

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PMA [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is PMA [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I don't know who my father was. My mother's name was [REDACTED]. She had six children and we all had different fathers. My oldest sister was [REDACTED], she passed away four years ago. Then there was [REDACTED], she was adopted out and is actually a barrister in London now. I didn't know about her until she appeared one day. Then there was my brother [REDACTED] who is four years older than me. Then it was me, then [REDACTED] who is a year younger than me, then [REDACTED] who is two years younger. [REDACTED] was also adopted out and now lives in Australia. No one's ever been in contact with him. I think the ones who were adopted out were the lucky ones.
3. Some of my siblings found out who their fathers were but my mother never told me, just that he was a maths teacher. She would never talk about him, I don't think she knew who my father was to tell you the truth.
4. My mum worked all her life and we were basically brought up by my grandmother. We were born and brought up in my gran's house at [REDACTED] in Perth. We lived there all our young lives. It wasn't the luxury life.

5. My granny was very strict. She actually had seven children and her husband had been in the army. After the war they got a house in the Inverness area before he left to go down to England for a job and never came back. My granny was left with the seven children. She lost the house and they all had to live in a shed for two and a half years. They had to wash down at the riverside. My aunty actually has a photograph of my granny and her kids sitting outside the shed. It made the local papers and there was a complaint made to the government about it. She eventually got a house in the Hunter's area of Perth. We were all brought up in that house.
6. The houses in Perth were really cold. We had bad winters and there used to be six of us in one bed, three at the bottom and three at the top. We did have a hard life but we just got on with it.
7. Half of the time we had to do without food because the money wasn't there. We had to do without electric or gas but we had the coal fire. We were happy enough, we never got beat up or neglected. Now and again we went hungry but 99% of the people that lived in [REDACTED] were in the same boat.
8. Everybody knew everybody so they all chipped in to help. In that way I'd say my life was good, it was just when my mum moved to Dundee that was a bit of a problem for me. My sister moved out and my brother went to the army.
9. My mum was a single parent and stayed with us at my grandmother's house. She worked in Dundee and ended up moving there. We would see her now and again, she would come through on a Friday, disappear on a Friday night, then come back on the Sunday, pack her stuff then go back to Dundee. We didn't see a lot of her, she like going out partying.
10. I eventually ran away from my grannies because I wanted to be with my mum and in the end, she was made to take me. The police actually picked me up in Dundee Road. That was the only trouble I ever got into. I stayed with my mum in Dundee for four or five years but then she moved back to Perth with me.

11. She got a two-bedroom house in [REDACTED] in Perth. My granny came to live with us along with my brother [REDACTED] so that was fun. There was always family coming to visit. Then my granny moved out and my sister and her two kids moved in.
12. My mum wasn't much of a mother, she wouldn't take us anywhere and we were actually quite deprived. My aunty had five kids and she always managed to get her kids bikes and things but my mum didn't. I remember one year I got one of those 'sketch a graphs'. They cost about ninety-nine pence. We never had birthday parties or gifts or anything like that. That's probably why we spoil our own kids now.
13. I was put into the local primary school. I didn't really have a good time at school, even when I was younger. We used to get bullied a lot because we came from [REDACTED]. You learn to live with that, you had to.
14. Then I had to go to Perth Grammar School. It was like being in prison. We had to wear their tie and because my mum wasn't that well off, our clothes weren't the best of the best. We were looked down on because we came from [REDACTED]. People would walk past and stick a needle in you or say you were smelling and I wasn't. I hated it there, really really hated it. I got dragged through mud and my hair pulled, it was a bloody nightmare. I did ask my mum to put me to another school but she was too interested in other things, her own life.
15. If you didn't want to learn anything the teachers wouldn't bother teaching you. They just thought 'what's the point?' I thought, 'What was the point being there?' and I actually stopped going to the school. I just refused to go.

Colonsay House Children's Home, Perth

16. I think it was in my last few years at school I was taken to a children's panel. The next thing I knew I was being put into care. That was a big shock. I didn't know why, I hadn't done anything wrong. They just needed to let me go to another school. Any

other school but the rules and regulations meant that what part of Perth you came from determined what school you were put into.

17. I remember going to the panel with my mum. I don't remember if there was a social worker there or whether we had any involvement with the social work. I knew why I was going to the panel but I didn't want to go. I told my mum and granny just to put me to another school but no one would listen to me.
18. I told the panel what was happening to me at the school, how I was being treated and that this was why I wasn't going. They weren't listening to what I was saying. They said I hadn't been to school for however long so was going into care, that it was for my own good. I'd never been to a panel before in my life, it was scary. I don't think my mum said anything at the panel. To tell you the truth I think she was glad to get rid of me. I didn't go straight to the home, I went two or three days later. I was to go there until I was sixteen and had left the school.
19. I was thirteen or fourteen when they put me into Colonsay House. That was in 1974 or 1975. I think it took me about a week to settle in but once I did it was okay.
20. Colonsay House was a beautiful place. They had a back garden where they used to put swings for the younger ones. The front was all gardens with grass.
21. You got a heat there at least. I think it was Perth and Kinross Council who owned the place but the people who SNR it were nice. MYJ was an English woman and she SNR it with her husband LND. LND's dead now. They had two kids and they lived in a flat [REDACTED] the home.
22. LND was good, he was a fair man, you didnae mess with him put it that way. I didn't know at the time but seemingly they had sensors upstairs and they could hear what was going on in the bedrooms. I only found that out after I left. LND never came upstairs. If he wanted us, he would tell one of the other staff but he was never ever upstairs. He didn't get that involved with the kids. You actually hardly saw him. You

would see him if you did anything wrong. If he wanted something from the shop, he would ask you to go for him. You got an extra pound for going.

23. Some of the kids were a bit younger but you kept yourself to yourself. It was mixed, boys and girls in rooms off a corridor. Further down the corridor there were two lassies, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], they shared a room. There was [REDACTED] and another lassie who also shared a room. I was actually one of the lucky ones, I got my own room. Maybe because I was older, I really don't know.
24. I was at the end of the corridor where the younger kids were, seven, eight, nine years upwards. The smaller ones slept downstairs. There were bedrooms with cots downstairs.
25. There were two sets of flats too. That's where [LND] and [MYJ] slept. Staff who slept overnight had the other flat. The door to this flat came out into the corridor where we were, so it was easy access if anything happened.
26. That corridor had red lights. My room wasn't far from the flat, light from the street lighting outside came into my room.
27. Most of the staff were woman. When Peter Murray arrived, he was the only man apart from [LND]. He arrived four or five months after me. He was in his thirties and was a bit of a hippy. He had long hair and was a big man, well built. I remember he had hands like a woman, they were so perfect. I don't think he had done a day's work in his life. He came to the home with his wife. I cannae remember her name now but she worked in the home as well. She had short hair and was quite dumpy. I didn't really have much to do with her. She always seemed to be in the background doing other things. I think she was a bit snobby. Maybe she just didn't want to see what was going on, I don't know. Peter went on to abuse me.
28. They were never allowed to be on the same shift together although they did work together a few times. They were both carers. I remember Peter had a car. They were still working at the home when I left.

29. They were both there to make sure we were in bed at the right time. Peter would walk up and down the corridor and we weren't allowed to close our room doors. I thought I would do as I wanted, it was my room.
30. Peter always had this wee boy in his arms. I don't remember his name but he had a sister who was in the home as well. The first day he came into the home he had the wee boy in one arm and his sister in the other. He was always cuddling into the kids and it was always the youngest ones, the babies. He always had them around him. None of the other staff seemed to have time to do that, it just didn't make sense. Why did he have to give them their bath? Why not the other carers? He was always downstairs with the younger kids and I did notice that at the time and I didn't like it. I was never going to say, 'why is he there?', 'what is he doing?' because I didn't know. I wish I had spoken up.
31. Some of the staff were really friendly, others just came in, did their work and went away again. During the day there was usually four staff on and LND and MYJ would help out. Sometimes there would be six staff on during the day but at night-time there was always just two. There was also two woman who came in to do the cooking and others came in to do the cleaning.
32. I think there was about forty kids in the home, boys and girls. I was the oldest and the youngest were babies.
33. Most of the kids in there came from problem families. There were two brothers I remember. They were wee horrors, one of them is dead now through drugs.

Routine at Colonsay House, Perth

First day

34. My uncle took me and my mum to the home in a car. Me and my mum went in and met MYJ and her husband LND. We went into the office and they spoke to us

there. Then they took me on a tour. LND took my luggage up to my room and showed me that. It was a lovely room and it was a new building so we had heating at night and things like that. He explained where everything was and told me about the routine of the place, when breakfast was. He told me I could do whatever I wanted, that I could go home at night as long as I came back at a certain time. He said I could also go home at weekends if I wanted to.

35. I didn't like being there because my family were not that far away, probably about a mile and a half. It suited me though and probably took me about a month to really settle in.
36. I had my own bedroom and I got on okay with LND and MYJ. There was maybe one or two kids that I wasn't so keen on but I wasn't there all of the time. I was there to sleep and go to school and when I came home, I used to go to my mum's house for a couple of hours, then go back. The first night I was there I was seemingly crying in my sleep.

Mornings and bedtime

37. The staff used to get us up about 7:30 am. We would get up and get washed and dressed. You could have a shower if you wanted to but I always had my shower at night. We had to make our own beds in the morning.
38. As I said I was allowed to go to my mums in the evening as long as I was back for around 8:00 pm. In the dark nights it was earlier as we had to be back before it got dark.
39. There was a TV room and the older kids sat in there. There was another room for the younger kids. I was allowed to sit in there and smoke and if I didn't like what was on, I used to just go upstairs to my room and play some music.

Mealtimes/Food

40. We all went down and had our breakfast together. There was a main hall and we would eat in there at the same time. The staff would be there to supervise. Some of the young ones couldn't manage on their own so staff would have to help them. There was a hatch you would go up to and get whatever you wanted to eat. Then you would sit down and take your plate back up when you had finished. You could sit wherever you wanted but us older ones always sat at the same place.
41. The food was good compared with the food I had at home. Sometimes at home we wouldn't get a meal for one or two days so getting regular food in the home was good.
42. I don't remember anyone ever refusing to eat. One of the girls had to have a special diet because of her liver I think, but there were never any issues.
43. After breakfast I would go back up to my room and get my schoolbag. I would go out but I wouldn't go to school too early as it didn't start until 8:45 am and was only a five or ten-minute walk up the road.
44. At lunchtime I would go over to my mums and get something or occasionally go to the chippy. After school we went back to the home and if I wanted to, I could have my dinner there or I could go home and have it at my mums.

Washing/bathing

45. I didn't like that you couldn't lock the door when you went for a shower and you had all the wee boys, nine or ten-year-olds just barging in. What I started doing was putting towels behind the door so if someone tried to get in, they couldn't. I did it behind my bedroom door as well. Peter Murray got me into trouble for doing that and told me not to do it. I said I didn't want people coming in and seeing me naked and that they should put a lock on the door. He said they weren't allowed to put locks on doors. I just kept on doing it.

46. The staff wouldn't come in. If they were worried, they would bang on the door.

Clothing/uniform

47. After school we would go straight back to the home and change into whatever clothes we wanted to. The only thing I ever got bought for me at Colonsay House was a pair of shoes. That was it. I got fed, watered and put to school, that was it. I didn't really need anything because my mum and granny were there. I did have a school uniform but it was my own.
48. There was a woman at the home that would wash your clothes for you. We all had our initials on our clothing. She would wash and dry the laundry, iron it then the staff would bring it up to your room.

Schooling

49. Perth Grammar was only a five or ten-minute walk up the road from the home. Three or four of us would walk up together.
50. I never told anybody at school I was in a home. LND and MYJ had two daughters and they were at the same school as us. They didn't spend too much time with us but they didn't ignore us. I remember one of the girls at the school found out I was at the home. She asked me why I was in the home and I just told her it was because I refused to go to school. She seemed to accept that. Actually, because I now lived in North Muirton they were treating me a bit better. It was crazy how people can change.
51. I had a lot of problems at that school but I just kept myself to myself. I didn't get very good grades. We got a report card that we had to show to LND and MYJ. LND was quite soft. I remember him saying the only grades he was interested in were the days I had attended. He really praised you as well and would hand you a couple of pounds to go and get something you wanted. He was good and so was MYJ.

Healthcare

52. I don't think there was any nurse or matron at the home. If you were unwell, I think they would just phone in the doctor or local GP. I never went to the dentist when I was there.

Religious instruction

53. There was no religion in the home.

Trips and holidays

54. We were never taken on any trips.

Work

55. I had a part-time job in [REDACTED] Chippy and they let me keep that on when I went to the home. That was good and I still had that wage. I did get pocket money but because I had the wage coming in from the chippy I never got as much as everybody else. That was fair enough.

Birthdays and Christmas

56. At Christmas time I would get to go home. They did get us a present though. It wasn't massive but they always gave us something. They never celebrated my birthday. I don't think they celebrated anyone's birthday, I never saw that, I don't think so.

Bed Wetting

57. I never had a problem with wetting the bed when I was there. There was quite a few of the kids did though. They used to have special mattresses on their beds. The

staff would change the bed and the kids would be put into a shower. Some of the younger kids had nappies. I never saw anyone being punished for wetting the bed.

Visitors

58. The social work was involved and would come and check to see if everything was okay. It wasn't even an hours visit. They would go into the office and they would ask how you were feeling. We would actually sit in the dining hall with them but the staff from the home would be there at the time. I was never alone with the social worker. I was put into care but I never had a social worker.
59. If I had been alone with the social worker, I don't think I would have said anything. I was too embarrassed and ashamed. Nothing like that had ever happened to me before, I was underage. I know now I had nothing to feel ashamed of. Peter took advantage of his position of employment. I'm more angry now than I was then. It's still hard to think about it but I do wonder how many people he has abused.

External Inspections

60. I never saw anyone coming into inspect the premises.

Family contact

61. I was allowed to go home every night after school once my homework was done. I also got to go home at the weekend. I had to stay at the home during the school holidays, Easter holidays and things like that.
62. My family never visited me at the home.
63. My sister [REDACTED] got in contact with my family and she actually came up from London to see us. That was the very first time I seen her. My oldest sister [REDACTED] hated her. She looked like my big sister and she was really nice. She wanted to see

who her mother was. I wanted to keep in contact with her but my mother wouldn't allow me to. She actually sent us gifts up, she got me a parker pen set.

Discipline/chores

64. We had to make our beds and tidy our bedrooms in the morning but we didn't have to do anything else. They had cleaners come in. They did insist that we did our homework before we did anything else. I would say the atmosphere in the place was okay. I came and went as I wanted to. The younger kids used to be quite annoying sometimes but I was actually quite lucky in that I was able to do what I wanted to do. If I didn't want to sit downstairs, I could just go upstairs to my room.
65. After I had an issue with Peter, I used to put a towel or something on the floor behind my door. It was horrible. I used to stay downstairs or go to [REDACTED]'s room or [REDACTED]'s room and sit there for a wee while. Then I'd go to my own room and put something like a towel behind the door, something in case anyone came in. Sometimes staff did come in and I'd say my nightie fell down behind the door. They would tell me to be careful and I knew it was a fire risk although where my bedroom was, I could have opened the window and jumped down onto a ledge.
66. I remember me and [REDACTED] left school a couple of periods early one day and went to my mums. A social worker saw us crossing the road. We were taken into [REDACTED] MYJ and [REDACTED] LND's office that night and asked where we had been at a certain time that day. I'm not very good at lying and I started laughing. They told us a social worker had reported seeing us out of school early. They said they were going to punish us for that because we were at school to learn. We lost our pocket money for that week and I didn't get to go home.
67. That was the punishment if you got into trouble, you lost your pocket money and lost your right to go home or to go out for a week.

Running away

68. I remember thinking when I was in the home that I could get out of there if I wanted to. From my window there was a ledge I could have jumped onto and got down from there and ran away. I didn't think there was any point because they would have just brought me back again. I don't think anyone ran away.

Abuse at Colonsay House, Perth

69. One day we were sitting down for breakfast or dinner in the dining room when in came LND and MYJ with this man and this woman. He introduced himself as Peter. He said, "I'm your Uncle Peter". I just sat there with the older kids. Peter looked around everyone and I don't know why but I just got a horrible feeling about him. He had these two kids in his hands. Every time you saw him, he seemed to have this wee boy in his hands. None of the other staff had time for things like that. They were always working, cleaning up and putting things away.
70. I said to him that I was sorry but he was only Peter to me and that I would not call him Uncle Peter because he was not my uncle. I told him he was a carer. I think he was a bit shocked and he said that he would be caring for me. I told him that I didn't need anyone caring for me and that I could look after myself. I really tried to avoid him after that. There was something about him that I just didn't like and I felt very uncomfortable around him.
71. Coming in from school we had to come in the back door and into a cloakroom, where we had to keep our shoes and things. One day he was sitting there with all the kids. I really never paid any attention to what he was doing. I turned around to take my coat off and I actually felt him touching my backside. I thought to myself, 'Did that just happen?' I wasn't sure but it was horrible. I turned around and stared at him and he just put his head down. I thought, did he or did he not just do that? I actually went up to my room and just sat there for a couple of hours. I remember thinking,

did I just imagine that? It had happened, I felt it. After a couple of hours, I wanted to get out of there. I left and went home but I never said anything to my mum.

72. I went back to the home that night and Peter said that I couldn't have any supper because it had finished. I said that it was okay and not to worry about it. I went away to my room.
73. I was always told that the males should not be upstairs but he was always up there. He would put laundry in the rooms and things like that. I didn't think that was right.
74. We used to have a laundry room and every time he would catch you in there. I remember him asking me what I wanted and me telling him that it had nothing to do with him and for him to stay away from me. I was collecting my underwear and he was standing looking at it. I just felt so uncomfortable. I grabbed my laundry and went. This happened a few times, he always seemed to catch you in there.
75. I was very gullible when I was in Colonsay House. I was only about thirteen or fourteen and we never spoke about sex at home. That was a taboo subject because my granny brought us up and she was a right Highlander. Even if you said, "bugger" you got a slap. She was a very strict woman.
76. One time in the home Peter asked me if I wanted extra pocket money. I asked him why and he said he could give me extra and that it would help because I smoked. I told him I could get my supply from my mum and didn't need any extra money. He said that I could do him a favour and said something about a condom. I didn't know what a condom was at the time. I told him to piss off and leave me alone and I walked out.
77. People must have thought I was really thick or stupid but I had a really good friend at school. I asked her what a condom was and she started laughing. She told me that was what a guy put on when he had sex. I remember thinking, "Oh my God." I didn't say anything to my friend about why I was asking.

78. A few weeks later I was in the cloakroom and said to Peter that he was a dirty pig of a man speaking about condoms to me. I told him that I hadn't known what that was but now did. I told him he was sick and that I didn't like him. I told him to stay away from me. That was it, I kept away from him.
79. I started getting my period but I didn't have anything to use because I wouldn't ask him for anything. I did have one towel and I used it and left it by the radiator while I had a shower. When I came out, I forgot about it but he seen it and asked me if I had my period. I was so embarrassed. He asked me if I had any towels and I told him that I had and to get out of my room and leave me alone.
80. I'm not entirely sure when it was, a few weeks or months later, when I was lying in my bed one night. It was night-time, dark and quite late, we went to bed about 9:30 - 10:00 pm. Where I was lying you could get the streetlight in the bedroom. There was also a red light above the door. I didn't like it when he was on late shift or night shift and would get quite wary. I was lying there and heard somebody coming into my room. I just lay there and didn't think it was him. He put his hand under the quilt and I felt him feeling my legs. I thought, "oh my God" and I actually froze. I thought this isn't happening. He actually put his fingers inside me. As he got up and walked to the door, I seen the back of him and thought you dirty pig. I just lay there. What could I do? I couldn't shout, couldn't scream. At this time, I hadn't realised that they had these sensors in the rooms or maybe I would have done something.
81. I really hated it when he did that to me. I felt useless. Nobody had ever done that to me. I tried to avoid him. If I heard him coming up the stairs I would go back into my room until he had gone.
82. He caught me another time. I think it was one of the last times he came near me. I was in the laundry room and he was laughing and joking. I told him he was a dirty filthy pig and that my brother was coming home from the army the following day and that if he didn't stay away from me, I was going to tell him. He asked me what I was going to tell him and I said that he knew what he had done. He just smirked. I think I

had a laundry basket in my hands and I threw it at him and told him to 'f' off. Ever since that time he kept his distance, he was there but kept his distance.

83. He had no reason to be in the laundry room. When we came home from school in the afternoons your laundry would be on your bed. If I couldn't find my stuff, I would go to the laundry room looking for it and they would say it must be in the washing machine or in the drier. If we had something we wanted to wash we could wash it and get it ourselves so there was no reason for him to be in there. Peter wasn't always in the laundry room but he was there a good four or five times a fortnight when I went in.
84. I wasn't aware of anyone else having clothes going missing.
85. Maybe it was my imagination but when I was in the home, my underwear kept going missing. It was a woman who used to do the laundry and I would go down and ask her where my underwear was. She said maybe they had been mixed up but our initials were on them. I had some quite nice underwear my mum and granny bought me. I did check with the other girls, checked the kid's rooms downstairs but never found them. When I left that place, I didn't have one pair of pants. I had to borrow a pair of pants of somebody else and you just don't do that kind of thing.
86. I really don't know what happened to them. They were the only things that ever went missing of mine. Nothing went missing during the first four or five months I was there, it was just after Peter arrived. Slowly, slowly, slowly until, I think the last month, when I had none left.

Reporting of abuse at Colonsay House, Perth

87. I could never have told my family what had happened. It was always there in the back of my mind but I just kept it to myself.

88. I've always been told to talk about things but how could I have told my mum about that? My granny was disabled and couldn't have done anything about it. She wasn't out the house in over thirty years and never wanted any hassle. She would probably have just told me to shut up. My mum was never there really. I did have other aunties and uncles but we're not a really close family.
89. Telling the police about it would have been a no no. We never had anything to do with the police.
90. I never spoke to any of the other girls in the home about Peter Murray and never suspected he was doing anything to them. There was [REDACTED], me, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was a mixed-race girl. We were of similar age although I was a bit older than them. Nobody talked about it because we were all still young and sex was a taboo subject in my family.
91. When I think about it now, I maybe could have said something to [REDACTED] MYJ. I could never have spoken to a man about it. She was a good woman but I wonder if she would have believed me.

Leaving Colonsay House, Perth

92. I was at Colonsay House for just over one year. The day I got out was the happiest day of my life. I was only fifteen when I left. I left school in the [REDACTED] and wasn't sixteen until the [REDACTED] but I just packed up my things and left. I went to stay with my mum at first but she only had a two-bedroom house.

Life after being in care

93. On my sixteenth birthday my mum took me down to sign on. She didn't have the money to keep me. I remember getting my first giro. It was nine pounds and I had to give my mother five.

94. My mum then got me a job working as a school cleaner, 5:00 am start in the morning. I stuck it for a whole month until I got my months wages. I remember they wanted half of it back because of my age, they had paid me too much. I didn't hand the money back and didn't go back to the job.
95. I've worked ever since. The people who owned the chip shop had a wee grocery shop and I worked in there for a while. That's when I met my daughters' father. I got a job in the [REDACTED] Hospital. I loved that job. I actually got a room in the nurse's quarters there and stayed for about a year or a year and a half. I would go home on my days off or I would get phone calls saying they needed money to buy food for the kids.
96. Once I was old enough, I started going out to night clubs. My mother was still quite strict though. My daughters father actually came to the house to ask my mum if he could take me out. I said no but ended up going out and that's how I ended up with him. We separated after seven months but got back together a few years later. That's when I went over to Jordan to see if I liked it there. He worked for Jordanian Airlines. I went over and we got married in a house over there. The marriage wasn't recognised over here.
97. He went to study in America so I decided to come home to see my mum. I was supposed to go back over but I found out I was pregnant. I wrote to him in America and he basically told me to have an abortion and said that it wasn't his. He did come back to the door one night and asked me to go over to Jordan with him but I didn't go. I was seven or eight months pregnant at the time. I had heard so many stories about that place and I didn't know what would happen if I had a girl because he always thought it was going to be a boy.
98. Me and my mum were living with my sister in [REDACTED] at that time. I was eight months pregnant, my sister was pregnant and it became a nightmare as there were ten of us living there. I had to sleep in a single bed with my mum.

99. Because there was so many of us living there, I went to the council and got a house at [REDACTED]. That was on the condition that I took my granny, my mum, my brother and my [REDACTED] to live there with me. It was a four-bedroom house. It was disgusting and took us four or five months to get it cleaned out.
100. I met another man and he stayed most of the time. [REDACTED] was only seven months when I met him and he was like a father to her. He was in the Aircraft Service Training so stayed at the weekend. This went on for a few years.
101. I remember we went away for a weekend and when I came back my sister, her man and three kids had moved into my house and there was no room for me. They took over. I actually signed the house over to my mum and moved out. I moved down the road to [REDACTED].
102. I was there for a couple of years until one day I was leaning out the window when I saw Peter Murray. He was living across the road at the flats up from my house. It was a shock. I wanted to confront him but I thought he wasn't worth it. I had also heard rumours about a downstairs neighbour interfering with kids. That was it for me, I couldn't live there. I went to the council and demanded they move me. They did and I got a place at [REDACTED] which was at the very bottom, so that was good.
103. I've always worked in pubs and clubs. I was doing good, really good. Then I got a job as a cable sales rep and moved to Cumbernauld. I was there with [REDACTED] and my brother for about a year but I had a brain haemorrhage and had to give up the job. I moved back to Perth. That's when I had the serious accident.
104. I managed to get a ground floor flat through the council and my mum got a pensioner's house nearby.
105. I have had a couple of relationships and am in a long-term relationship just now. I've known him for forty-seven years and we've been together twenty-five or twenty-six years although we're not married.

106. We opened a shop, [REDACTED] Takeaway in Crieff from the compensation I got from my accident. We had that for three years before selling up. I paid for everything. That's when we decided to move down here to Norwich. My daughter was leaving school at the time and the drugs in Perth was getting heavy.
107. I was still paying for everything. We live in the same house in Norwich but separately. He has asked me to marry him but no. He has a problem with alcohol and sleeps on the couch. I sleep in my room and we haven't been together in seven years. He's now gone off to Pakistan for two and a half months so good luck to him. I care for him but I don't love him. He has asked me to go over there with him but I wouldn't go there.
108. I did have one good relationship. He was the Arab who worked for Airlines Service Training but he died of brain cancer seven years ago. I do go over to Bahrain and pay my respects to his grave.
109. I've been through a lot in my life. I've had a lot of health issues. I had meningitis when I was younger. That was when I was at school in Dundee staying with my mum. I had a brain haemorrhage and six months later I had a severe car accident. I lost one of my legs through it. I lost my spleen. Now they've found out I have fibromyalgia. Because of the brain haemorrhage there are parts of my life I have forgotten. I'm scared that might come back one day.
110. I have my daughter and I have my grandson. Life can only get better, hopefully. I've learned to shut up and get on with things.

Impact

111. I never ever went back to Colonsay House. I would have liked to have gone back to see [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but with Peter being there I couldn't go back. I would actually like to see him now but I'm not sure what I would do if I saw him. He abused me and

I wonder how many other people he abused. I could have maybe prevented it. I can still see him and vaguely hear him.

112. I'm very close to my daughter and very protective of her. That's because of what happened to me. I was the one who was gutsy enough to tell him to get lost. I didn't say get lost I swore at the man, I hated him. I could maybe have prevented it, I don't know.
113. As I said earlier, I moved into [REDACTED] and saw that Peter Murray was living at the flats up from my house. It really was a shock to me. I wanted to confront him but I thought he wasn't worth it. I had to move house because of it.
114. I found out a couple of years ago that one of the girls from the care home, [REDACTED], had actually moved in with Peter and his wife sometime after she left care. [REDACTED] was a nurse in [REDACTED] Royal Infirmary. I don't know why she did that, we never really talked about her home life. I also just found out that another girl from the home, [REDACTED], has died, she had problems with her liver.
115. If I'm in a crowd of people I'm very careful. I'm very wary of people but especially men. It's horrible because you don't want to think like that. If I was ever at any birthdays, barbeques, especially when I had my daughter, I always wanted her close to me. Even with my grandson I'm careful. I would always sit away from the crowd.
116. I look at people and their actions. I'm always watching out for anything that could happen. I watch out for my nieces and nephews but especially my own daughter. I would never let [REDACTED] out of my sight. It got me panicky if I went away and I would always keep in contact with her. She lives two miles from me now and we still contact each other every day.
117. I don't like buses or public transport. I have my own car and prefer to travel that way. Even when I'm in shops I'm careful who is standing behind me.

118. I remember once I was in Glasgow at a cash and carry. I was surrounded by clothes when this wee guy popped out. I just stared at him. I had a heavy coat on but I know what he did. He touched my bum. I just had to get out of there. I went over and found my partner and told him to give me the car keys and I got out of there. That really hurt me, it just brought everything back to me. I should have gone to the manager and looked at CCTV or something but I just wanted to get out of the shop. I didn't even tell my partner when he got back to the car. I'm all talk and no action.
119. It has been hard for me. I started drinking a lot and have attempted to take my own life four or five times. I was going through a bad patch with my family and had issues with relationships. I think that's why I'm not married, I don't like people telling me what to do. I'm very cautious. I don't know if that relates back to my time in care.
120. I do have a temper as well and have had a few fights with [REDACTED]. I'm trying to keep that temper in. [REDACTED]'s said some nasty things but we always make up.
121. Sometimes when I'm sitting on my own having a couple of drinks, it all comes back to me.
122. I don't like the way my partner talks, the filth and the way he acts towards me. It makes me sick, it really does. It brings it all back to me, what that Peter did to me and the way he talked.
123. I'm going to be more independent and try to be more relaxed. I'm getting out of that house. My daughter and her husband are getting back together which is great. My grandson is eight and doing well. It's my time now. I'm in a good position, I've got a good job in a hotel and my boss is really good to me. She knows everything about my partner. I'm getting out of Norwich, I don't want to stay here much longer. I will move on, when I can.
124. Now that this has all come up again with Peter I realise how much I hate him.

125. I blame the social workers for all that. Why did they not just put me into a different school, just change my school. That's all that I wanted, to get out of that school. I know things would have been totally different for me if I had got an education. What happened in the care home should never have happened to me.
126. It took me about six months to figure out where I was at school after all that. It affected my education. I'm not the best reader or speller. After I left school I went into further education for a bit to help with my reading, just to try and get a better job.

Treatment/support

127. I've been to see a few psychologists in the past, because of drink, abusive relationships and problems with my family. I just needed to talk to somebody. I didn't mention anything about the abuse at the home.

Reporting of Abuse

128. I know there is an investigation into what Peter Murray has done. One of the girls from the home was trying to contact me. I didn't recognise the name so I didn't answer. Then I heard through a friend that it was about Peter Murray and that he was getting charged with sexually abusing someone.
129. I found out that it was [REDACTED] from the home that was trying to contact me. I think I met her once since I left Colonsay House, in a disco. I spoke to her and she asked me if I remembered Peter Murray. I told her that I hated him. She said that she complained about him to the police when she was in the home. She said nothing was done and that she was accused of being a liar and kicked out of the home. I had never discussed Peter Murray with her and she had never discussed him with me.

130. I asked [REDACTED] what had happened to her but she said that she just couldn't talk about it. I know [REDACTED] had a deprived upbringing and had been in and out of various homes. I've heard that LND and MYJ believed [REDACTED] but all the rest of them didn't, they called her a liar and that's why she ended up being kicked out. She ended up back at her mum's house and her mum was an alcoholic. If only we had talked about Peter Murray at the time we both could have done something about him.
131. It was through her that I ended up contacting the police and giving a statement by video link to police down here and they passed it up to police in Dundee. That was about two years ago. The police in Dundee have contacted me about it and I've also heard from the courts saying they are looking into it. That was a couple of months ago. I believe it's a big case up in Perth at the moment. It's a shame it's taken so long. I wonder how many other people have been abused by him.
132. I've also been in contact with a lawyer from Edinburgh, Richard Pitts from Digby Brown. That's about my time in care and he is just waiting on my medical reports and psychiatric reports coming back. I told him about coming here today to give a statement and he was keen that I attended.

Records

133. I don't even know if I could get my records. I don't think it is something I would like to do, not really.

Lessons to be learned

134. If you have mixed ages of children, you shouldn't have men working there. LND was SNR of the place but he never had one on one contact with the children. He was in the office and would decide on the punishment but other than that the only thing he would say was go to the school.

135. Peter Murray was the only male carer there and from the day he walked in I hated him. I don't think men should be working with children or girls. My brother was in a borstal where all the staff were men. It didn't do him any harm but there were no woman there.
136. Peter Murray should never have been allowed upstairs. He had the freedom to do what he wanted. He shouldn't have been allowed to touch woman's underwear. Men should not be doing laundry stuff.
137. I should never have been put into a home. I think Perth and Kinross Council or the social work got it wrong. Okay if I was stealing, breaking into places or getting into trouble but I wasn't.

Hopes for the Enquiry

138. My hope is that this is never allowed to happen again. I hope Peter Murray gets done. He needs to know what he's done and do his time.

Other information

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.. PMA

Dated... 18/04/23