I didn't really bond with them. I knew I wanted to be on my own so, one Saturday night, I got the train to Glasgow then got the train to London.
96. When I got to London I spent nearly a year on the streets. I took the view, as many children who suffer abuse in childhood and become homeless do, "I've suffered this stuff in the past so I might as well make them pay for it." That's when I went on the game. I hated it though. I always wanted to punch them. To me every one of them was just 'him'. It was just going on again and again and again. That was when I decided that I wanted to work and go straight.
97. I ended up becoming a trade union officer. I actually headed up the [REDACTED] strikes during the winter of discontent. I was always mouthy. I always fought for other people. I think it was just a natural progression for me. I later went to the London School of Economics with a [REDACTED] bursary and got a degree in social sciences.

98. I am now a magistrate. Some days I sit on the bench and think that I shouldn't be there. I sometimes feel that I am not the sort of person who should become a magistrate because of my background. It happened once when I sat on a disciplinary panel for doctors. I thought to myself "I'm a kid from a children's home. I don't have a right to be here." It is still there. I know that that's ridiculous, and I've earned what I have got, but I can still hear Murphy belittling me and making sure that I don't expect anything of myself.
99. I set up a charity for survivors. I have provided counselling for survivors. The charity is called [REDACTED]. I took the decision that if we were going to be going to be doing this the name of the charity should be in people's faces. I wanted people to know what we were there for.

### **Reporting of abuse whilst in St Margaret's**

#### *Police*

100. Opposite St Margaret's was a police station. Murphy was great friends with the policeman there. He was friends with anyone who had any sort of power in the area. There was nobody who you could turn to. The police wouldn't have believed us anyway. He used to reinforce that. He would say to me that nobody would believe you.

#### *Margaret Findlay*

101. If you had gone to Margaret Findlay at the time she would have said "oh stop telling lies." I think I probably attempted to say things to her a couple of times but she really didn't have anything to do with the boys. I do recall that she said in her evidence to the Fife inquiry that she was shocked that all of this abuse had gone on and that it had ruined her lifelong work. I can't for the life of me believe that she didn't have some sort of inkling as to what was going on. If she didn't she was very stupid

because some of it was happening right outside her bedroom door. I just can't equate 'I didn't know' with what was actually happening.

#### *Doctors*

102. Sometime after starting secondary school I was experiencing a lot of pain in my nipples and I was having a discharge. Murphy really freaked. I went to the doctor and the next day I was sent to the children's hospital in Edinburgh. Murphy threatened me not to say anything to one of the doctors. I then spoke with one of the doctors at the hospital. He asked whether any of the big boys at the home was doing anything to me. I didn't know how to respond or what to say. It was obvious that they thought something was happening. I thought to myself "why can't I just say it? Why can't I just tell them?" I had the hope that they would put two and two together themselves and say something. That would have meant I wouldn't have had to say something. It was a missed opportunity.
103. There were missed opportunities all the way through my childhood. Adults constantly let you down. Murphy never took me for a second appointment at the children's hospital in Edinburgh.

#### **Reporting of abuse after leaving St Margaret's**

#### *Social Services*

104. My so called social worker, Miss Walker, became the director of social services for Fife. She's hailed as having some sort of revolutionary ideas about care. That annoys me intensely because I told her everything that had happened after I left the home. I would have been sixteen coming up to seventeen. She just said "thank you for telling me. If you ever tell somebody else we will sue you." I was told that I couldn't say these things about Murphy because he had given his life for children. That was the sort of response I got.

105. I later found out, at the trial, that after I told social services Murphy was very quickly moved out of St Margaret's into the care of the elderly. He then applied for a sideways transfer into a special school. Nobody checked on him. There was nothing on his file to warn anyone. Because he was moving within the same local authority he didn't need references. So he just carried on with what he was doing.

*Reporting to the police*

106. I went to the police in London in the seventies. They told me that they had been in touch with Fife police. I was told that, if I wanted to press charges, I would have to go back to Fife and be prepared to speak in open court. There was no way I was doing that. At that time I didn't think I'd survive long enough to make it to court. I genuinely thought that if I went up to Fife to lay those charges I'd never live to see the next day. I didn't know how close he was to people like [REDACTED]. I knew that [REDACTED] was prepared to do Murphy's dirty work when I was a child. There was no way I was going back.

107. In the nineties I decided that I had to do something about it for my own good. My own children were growing up. It was becoming harder for me to comprehend why anyone would do the things he did to a child. I started questioning whether it was my fault and whether I encouraged him in some way. I've always been effeminate but that's not an excuse for raping someone. I was left thinking "if I'd been different then would it have still happened?" I then came to the conclusion that he would have done it anyway. I was small and vulnerable. He preyed on people like me.

108. I decided I would get some counselling. The guy who was undertaking the assessment was a social worker. He asked me whether I would like to report it. I told him that I already had and that it was a waste of time. I said Murphy was too well protected and probably dead anyway. The guy then went away.

109. I then got a call from Merseyside police. They said that they were passing the case to Fife police. At first Fife police didn't want to know. However, the sergeant I was dealing with in Merseyside police said "you have been let down too often. I am not

going to let you down and I am going to push this as far as I can.” She then kept on pushing. One day she received a call from a policeman in Kirkcaldy. The policeman informed her that he had picked up a known criminal who had blurted out his experiences at St Margaret’s in an interview. That then resulted in a trawling exercise. That started them thinking there was something in it.

110. The only satisfaction I have is that when the police were questioning Murphy, and going through all the statements, they left my statement till last. They did this because I was the person who reported him. They wanted to confirm whether there was any truth in my statement. They said that he had been “no comment” all the way through. When the police got to my statement they said Murphy went pure white. Murphy said “I have been waiting for this day for thirty five years.” I think he said that because one time, whilst he was battering me, I said “I will get you. If it takes me to the day I die I will get you.” He must have remembered that. In a way that was my retribution.
111. You don’t know how relieved you are going to be when the police believe you. I actually questioned them whether they could actually believe all the things I told them. They said “no, no, it’s all corroborated.” I can’t explain the relief. This thing had been released after all these years. It just felt fantastic.

*The trial and prosecution*

112. I can’t remember how many complainers there were but there were a lot. The police said that Murphy was a very prolific offender. They said that they were quite amazed by it. They said that I was the only person they could find who provided evidence of suffering both physical and sexual violence. They said the reason I got both was because he hated me so much. He did hate me. I knew that. Children are not idiots. They can sense these things.
113. Murphy was prosecuted in 2001. The trial was in Perth. Murphy didn’t really have a trial. He pleaded guilty at the last minute. We were all there briefed to give

evidence. Murphy's team must have said to him that they couldn't represent him and he then pleaded guilty.

114. For years, even in nightmares, I couldn't picture his face. However, I could always see his hands. He had big square hands and fingers. I could never really get his face. It really pissed me off when I went the trial and saw this decrepit old man. I thought "why was I ever scared of that?" In a way that made things difficult. I wasn't able to face 'him'. He was just a shadow of what he was. I just thought "he's twisted it again."
115. I remember the courtroom in Perth was very old. The dock was one of those old fashioned docks. It had doors by the seat that would open from below to allow the accused to be taken down to the jail. As they opened up the doors to take Murphy down he put his hand on the police officer and said "hold on a minute, I want to see my boys." He looked at every one of us. I was on the end. He looked at each of us in turn then looked at me. I could feel the hatred. It's the only time that I could feel a physical reaction to the way someone had looked at me. What proved to me that he thought there was nothing wrong was the fact that he said that to the policeman. Even after all of that time he felt we were something he owned. It really was horrible. He showed no remorse.
116. When Murphy went to prison for fifteen years and just died a few months later I just thought that he had really got away with it again.

*Discoveries during and after the trial*

117. Murphy wasn't just abusing children in the home. On the day he got sent down this woman came up to me and flung her arms around me. She said "I want to thank you, I want to thank you, I want to thank you for our [REDACTED]" She then went off in tears. Later on my wife told me that she had heard that this woman had known David Murphy. She had had trouble with her son who was [REDACTED]. Her son had got involved with drugs. The woman had sent her son to Murphy to

straighten him out. The son later committed suicide. The woman was living with the guilt of delivering her son to a monster.

118. What amazed me, during the trial, was discovering that when the police went into Murphy's house in St Monans they found fruit machines, pool tables and everything else. He had obviously been coaxing kids into his own house. Unfortunately, the police investigation focused on St Margaret's and a little bit of the school he went to. It didn't look at the other complainers.

*The Fife inquiry*

119. The director of social services in Fife went on television the evening after Murphy was prosecuted. He admitted that Fife Council had let people down. From that point on it almost became real in the local authority's head. They realised that they had to deal with what had happened and look at where they went wrong. I was quite pleased that they did that.
120. The council then launched the inquiry. I don't even remember talking to them. It is all a bit of a blur. They must have taken statements from me and others. I turned up at their offices the day they launched their report. That was in Glenrothes. I can't remember when that was. I got a copy of the report on the day but it was all too fresh to read. I ultimately decided not to read it because it was only going to tell me what I already knew. I binned it. I remember it did recognise that the council had done something wrong in the way that they supervised the home. I heard that from what was said when they were talking about the report in Glenrothes. I have now applied for another copy of the report. This time I am going to sit down and read it. You need distance. I don't think I had enough of that at the time. It was all coming too soon.

**Impact***Mental health*

121. I think if I hadn't been open about things then it wouldn't have helped. It's been cathartic. If I hadn't opened up then I may have become a quivering mass in an armchair for years. I am pretty tough on myself and that's what's kept me going. I never allowed myself to cry about it all and get emotional. I cried at the time but I've never cried in a 'woe is me' sense since.
122. I once had a session of cognitive behavioural therapy. It's not something I take kindly to. Really I just taught myself to cope with it. I've now become a counsellor helping people who have suffered abuse. I guess I've learnt to control it or lock it away. It's still there and pops out every now and again but I can usually put it into the box.
123. Now and again, if things get bad, I do get a panic attack. I've learnt to control them. I have my own technique to bring myself back. It's important that I keep in control. I suffer from depression. I take anti-depressants to this day. I've been taking Prozac since the eighties. I've tried to give them up on a couple of occasions to see what would happen. After a couple of days of doing without them I start having dark thoughts again.

*Physical health*

124. I've had three operations to repair fissures in my back passage. I've started to suffer from incontinence and have been told that's because of the damage that was done. The muscles are not working anymore because they've been stretched and torn by Murphy. What he did has had an effect inasmuch as being examined for all these things. You try and disassociate yourself but the past is all there. I've had to reveal what has happened through my latest set of treatment.

*Relationships and family*

125. I've never been successful at relationships. Part of the reason that my own marriage collapsed was because I didn't know what a family was. I didn't know how to behave in a family. I suddenly became aware that I was being a right pain in the arse. I've changed in the last few years. Before that I didn't really have any relationships. Why would you? You don't trust anybody. Everybody who'd been in contact with you in the past had hurt you. It annoys me that I lost my childhood and all the natural trust I should have built up. That was stolen from me. That annoys me more than the physical and sexual pain. All that is secondary to me. Not being able to trust is far worse.

*Other impact*

126. I can't stand brill cream. He used to use it as a lubricant. I can't stand the smell of it. I want to physically vomit when I see people spitting. Military twill trousers and brogues. I can't stand them. There are things that affect me. Stupid things that you might have come in contact with a thousand times before but they affect you in some way.
127. I was in Manchester a couple of years ago. I was in the main shopping area. This guy, who was coming towards me, looked the spitting image of him. Logically I knew Murphy was dead and I knew he couldn't be there because he looked young. He couldn't be like that. This person was so much like him. I nearly passed out with shock because I did think it was him. My legs went like jelly.

**Records**

128. I asked Fife Council to give me my file and they did just that. They didn't redact anything. My file came through to me intact. However, I never brought myself to read it. I did give them to my legal team. After the court case I destroyed my file. I have since phoned Fife Council and asked for another copy. I was told that I needed

to go to Fife with photographic evidence in order to gain access to the files. I've not yet followed that up. I will have to do that eventually. I suppose I hope to achieve validation from the records that what I feel happened actually did happen. I also want an understanding of why some things that should have happened didn't happen.

*Reading my records*

129. I remember reading a report written by Murphy that described me as an "extremely manipulative consummate liar who sought out the company and attention of adults." That was great for him because it planted the thought in other people's minds that they shouldn't believe a word that I said. Murphy always tried to dumb us down. I always thought "no". I liked adults because I could have conversations with them. Children bored me. I didn't want to play games. I always felt that there was more to life than this and I went out to strive to achieve it.
130. If you read the files some of the statements that Murphy makes are just off the planet. He talks about taking me through my anal and penile stages of development. It was all just gobbledygook. It was all gobbledygook that made him look as if he had some sort of secret language. He just bombarded people with rubbish and psychobabble. It wasn't surprising that people didn't question him.

**Hopes for the inquiry**

131. I would hope that the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry would make people aware of what the dangers are and what to look out for. I doubt it will do that. I'm not looking for retribution. I can't stand the culture of the victim.
132. I want to say to social workers and people working with children listen to the silences and the spaces between the words when talking with children. That will give you a better picture than the words ever will. People need to watch the way children deliver things, the way they explain themselves, the excuses they make and

the ways they blame themselves. I think people need to be more aware of these things.

133. We need to make people believe children. That's one of the biggest problems. We've got to learn to listen and start making enquiries and checks. I don't think that's done enough. The criminal record checks to me are a waste of time. They only tell you who has been caught. It's the thousands out there who haven't been caught, and probably will never be caught, who are the ones you need to worry about.
134. There have to be checks and balances with everybody who works with children, whatever their capacity. It can't be a single person approach to any work with children. When a child is allocated to a social worker there should be a second social worker who supervises what the other social worker is doing. I think you need to empower the children so that they can talk. I think every child at risk or in institutional care should have access to an adult that they can bond with. It would have to be someone who had the power to do it and separate from social services. A child would have to be able to report things to that adult without fear. The adult has to also be able to have the power to take action without fear also.

#### *Final Thoughts*

135. I think we do need to do something about the study of paedophilia. There's very little research and work done with paedophiles because people are too ashamed to work with them. People are uncomfortable around the topic. However, if we don't work with them, and work out what's going on with them, we are never going to be able to identify them.
136. I read a report that made the case that paedophilia was another sexual orientation and, because of this, we needed to alter the way we approached things. I don't know whether that is the answer. I've worked with the probation service with perpetrators. When you work with the perpetrators you're actually working with two very different people at the same time. There is the one who knows it is wrong and

unacceptable and then there is the one who is constantly trying to justify it. We need to make available something where somebody who may have these emotions and doesn't want to act out on them can go and get help. There needs to be something to avoid them taking that turn. As offensive as it may sound we have to learn to work with perpetrators. If we don't then we are never going to protect children.

137. As long as you are looking at victims of child abuse you are never going to stop it. You are not going to learn the full lessons. People like me can only tell you what has happened with hindsight. That might not always be right. I keep on questioning my memories. I had to check with the police that the things that happened to me really happened. I needed to know that I hadn't developed some sort of fantasy in my head that made it a lot worse than it was. Society has to be made aware of that.
138. I just hope that the Scottish Government, at the end of the Inquiry, takes on board all of the evidence and conclusions and moves forward. I hope that will lead to a safer Scotland for children.
139. 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..... PRW .....

Dated..... 10/04/17 .....