

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

### Witness Statement of

PRI [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is PRI [REDACTED] but I was called PRI [REDACTED] when I was in care. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1973. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Bellshill Maternity. I was the youngest of four children. I have two brothers and a sister. My father was called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and my mother was [REDACTED]. I lived with my family in Forgewood, near Motherwell.
3. On the day of my Christening my father [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He went to prison and my family had to escape from it. After that, we moved around a lot so there was a lot of upheaval. My mother didn't bond with me because of what happened. I think every time she looked at me she just saw all the hurt which is understandable.

4. We moved to Leicester in England. My mother didn't get out of bed a lot of the time. She didn't get us ready for school or do anything to help us in the morning. We had to do it all ourselves.
5. I was taken to hospital once when I was a baby because my mother had beaten me. I remember being in the hospital and the nurse taking me out to get me a pair of shoes because I didn't have any.
6. I was taken into foster care when I was two years old. I can only remember my foster parents a bit. The man was quite large with grey hair and the lady was older. I remember the day they took me back home. I jumped out of the social worker's car when it was moving because I didn't want to go home. When we got there, the social worker told my mum that I didn't want to come home. I don't know why they would do that to a child.
7. My mother beat me all the time. It seemed to be on a daily basis. It seemed normal to me because it was all I knew. She would sometimes throw a hot cup of tea over me. I wasn't allowed to get changed until I had cleaned up the mess.
8. My mother was a great mother to my brothers and sisters but she kept me segregated. I was locked in a room out of the way most of the time. She would take my brothers and sisters on trips and leave me in the house on my own. I would have to do the chores while they were away. I wasn't part of the family even before I went into care. My brothers and sisters were strangers to me because I wasn't allowed to come into the family unit.

9. My mum told us that my dad was dead. I remember writing letters to "Seventh Heaven" for him.
10. We moved back to Scotland when I was in Primary Seven. We were homeless so we stayed with my Aunty [REDACTED] for a while. After that we were moved into a homeless unit on [REDACTED]. From there we moved to [REDACTED].
11. I went to Cathedral Primary and then Braidhurst High School. I was dishevelled and people bullied me so I was moved to Cardinal Newman High School.
12. I saw a Child Psychologist at school. The teachers had noticed that I was coming to school with bruises I just told them what my mum told me to say, so I would tell them that I had fallen or walked into a cupboard. The Social Services became involved around that time.
13. I was taken into care again when I was thirteen. I told my social worker, Kate McCallum, that I was very unhappy and that I was feeling suicidal. It was difficult seeing the love between my mum and my siblings. I felt like I had done something wrong. My mum agreed that I should go so it was done with her consent. I was the only one in the family taken into care. I was taken to Bellshill Children's Home.

### **Bellshill Children's Home, Lanarkshire – 1986**

14. I was scared when I went in because I had been enclosed away from everyone all of my life. Suddenly there were lots of adults and kids. It was alien to me and I didn't know how to behave in front of other people.

## **Routine at Bellshill Children's Home**

### *First day*

15. I remember there was an office as you walked in the front door on the right. There was an upstairs which had bedrooms on it. The top floor was split into two separate units. There was a dining room and the kitchen was at the back of the building. There was a grass area out the back too.
16. There were up to thirty children living there. They were aged from babies to seventeen or eighteen years old. It was mixed, boys and girls.
17. I was shown my room and it was just a case of getting on with it. At first I was in a room on my own. I got moved into a room with another girl, [REDACTED], because a family had come into the home and needed my room.

### *Routine at Bellshill Children's Home*

18. There was a woman in charge but I can't remember her name. She would come in and get us up. We had to get up at six in the morning to make sure that the stairs were brushed, the beds were made and the windows were clean. The woman would tell us to do that. We did that before going to school. If you didn't do them, you didn't get to school. If you were clever you did your chores the night before. I remember using a toothbrush to get dirt out of the cracks in the stairs.

19. Everybody had a chore to do. There was a rota system pinned on the wall at the back stairs. I think that was the way of life in any children's home at the time.

*Staff*

20. The support workers were <sup>MVN</sup> [REDACTED], John Blair, Claire McCluskey and <sup>RFG</sup> [REDACTED]. There was a member of staff called Joe Sloan. He used to ask me to help him with crosswords. There was always at least one member of staff who stayed overnight. There was a woman called Celia who worked nightshift. They kids used to single her out and play practical jokes on her. I felt sorry for her.
21. We all our own individual key workers. My Key Worker was called Kathleen Irvine. She was lovely and tried to be like a parent to me. We had cleaners too.
22. The man in charge was called Eddie Stanton. I used to get butterflies when I walked into the room when he was there. I didn't know why but he made me uneasy. He would often have a young boy sitting on his knee. The boy was called [REDACTED]. Eddie would have his hands in his pockets jangling his keys. [REDACTED] wouldn't be moving at all. He used to scare me. I remember he used to drink Earl Grey tea and he would tell us how to stir it properly. I don't know why I remember that.
23. [REDACTED] would have been about seven at the time. He had a little sister called [REDACTED] but I can't remember their name. I used to think every time I walked into the room, even at that age, that it wasn't right.

24. I don't know if he ever hurt [REDACTED] but I later found out that Eddie Stanton had gone to prison. He had worked in a children's home in Wales before coming to Bellshill. [REDACTED] and his sister eventually went to live with their grandparents.
25. I had been in there for about six months when my mum wanted me back. The Department of Work Pensions had found out that I had gone into the home and had stopped her money. The only way she could get her money back was to get me home. She hadn't visited me once until then. She turned up one day and told me to pack my things. She told me that I would be going home the next week and was saying that things would change so I went home. I think things were better for about 24 hours.
26. Things hadn't changed. I tried for five months thinking that it was going to get better but it didn't. I had been given some freedom in the children's home so it was unbearable being locked up again. One day I went back to Social Services in Motherwell and told Kate, my social worker, that I couldn't take anymore. I told her that it was getting worse.
27. A few weeks later Kate came to the house with the police. I was terrified because I heard the police outside telling my mum that they would gain entry if she didn't let them in. She dragged me out of my room and she told me to get out so I packed my things. I left within five minutes.
28. Kate took me back to the home with one of the police officers. I didn't want to go back to Bellshill. I thought that I would've been taken to a different home in Carlisle or somewhere else.

*Going back to Bellshill Children Home*

29. When I went back I had to share a room with [REDACTED] again.
30. I was a bed wetter at home because I was terrified of my mum. I hadn't wet the bed in Bellshill but I wet it the night before I left to go back to my mum's. I had hidden the sheets and my underwear under my bed before I left so that no one would see them. When I went back in, [REDACTED] told me she'd found them and called me a "clatty bastard". She told me that she couldn't believe I'd hidden my dirty knickers and battered me.
31. I had a wardrobe and a chest of drawers in the room. I had a single bed with a quilt on it. We weren't allowed to lock any of the doors. The staff had keys to lock the door. The bedrooms weren't nicely decorated, they got decorators in once a year and just papered over the cracks with emulsion paint.
32. I was bullied by some of the other kids. Most of the other kids were long stay. If I did something that the others found annoying they would just set about me. The other kids were [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I got bullied when I got my pocket money too so it was easier to just give them it.
33. By the time I went back in, Eddie Stanton [REDACTED] PVX [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] RFG [REDACTED] used to see them hitting me. He reported it to PVX [REDACTED] all the time and he just said "kids will be kids". He didn't do anything about it. I knew nothing would happen even though staff were writing it down in log books.

34. They had stopped doing chores. They had been abolished. I don't know why. I think there was something in the news about children not being allowed to do chores anymore. I think everyone had lost respect for the staff. People knew that there would be no consequences if they did something wrong. The staff were more relaxed and the kids were out of control because the rules or regulations were ignored. There were only one or two members of staff who implemented any discipline. They gave us too much freedom.
35. They woke us up at eight o'clock to get ready for school. We had breakfast if we had time.

*Mealtimes / Food*

36. There were issues with the chefs a lot so I used to do the cooking for everyone. I had been cooking from the age of four in my mum's house so I knew what I was doing. I had learned because if I got it wrong she would beat me until I got it right.
37. I used to make a big dish of lasagne and chips. The only part I didn't like was peeling the potatoes. There was a cupboard in the kitchen which was kept locked but we would just take the keys off the staff and open it. It had all the goodies in it.
38. They gave us a bus ticket to get to school and back again but that was all. We got £6.50 for pocket money every week. I smoked so my money went on cigarettes. I didn't have money for lunch. We all had to give them ten pounds towards independent living. They would give us fifteen

pounds back on top of that so that we would have £25 for food. A member of staff called RBP would ask us for the money and take us out with it at night.

### *Washing / bathing*

39. There was one shower. used to always get in before me which used to annoy me.

### *School*

40. I was finding it hard at school so I left Cardinal Newman School and went to an IT school in Viewpark when I was fifteen.
41. The mini-bus used to drop me off at Viewpark School and take me back after school. I have always been quite intelligent but I had a lot of distractions around me so I couldn't concentrate. I loved History, cooking and I quite liked Maths. I hated Drama.
42. I passed my exams but didn't get any qualifications because it wasn't a recognised school. The teachers didn't speak to me about the home.

### *Trips / Holidays*

43. We went to Skegness on holiday once. I also remember going to Blackpool with MVN and once. It was a lovely day so MVN came in and asked if anyone wanted to go on a trip. She didn't let us drink or anything because she was normal and sensible.

44. We went on holiday to the South of France twice. It was a disaster. We were kicked out of the camp site and some people beat up a security guard. It wasn't like a holiday. We were only taken there because we had been talking about the abuse and were going to go to the police so [REDACTED] bribed the staff into taking us.

#### *Leisure Time*

45. They used to take us ice-skating or up Moffatt Hill sometimes.
46. Once you were in the independent unit there were different rules. You were allowed to stay out a few nights per week. The staff would allow us to pretend we were going somewhere and record it in the log book so that they didn't get into trouble.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

47. We got one hundred pounds at Christmas time but other than that, it was just a normal day. They didn't make a fuss. I remember having Christmas dinner once. It was one in many years. I think one year I bought a TV for my bedroom with the money but someone stole it so I only had it for three days.
48. I got tickets to see Kenny Rogers in concert for my sixteenth birthday. I always remember that birthday because they had made me a big cake. I didn't usually get anything for my birthday. I think they tried to make it special because it was my sixteenth. It was good.

*Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention*

49. I remember one inspection. There were people going around taking notes. I don't think they knew that they were coming so it was sprung on them. They didn't speak to any of us.
50. My social worker, Kate McCallum didn't come to visit me. She came to see once because I asked to see to her. We were left to our own devices. There was a care plan meeting every six months but the social workers didn't go to them.
51. We were supposed to have group meetings to discuss my care every week but they didn't happen. You were lucky if they happened once every six months. The senior house-parent of your group and whatever house-parent was on shift that day would come to the meetings. If I brought something up that they didn't want to hear they would change the subject so a lot would get missed out because people were anxious to get back to do paperwork.
52. One day I was called into the office. I was told that I had a phone call. I took the call and the voice said "hello, it's your daddy." I was so confused. I thought he was dead. My father told me what my mum looked like and he said that he had pictures of me so she must have been sending him pictures.
53. After that the children's home arranged a visit for me to see him. I was fifteen at the time. I went to see him in Greenock Prison with [RFG]. [RFG]. My father would make promises but I could see in his eyes that he didn't mean a word of it. I didn't go back to see him again. I didn't

have any contact with my family during my second time in the home. As far as they were concerned I was dead to them.

### *Healthcare*

54. I didn't see a doctor once when I was in the home. I didn't know about my heart condition. I used to get heart flutters but I didn't know anything was wrong.

### *Running away*

55. I ran away once with a girl called [REDACTED]. We were picked up by two men. One was called [REDACTED]. I wanted to get back so I ended up calling the home. The staff came to get us and took us back. They didn't ask us what had happened. They didn't care.

## **Abuse at Bellshill Children's Home**

### *Eddie Docherty – Staff Member*

56. Eddie Docherty worked in the home. He was around 48 years old. I remember because he told me his age once. He was short and slightly overweight. He always wore the same blue jeans, a T-shirt and trainers. He had a set of keys dangling at his side all the time. I remember that because you could hear him coming. In my first spell in the home, Eddie used to come into my room and ask me if I had clean knickers on. I didn't realise why he was asking.

57. A few nights later he came into my room again. I was practicing dancing because we were doing a Christmas show for old age pensioners in the community. He used to come into my room all the time. He would sit and watch me dancing. I was so stupid and naïve. I was thirteen, nearly fourteen. At the time, I found it a bit freaky but I didn't see what lay ahead.
58. When I was fifteen I needed some work done on my teeth so Eddie took me to the Dental Hospital in Glasgow. I was feeling drowsy on the way back and I tripped going down an escalator, he grabbed my chest to stop me falling. I remember on the way back he put his arm around me on the way to the train station. It didn't feel right.
59. A few days after I'd been taken to the dental hospital Eddie Docherty took me back to Glasgow. He took me to a couple of pubs and bought a bottle of Buckfast. We were sitting drinking it along the river bank when he grabbed me and put me down on the grass. At first I thought he was just playing. He tried to kiss me, I tried to pull myself away and he tried to get my jeans undone. I thought I was going to die and that was why he had brought me down to the water.
60. My mind was racing. I was screaming for him to get off me and telling him to stop. I remember a couple walked past and they didn't even stop to help. I think the woman said something about prostitutes. I felt so degraded; all I wanted them to do was help. I told Eddie that I was on my period to try to make him stop. He did and just walked off. I sat there in disbelief. It took me about an hour to find my way back to the train station because I didn't know Glasgow.

61. When I got back to the home, I was crying my eyes out. [REDACTED] PVX and Claire McCluskey were working in the office but they didn't come out to ask what was wrong. I had a shower and I remember I didn't want to get out. I must have sat in the shower for an hour and a half. I was scrubbing my arms so much that they were bleeding. I couldn't believe that it had happened. It was bizarre. I kept thinking that it was my fault because I had been drinking and I'd been friendly.
62. About two days later, I phoned Kate McCallum and told her that I needed to see her. She didn't come for about ten or eleven days. I told her about the incident in Glasgow with Eddie. We were in the Group One waiting room. She wrote it down. She asked me if I had misconstrued things because I'd had a drink. I felt like she was giving me into trouble. After that, I never saw Kate in the home again.
63. I was moved into the Independent Unit but Eddie used to come onto our floor whenever he could. He would say that they were short staffed. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would go up and punch him between the legs and take money off of him. They would do it front of everyone so that they knew. He abused them too but they handled it differently. I didn't want anyone to know so I just stayed in my room.
64. Eddie had been coming into my room a couple of times a week. It would be whenever he was on shift. He would touch me in my bed. He would put his hands under my clothes and touch in between my legs. I remember him asking me if I was wet. I knew what he was doing wasn't right. We weren't allowed to lock our bedroom door so I moved my bed and the wardrobe in front of my bedroom door to stop Eddie coming in. He stopped trying after that.

65. RFG [REDACTED] became my key worker when I moved into the Independent Unit. He knew what was going on and told me to speak out about it. I told him that no one would believe me.

RBP [REDACTED] – *Staff Member*

66. RBP [REDACTED] was another member of staff. He was 42. He was very thin and looked like a drug addict. He had lost his [REDACTED]. He used to take us to pubs and nightclubs with another three staff members, John Blair, PVX [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I was thirteen the first time. I looked older because I was tall and heavily built. They would take [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I to the Hattonrigg Hotel and Valenti's Italian Restaurant. He would buy us meals and wine to get us drunk. I became dependent on alcohol.
67. If it was a nice day, they would take us out in the mini-bus and we would stop off at pubs. There was no one regulating what we were buying so we would buy alcohol and drink it in the van.
68. RBP [REDACTED] would buy alcohol with our pocket money. He would tell us to ask other staff to give us more money and say it was for the cinema. He'd take us back to his house in Stonehouse. He lived in a top flat. He used to put music on and the drinks would be flowing. He would tell us that we could take whatever we wanted out of his house but I didn't take anything. Some of the girls would take records.

69. He used to take a lot of girls back to his flat. At the time it felt like someone cared about you but they didn't. Now that I'm an adult, I think it was grooming. I heard from other people that he was interested in boys too but I didn't see anything like that.
70. He had drugs lying around his house. I didn't take them. I used to have the odd spliff but it made me feel sick. I just drank. I didn't take any pills but they were around. He used to have Ecstasy and Diazepam. On one occasion he had a lot of Cocaine. The other staff knew because he didn't even hide it.
71. His house was broken into so he moved into the independent unit for a few months. I remember he tried to give [REDACTED] and I drugs for the first time in the office.
72. [REDACTED] ended up getting a flat beside [REDACTED]. He got into a relationship with one of our friends. They had an argument one day when I was there. We were in the bedroom putting new covers on the bed. All of a sudden, he pulled the quilt over my head, and dragged me onto the bed, he tried to kiss me and open buttons on my trousers. I froze. I told him to leave me alone. I started to walk out the door and he said that he was just kidding. I took my things and left.
73. He had tried to kiss me once before in Stonehouse but I had put it down drunkenness. I was stupid for going in the first place but I thought that those people cared about us. I didn't speak to [REDACTED] again after that.
74. One day [REDACTED] took [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I to the hotel. [REDACTED] and John Blair turned up after about an hour. [REDACTED] went to the bar and told

the staff that we were under age so we were asked to leave. I think he recorded that incident in the logbook.

### Reporting of abuse at Bellshill Children's Home

75. I was aware that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were being abused. They were talking openly about the abuse. I think the staff knew it was going on. When we were in France [REDACTED] had an argument in front of everyone about it. She was demanding money from [REDACTED]<sup>PVX</sup> and threatening to tell people what was going on. [REDACTED]<sup>RFG</sup> wanted to know what was wrong with her but she wouldn't tell him.
76. When we got home from France, the police were contacted. I think it might have been [REDACTED] who phoned them. The police came to the home. They took a statement from me. I told them about Eddie and [REDACTED]<sup>RBP</sup>. The police told us that there wasn't enough evidence. Eddie was suspended from the home because he hadn't filled in his job application properly.
77. I remember [REDACTED]<sup>MVN</sup>, a member of staff, asked me what Eddie had done to me. I didn't know that she knew about it. The only people who knew were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]<sup>MVN</sup> told me that nobody had told her but she could see it for herself.
78. We had our own log books along with a group log book. They were stored in boxes in the loft. Two days before the police came to the home, I saw [REDACTED]<sup>RBP</sup> removing the boxes from the loft. I asked him what he was doing and he said, they were having a clear out. He took the boxes outside and I saw him putting him in a car. Luckily, I found out recently,

RFG [REDACTED] had taken copies of them. He told me that he had given them to the police.

### **Leaving Bellshill Children's Home**

79. I met my boyfriend not long after the incident with Eddie. I was sixteen. He was older. I didn't want to be in the home anymore. I had been staying at my boyfriend's house a lot because I didn't want to sleep there anymore. I knew what would happen if I stayed there.
80. The police would come to get me every day from his house and take me back to the home in the morning. They used to pick me up at 7:00 am because I started work at 9:00 am. I was working as a Chef in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at this time. I wasn't paid but I enjoyed it.
81. I fell pregnant with my first daughter, [REDACTED], when I was nearly seventeen. I just wanted to have a baby to get out of there. I wanted an escape and it felt like my only option at the time.
82. I was housed next door to the children's home. My boyfriend had started being abusive towards me. I went back to the home once because he had given me a kicking. I was pregnant at the time. I had three children with him. I had [REDACTED] in 1992, [REDACTED] in 1993 and [REDACTED] in 1996. I then had [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] with different fathers.
83. I decided to go to the police again when I was 21. The case against Eddie went to court. Eddie was convicted of sexual abuse of two minors. The case involving me was not proven. He wasn't sent to prison. They gave him a new flat next to a High School. He's dead now.

84. I requested a meeting with Fred Edwards and Kate McCallum a few weeks after the court case. Fred Edwards was Head of the Social Work Department at the time. I asked him why allowed the abuse to go on for so long. He didn't answer and instead told me that once I stopped having kids, he'd give a me job. It was about three weeks after the court case. I felt as if he wasn't listening and I was being paid off. He was deflecting from it.

### **Life after being in care**

85. I had a fight with my neighbour two days after Eddie's court case. I had just lost control completely. I don't know how the police got me off him. I was charged with assault with a weapon.

86. After that I packed all my belongings in the middle of the night and moved to England. I just wanted to be away from everything. The home hadn't set me up for a normal life so things were chaotic. I had been given so much freedom in the home that I was struggling to cope.

87. I was brought back to Scotland to face the charge involving my neighbour in ██████████ Sheriff Court. I was admonished. The judge told me that he hoped that I had a better life in England. I recognised he was the same judge who heard the case against Eddie. My legs were shaking as I left the court room. I should have gone to prison because my neighbour had been in hospital for five or six days.

88. After I moved to England, I went to the Social Services for help because I was drinking and wasn't coping with the housework. I had five kids by

then. I hadn't sorted out what was going in my head and I was drinking to block things out. I told them about the sexual violence I had experienced in Scotland and they wanted to take my kids off me.

89. One day I was in a car crash and taken to hospital. When I was in the hospital a social worker called Shenaz Shak asked me to sign a form so that my kids had somewhere to stay for the night. I signed the form and she told me that I had signed my kids away.
90. They said that the trauma I had suffered in the children's home meant that I couldn't be a good enough mother and that my kids were an adoptable age. They didn't give me the therapy or support to try to show that I could do it.
91. The kids were taken from me. Everything fell apart. It was the beginning of the end for me.
92. I had contact with them four times a year. I used to try to make it special by having a buffet for them or organising an activity. They had separated some of the kids which has caused a lot of problems for them.
93. I was drinking and became so depressed that I was trying to kill myself several times a week. I finally decided to stop drinking the day before my fortieth birthday.

### **Impact**

94. I wasn't able to be a mum. I think it was because I hadn't had that bond with my own mother too. I always thought that I wasn't good enough to

be a mum because of everything that had happened to me. I think that's why everything fell apart. I was so worried that my afflictions would impact on them. I think if I had been given therapy at the time or when I got out of the home it could have helped me cope. I could have worked through it and tried to move on.

95. I can't have close relationships. I don't trust people easily. I think that men are only after one thing. I don't think I'm capable of loving anyone. My ex-boyfriend loved me but I didn't love him. I want to protect my kids but I don't know what love is because I never had it.
96. I have eight children and a step-son. I have only recently started talking to my oldest daughter and son. I have [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I lost a baby. I have a step-son called [REDACTED]. They have done well considering everything they have been through. I still have problems with my daughter, [REDACTED]. She is acting the way I did when I was her age.
97. I've had different jobs such as working in Chinese restaurants. I worked as a dog handler and became interested in training police dogs. I have a heart condition but if it improved I would go back to dog training. I couldn't get normal jobs because I couldn't work with people. I don't know how to behave in front of people and I muck up all the time. I gave up working in October last year due to my health.
98. I missed out on getting my GCSE's which I regret but I couldn't stand the bullying at the normal high schools. I got a social services law degree a couple of years ago. I have counselling skills and health and safety in the workplace. I didn't have the confidence to go to college so I studied

at home. I need to be occupied because otherwise I think too much about the memories.

99. There isn't a day that goes by when my time in care isn't a part of my life. The only thing Bellshill taught me was how to be an alcoholic. I was taught that it was a coping mechanism. I carried that on until I was forty. I couldn't do anything for myself because I thought that I was worthless. Everything that I tried to do in my life came back to the abuse.
100. I can't keep myself safe and I put myself in danger a lot. I take everyone at face value so that gets me into trouble a lot. I took a homeless man into my house the other week because it was cold outside. He turned out to be a drug addict and I then realised that I had to get him out of my house. I do things like that.
101. I have struggled with my mental health for years. The alcohol made me so depressed that I tried to kill myself. That was four years ago.
102. I got into trouble with the police because I was drinking and wasn't taking my medication. I was having psychotic episodes and hallucinations. I have been sectioned four or five times. I have spent over half of my life trying to hurt myself because I thought that everything is my fault. I still self-harm now.
103. I contacted my local MP because I had been told that there was a five year waiting list for help. I now have a CPN and a Support Worker from Free from Violence and Abuse. I have been seeing them for a few months now. I don't trust people easily but I have found that I can speak

freely to them. I find it hard to control my temper but with their help I am getting there. I still lose my temper over stupid things.

104. I had spoken to my GP in the past but I was never given any support. They just wanted to diagnose me with different conditions. I had been to Frances Dickson Lodge but it was when I was still drinking so I was going to sessions drunk. There doesn't seem to be enough support for people who have been through similar experiences to me. If I had help at the beginning then I might have been able to cope with life better.
105. I told my heart specialist that I was in a children's home. He told me that I had been born with my condition and that someone must have known about it. He said that if I had been given treatment when I was younger it wouldn't have deteriorated.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

106. I spoke to police officers about <sup>RBP</sup> [REDACTED] last year. They came to my house and took a video recorded statement from me for three hours. He is out on bail. I took a lot of tablets because it was a shock. I recently attended a Video Identification Parade at a local police station. There was a lawyer there.
107. I think the court case is going head against him. I don't want to give evidence in court, I have made an application for a TV link. I don't want to go back to Scotland because there are too many painful memories. I don't think I would cope at all. I have no faith in the criminal justice system or the authorities.

## Records

108. I tried to access my social work records but there is very little from Scotland. They were all destroyed. It makes me angry because it feels like people are covering it up. <sup>RFG</sup> [REDACTED] told me that he kept copies of the log books and incident reports from Bellshill Children's Home.


## Lessons to be Learned

109. I hope the Inquiry changes the care system enough to enable kids who are taken into care today to have another parent figure in their lives. I think children who are fourteen or fifteen should be put into a safe place where there are boundaries so that if anything happens they can talk to people about it.
110. I'm hoping a lot of other kids don't need to go through what I went through. I think that it is still going on. I think that will haunt me until my death. I think people who have been through it need to be given long term therapy and someone who will be there to listen to them. The abuse affects you years later.
111. I also want the people who were involved in my care to be held accountable. It didn't need to go on for so long. I think the social workers, Kate McCallum and Fred Edwards should be held accountable. I think that <sup>PVX</sup> [REDACTED] is still employed in social care and I don't understand why because I told the police about him too. They could have whistle-blown at any time.

112. The people employed in these roles are supposed to protect children. My time in care has, not only impacted on my life, but it has impacted on my kids' lives too.

**Other information**

113. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed.  .....

Dated. 30/10/18, .....