

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EHV

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is EHV. My date of birth is 1969. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I have no memories of my life before I went into care. I know now that my parents were drug abusers. My dad was a well-known drug dealer and he murdered someone after I was born. My mum was. My birth certificate indicates that I was born in Leith.
3. I had an older brother MTH who was eighteen months older than me and three years ago I found out that I have two other siblings. and were born after my dad was put in jail and after I was put into care. I didn't know they existed. I also had another sister called and a half-sister called. was much older and she apparently looked after us when my mum wasn't able to because of the drugs.
4. My dad was put in prison when he was convicted of murder in and my mum put us into care because she didn't want us. I am not aware if there was any social work involvement with the family before that. MTH came into care with me. I was nearly three years old.

## **Clerwood children's home, Edinburgh**

5. Clerwood children's home was in Clermiston, Edinburgh. It had a big dark brown door. Inside the door on the left was a living room/playroom and on the right was a room with two cots. The next room was what I thought was the nurses room. There was a cupboard before the stairs which took you up to the next level. On the ground floor level was the dining room, kitchen and past that were stairs which led to the staff living quarters. Upstairs was a sort of a square landing which led to the girls bedrooms. Beside them was an office. At the back of the house were swings. In the grounds were stables.
6. I am not sure how many children were in Clerwood but I was one of the youngest. I am not sure what age the oldest children were. The only staff that I remember were Gordon Knott, a woman who I think was a nurse, a male cook and another man who had olive coloured skin. I think Gordon Knott was in charge of the home. One of the staff members had a dog.
7. I don't have many memories about the routine at Clerwood. For me it is like seeing a series of photographs. I have memories from each image but they don't always flow together.

## **Routine at Clerwood**

### *First day*

8. I remember going there in a car. The car had wood around the windows. MTH was in the car with me. I remember looking out the car window wondering where we were going. My first memory of the house was being in a cot in a small room and MTH was in another cot. I was crying.

*Mornings and bedtime*

9. There were four single beds in my bedroom but I can't describe anything else in it. It was all girls in my room but I can't really remember anything about them. We got up about 8:00 am and went down for our breakfast in the dining room. I am not sure what time bedtime was.

*Mealtimes/Food*

10. We all sat in the dining room at the same time and had all our meals together. There were about six tables which were all full with children. It was cereal or porridge for breakfast. The food must have been okay and there were only issues if there was food that you didn't like or couldn't eat. When I started at school I had lunch there and not at the home.

*Washing/bathing/clothing*

11. I can't even remember where the toilets or bathroom was in the building and have no recollection of the washing or bath-time routine. We had a school uniform and we wore our own clothes when at the home.

*Leisure time/running away*

12. At the weekend we would just run about and play in the playroom or watch the television in the living-room. We used to play a game called postman's knock. In this game you would sit in a circle and someone said something. You had to chase that person and kiss them. Gordon Knott taught us this game and he was there when we played. If any other adults came in the room we just carried on playing. We played outside in the grounds quite a lot. I played on a small red tricycle. We had shots going down the hill and someone sat on the back. There wasn't any supervision by staff when we were out in the grounds. I never ran away and don't remember hearing about anyone else running away.

13. I am not sure how I had money, presumably we were given pocket money. We used to go down to the shops with some of the older children. Sometimes we went to the swimming pool and we managed to sneak in without paying. Other times we went up to the back of the Zoo and managed to get through the exit only turnstile gate. None of the staff came with us and I am not aware of telling them we were going out. There was very little supervision.

#### *Schooling*

14. I went to a nursery first before I went to primary school. The nursery was very near the Zoo. We got taken in a white minibus and I got dropped off first at nursery then the older ones got taken to other schools. As I got older I went to primary school. I can't remember the name of it. There was a swimming pool next to the school. We walked from the home to school every day. I enjoyed school because it meant I was away from the home. I don't think I learned very much at school but it was an escape from what was going on in the home. I don't remember going back to Clerwood with any homework.

#### *Healthcare*

15. The nurse used to comb our hair once a week to check for head lice and dealt with minor things like bumps and scratches. One time my brother dared me to jump off the swing. I did and broke my wrist. I was taken to the hospital and my arm was put in a cast. I don't remember seeing a doctor at any other time. I don't remember ever being injured and needing medical attention as a result of being abused.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

16. There was a big Christmas tree put up and there were balloons and other decorations. We had a big pantomime at Christmas time and I was an angel. Santa came and gave us a present which we were allowed to keep. Toys were usually kept in the playroom so were shared with the other children. I can't remember my birthday being celebrated but [REDACTED] it might have been.

Occasionally at other times there were parties which must have been for someone's birthday.

#### *Visitors/sibling contact*

17. I didn't get any family visitors. I later found out it was because my mum didn't want us. There were times when potential future parents came in and visited the other children. No one came for me. A female social worker came to visit me but I can't remember who it was when I was at Clerwood. She introduced us to families who might have been interested in taking us but that never happened for us. I saw MTH every day and more or less when I wanted. We were not kept apart.

#### **Abuse at Clerwood**

18. If you were given food that you couldn't eat Gordon Knott would put it in a dog bowl that was on the floor. He would make you go on your hands and knees and eat the food from the dog bowl like a dog. He put scraps from other people's plates in there too. It was humiliating. He did this to me and he did it to anyone that didn't eat their food.
19. I wet the bed. When it happened Gordon would slap me with a slipper. Everyone who had wet their bed would stand in a line on the landing. Gordon would be sitting down then slap everyone on the backside with a slipper or a sandal. He would always tell everyone why we were being slapped. To begin with it was over the clothes then often it was on the bare backside. I am not sure if he struck me more than once each time. There wasn't any other punishment for bedwetting. At other times if someone had done something other than bed wetting he would line everyone up, whether they had done it or not and he would skelp everyone on the backside. Gordon was very moody and if he was in a bad mood you had to keep out of his way. It was like walking on eggshells. He shouted a lot and slammed the doors when he was in a mood.

20. The sexual abuse by Gordon Knott started sometime after the Easter. He had helped me find the hidden Easter eggs because he said I was too little and it would be too hard for me. We got to eat what we found. Gordon Knott used to take me upstairs and he told me it was to do some cleaning. He would take me into the staff room which was right up at the top of the building and locked the door. I think the first time I was taken in there I would have been two.
21. I will never forget what happened. I thought I was privileged, almost special. I was getting some attention and he wasn't smacking me. He pushed himself upon me and I could smell his bad breath. He put my hand on his private parts and forced me to touch him. I didn't know what was going on. It started off over his clothing then it was under. I pulled away at some point and he got angry. He went on to touch me under my clothes. He said everyone did what we were doing, and if I told anyone no one would believe me because I was only a child. He told me it was what special people do and my mum and dad did it. I thought it was all just part of life.
22. Gordon Knott would make me touch him and kiss his private parts. The first couple of times it didn't last long and I remember the sticky stuff from him. Afterwards he would clean me up and before I left the room he would remind me that I had been helping him clean the room and that was all. I always thought it was just me that did this with him. I wasn't really aware of any other girls being taken up to this room.
23. He took just me to his mum and dad's house quite a lot. Their house was within [REDACTED] in Edinburgh. It was a small compact flat with two rooms. His was one of the rooms. The kitchen was off the living-room. His mum and dad were sometimes there and I remember his mum used to be in the kitchen with his dog. Gordon had sex with me. Afterwards he would take me to the sweet shop and buy me sweets or a toy. One time he bought me a Barbie doll. I thought this doll was the best thing ever. She was a ballerina and had bendy legs. I didn't really know at the time that this was him bribing me. When I got back [REDACTED] MTH used to be jealous of my sweets and he would take them from me.

24. Gordon Knott even forced my brother MTH to have sex with me. After that we thought it was a natural thing to do and we had sex at other times.
25. Gordon Knott sexually abused me from the age of two all the time I was there until I left at the age of seven. Because of what he did to me I thought it was perfectly normal to have sex with boys. In a way I knew it was wrong and we hid it from the staff. I used to go to the building which used to be stables where there was a room with mattresses in it. I started going there probably from the age of four and I had sex with boys in there. Some of the boys were much older. I sometimes had sex in a cupboard under the stairs. I had sex in lots of places in the house.
26. One day Gordon had told me and MTH that my mum was coming to visit us. I sat at the window all day watching for my mum coming but she never did. Gordon had just told me this out of spite or for some other reason. I was sad when I realised that she wasn't coming to see us. Gordon did this to us quite a lot. I cried a lot of the time because I wanted my mummy. No one ever explained to me why she never visited us or why we couldn't live with her.
27. The nurse wasn't particularly friendly. She combed our hair with a nit comb once a week and she yanked at it and it was sore. Clumps of hair sometimes came out. Another time I burst my nose and it was bleeding. She started shouting and screaming at me because the blood made a mess.
28. I was put in the cupboard under the stairs but I am not sure what I had done. This was a punishment. It was pitch dark and I was screaming and crying my eyes out. Another time I was locked in a wardrobe. I am not sure who it was that put me in these places.

#### **Reporting of abuse at Clerwood**

29. Gordon Knott often told us that if we told anyone no-one would believe us. He said no one would believe a child before an adult. He also said that if I told anyone my

brother MTH would be taken away from me. MTH was everything to me at this time. I never told anything to the social worker that visited because there was always the fear that MTH and I would be separated. No one ever asked me how I was getting on at Clerwood or if I had any issues. Even if they had asked I probably would have been too frightened to say anything.

30. One time I was in the room within the stables with other children. There were other girls there too and we were having sex with the boys. We were swapping partners. The nurse came in and caught us. She was furious and was shouting at us all. I was taken to hospital but I can't really remember what happened in there. I am not sure why I went to the hospital. I don't recall being spoken to by the police. Afterwards I was taken back to Clerwood and nothing changed. All the boys and girls that had been there were still there. It just carried on as before as if nothing had ever happened.

### **Leaving Clerwood**

31. It was probably a month or two after the nurse caught me having sex at the stables that I got moved. I am not sure if it was anything to do with that incident. I can't remember being told that I was leaving and no one told me why. It felt like I was at Clerwood one minute then the next I was at Glasclune House in North Berwick. I was seven when I left Clerwood. I know this because I celebrated my eighth birthday at Glasclune House. My brother MTH came with me to Glasclune. I am not sure why we went to North Berwick.
32. I remember I felt excited about going to somewhere different. I was happy because I thought the abuse was going to stop.

## **Glasclune House, North Berwick**

33. Glasclune House was in North Berwick. It was close to a field where the travellers used to come and set up shows. The main entrance was right on the main road and there was a long driveway that led up to the house. There was a grassy bit beside the door up a few steps.
34. Inside the door was a big gong that was rung every morning. There were stairs that led up to a sort of balcony. There was lots of fancy wooden panelling on the walls. There was the boys' corridor then up a few steps to the middle landing and straight ahead was the living-room. Round the corner were the baths then stairs leading to the girls' quarters.
35. There were about fifty children and the age range went from toddler up to about fifteen or sixteen. At first I shared a bedroom with two other girls. There was a single bed on each wall. One of the girls was called [REDACTED] and she became a lifelong friend of mine. She was the same age as me. I am not sure what else was in the bedroom.
36. I can't remember the head's name but he had a big beard, brown hair and wore glasses. He lived in an annexe house next to the home. BFO [REDACTED] was my caseworker. The cook was an older lady and we called her 'Granny'.

## **Routine at Glasclune House**

### *First day*

37. I don't really remember travelling to Glasclune. My first memory of arriving there is getting introduced to the head teacher and BFO [REDACTED]. There were other women there too. I was welcomed to Glasclune and they explained that was where I was going to stay.

*Mornings and bedtime*

38. Every morning a member of staff would come round and open the doors and wake us up. At precisely 8:00 am the big gong would sound. We got up, washed and dressed and went down to the dining room for breakfast. The gong would keep sounding until everyone was down for breakfast. After breakfast we would get ready and walked to school. We got back from school about 4:30 pm. Everyone had to be in their beds by 10:00 pm. If you weren't the staff would be looking for you.

*Mealtimes/Food*

39. All the meals were in the dining room which was downstairs just before the kitchen. Breakfast was things like toast and cereal. The other meals must have been okay because I don't remember not being able to eat any particular meal. We might even have had a choice of what we ate. I can't remember what happened if anyone didn't eat any of their food. We generally had lunch at school. Dinner was about 5:00 pm.

*Washing/bathing/clothing*

40. I remember having baths in the morning and getting dressed in the bathroom. I had a uniform for school. It was a black pinafore dress and a blue blouse. Our names were on our clothes so we got them back when they were washed. After school we got changed into our own clothes. I think the staff took us to the shops for clothes.

*Leisure time*

41. After our dinner we were allowed down to the village and we basically ran riot down there. There was no supervision and we didn't even have to ask for permission to go out. Sometimes we might just go in to the TV room. There may have been toys in there too but I rarely played with them.
42. The cook took a liking to me and MTH. She spent time with us and taught us how to cook. She was a nice lady.

### *Trips and holidays*

43. I went on holiday when I was at Glasclune. We went to a Butlins which I think was in Wales. We went there in a minibus. I had a brilliant time there. There were other trips too.

### *Schooling*

44. I moved to North Berwick primary which I think changed to Law primary. I walked to school with a group of friends who also went to that school. The staff didn't come with us. We had friends from outside the home and they came in and had breakfast at Glasclune before we went to school. I am not sure if it was a religious school but we were taught Gaelic. We had to stand beside our desks in the morning and say the words to 'God save the Queen'. I struggled at school and I don't remember being given any extra help or support.

### *Healthcare*

45. I am not sure who dealt with minor bumps and scrapes. There must have been someone because I got mumps and I was put into quarantine so it didn't spread. A woman came in to look after me. One time we were making toffee and the hot toffee spilt onto my legs. They took me to a small cottage hospital where the burn was dressed. It had to get burst every day. I presume I got something for the pain. I didn't get into trouble for spilling the toffee. She just said it was a little accident and that accidents happen. She was lovely.

### *Religious instruction*

46. There were no prayers at Glasclune and we weren't taken to the church.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

47. Before my eighth birthday one of the other girls told me that I would get battered on my birthday. I didn't know what she meant by that so I hid behind a chest of drawers all day until teatime. I never got battered. I was made to stand on the table when it was my birthday and I wondered what was going on. Everyone then sung 'Happy Birthday'. I learned this was their way of celebrating birthdays. It was different because it felt strange to me but it was fine. I think we were given birthday presents and the cook made a birthday cake.
  
48. There was a Christmas tree put up and when we woke up on Christmas morning there were presents, like an orange and other things at the end of our beds. We got handed our main present later. One year I got a marionette doll and another year a giant teddy. I don't remember there being parties but we had a special Christmas meal.

### *Personal possessions*

49. I remember at some point I got a teddy. I was allowed to keep it and it lived in my bedroom with me. I had another doll, a marionette and I left it in the kitchen once and it went missing. I still had the Barbie doll too that Gordon Knott bought for me.

### *Bed Wetting*

50. I can't remember how they dealt with bed wetting. I wet the bed a few times.

### *Visitors*

51. I never had any visitors coming in to see me. I often saw a social worker who was disabled and had multiple sclerosis. He came in and took us out to the village café and got us knickerbocker glories. It was brilliant. He talked to MTH and I a lot and he listened to us. MTH and I were really upset when he stopped visiting us because he used to take us out and we liked him. We then got a female social worker from

Edinburgh but I can't remember much about her. The only other people who came in were couples who were potential foster parents. There was one couple who apparently agreed to take us but we didn't stay with them very long in Glasgow.

52. MTH and I were taken once to visit my father when he was in prison. I would have been seven or eight. I don't really remember anything about the visit apart from the journey there and the great big green gates. I don't remember seeing my dad. Apparently he had a great big bag of sweets he had been saving up for a year for us.
53. Other foster parents came to see us and that's where we met [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from North Berwick who we later lived with and the couple from East Kilbride who we also lived with for a short period.

#### *Sibling Contact when in care*

54. MTH was on the boys' side and I was on the girls' side. Apart from bedtime I saw MTH more or less when we wanted. I had a good relationship with him and we were very close. I think it was because he was the only family I had.

#### *Discipline*

55. There was no real discipline. There was no physical punishment or any other punishment for doing something wrong. The staff didn't really care, probably because they were drunk a lot of the time.

#### *Running away*

56. I didn't really run away from Glasclune. I just didn't go back when I was supposed to. I would go out and wander away. There were lots of places in North Berwick where I could go to play. We went to the harbour or climbed into the open air swimming pool. Sometimes I just hid in the grounds. The police often caught us in the village through the night and took us back. We never stayed out the whole night. The police just told

us that the home were looking for us and had reported us missing. When we were taken back we were not punished or disciplined in any way.

### **Abuse at Glasclune House**

57. My first memory of the living-room was watching a boat race on the Firth of Forth out of the big bay window. When I was sitting there [REDACTED] came over to me and told me it was my turn. I didn't know what she was talking about. She told me it was my turn to go under the table with her. There was a massive oak table with a table cloth or cover over it which went down to the floor. I was confused but I crawled under the table with her and there were two boys in there. They wanted to have sex so [REDACTED] climbed on top of one and I climbed on the other and we had sex. When I came out I was upset and started [REDACTED]. MTH asked me what was wrong and what happened to [REDACTED]. I told her [REDACTED] did it so he battered her. I am not sure if I blamed her for introducing me to the boys for sex and this was my way of getting back at her. I felt happy when she got battered.
58. The two boys under the table were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I was only eight and it wasn't long after my eighth birthday. They were much older than me. [REDACTED] was only eight too. I never saw any other girls having sex apart from me and [REDACTED].
59. After that first time sex with the boys happened regularly in different places in and around the house. It wasn't just [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There was another boy [REDACTED] who I had sex with too but it was usually in his bedroom which was just off the living-room. He was around fifteen or sixteen. One time we were nearly caught by staff. A member of staff came into his room and asked if I was there. I was hiding under the covers. He went away and [REDACTED] told me to hide in the wardrobe. I did and the staff came back and searched his room for me, but for some reason they didn't check in the wardrobe. I sneaked through to the living-room when they left and just sat there until the staff found me. I was just sent to my room and nothing else was said.

60. No one had ever told me that it was wrong so I just thought it was part of life and growing up. I continued having sex with these three boys frequently all the time I was at Glasclune. It happened whenever they wanted it. Looking back it felt like it happened every day but it probably wasn't. One time it happened in a bedroom and there were boys gathered around me and they all had sex with me one after another. I can't remember the names of all the boys that had sex with me at Glasclune because a lot of boys came for a short time then left. It was never openly discussed but all the children knew what was going on. It was almost like there was an understanding and the adults didn't get to know.
61. MTH and I continued to have sex. We didn't know it was wrong because Gordon Knott had told us it was a natural thing to do.
62. There was a teacher at North Berwick primary who whacked me across the knuckles with a wooden blackboard duster. I used to write with my left hand and my teacher thought it was wrong that everyone else used their right hand. This happened quite a lot. I can't remember her name.
63. At school it was known that me and the others were from a home. Some of the other kids were horrible to us because of that. They said nasty things to us about not having a mum and dad and not being able to afford things.
64. If we were late getting back from school, or if we were outside playing, the staff sometimes came looking for us. It was obvious sometimes that some of the staff were drunk and smelling of alcohol. It was common knowledge that the staff sat in the staffroom drinking alcohol.
65. One time BFO, our case worker, asked MTH and I to go down to the village and get him something from the shops. On the way there MTH said he wanted to buy something else for himself with the money and that we would tell BFO we lost the money. He said BFO would be more likely to believe it if I had a hole in my pocket and we tell him I had lost his money. When we got back BFO hammered us for that. He slapped me across the face then sent me downstairs.

Before I left he picked MTH up and threw him across the room. I left the room and didn't see any more but I heard BFO screaming and swearing at MTH.

### **Reporting of abuse at Glasclune House**

66. When I was at North Berwick primary school I used to rub myself up and down on chairs in the classroom, basically I was masturbating, but none of the teachers ever pulled me up for it. I used to put crayons down my pants but again no one ever said anything to me or asked me why I was doing it. I often wondered why none of the other girls ever did it. Some of the girls who were at Glasclune with me used to wet themselves in class. They were just taken to the nurse and given a change of clothes and nothing else was done.
67. One time the social worker took us to the main social work office in Glasgow and we talked with a counsellor and psychologists or psychiatrists. I think they were concerned about our behaviour. We were given dolls and they watched us playing with them in a sand pit. People just sat there writing things down. I remember we buried the doll in the sandpit, who we pretended was the counsellor, trying to kill it. We told the counsellor what we were doing. Looking back now I am surprised that they didn't pick up on that and question our behaviour. I think we were spoken to by psychologists the whole time we were at Glasclune. I don't remember being asked about abuse.
68. I never told anyone that I was having sex with the boys. I thought it was still to be a big secret like Gordon Knott had told me. I am not sure what the staff would have done about it if they had known. After the boys had sex with me I was always angry about what had happened and the staff must have noticed my behaviour or even the [REDACTED]. Nobody ever picked up on that or asked me why I was angry. This could have been why we went to the psychologists but I am not sure.

### **Unnamed Foster parents in Glasgow**

69. After we had been at Glasclune around a year **MTH** and I went to foster parents who lived somewhere in Glasgow. I remember very little about this couple because we were there such a short time. I only remember snippets. I don't know their names but they had an Alsatian dog and lived in quite a posh house. He was in the police. They didn't have any other children. **MTH** and I shared a bedroom. I went to school and wore a blue uniform but can't remember the name of the school. As far as I recall we were treated quite well when we were there and apart from getting smacked it was okay.
70. We were too rowdy for them and apparently did things that they didn't like. We got a row for shaking the dog's chain because the dog used to go mental. Because we weren't supposed to do it we did it more often. We thought it was funny but they obviously didn't. She didn't smack us but threatened us that her husband would when he got home. He smacked us but I can't really remember how or where he hit us. If we had been shaking the dog chain he would hit us with that. It probably left marks but we never needed any medical treatment. I have a memory of sitting with **MTH** on a bed cuddling him because we were upset that we had got into trouble. Not long after that we were sent back to Glasclune. We were only with them a couple of months.

### **Fire at Glasclune**

71. There was a big fire in Glasclune which one of the boys had started for some reason. We were evacuated and the house was destroyed. I lost my big teddy in the fire. We couldn't go back to live in the building. On the night of the fire we were all split up and put into different houses wherever there was anyone who could take us. After that there was an annexe building in the grounds so we moved in there. This was above the stables. There was enough room in the two houses for all the girls. I don't know where the boys went.

## **Leaving Glasclune House**

72. In the summer after the big fire I went to Foster carers in East Kilbride. I would have been eleven. MTH and I had met a couple at Glasclune who had come in to visit us. We had been told that they were coming to us with a view to fostering us. I thought it was going to be both MTH and I but I subsequently found out they didn't want a boy and only wanted a girl. Afterwards the staff and the social worker sat with me and asked how I felt about this couple and I said I would be keen to go but I didn't know it was for good. I saw this couple about four times. One time they took me out and I had a shot in their pink Cadillac.
73. One day the staff told us that I was going to stay with this couple and that MTH and I were getting split up. I was really upset. MTH was distraught and when I was being driven away MTH was jumping all over the social worker's car and had to get dragged away. Nobody at any point told me if this was a temporary move or if it was their intention to adopt me permanently.

## **Foster parents at unknown address in East Kilbride**

74. Their last name was EHW-EHX. She was Polish, in her thirties and had long blonde hair. I know she had plastic surgery on her chest at some point and had another operation but I can't remember what it was. I can't remember her first name but I think it started with the EHW. His name was EHX or EHX and was around the same age as her, and was a taxi driver. I called them mum and dad. I hated calling them this because I always thought my mum and dad would come back at some point to get me. I told them I didn't want to call them mum and dad but she just battered me.
75. It was a house and not a flat. I had my own room which was right next door to their bedroom.

## **Routine with foster parents in East Kilbride**

### *Mornings and bedtime*

76. When I got up I would have my breakfast then get ready for school. I would walk to the bus stop and go to school. When I got home from school I would have my tea.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

77. Some of the food I was given was completely new to me. It was Polish food and sometimes I didn't like it. If I couldn't eat it I would get it re-served to me at the next meal. If I didn't eat it then I got it again at the next meal. This happened until the food was going off. I didn't get anything else to eat. One time there was a cow's tongue on the worktop waiting to be cooked. That put me off meat for life.

### *Clothing/uniform*

78. They gave me most of my clothes. They thought the clothes were okay but I thought they were dreadful. I didn't get a choice.

### *Leisure time*

79. I had a lot of friends around the area and I was allowed out to play with them more or less when I wanted. They always wanted to know where I was and what I was up to. I had toys to play with and books for me to read if I had wanted.

### *Trips and holidays*

80. They used to take me to Gullane and other places like that for the day. We used to go on holiday to a caravan park somewhere but I can't remember where it was. I remember I was fishing and caught a fish. I thought it was brilliant.

### *Schooling*

81. I was in a special school when I was there. I couldn't read and my writing was probably worse than a two year old. I didn't find learning any easier at the special school. I once caught other children having sex in the toilets. I am not sure how old they were. The teacher asked if anyone had seen them and I told the teacher that they were having sex in the toilets. I don't know if anything happened to these children. I was still happier being at school than being with the foster carers in East Kilbride.

### *Healthcare/work*

82. I never went to the hospital and I can't remember if I had to see a doctor at any point. I don't think I had to do any chores when I was there.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

83. I remember on my twelfth birthday I was given a 'speak and spell' device. It was supposed to help me spell. I got a birthday cake and Christmas was celebrated in their house. There was a tree and decorations. She made a big thing about Christmas but she called Santa by a different name. I got presents too.

### *Visitors*

84. I didn't get any visitors from any of my family, not even my social worker. I asked my foster carers why MTH couldn't be there and if I could speak to him on the phone. They just said no. They said it didn't fit in with their plan. I didn't really question this because they were adults. I never asked them to see him again.

### *Discipline*

85. If I had done something that they thought needed punished they would sometimes take my toys from me. I did that to my own children later in my life. There was one

time I stole a Mars bar from the local shop. When she found out she went mental and half dragged me back down to the shop and made me hand it back and apologise.

### **Abuse with foster parents in East Kilbride**

86. One time, not long after I had been there, he was in the bath and was naked. She wasn't in the house at the time. He shouted me to go into the bathroom then asked if I wanted to get in the bath with him. I just turned about and went into my bedroom. That was the only incident that ever happened with him. I would still have been eleven.
87. I wet the bed and when she found out she went ballistic and slapped me. There was one time when I was desperate to go to the toilet but the bathroom was busy. I couldn't think what to do so I had a pee in the teapot. I got hammered for that. She picked up some sort of toy and whacked me across the back with it.
88. He was a taxi driver and quite often did nightshifts and wasn't there. When he wasn't there she would invite me into her bed. She told me that he wasn't there and she was lonely. They had a strange curtain which hung all around the bed. She sexually abused me. When it was going on she said that it was okay and I remembered I had heard that before. It was similar to what I had experienced before so I thought it was all normal, but it felt strange that it was a female. I had never been touched by a female before. She touched me and made me kiss her. She then made me go down and kiss her private parts. She didn't want me to touch her with my fingers. This happened many times.
89. She always told me that nobody else would understand but what we were doing was mother's love. She explained that this is what mum's did. She made out that it was all normal behaviour. I had never experienced time with my mum so I didn't know it was wrong.

90. She always made sure that I was back in my own bed before her husband got home. There was one time he nearly caught us. He got home and he was suspicious because my pyjamas were inside out. I made an excuse that it was because I had put them on really quickly when he was coming in the house. He never said any more about it.
91. There was one time when we were at a party possibly at her husband's mum and dad's house in the Gorbals. We were in bed together and I told her to stop. She just told me that I was being stupid and this was the normal routine and I was to get on with it.
92. When I was in the bath she would often come into the bathroom and make sure I was washing my private parts properly. She would then examine me to make sure I was clean. She told me that at the age of eleven I should know how to clean myself properly.
93. Sometimes when they were both in the living-room she would ask me if I had washed my private parts properly. She would insist that I undress, spread my legs and show her. He would just be sitting there and never said anything. She would then examine me.
94. When he wasn't there she would quite often get angry and smack me. She never did it when he was there. It was usually with her hand and she would hit me anywhere she could reach. He was a very placid man and was never violent to me.
95. I was supposed to polish my shoes but apparently I couldn't do it properly one day. Because of that they made me wear two different shoes. I missed the bus that day because I was running late and I had to walk about six miles to get to school. The teachers noticed and asked me why I was wearing odd shoes so I told them. I don't know if they did anything about it. I took my shoes off at school and walked about in my bare feet.

96. It wasn't all bad with the foster carers in East Kilbride. I had some good times but what she did to me definitely wasn't right.

### **Reporting of abuse with foster parents in East Kilbride**

97. I never told anyone about the abuse with these foster carers. I thought what she did to me must have been normal behaviour because I didn't know any better.

### **Leaving foster parents in East Kilbride**

98. I was an angry child when I was at East Kilbride. They couldn't cope with my outbursts. I think I was their first foster child and they didn't know how to deal with me. I was thirteen, very nearly fourteen when I left. I went from there to live with the EHY-EHZ in Ayr. I am not sure why my time came to an end at East Kilbride. I suspect the couple were heading for a divorce so I was very quickly removed.

### **Foster Parents EHY-EHZ, Ayr**

99. I don't remember having met the EHY-EHZ before but it is possible that I had. My first recollection of them was within their house at [REDACTED], Ayr. The aim of me going to live with them was that it would be long term and I would be adopted by them. I was told this by the family and the social worker about two months after I had been living with them.
100. The foster parents were EHY-EHZ. She was a music teacher and he had something to do with typing. They both worked at [REDACTED] school. They had their own son [REDACTED] and three other adopted children, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was a month younger than me. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were a few years younger than me and were still at primary school. [REDACTED] may have been about a

year older than me. The [REDACTED] had two dogs. One was a white 'Scotty' dog and the other was a brown long haired Irish setter.

101. Their house was a detached house with a big garden. It had two reception rooms, one on either side of the front door. One had a television and was the lounge. The other had a piano. There were two bedrooms downstairs and three upstairs. I was in a small attic room. [REDACTED] was in a room on one side of me and the [REDACTED] were in a room on the other side. [REDACTED] had one of the rooms downstairs. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shared the other room. Also downstairs was the kitchen, bathroom and a toilet under the stairs.
102. I started using the name [REDACTED] almost as soon as I arrived there. I am not aware of them pressuring me into using it. I think I just did it automatically because I did it with the foster parents before them. For me it was probably just to feel like part of the family. I used the name [REDACTED] at school. I don't think I liked using [REDACTED] at first but eventually I gave in. My name wasn't changed legally.

### **Routine with the [REDACTED]**

#### *First day*

103. I don't really remember my journey to the [REDACTED] and my first memory is getting introduced to the family and some of their friends.

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

104. Usually I would get woken up about 8:00 am unless we were going to church and it would be earlier. I got dressed, went down for breakfast then got ready for school.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

105. Breakfast was served to us in the dining room and I had lunch at school. Food in general was okay. There was one time early on when I was hungry so I went into the kitchen and took a biscuit. This was what I did where I had been previously. EHZ [REDACTED] wasn't happy with me and she shouted at me for doing it. She said what I had done was stealing. I didn't understand how it could be called stealing but she told me it was being selfish and that in future I had to ask.

### *Washing/bathing*

106. I was able to bath more or less when I wanted. There was a lock on the door so I was on my own and got privacy.

### *Clothing/uniform*

107. When I needed new clothes they took me to the shops and I was allowed to choose what they bought for me. At other times they would just buy clothes for me. I was never given 'hand me down' clothes. I had a school uniform too which they got for me.

### *Leisure time*

108. After I had done my homework I would sit and watch TV or go to my room. I was allowed to go out and play with a couple of girls who lived at the end of the road. The EHY-EHZ [REDACTED] generally knew where I was as they always wanted to know where I was going or what I was going to do. I had to be home by nine o'clock but this was a problem for me as I couldn't tell the time. I had to judge it by how dark it was. Mrs EHZ [REDACTED] tried to teach me how to tell the time but I just got really confused. Often they had to come out looking for me because I was late. They bought me a watch but that was a waste because I couldn't tell the time.

### *Work*

113. I had to keep my bedroom tidy and had to take my washing downstairs when it needed done. This was all new to me as it had all been done for me before.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

114. Birthdays and Christmas was good because I got lots of presents. Often it would be new clothes. I wasn't deprived or forced to go out wearing second hand or ill-fitting clothes. I was happy with the clothes I wore. Once they bought me a jacket which I didn't like. I just didn't wear it.

### *Bed Wetting*

115. Towards the end of my time there I started wetting the bed. I tried to hide it but when they found out I had they battered me with the belt.

### *Visitors*

116. I had a female social worker when I was in Ayr. She visited me regularly and we spoke alone, away from everyone else. She explained to me why my behaviour was wrong. My brother MTH visited me once. The EHY-EHZ and the social work arranged that. I think they were supposed to make sure we had regular contact but that never happened. Our behaviour was so bad when we were together that we didn't get to see each other more often. I am not sure if this was the EHY-EHZ decision or the social worker's.

### *Relationship with other children within EHY-EHZ house*

117. Initially the whole family were nice to me and I thought it was going to be good living there. After a short while it changed and I didn't get on particularly well with the other children. It is recorded in my notes about incidents between [REDACTED] and myself where apparently I didn't handle myself the way that I should have.

### *Schooling*

109. I had previously been at a special school and when I moved to Ayr I started at St John's Catholic Primary School which was a mainstream school. I was held back at St John's for a few years because I was not at the same level as everyone else. I didn't move up to Queen Margaret Academy until I was sixteen. Being in mainstream school was a real shock to me. I was in a class of children who could all read and write. I found it very difficult but I didn't get any support. The school probably sat down and tried to teach me how to read and write but I think by that stage I was too far gone and wasn't interested in learning.
110. In class the teachers would get the pupils to stand up and read out things. I couldn't and the other children were really horrible to me about it. Some of them were quite evil especially when they found out I had a weakness. I got bullied by them. When the teachers saw that I couldn't read they didn't make me do it again. It wasn't that I didn't want to I just couldn't. This made me feel really out of place at school. After that they gave me other stuff to do at home to try and help me. It was probably aimed at children of primary school age but it didn't help me.
111. When I was at primary school the school day finished at 3:00 pm. At high school it was 4:30 pm. We either waited for one of the EHY-EHZ to finish work at school then went home with them or just came home ourselves. We could have got a bus but usually just chose to walk.

### *Religious instruction*

112. The EHY-EHZ were Catholic and they were keen for me to become a Catholic too. They said it wouldn't be right if everyone else in the house was a Catholic and I wasn't. I regularly went to church with them and I decided it would be a good idea. I had been there about a year by this point and I was still thirteen. I was baptised in the church and had a small party. All of his made me feel like I was part of the family so it was a good feeling. By that time I had asked the EHY-EHZ if I could call them mum and dad. All the other children already called them that.

### *Discipline*

118. Their idea of punishing me if I was late home or had done something was to belt me. It was like one of these straps used to sharpen old open razors. It was split at one end. At the other end was a hole where it could be hung up. Both of them would hit me with it at different times across my bare backside.

### *Running away*

119. I ran away once from the [REDACTED] house. That was the after a time I had been sexually abused. I didn't get very far because I didn't know how to get out of Ayr. It was around midnight that the male social worker caught me and took me back. On the way back he told me that I shouldn't have done it and that the [REDACTED] were worried about me and had contacted the police. They might have asked me why I was running away but I never said anything.

### **Abuse with the [REDACTED]**

120. The [REDACTED] couldn't understand why I couldn't read. They said they taught [REDACTED] to read. If I couldn't read something or if I spelt a word wrong they would skelp me on the back of my head with their open hand. Both of the [REDACTED] did this. They often told me I was stupid and other names. Because of this I couldn't concentrate on learning to read because I was frightened I was going to get hit. They didn't sit down with me and try to teach me, they just expected that I could read. It felt like I got hit every night by one or both of them.
121. My first memory of being hit with the belt was horrific. I can't remember what I had done to deserve it but I was marched upstairs to their room. One of them opened the wardrobe and took the belt out. They were both there and I can't remember who did what. I was whacked with this belt I am not sure how many times then I was sent to my room. I had red welts across my legs.

122. I got belted for silly little things. Sometimes it was if one of the other children said I had done something. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were treated like their own children. I wasn't. The [REDACTED] believed anything the other children said and didn't believe me. If I was bad or had a tantrum I got belted and it always happened in their bedroom.

### **Temporary foster carers in Lanark**

123. At some point the [REDACTED] were going to Lourdes. My real dad, who apparently still had a say in what was happening to me, refused to allow me to go. This meant I was sent to temporary foster carers in Lanark for around a month. The social worker arranged this. I can't remember much about this couple other than they were quite an artistic couple and did different arts and crafts. He was a prison officer. They had two of their own sons. When I was with them I met another couple of older girls and through them I got introduced to a couple of boys and I ended up having sex with these boys. I was still only thirteen. They were found out and were charged with having underage sex with me. They were quite a bit older than me. There was nothing else that happened when I was with these temporary foster parents which could be classed as abuse.

### **Abuse back with the [REDACTED]**

124. When I had been back at the [REDACTED] for a while after being with these temporary foster carers Mr [REDACTED] took me shopping with him. There was a routine that on a Friday one of the children would help either Mr or Mrs [REDACTED] shopping. It was my turn so I went with Mr [REDACTED] in the car. We were driving along and all of a sudden he pulled in to a car park. He said to me that he wanted a bit of what the boys had when I had been with the temporary foster carers. I knew straight away he wanted sex. Not long after that Mrs [REDACTED] fell outside church and was admitted to hospital with a broken back. She was in hospital for weeks. Mr [REDACTED] regularly had sex with me when she was in hospital. I was probably fifteen by that time. He was nearly fifty.

125. When she came out of hospital there was a strange atmosphere in the house. I even spoke to Mr <sup>EHY</sup> and asked him what would happen if I told anyone about what he was doing to me. He just said that nobody would believe me as he was an upstanding member of the community. The sexual abuse by Mr <sup>EHY</sup> continued. Apparently I had athlete's foot and he used to take me into the bathroom to wash my feet in their bidet. I think he would lock the bathroom door, then when we were in there he would have his hands up my shirt and down my pants.
126. Mrs <sup>EHZ</sup> was nice to begin with but she changed. For a while I had spots on my chin. Mrs <sup>EHZ</sup> took great joy in scrubbing my chin with a scrubbing brush. It was really sore and my chin ended up red raw. I had to go to school looking like that.
127. The <sup>EHY-EHZ</sup> took great joy in telling me when my dad died. I was mucking about on the piano in the house when they both came into the room. I am not sure which one said it but it was something like "Oh by the way your dad is dead". That was all they said. They didn't try and comfort me or explain anything to me. I was shocked. My social worker later came in and told me again, in a more compassionate way, that he had died.
128. When <sup>MTH</sup> visited me I am not sure what we did but I remember having a food carry out. <sup>MTH</sup> was allowed to stay the night and we slept in the dining room together on a mattress. We were allowed to sleep side by side probably because they knew we were brother and sister and thought there was no issue with this. He forced himself upon me that night and we had sex.
129.  got the belt a couple of times but I don't remember any of the others getting hit. Mrs <sup>EHZ</sup> told me that they taught  to read by slapping his head but I never saw that.  was heading for the priesthood and one time he hadn't learned something he should have. They punished him by making him kneel in the garden and put his arms out in the crucifix position. He had to stay like that for hours.
130. The <sup>EHY-EHZ</sup> definitely treated the other children better than me. They tried to integrate me with the other children but in many ways I felt different. Even the other

children teased me about not being their sister. I tried to get on with [REDACTED] but we just didn't have a connection. [REDACTED] once told me that I didn't deserve to call them mum and dad. There wasn't any physical abuse from the other children but I felt like an outsider in that house because I hadn't been adopted. I don't recall the [REDACTED] saying anything in particular to make me feel I wasn't part of the family.

#### **Reporting of abuse with the [REDACTED]**

131. There was one time the PE teacher at school asked me about the marks on my legs. They were welts from where I had been hit with the belt. I just told her that I fell and that was the end of the matter. I can't remember if the [REDACTED] had told me not to say anything to anybody. I didn't say anything because I was petrified that if I said anything I would get taken away again.
132. Although the female social worker visited me regularly and we had one-on-one time I didn't feel that I could trust her enough to tell her anything. I never told her or anybody else about the time [REDACTED] forced himself upon me.

#### **Leaving the [REDACTED]**

133. I left the [REDACTED] when I was sixteen. The social worker came and had a chat with me and told me it was time for me to leave. I think I had told them a few times that I wanted to leave. I had also started wetting the bed by then and I was trying to hide it. I think my behaviour had deteriorated. At this meeting I was told that I was going to a temporary foster family as a stopover. I was there a further two weeks until I moved. I was quite happy to be leaving the [REDACTED]. The social worker came and picked me up and we had conversations about what was going to happen after this temporary move and how long it would take. I was told it could take a couple of months to find someone who wanted to take me.

### **Stopover family in South Queensferry**

134. I was with this family for a very short period, possibly a month, until they found somewhere else permanent for me to go to. I can't remember their names. They were a nice family and there was no abuse. They had another fostered girl who was around the same age as me. I shared a room with her which had bunkbeds. I had never seen bunkbeds before. We got on quite well. I didn't go to school as I had chosen to leave by then. I was given a lot of freedom in this house but I don't really think my behaviour improved much when I was there. They were nice, genuine honest people and I got on well with them.

### **Leaving South Queensferry**

135. I was taken to Pilton social work department in Edinburgh where I met [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. As soon as I saw them I knew that I liked them and we got on like a house on fire. I met them one other time in North Berwick. When I was there I visited Glasclune but there was nothing left of the building. I was excited about seeing it and was disappointed that it had gone. I had a feeling that North Berwick was my home.
136. I was asked by the social worker how I felt about going to live with the [REDACTED] and of course I said yes. Anywhere would have been better than going back to the [REDACTED] in Ayr.
137. The social worker, who may have been called Margaret took me from South Queensferry to North Berwick. At some point she left and a man took over as my social worker.

### **Foster parents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in North Berwick**

138. The couple I moved in with were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They already had two boys living with them. [REDACTED] was their own son and [REDACTED] was fostered. [REDACTED] was a

bit older than me, maybe seventeen. [REDACTED] was around the same age as me. They also had a girl called [REDACTED]. She had been fostered but was back living with them. She was in her twenties and I shared a bedroom with her.

### **Routine with the [REDACTED]**

139. I decided to go back to school and went to North Berwick high school. I started missing classes and spent a lot of time just sitting in the library. I was really embarrassed that I couldn't even spell my name. The librarian sat with me and taught me how to write my name. She was lovely and often even gave me money to go down to the shops to buy something for myself.
140. [REDACTED] took me to the Catholic Church and told me it was my choice as to whether I went or not. They told me that if I wanted to go they wouldn't stop me. I think I went once and stopped going. They took me lots of places. [REDACTED] taught me about gardening and how to plant plants.
141. The social worker brought me a newspaper cutting about my dad. This was the first time I knew about why he was in prison. It explained what he had done and the sentence he had received. That was the first time I got to know anything about it. I never saw my mum because she never wanted anything to do with us. The social worker probably visited me once every second week then it became every other month.
142. I was comfortable living with them and they were fair with me. They gave me pocket money to buy clothes and shoes. I didn't have to do any work in the house to earn the money. I was able to phone my brother MTH [REDACTED] but I never got any visits from him.
143. Sometimes if I had done something wrong the [REDACTED] would ground me and I would climb out the bedroom window. She would catch me and give me a row but nothing more. They didn't discipline me in any other way. I didn't wet the bed when I lived with the [REDACTED].

### Abuse with the [REDACTED]

144. The [REDACTED] were very good to me. I couldn't understand why they were being nice to me. I always thought he would want sex but he didn't. They were totally different to anything I had experienced before. It was just a shame that they came so late in my childhood. There was absolutely no abuse when I was at the [REDACTED]. They were nice, genuine people.
145. When I was back at North Berwick when I was with the [REDACTED] the other children gave me a hard time. They used to take the 'Mickey' out of me because I couldn't read and write as well as they could.

### Leaving the [REDACTED]

146. I fell pregnant when I was sixteen. I don't really know who the father would have been. It could have been one of many boys at that time. [REDACTED] somehow worked out that I was pregnant and she told me that I was. She took me to the doctor's and it was confirmed. [REDACTED] was quite mellow about it. She tried to encourage me to keep the baby but I didn't really understand what was going on and I didn't think I would be able to cope with a very small baby. I decided I was too young for the responsibility and I terminated the pregnancy. [REDACTED] and I fell out about it and she was really disappointed with me. After that my relationship with [REDACTED] went downhill and just wasn't quite the same.
147. There was another family in North Berwick and I was a childhood friend of the girl who had also been in care, [REDACTED]. We became the best of friends and I moved in with her. I often stayed with [REDACTED] overnight which the [REDACTED] were fine with. I had met [REDACTED] my boyfriend by this time
148. At some point I had a major argument with [REDACTED]. I decided I didn't want to stay with them any more so I packed my bags and walked out. I stayed with [REDACTED] for a few weeks. The social worker came to see me a few times to make sure that I was okay.

What I didn't realise then was that [REDACTED]'s dad was a paedophile. I only found that out a couple of years ago. He is dead now.

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

149. After a few weeks I went back to the [REDACTED] and I apologised. Some time later I was at [REDACTED] and I had a heated discussion with [REDACTED] because I had been with another man. One thing led to another and I ended up getting in a car with [REDACTED], and we drove over to Fife. We stayed in Fife after that.
150. I didn't have any more contact with the [REDACTED] and I never saw the social worker again. I did think about contacting them but by the time I did they had both died. Once I got settled with [REDACTED] I phoned the social work department and passed them my phone number. I spoke to the social worker once when she called me. I can't remember if I was supposed to have meetings with her.
151. At nineteen I had a child with [REDACTED] when he was staying with his mum. We went to homeless accommodation in a unit in Kirkcaldy. For spells I also went back to stay with my friend [REDACTED] in North Berwick. I had very little dealings with babies before that and I didn't know what to do. I didn't even know how to change a nappy. The nurse had to show me. I put our son into the care of [REDACTED] mum at a very young age but I saw him any time that I wanted.
152. When I was with [REDACTED] I had one job. I worked in a factory but only for a very short period. Our first house was in Kirkcaldy. I married [REDACTED] when I was about 23. His mum was putting pressure on us to get married so that our son would get [REDACTED] surname. When my son was about six [REDACTED] mum passed away so my son came to live with us. It was really difficult because although he was my son he was a complete stranger to me. I went on to have two other children.
153. In 1997 I gave evidence at the trial of Gordon Knott who had abused us at Clerwood children's home. When I left Clerwood I vowed never to talk to anybody about what

went on, but there I was in court talking about it. I saw him when I was giving evidence in court. He sat there with his arms folded looking at me as if I was nothing. I felt sick. Following the trial I was in a bad place. The following few years were bad for me. I just wanted to black it all out. I turned to drugs.

154. [REDACTED] and I separated in 2001. He didn't understand what I had been through with Gordon Knott and I didn't get the emotional support from him that I should have. After [REDACTED] and I separated I bounced about from place to place for a while. My children were with [REDACTED].

### **Impact**

155. All through my childhood all I wanted was my mum. I never even saw a picture of my mum and dad. Until I met my sister I never knew if I looked like anyone else in the family. I have never had a relationship with my mother and I don't even know if she is alive or dead. I wouldn't care if she was dead. She gave me up because she didn't want me. When I moved back to Ayr when I was sixteen that's when I decided I wanted to know a bit more about my family and who I was.
156. If I had been left at home with my own family I would have been a different person today. I would have had friends, a better education and I might have had the job that I always wanted and that was to be a nurse. I have thought about doing an Open University or college course but I just can't concentrate.
157. We only found out through Facebook that we possibly had another brother and sister. We met them and straight away I knew that [REDACTED] was my brother. He was the spitting image of MTH [REDACTED]. I am still not sure if [REDACTED] is my sister. They lived with my mum after MTH [REDACTED] and I were put in care. They weren't really able to tell me anything about my family that I didn't already know.
158. Throughout my childhood I felt like a shoulder bag a lot of the time. I just seemed to be passed from pillar to post. I have had to apologise umpteen times to my own

children because I have been so distant to them. I was brought up without parents so I didn't know what being a parent was. I now have a better relationship with my children and I get a lot of joy from my grandchildren.

159. Every school that I went to I learned very little. I found it really hard to concentrate because of things that were happening in Clerwood and Glasclune. I just couldn't take things in. I was held back in primary because I was so far behind and was still at primary school when I was nearly sixteen. The fear of the abuse was probably worse than the actual abuse itself in a way. When it was going on I was expected to go to school and be normal. I couldn't because all I could think about was what was going to happen when I went back to the home.
160. Staff at Glasclune sometimes sat down with me and tried to teach me how to read but it didn't help. I couldn't even spell my name until I was sixteen. Even now I hate clocks because I could never tell the time and because of that I got hit. If I had gone to school and if the things didn't happen to me which made me unable to learn I could have got a much better education.
161. Because of the times I was locked in the cupboard under the stairs at Clerwood I am now afraid of small spaces. I don't have any friends. I have been on my own for a long time because I don't trust anyone. I want to be a normal person and have friends but I can't. I want to do what everybody else does. If I try, I am just used then dumped. The only reason I leave my house is to walk my dogs. Sometimes I find it really hard even to go out with my dogs. When the article was published in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] after the trial of Gordon Knott [REDACTED] it felt like everyone was [REDACTED] judging me. I felt humiliated.
162. At Clerwood children's home Gordon Knott made me have sex with my brother [REDACTED] MTH and we didn't realise it was wrong. We had sex at Clerwood and it continued when we went to Glasclune then at other times when we were older. Even when I was 14 I was having sex with Mr [REDACTED] EHY who was a 58 year old man because I didn't think there was anything wrong by doing it. By the age of ten my periods had started so I knew there was a risk of getting pregnant. No one had ever taught me at

any time about contraception, but they wouldn't have because by then I was Catholic. Luckily I never fell pregnant.

163. After I left care I didn't see my brother MTH for a long time. We only really met up after we spoke to the police about what happened at Clerwood Children's Home. He came through from Airdrie to see me in Edinburgh. We spent the whole day together and we learned about each other's new family, like how many children we both had and things like that. We started talking more about Clerwood and our childhood maybe about a month before the trial. We talked about what was going to be said in court and what was going to happen. He was okay with me mentioning his name in court and saying what happened between us.
164. My brother MTH passed away in 2020. I asked MTH a few months before he died why he had forced himself upon me that time when he visited me at the EHY-EHZ. He said he did it because he thought he could. In a way I am not sure if I blame him because we had been taught at Clerwood children's home that sex was normal even between brother and sister. It really upset me that he did this to me and I was upset by his response when I asked him. I more or less forgave MTH for what he did to me and I blame Gordon Knott for encouraging us to do what we did.
165. MTH had recently been convicted of something he did after he was in care and he was put on the sex offenders register. This was the reason he took his own life after he appeared in court. I was angry when he died but I was relieved for him because he didn't have to face the facts. It also meant I couldn't ask him any more about what he had done to me. He had always been very matter of fact speaking to me about what we did together. I was annoyed with him too because he told me that it was a minor thing he had been charged with. I found out after he died it was far more serious. I felt that after what we had been through he could at least have told me the truth. I am sorry to say but in a way I was quite glad when he passed. I hated him for a while and I always wanted to have a straight conversation with him but never felt brave enough.

166. When I was with the foster parents in South Queensferry and then with the [REDACTED] in North Berwick I couldn't understand why neither of the dads wanted sex with me. I always thought that if people liked me they would want something from me. I felt that I had done something wrong and I was shocked that they didn't. It had become natural for me to have sex with the adults. I thought normal behaviour in a family relationship was violence and sex. I used to think that the only reason I was in this world was to be used by men. I felt worthless.
167. When I was at Glasclune I started [REDACTED]. I am not sure why I did that but it often happened after the boys had sex with me. It has taken me almost all of my life to realise that sex is not what I am in this world for. I still cry a lot thinking about the child that I should have been. It has been a dirty secret that I have kept far too long.
168. I don't believe in god, but never really have. Looking back I don't think it was right that I was encouraged to become a Catholic.
169. In 1997 I was involved in the court case against Gordon Knott from my time at Clerwood children's home. This was horrific and was the worst day of my life. After the trial I started abusing drugs. I ended up running away. That is how I seemed to deal with everything in my life since I was a child. I went to find MTH [REDACTED] and his wife in Airdrie. I was in homeless accommodation in Airdrie but stayed occasionally at MTH [REDACTED]'s. One day MTH [REDACTED] dragged me in front of a mirror and made me look at myself. I was drugged out my face and I didn't know what he was talking about. A couple of days later he told me if I didn't stop taking drugs basically I was going to die. I subsequently overdosed and when I came through it I decided to stop. I knew I couldn't carry on like that anymore. I came off heroine and amphetamine. I went cold turkey but I went through with it. I have never looked back.
170. I still think about my time in care a lot and even now I feel like a lonely little girl and that I want my mum. I don't ever look at myself in the mirror because I don't like what I see. Being in a care home is there in my head when I go to sleep. I often have nightmares and sweats, and when I wake up in the morning it is still in my head.

171. I started [REDACTED] when I was at Clerwood so I suppose that was the start of me self-harming. I started self-harming more seriously after I left the foster carers in Ayr. I tried to take my own life once because I just wanted to end it all. I ended up in hospital for a week then a few months later went back to Whyteman's Brae hospital for people with depression as an outpatient.

### **Treatment/support**

172. Before the trial of Gordon Knott staff from the court separately showed MTH [REDACTED] and I around the court room and told me who would be sitting where and what would happen on the day of the trial. My husband [REDACTED]'s step mum supported me and she was the best support I could have had.

173. I haven't received any help or support in relation to my self-harming. The help started at hospital after I tried to take my own life when I was about 34. I got counselling at Whytemans Brae hospital. I had other counselling but had to stop going because there was a clock in the room and I hate seeing clocks. I even hated hearing the tick. I asked the counsellor if the clock could be taken down but she refused. Apparently it was wired into the wall. My doctor wants me to see a psychologist to establish if I have PTSD. It has taken me years to realise that I am not to blame. I am on medication for my depression, which is starting to help me. I still smoke cannabis but I need it to control my moods. It is probably medicinal for me. My own doctor knows I smoke it.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

174. When I was at Clerwood I was in my bedroom with another girl and we were talking about what Gordon Knott was doing to us. I can't remember her name but she had blonde hair. I am not sure why but we had a box of matches and we ended up setting the curtains alight. I would have been about four at the time. We didn't really get into trouble for it but no one really asked us why we had done it.

175. I was 27 before I started to tell anyone about the abuse I suffered in care. The first people I told was the police. A local policewoman came to my door and asked me to phone St Leonard's police station in Edinburgh. I phoned straight away and they asked me about my time at Clerwood. Apparently someone must have given them my name. I had to contact **MTH** first to make sure he was happy for me to tell the police everything that happened. He was, so I gave the police a statement. **█**, my husband, wasn't even aware of what had gone on at Clerwood. I would happily have gone to my grave without ever telling anyone else. I never gave a statement to the police at that time about Glasclune or any of the foster carers.
176. There was quite a period of time between giving a statement and going to court. Gordon Knott had absconded so it took them a while to find him. I subsequently gave evidence at his trial. Gordon Knott was sentenced to sixteen years in prison. Another man appeared at the same time and he too got a prison sentence. I don't know who he was. Gordon Knott appeared again at court in May and got a further four years.
177. The police came back to see me in 2019 and I gave them a statement about my time at Glasclune. They said they were just gathering evidence. I have not heard back from them about what is happening with their enquiry. I have never spoken to anyone about my time with the foster carers.

## **Records**

178. I have managed to get my records. Thompson's solicitors got the records for me and are currently holding them for me. As far as I know they cover from day one until the day that I left care and vanished over to Fife. I have seen some of my records. That is where I learned about my dad being sentenced and us going into care because of her drug abuse and because she didn't want us. I felt very sad reading these bits of my records.

## **Lessons to be Learned**

179. In the care home situation, like Glasclune at North Berwick, someone like a social worker should have sat with me and asked me what was wrong and they shouldn't have put two very disturbed children together. It is possible we might have had a better chance if we weren't together all the time and we definitely shouldn't have been spoken to at the same time by the social workers. There were times when I needed space from MTH and we shouldn't have been treated as an item all the time. On saying that I know I wouldn't have survived my time in care without MTH Me and MTH both had anger issues and no one ever asked us why. Adults must listen to children and not try and cover up what they have said. Children must be listened to and believed.
180. I shouldn't have been forced to go to so many different families and then made to call the foster parents mum and dad. This was really confusing because I already had my own mum and dad. They may not have been the best parents in the world but they were my mum and dad. I didn't have the identity of belonging to a family. I didn't even have a photograph of my mum. We were also moved from pillar to post so often that I didn't know what was happening. I was very unsettled. There is no wonder that I ended up in front of a psychologist.
181. Someone should have explained to me why I was in care, even from someone who had been in care, like myself, and experienced what I was going through. They would be more aware of how the child was feeling and what they were going through. Nobody ever explained to me that my behaviour was wrong and I was never given any lessons on life.

## **Hopes for the Inquiry**

182. If by coming forward it saves one child from what happened to me then it will have been worth it. There needs to be someone who is trained to identify the signs of abuse and trained to speak to the children about it. This would need to be someone

that the children can trust and who is independent, not a social worker. Consistency is important so this person can't change because the child will feel like they are being passed from pillar to post.

183. People, including foster parents, should receive better training in identifying the signs of abuse. If children are slow at learning things then perhaps they should be asking why. I also think that foster parents should have had their own child so they know exactly what having a child is all about. They must have some previous experience. Teachers in school should also receive training in identifying the signs of abuse. They should have seen the signs from my behaviour or even the changes in my behaviour.
184. Children should be treated with respect. I don't believe that newly qualified carers should be put in charge of older children. They may only be a few years older than the children they are caring for and they just don't have the experience of how to deal with children who invariably have problems. Children must also have someone they are able to trust to have a one-to-one conversation with or even a cuddle when required. Children need one-to-one attention sometimes even if just to make them feel wanted.
185. Society is so wrong because once it is known that you are in care, everyone automatically assumes you are poor. It is so wrong that people generalise like that.

#### **Other information**

186. When I was at Glasclune a coloured boy apparently died in the bath. He was bullied by the other kids because of his colour. I don't know his name or can even say how old he was. Everybody talked about it within the home. None of the adults ever explained to us what had happened. I would have been about eight or nine when this happened.

187. After the trial of Gordon Knott in 1997 my brother MTH approached [REDACTED] and we both gave our story. [REDACTED]

188. Thompsons Solicitors are currently pursuing a civil claim on my behalf against Gordon Knott and the council for the abuse I suffered at Clerwood children's home.

189. 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.. EHV [REDACTED] .....

Dated. 16 9 2021. ....