

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

**Kate McKAY**

Support person present: No

1. My name is Kathleen McKay however I'm known as Kate. My date of birth is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 1967. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow. My birth certificate says my place of birth was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] so I think I was born at home or at Stobhill Hospital in Glasgow. My parents were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and my mother's maiden name was [REDACTED]. I think my dad worked as a labourer. There were [REDACTED] in the family. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED] were abused [REDACTED] He got my mother and father drunk and abused [REDACTED] one at a time. This took place just after I was born and I was still sharing a room with my mother. [REDACTED] was sentenced for these offences a couple of years ago and he was only sentenced to eighteen months in

prison after being found guilty of abusing six girls. He died after spending one night in prison. He was called [REDACTED].

5. I think [REDACTED] taken into care due to neglect. My parents left [REDACTED] in the house alone and I think my neighbours may have reported them.

### **Foster Care, Glasgow**

6. The first home that I remember being in was in Lanark but I have been told by [REDACTED] that I was taken away at six weeks or six months old and fostered out to a couple who lived [REDACTED]. The foster father worked [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] visited me when I was in foster care and she understands that the foster mother either left me screaming for a long time or else she wasn't feeding me. I think my mother reported this and I was removed from their care.

### **Ridge Park Children's Home, Lanark**

7. I went into a home in Lanark at the age of three or four. It was called Ridge Park and it was connected to Smyllum. I'm not sure if I was in Smyllum as well. I have been told that children from Ridge Park were sent to Smyllum and vice versa. I don't know how long I was in Ridge Park. I was returned to my mother when I was seven or eight but I don't know if I was put into other places before that. [REDACTED]

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

8. [REDACTED]

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### Leaving Ridge Park, Lanark

18. I was returned to my parents in New Mains. We lived in a house in a small row. I remember we had a steel bath and an outside toilet. I remember going to the nuns with my mother and her asking them for bread and for money for food. I remember gulping down potatoes mixed up with beans. On Friday, which was pay day, my dad came home with a packet of Millers lime chocolates as a treat. I remember my dad drinking and a lot of arguing. I remember my dad shouting at my mum.
19. I had my own room. I think [REDACTED] had left home by this time. My mum had a black dog called Rusty which was really vicious. It used to sleep at the bottom of my bed and if I moved my feet it would try to bite me. I remember being in a room by myself and there was a fly there every day. I talked to it and let it crawl over my skin. I remember being scared by thunder and rain in the dark and sitting curled up in a chair.
20. I remember the next door neighbour, [REDACTED], going to the co-operative to collect clothes for my mother. I remember getting a white pair of jeans and I thought I was in heaven.

21. I remember getting stopped by a man in a lorry when I was going to school. This was probably St Theresa's primary school in New Mains. This happened near a garage which was along the road as you went out of New Mains towards Carluke. He stopped, put his window down and asked me if I wanted to come for a shag. I told him that I was sorry but I couldn't as I was going to school. I saw a police car and tried to stop it because my instinct told me this was something bad. I tried to report it in school but nothing happened.
22. I also have a memory of being in bed with a man in a house in New Mains and he was behind me. I can't remember anything else about that.
23. I have a memory of sitting with my legs open and a man interfering with my vagina. This might have taken place in my home.
24. We moved from New Mains to Newarthill and I don't remember any social work visits. I was still attending St Theresa's primary school and I remember making my first holy communion. I remember the rag man coming. I remember running up the hill to a phone box to ring the police when there were arguments between my parents. Nobody was ever charged. I don't know how long I was in Newarthill but it didn't feel like very long and then I was removed from my parents again. I never returned to live with them after that. I was then placed in a children's home in Carluke. There may have been other places too but I can't remember them.

### **Carluke Children's Home**

25. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

## Foster Care

26. I remember being fostered out from Carluke. I can't remember the names of the parents but I remember the daughters were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were slightly older than me. The family surname might have been [EZI-EZJ]. I remember getting treated differently. I didn't feel loved or that I was part of the family. It was an unhappy experience. I have no happy memories at all.
27. I remember rhubarb out the back and I was introduced to that for the first time. I also remember going to school.
28. I remember the mother hitting me and hurting me. The physical abuse must have affected me and it was the mental trauma that stuck. I remember coming home from school one night and [REDACTED] I tried to strangle myself [REDACTED] because I was so unhappy. I was aged seven or eight at the time. There were obviously things happening which were making me unhappy. I reported to a teacher in school that they weren't treating me well and I got taken away. I think I was with them for a period of months and then I was moved to Arran View.

## Arran View, Airdrie

29. [REDACTED]  
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- [REDACTED]  
Seconda I'm not sure how long I was there for but I was probably aged seven to nine years old. [REDACTED]  
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- [REDACTED]  
Secondary Institutions - to be published later

30.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

The next home I remember being in was Bellshill.

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

31. Bellshill was a local authority home. The building was like Carluke and there was a lot of wood and it was a modern build. It felt more homely than the homes in the older buildings. Bellshill had a big garden at the back but there were no swings or things for children to play on. There was a living room. There was a pool table. I don't remember toys apart from the personal things we got for Christmas. I don't remember reading books.
32. GCH [REDACTED] was in her forties and she was SNR [REDACTED] of the home. There was a house [REDACTED] and that is where she lived with her family. GCH [REDACTED] had three children called [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
33. There were three groups, known as groups one, two and three. Group one was downstairs and groups two and three were upstairs. The groups were split by bedrooms and I was in all three groups during my time in Bellshill. Each group had its own living room where they ate their meals. The kitchen staff brought the food up from the kitchen which was downstairs. The office was also downstairs.
34. Each group had allocated staff members who worked shifts. There was a night shift and a day shift. There was one member of staff for each group. There were staff members called Betty McGregor, Claire McCloskey, George Graham, MVN [REDACTED], Kathleen Adam, Kathy Conaboy and Joe James, who I thought was a bit weird. Margaret Dobbs was a cook. There was a cleaner called Effie. Claire was one of my key workers. I can't remember if Kathleen Adam was also one. The staff were all lovely. John Cushley was night staff. I remember sitting on his knee. I don't know if that was appropriate back then but I really liked him. I loved it when he was on duty. I don't remember anything bad happening with him.

35. Bellshill was mixed sex. There were about thirty children who ranged in age from two up to eighteen. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in Bellshill too. There was a two year old called [REDACTED]. He shared a single bed with his brother, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] was on the inside next to the radiator. He woke up during the night and fell between the radiator and the wall. He was badly burnt. I remember him screaming and I believe he was taken to hospital. I was probably ten years old and I helped out with the younger children. I was like a mother to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I felt close to him and it was great. He was in my group. I helped to feed him but not bath him.
36. I had a job while I was in Bellshill. I worked in the butcher's and the camera shop. I worked in the YMCA as a community care assistant.
37. I once got an electric shock from the record player and my nail fell off as a result. I unwrapped tape which was wrapped round a live wire. I wet myself when it happened. I have a scar on my finger. This happened on a Wednesday night and I was going out with my social worker. I got taken to hospital and treated for shock.
38. The police often visited the home to have a cup of tea in the office.

### **Routine at Bellshill**

#### *First day*

39. I remember going through the swing door and into the office. I was introduced to the other children, maybe by GCH [REDACTED].

### *Mornings and bedtime*

40. The staff who came in on dayshift got us up in the morning. I sometimes shared a room with another girl or else I was in a single room. I moved around rooms a fair bit but I was able to personalise them. I remember sticking a picture of a blue furry thing on the wall. There was a set of wardrobes and drawers and a sink in the single rooms. I had my own personal belongings and I felt happier in Bellshill.
41. We had a specific bedtime. The older children were allowed to stay up later. If you were in bed and you couldn't sleep, you could go and sit with the night staff.

### *Mealtimes / Food*

42. The breakfast came up from downstairs but each group also had its own toaster in a cupboard. We had cereal. I think if you didn't like the dinner they would give you something else if they were able to but I was forced to eat dough balls which I hated. I remember taking a drink all the time to help me eat them. We could sit wherever we wanted. The staff were around and they dished out the food but I can't remember if they ate with us.
43. I don't remember being hungry. I think we had enough to eat. The food was good. I enjoyed goulash and baked Alaska. If there was soup, you didn't get any pudding but you got a piece of fruit. Biscuits were given out sometimes but they were kept locked up in a cupboard where the staff sat to write up reports. We had supper before bed which was normally toast.
44. I got school dinners. Sometimes I got dinner money and spent it on cigarettes. You could get a single for ten pence.

### *Washing / bathing*

45. I had a bath at night but maybe not every night. The staff encouraged you to go for a bath and I had privacy when I was bathing.

### *Punishments/Chores*

46. You had to do chores like clean the living room. Punishments included getting pocket money taken off you. Other punishments included grounding.

### *Clothing / uniform*

47. I had my own clothes which were labelled with my name. They were taken to the laundry and returned to me. The staff took me to the shop to get new clothes but they had a say in what I got. I wore a uniform to school.

### *School*

48. I attended Noble Primary School in Bellshill. I got chosen to sing at Robbie Burns Night and that was nice. After that I attended Cardinal Newman Annex which was for younger children of high school age and then Cardinal Newman High School. I never felt I was clever at school and I was scared to put my hand up.
49. I was bullied at high school. I was playing ropes with other children and one of them said that at least she had a mother. I threw the rope down and I attacked her. I ran out of the school crying and the head teacher called for me to come back.
50. I got the belt once or twice in Cardinal Newman High. I didn't enjoy secondary school. By this time I was self-harming, drinking and running away.

### *Trips / Holidays*

51. We were taken to swimming in the minibus. We swam in the Sir Matt Busby Sports Complex in Bellshill and we went to the chip shop afterwards.
52. I remember going to see Grease. I can't recall if I went with members of staff. I think I was given pocket money sometimes if I was good.

53. GCH had a cottage in Glencoe which we stayed in at one point and went hill walking.
54. I went on a skiing trip to Austria when I was at Cardinal Newman High School. This was paid for by the home.
55. We went on camping trips. There were three or four staff members and about ten children. I was abused by a boy who was going out with [REDACTED]. I was sharing a tent with Colin Goodwin and EZK [REDACTED] who were both staff members. Colin Goodwin was in a single sleeping bag at the bottom of the tent and I was at the top of the tent sharing a double sleeping bag with EZK [REDACTED]. I was ten or eleven years old. We were camping in Scotland. It might have been Glencoe. I woke up in the morning and I felt pain down below. I'm not sure if it was EZK [REDACTED]'s penis or his finger. I think I let out a scream and Colin woke up. I didn't tell him what happened at the time. I can't imagine there was much staff training as otherwise I would not have been out in a tent with two male members of staff. I have heard recently that EZK [REDACTED] EZK [REDACTED] was sacked from Bellshill after that happened.
56. During or after the trip I told my friend, [REDACTED], who has since died, and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] what had happened. [REDACTED] was going with EZK [REDACTED] at the time. EZK [REDACTED] was eighteen at the time of the incident and [REDACTED] was four or five years younger than him. She had an abortion when she was fifteen and she was living in Bellshill. [REDACTED] confronted EZK [REDACTED] and she came back to me and told me that EZK [REDACTED] said that he thought he was in the sleeping bag beside her and that was why it had happened. That was his excuse. He admitted that it happened. I accepted [REDACTED] [REDACTED] explanation and just got on with things.
57. [REDACTED] went to live in a flat in a house where there were other people to supervise her. This was arranged by the home. I visited her when she left Bellshill and was in her flat. She was still with EZK [REDACTED]. I stayed with her overnight and he was there although he wasn't meant to be. She ended up marrying him and having children

with him. GCH attended their wedding and I was a bridesmaid. This was when I was about seventeen.

### *Hobbies*

58. Joe James knew I liked singing so he put me in touch with somebody who gave me my first singing lesson. My love of music was encouraged and I was sent for singing lessons to a lady called Eleanor Bryson. She lived in a scheme quite near the home.
59. I went to a club called the Thorniwood Club in View Park. John used to take me there. I don't know if he was part of the club. He picked me up from the home to go and do a charity night. He didn't work in the home. I remember him looking down at my legs and telling me I had nice legs. I was probably about fourteen.
60. I gave up music when I started self-harming at around age fourteen. and had left Bellshill and I felt alone. I was also thinking about what had happened with EZK. I never told anybody what was happening and I never received professional help for my self-harming. Staff members just pointed out that I was scarring myself. I self-harmed for about a year. I also glue sniffed and drank. Nobody ever asked me what was wrong.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

61. Each group put all the tables together and had a Christmas dinner. I don't remember a Christmas before the age of ten when I was in Bellshill. The lollipop man came in dressed up as Santa. It was amazing. We sang Jingle Bells.
62. I got a tape recorder at Christmas because the staff knew I loved my music. I had difficulty getting to sleep so I would listen to the tape until it finished. I was able to get tapes for it.

### *Religion*

63. I went to chapel every week. I had no choice and I had to go.

### *Bed Wetting*

64. I think I wet the bed once and just put my sheets into the laundry without telling anybody.

### *Visits / Inspections*

65. I had social work visits when I was getting into trouble or if I was being fostered out. I was sometimes taken to a café or McDonalds. My social workers when I was in Bellshill were called Mary Hamilton and Margaret Lydas. I don't remember my social worker taking notes when I met with her.
66. I had occasional reviews at Bellshill. My key worker and a staff member would be present and minutes were taken. I don't remember seeing inspectors in any of the homes I was in. I can't remember having visitors in any of the homes I was in apart from Bellshill.

### *Healthcare*

67. I started having my periods when I was about fifteen or sixteen which was quite late. I told the staff when this happened but I think I learnt about periods from the other children in the home. We used to have to queue up at the office to get sanitary towels.
68. I was registered with a doctor when I was in Bellshill. I don't remember going regularly but I remember going when I had bad sunburn and he got me into trouble so I didn't like him after that. I did attend a dentist.

### *Running away*

69. I ran away with a friend called [REDACTED] who was from outside the home. We walked to Hamilton. We hitched a lift and a man in a white van stopped. The two of us got in, one in the back and one in the front. He pulled off the motorway to a secluded area. He said "If you make it worth my while, I'll take you to Carlisle."
70. We refused so he drove us back to Hamilton. We got out and started hitching again. The same man picked us up again and took us to Norwich.
71. Another lorry driver wouldn't let us out of his lorry and I had to show him my breasts while he masturbated. We were scared. He gave us a tenner. We eventually ended up getting picked up by the police because we were asking lorry drivers in service stations for lifts.
72. The police took us to the cells and I had a full onion, potato and a sausage for dinner. They took us to Norwich airport and we flew to Glasgow. This was the first time I had ever flown. We were accompanied by security until we got to the other end. My social worker, Mary Hamilton, met me there. She took both of us to the police station and the police shouted at me and were really angry. They tried to explain how dangerous it was to hitch hike. Mary Hamilton then took me back to Bellshill. The staff did ask why I had run away and they were concerned.
73. I ran away another time with a friend when I was fifteen. We were in Coatbridge and we were caught by the police. We were taken to Airdrie court and put into the cells

### **HMP Corton Vale**

74. I was imprisoned in HMP Corton Vale for ten days. I was searched when I first went in. It was horrible and scary.

75. I was in a shared cell with my friend initially, then I was in a cell by myself and then I was put in with a girl from Posselpark called [REDACTED]. She was a drug addict. She used to sit in the cell naked until they called her to go for her methadone. There was a toilet in the cell and there were bars on the window. We were let out for exercise.
76. I was going to be put in a cell with a lesbian and I was terrified because it was something that wasn't spoken about back then. This didn't happen and another girl took me under her wing and gave me a few cigarettes until I was able to get my tobacco.
77. I watched a video of The Sound of Music in the day room. We were allowed out for an hour to watch this. My friend who I ran away with was sent to Calder House. This was a secure unit. A social worker, Mary Hamilton, came in to see me when I was in prison and a female prison officer pushed me when I was on my way to see her. I almost fell but I managed to save myself.
78. I don't remember seeing a lawyer before I went in but when I was getting out I saw a lawyer in a small ante-room and he told me that I should never have been in prison.

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

79. I went back to Bellshill. The staff were aware that I was self-harming. [REDACTED] slit my [REDACTED]. I have had tattoos [REDACTED]. I once took an overdose but I just feel asleep and woke up again, feeling sick. I told staff members afterwards but because I was okay I didn't go to hospital. I took [REDACTED].
80. A male psychologist called Dr Child came to see me on one occasion and spent about an hour with me. After I saw him I had a review where they told me I was being transferred to a secure unit. That is how they dealt with my self-harming. I

don't think the psychologist was there to help. He was just there to complete an assessment.

### **Calder House/Blantyre Assessment Centre**

81. They were meant to assess me over a twelve week period but I ended up being there for eight months. I shared a room with three other girls.
82. It was mixed sex. The units were named after Scottish islands. I think I was in Iona. The boys were upstairs in Tíree unit. We weren't allowed to mix with the boys.
83. There was a big metal barn where we played netball. We played football on an ash park. I remember playing football against teams from other children's homes. There was some bullying and I was scared sometimes.
84. I had schooling within the unit although I can't remember doing any academic work but I remember we did pottery. Kathleen Irvine, a member of staff from Bellshill, recently gave me a small dish that I had made in Blantyre and gave to her. I also did woodwork and I made [REDACTED] a fruit bowl and I also made a stool. I enjoyed the pottery and the woodwork. I also worked in a nursery school for work experience. I had stopped self-harming at this time. As far as I can remember the staff were okay.
85. We had to keep our rooms tidy and sometimes helped in the kitchen with the dishes. We didn't go on any trips.
86. It was scary but I managed to escape through the kitchen window. All the windows had bars but a member of staff had left the hall door open so my friend and I were able to get into the kitchen and escape. We got all the way to Cambuslang and then we were caught by Mrs <sup>HLP</sup> [REDACTED] who was a staff member. She took us to the police. I was chewing gum in front of the police and she told me off.

87. I went back to Blantyre and the male member of night staff who was on duty pinned me up against the wall and told me that if I ever ran away again he would really punish me. He had dark hair but I can't remember his name. Our punishment was that we had to scrub all the halls with a toothbrush and go for a three mile jog. I accidentally cut my leg on a can at the beginning of the jog so I didn't have to do it. I still have a scar.
88. I had reviews when I was in Blantyre and they let me know that they were keeping me for longer. I think I spoke at those. I didn't like being locked up so I was upset that I was kept there for so long. There was a visiting room and [REDACTED] visited. She also took me out. Before I went into Blantyre I knew there was a cell where they put you if you had behaved badly. I know about this because [REDACTED] was in it. I probably had a review and was told I was going back to Bellshill.

#### **Bellshill and Foster Care, Govan**

89. After I returned to Bellshill I was fostered to a family in Govan. I remember going there for visits and the father who had curly hair took me to a cafe. His friend owned a café which sold ice cream. He introduced me to the people who worked there as his new foster child. They had a son who was older than me. He had blonde hair and he worked in a big clothes store in Glasgow.
90. They lived in an old brown building. I remember having a room of my own and painting a set of drawers. I went to Govan High School. I found it difficult because I felt stupid. The school was quite big and it had a gym and a big outdoor bit. It had a swimming pool which I thought was amazing.
91. I got caught stealing from the shop and the foster mother took me into the shop to apologise. She wasn't very nice and I didn't feel loved. The foster father seemed alright. He bought me a nice pair of trainers.

92. I asked them if my mother could visit and I told them that she wouldn't cause any trouble. The foster mother said that 'she wouldn't fucking need to or else she would kick her down the stairs'. That really upset me and I told my social worker. I didn't want to be there after she had said that and I was taken away. I think I stayed with them for less than a year.

### **Abuse at Bellshill**

93. GCH made me smoke ten cigarettes when she caught me smoking. This was when I was between ten and twelve years old. I had just started smoking when I was made to do this. I had to sit and smoke one after the other in the office. I had to go to bed because I felt so sick afterwards. This was after a staff member called Nora Bronsky had hoped to foster me. She lived in View Park. I had visited her home a few times but she didn't want me after I was caught smoking. I was upset about that because it was a rejection and when you are a teenager in care it is difficult to get fostered.
94. Eddie Stanton GCH when I was fourteen or fifteen years old. Eddie was always hanging over me but at that time I didn't realise it was inappropriate. He used to get the children drunk and there were times when I woke up and couldn't remember what had happened. A friend said that she thought he put drugs in our supper because she had blackouts after eating it. She reminded me that he used to get very close to us when we were swimming.
95. I learnt recently that Eddie Stanton hid cameras all over the home so that he could watch us. I learnt this from a friend who was at Bellshill and was abused by him. He has been through the court process regarding this. There were a few other members of staff from Bellshill who have also been convicted of sexual offences against children.
96. I was scared almost every day of the bullies. The staff were aware of the bullying but they didn't deal with it. They turned a blind eye. I don't think the staff were coping.

They used to get older children to help enforce discipline. [REDACTED] and her sister and [REDACTED] were bullies. [REDACTED] battered me a few times. [REDACTED] threatened the staff with a knife and I witnessed it and I had to go to court. I was threatened with contempt of court along with my friend [REDACTED].

97. My friend [REDACTED] once walked into a room when two boys were with me. I remember kissing one of the boys and then he tried to go too far but I don't know if he did. When she found me in the room with the two of them I was in the corner screaming.
98. [REDACTED] was able to come to Bellshill and take me out. There was a family friend who we called [REDACTED]. His name was [REDACTED]. Sometimes she took me to his house. He abused [REDACTED] there and other times she took me to his work which was a hut on a building site. There was a table in the hut and he made me lie on it. He took out his penis. He didn't insert it into me but he held it against me and ejaculated all over me. He had [REDACTED] and it hurt me when he was on top of me. He tried to kiss me and he put his tongue in my mouth. I was about fourteen when this started. I didn't even know [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] until I was introduced to her in Bellshill and she took me out on repeated occasions. This is when I started self-harming.
99. Bellshill was my most positive experience of all the homes I had been in. I don't understand why they moved me around so much rather than foster me out. I felt a lot of rejection and unhappiness when the placements didn't work out and I wondered what was wrong with me.

### **Reporting of abuse at Bellshill**

100. The key worker was there to speak to if you had concerns but nine times out of ten you wouldn't do it because you didn't trust anybody

## **Leaving Bellshill**

101. When I was seventeen I was told that I was old enough to look after myself so I found a bed and breakfast which they allowed me to go and live in. One of the units in Bellshill had a kitchenette and they put some of the children who were ready to leave into this unit so that they could learn to cook before they left the home but I didn't get this. There was no support to help with budgeting.

## **Life after being in care**

102. I went to stay in the Dorchester Hotel in the west end of Glasgow but I had to be out of it all day. [REDACTED] was married and living in the west end so I met up with her a couple of times. I had no contact with my social worker at that point because I had left care. I was glue sniffing and I ended up in hospital with stomach pains. The ambulance came to the hotel and took me to hospital. When I got out I managed to get to Motherwell and I phoned Bellshill from a phone box. I spoke to Betty McGregor and told her that I wasn't coping on my own. She invited me back to Bellshill and I stayed there for a short period of time. I left for good after that.
103. As a teenager I was convicted of breach of the peace and of being drunk and disorderly.
104. I attempted to live with my mother in Easterhouse but it didn't work out. I went to stay with [REDACTED] and before that I stayed with my friend, [REDACTED], for a few months. I lived in a bed and breakfast in Hamilton. It was a big guest house with shared bedrooms. I ended up pregnant when I was 21 but that relationship didn't last as he was verbally abusive. [REDACTED] moved to Dumfries to get away from her partner and I went with her when I was seven months pregnant. They reconciled and I ended up homeless.

105. I moved into The Innocence in Bothwell near Motherwell which was run by nuns. They looked after me and I had to do chores every day. They helped me to get my first house in New Stevenson and my son [REDACTED] was born. As soon as I became a mum I stopped drinking.
106. I was raped after [REDACTED] was born. I was at a disco in Bellshill and I brought a guy home and he raped me. I couldn't remember his name so I didn't report it.
107. After that I met my husband. We ended up having four more children together. The relationship was on and off because my first baby wasn't his and I felt he treated him differently. He drank as well and I hated that because of my father and his drinking.
108. I had no relationship at all with my parents. [REDACTED] all had their own lives so I didn't get any support from them. I had no relationship with my extended family. As a parent I struggled to get my children into a routine because I had no consistent routine as a child.
109. I didn't work at all when the children were small. Having the children was difficult. We moved about a lot because I was terrified when people came to my door. I wet myself once when somebody came shouting to my door. I was a nervous wreck my whole life. I was scared of my own shadow. That caused a lot of stress because I was moving around bed and breakfasts with the children. I was living in one room with all the children. We also stayed in homeless units. I hate that I had to put the children through that but I was trying to protect them.
110. I had no contact with my parents until I was older and I would call to see my mum in Easterhouse but she just sat and drank.

### **Impact**

111. It has been hard growing up around [REDACTED] <sup>EZK</sup> [REDACTED] because he was married [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

112. There has been an impact on me as a mother. I was overwhelmed by the children. Because I didn't have a family I didn't have a clue how to be a mother. I have done a lot of shouting in my life and I hate that my past had that impact on me. The children have all grown up with that. I did alright considering what I went through but it made me a really unhappy person. There were a lot of good times with the children but there were also a lot of bad times. I had a fear of being an alcoholic like my parents.
113. I don't have a great relationship with my children now. I love them and they love me but we all have our own stuff going on. There used to be a lot of fighting in the house and that has just carried on. Being in care has robbed me of showing my emotions to my children.
114. I self-referred to a psychologist in Motherwell and she encouraged me to speak out so I made a report to the police. I have also seen a psychologist in the Moira Anderson clinic in Airdrie. They deal a lot with children who were abused. I met up with strange men and went to their houses and put myself in so much danger and that was because of my past. I was desperate for love so I put myself in a lot of vulnerable situations. I put myself out there too much. It was really important to me to have a successful relationship and sometimes this took priority over everything else. This has continued up to this year but it has now stopped.
115. When I am in a sexual relationship with a man, it does not feel like making love. It feels like I am being raped. Being intimate is difficult. I could cuddle the children until they were a certain age and then I felt embarrassed. I can't cuddle them now and they can't cuddle me because I made them feel embarrassed.
116. I had friends in the homes but I didn't maintain these when I left. I have been on my own quite a lot of the time since I left care. There are things I would like to say to people but I am scared to. I don't like standing out.
117. I don't feel comfortable when I am being intimate and that was even with my husband. I feel like a man because I am flat chested. I hate anybody touching my

chest if I am in a relationship. I can't have a partner because of this so I am thinking of having breast augmentation.

118. Being in care has robbed me of knowing what I looked like when I was young. I only have one photograph of my childhood and that was when I was ten years old and in Bellshill.
119. I know I am a good person but being in care has just had such an impact on my whole life. It affects how I see things and the decisions that I make. I don't feel normal and I feel unhappy most days. I have nightmares about a tree attacking me sexually. I have dreamt about **EZK** being dead and being at his funeral. He was walking about and I felt guilty because I reported him. I have dreamt about my grandchildren falling down stairs. Singing is the only thing that cheers me up.
120. There has been a huge impact on my mental health. I could cope when I was working because I was distracted but after I stopped work following my car accident in 2014 it all started because I had more time to think. I worked as a carer because I have always wanted to look after people. Before that I worked in McDonalds but I was bullied there.
121. Being in care affected my education. I thought I was stupid for a long time so I never thought I could get a good job.
122. I suffer from fibromyalgia and I think this is a result of being in care. The psychologist says my complex PTSD is because of the multiple abuse and the multiple neglect as a child and a teenager. My physical and mental health is really bad. I haven't had luck since the day I was born. I am trying to get help with my musical career but it is not happening.
123. Since reporting and having psychological help the impact has been much greater. I don't feel normal and I am having flashbacks through looking at my grandchildren.

## Reporting of Abuse

124. I reported my abuse to the police in Motherwell police station a year ago and that was the first time I had thought about my past. I was watching television and I saw Smyllum and it looked very similar to the home I was in in Lanark so I read up about it.
125. All through my life I had contact with EZK through [REDACTED] and I had accepted what she told me about what had happened to me but as I got older it was flashing into my head. I started seeing all these things where children were being believed about abuse they had suffered so that prompted me to come forward. At that point I wasn't going to report EZK because I didn't want to hurt [REDACTED] but right at the end of the police interview I decided to report him.
126. The police officer who took the statement was called Andy Jack and he was very encouraging but he has passed me on to somebody else which I am quite upset about. A female police officer is dealing with my case now and she is based in Motherwell. I think she may be called Gillian. I last heard from the police three months ago when they advised that they had submitted their report regarding EZK [REDACTED] to the Procurator Fiscal. I have been informed that the case against him will not be proceeding due to lack to evidence. The police have been unable to locate Colin Goodwin who was also in the tent when I was abused. [REDACTED] has since died.
127. [REDACTED] and EZK [REDACTED] have separated but he still controls her. [REDACTED] was working with vulnerable people but he may have been suspended while the investigation into him was ongoing. The police offered me victim support but I never heard from them so I went to my doctor and got a referral for the Moira Anderson Foundation and I attend there every week.

## **Records**

128. My friend [REDACTED] has spoken to the Inquiry and she advised me to see a lawyer to make sure I got my records. I attempted to get my records from Motherwell Social Work Department and they came back to me weeks later and told me that they could not find any. I have recently instructed Digby Brown in Edinburgh and they are trying to recover them. The lawyer has mentioned to me about criminal injuries.
129. [REDACTED]'s brother was abused in Bellshill too but he thought that the person who abused him loved him and that he was in a relationship. He refused to press charges but [REDACTED] pressed charges against Eddie Stanton.


## **Lessons to be Learned**

130. There should be a lot more interaction between staff members and children in care. It should be done outwith the home. Staff backgrounds should be thoroughly checked. Eddie Stanton came from a home in England and apparently he had been abusing children there. He had a conviction and he was employed in a children's home. Staff should not be left alone with children at night and there should be more staff.
131. I was removed from the family home and put into a worse situation. I should have been placed somewhere safe.
132. There should be more support for children leaving care, particularly when they have been institutionalised for a long period of time. I needed support when I had my own children due to lack of parental role models.
133. Being in care has not changed in the last fifty years and abuse is still happening. My son's friend who is physically handicapped was abused by one of the night staff in St

Philips Residential School in Clarkson near Airdrie. That was about two years ago. This has been reported and has gone to court. Sentences for paedophiles are too short so I hope there will be tougher sentences.

**Other information**

134. 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.....16-9-21.....