

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

MXZ

Support person present: Yes

1. My name on my birth certificate is MXZ but I use the name MXZ. My date of birth is either 1966 or 1967. I don't know which one is right as each has been used on different documentation. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. My mother's name is and my father is. My mother was only sixteen when she had me. From what I have been told by my mother and father social services were involved from the minute me and my sister were born. is my twin, but I have never met her. I have two younger brother who committed suicide about fourteen or fifteen years ago. I also have another younger brother called.
3. My mother ran away from the home she was in at Dundee. She ended up in Manchester and that's where she met my dad who had moved there from Jamaica. When she found out she was pregnant she came back to Scotland. I was born mixed race. I think that's why I was taken from my mother when I was twelve weeks old.
4. my twin sister was adopted and I ended up in Craigiebank in Perth. My mother has told me that she had to sign papers. She thought this was to have treatment for tuberculosis. It turned out this was to have adopted. My mother was only seventeen at the time and didn't understand the law.

5. I don't remember anything about Craigiebank. When I was about three I was put into care at Nimmo Place Children's Home in Perth. I can remember bits of my time at Nimmo.

**Nimmo Place Children's Home, Nimmo Place, Perth**

6. Nimmo Children's Home was a cold and sterile place. There was nothing on the walls. It was like an empty hospital.
7. I remember sitting in a cot and a woman with long black hair coming into see me now and again. I was left in the cot all the time. I was like a freak show. Some of the kids would come in and touch my hair.
8. I was fed, changed and bathed in my cot. I can't remember ever getting out the cot other than when people came to visit me.
9. When I was a bit older I went into another house that was still within the grounds of the home. I remember bits about playing in the garden and it being sunny.

*Food*

10. I hated the food at Nimmo. It was custard and cabbage. I would get the same food the next day if I didn't eat it.

*Visits*

11. I can't remember any visits from my mother.

*Social work*

12. I had a social worker called Miss MCF. I hated her. I would hear her saying things about my mum. I asked for a picture of my mum. She told me that I deserved nothing.
13. I know that there were social work reviews every thirty days. Sometimes I would be at these other times I would have to sit outside.
14. I think Miss MCF probably told me that I would be going to foster parents. I don't think I was listening. I was too busy screaming at her.

*Discipline*

15. I used to throw my food at the staff. When I did this I would be hit by a woman. I don't remember anything more about her.

**Moving to foster care**

16. I stayed at Nimmo until I was five and then I went into foster care. My foster parents, FJZ-GDT, turned up at the home with their adopted son. They had a green ball and a tractor for me. I played with whilst they were away with the staff. was two years older than me and mixed race as well.
17. There was no preparation for going into foster care. One day I was in care the next day I was at the foster home at Perth. I was driven in my foster parents Wolseley car to their house.

Foster care with FJZ-GDT [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Perth

18. There was a big [REDACTED] on the front lawn of the house at [REDACTED] I remember the kitchen and living room being downstairs. The two bedrooms and bathroom were upstairs. [REDACTED] and I were in one room and my foster parents slept in the other room.
19. When I arrived I was taken around the neighbours and introduced to everyone. It felt a bit weird. It was like a freak show with people pointing their finger at me.
20. My name was changed to MXZ [REDACTED].
21. FJZ [REDACTED] my foster parent was in her fifties and too old to be looking after young children. She also had a heart condition that she had to take a lot of medication for. GDT [REDACTED] her husband was ten years younger than FJZ [REDACTED]. FJZ [REDACTED] and GDT [REDACTED] couldn't have kids. That's why they fostered.
22. I had the feeling that FJZ [REDACTED] just saw me as a source of revenue. A cheque in my name would be sent to me. FJZ [REDACTED] would put it in the bank and then spend it.
23. GDT [REDACTED] was very placid. He only hit me once with a belt on the back side. I think I deserved it although I can't remember what I had done.
24. They tried to get me to call them mum and dad but I never did. They weren't my parents. I never called them anything.

*Mornings and bedtimes*

25. I got myself up in the morning. [REDACTED] would help me dress and tie my shoe laces.
26. I would then go for breakfast. There wasn't any choice. I was given salty porridge. If I didn't eat it then I would go to school on an empty stomach.

27. I would go to bed at 5:30 pm. It was ridiculous going at this time. Bedtime was a bit later as I got older.

*Food*

28. I was well fed and always given something to eat. I had my lunch at school and my tea when I got home.

*Clothing*

29. My foster parents bought me the cheapest school uniform. They also provided me with other clothing for outside school.

*Birthdays/Christmas*

30. My birthday was never celebrated by my foster parents. There was a tree and decorations at Christmas but it was just another day to me. I used to go out and see my mates. Christmas still doesn't mean anything to me.

*Running away*

31. When I was about seven or eight years old I ran away. I had been at school and one of the boys said something about my foster parents not being my real mum and dad. When I told **FJZ** she hit me so I ran away. I only got as far as the arcade in the town. The woman at the arcade recognised me and told **FJZ**.
32. I didn't realise at the time that my real mum stayed just around the corner. When I was older I found out I should never have been in care. There was no need for me to have been in care.

*Hygiene*

33. I had a bath every night. FJZ would bathe me until I was about ten. Nothing bad happened, I just don't think it was right.

*Schooling*

34. I didn't go to school for the first couple of weeks. I think they were waiting on a place becoming available. I eventually went to Tulloch primary school.
35. People would call me names because of my hair and my looks. I would hit them then get punished by the teachers. The girls at school would stick up for me when this happened.
36. If I was given the belt at school I would retaliate against the teacher. I would take the belt from them and hit them with it. I never liked being hit or anyone touching me.
37. When I was at school one of the kids called me "Sambo". I didn't know what this meant so I told my foster mother when I got home. She leathered me for saying this. I knew then that it must be bad.
38. When I was back at school I battered the boy who had called me the name. I split his head on a bollard. After this I was expelled from school. I would have been around six years old.
39. I was taken to the Child Guidance Centre. It was like a day assessment centre for children with problems. After this I went to see a psychiatrist, Doctor [REDACTED]. I told him how I felt and that I was being targeted. I also told him that FJZ was hitting me with her stick.
40. Dr [REDACTED] took me on holiday for ten weeks to France with his family. They were like a foster auntie and uncle to me. Eventually it was [REDACTED] that got me away from my foster parents. I was at the assessment centre for about a year.

41. I was asked where I would like to go to school. I said a place where there were people like me. After this I was given a place at Croftinloan Boarding School near Pitlochry.

### **Abuse in foster care**

FJZ

42. FJZ had a big mahogany stick. She would hit me with this. I still have scars on my face and back. One time she hit me and split my head. I ran to a neighbour, Miss [REDACTED], who lived upstairs. I ended up needing stitches.
43. When I was about nine I started to hit back every time FJZ beat me. There could be any reason for hitting me. It happened almost daily.
44. Once I was on a rope swing and FJZ pulled the rope. This made me fall off and hurt my back. I had to go to hospital and FJZ said it was an accident.
45. [REDACTED] would steal FJZ pills and he would be leathered worse than I was.

### **Reporting of abuse**

46. I had told my social workers about being hit right from the first time it happened. Nothing was ever done about it. I would say it in front of my foster parents when the social worker was there. FJZ would say I had hit her first and they would believe her. I never spoke with the social worker on my own. I didn't trust them anyway.
47. Miss [REDACTED], the neighbour upstairs, would be forever taking me and [REDACTED] in when FJZ had lost it. There will be statements from her in my records.

48. GDT knew it was going on as well but he didn't say anything. It was anything for a quiet life with GDT.

### **Croftinloan Boarding School, Pitlochry**

49. I was taken to Croftinloan Boarding School by Miss Albert who worked in the child guidance centre. Ken McLennan was there as well. He was my new social worker. There was a long drive leading to an old Victorian mansion. When I arrived at Croftinloan I met a Jamaican kid who played cricket. There were loads of children aged between five and sixteen. They were different ethnicities not just white kids. I was introduced to all the other kids.

#### *Dormitories*

50. The dormitory you were in depended on your age. In each dorm there were between six and twelve children. I never had any real problems.
51. Mr CSN, the teacher, explained that nothing would happen to me. If there were any issues I knew that I could speak to the teacher. There were times that I did go to the teacher and tell them if I had a problem.

#### *Uniform*

52. I think that I was given a grant for my school clothes. There was lot of different clothes for the different sports. We would always wear a kilt on a Sunday.

#### *Daily routine*

53. I would get up at six every morning when the bell went off. You then had an hour and twenty minutes to make your bed do your ablutions and have your breakfast. After this you had to be in class or you would get what was called a minus mark.

54. There were big long tables in the dining room. The head teacher and head boys sat at the top table.
55. For breakfast you could have porridge or cereal. When you were older you were provided with a cooked breakfast. There were no issues if you didn't eat the food. You could eat your tuck, sweeties and things when you wanted.
56. You would be in bed around eight thirty. I didn't mind this as everyone was the same. It was different from the foster home when you were in bed and all your pals were still out playing.

#### *Birthdays*

57. I always celebrated my birthday with my pals at Croftinloan. We would go into the forest and make a fire.

#### *School*

58. I liked the schooling. I learnt Latin and French. These were my favourite subjects.

#### *Leisure time*

59. I didn't play rugby as I didn't want people touching me. I liked to read books and draw.
60. After school we would make gang huts and play games. There was a bell that rang for you to go in. It was one bell for first years up to six bells for the sixth years. If you missed your bell on three occasions you would be punished.

*Punishments*

61. If you misbehaved or did something wrong you would be given the cane. The cane didn't work with me. I wouldn't say anything and give them the satisfaction when I was given the cane.
62. One time Mr MYA SNR gave me the cane and I just laughed. He picked up a dog chain and hit me on the back of the head. I told my social worker about it. Two weeks later Mr MYA left. I think he was sacked although no one ever told me what had happened.

*Visits*

63. Ken McLennan my Social Worker would visit me on a Wednesday. I had a journal that I filled in. Ken would go through my journal with me.
64. Miss Albert from the child guidance centre also used to come and visit me. She was my sort of guardian as my foster parents had washed their hands of me.
65. Every thirty days there was a case conference. I said I didn't want to go back to my foster parents. I told them what had happened to me. They would say the foster parents had changed and I should give it another try.

**Leaving Croftinloan**

66. I was at Croftinloan from aged seven to eleven. I loved it there.
67. At first I had to go home on a Sunday for six hours. After FJZ had a heart operation I had to start going home for the weekends. I then started going back to the way I had been before. I started to understand that they were just using me to get money. When I found this out I smashed their house up.

68. I left Croftinloan about three months after the incident with Mr MYA SNR. I wouldn't answer a perfectly reasonable question from the new English teacher. I was told to go outside the class and I refused. The SNR Mr Holden, came and took me to his office. He gave me a choice. To stay and behave or go home and give up. I decided to give up and go home.
69. I went to stay with my foster mothers relatives for a few weeks. I called them Auntie and Uncle. I never went back to the foster home after this. I was put straight into Rannoch Mhoire assessment centre.

### **Rannoch Mhoire, Strathmartin Road, Dundee**

70. My Social Worker Ken McLellan took me from my uncle's house to Rannoch Mhoire. Rannoch Mhoire was a residential centre in the Downfield estate at Dundee. Mr MYC was SNR. On the ground floor there was a playroom and TV room. Upstairs the girl's room was on the left and the boy's room was on the right. There were about twenty kids aged from seven to fourteen years old.
71. I was told that I was only to be there for three weeks to be assessed. I was given an assessment every thirty days. I ended up staying there almost two years.
72. There were different staff who worked dayshifts and nightshifts. The dayshift didn't care what the night shift were doing. They would just pick up the pieces.

### **Routine at Rannoch Mhoire**

#### *First day*

73. I was put in a room with another boy, . The first night he came into my bed. He was petrified that Mr MYC would come into the room. He ended up wetting my bed.

74. In the morning [REDACTED] was leathered for being in my bed. I could hear them in the office doing it. Miss <sup>MYB</sup> [REDACTED], Mr Smeaton and Mr <sup>MYC</sup> [REDACTED] were all there. Even though I had told the staff about him being in my bed I didn't know that would happen to him.
75. Bedtime depended on what age you were. I think when I first went there it was about quarter to eight. The older ones were a bit later.

*Leisure time*

76. You were allowed to play downstairs. You could also watch TV. There were some books and comics lying about to read. Outside at the back was a big play area. Sometimes you were allowed outside to play there. It was surrounded by a big fence. The staff would watch you from a window.
77. If one of the kids wasn't getting their own way the TV or record player might get broken. If this happened you would have no television for a couple of months.

*Mealtimes / Food*

78. The food wasn't too bad. It was edible. If you didn't like it then that was tough. I was lactic intolerant but nobody cared. I still had to eat the same food despite it making me ill. After two weeks I ended up in hospital at Dundee. They knew right away what was wrong with me.
79. After this all my food was boiled. It was horrible. If you didn't eat the food there was no punishment.

*Washing / bathing*

80. There were only half doors on the shower cubicles. This meant that you had no privacy. People would come in and out while you were showering to keep an eye on you.

*Clothing*

81. You were provided with a school uniform by the home.

*School*

82. There was a room in the building that was used as a classroom. A woman came in and taught you the basics. It was completely different from Croftinloan. After a week she had exhausted what she could teach you. I had to stay there for twelve weeks before going to McAlpine Primary School. McAlpine was close to the home.
83. I went into school at primary seven. I was there for a year before going to Rockwell High School in Dundee. I was only there for a few weeks then I went to Kirkton High.
84. I would never take anyone back to the home from school. I was ashamed of the place. Sometimes I would go for my dinner to my friend's houses.
85. When I started to become more violent I was stopped from going to school. This made me worse as this one of the things that I liked.

*Trips / Holidays*

86. There was a trip to the zoo and Pitlochry dam. I used to go to the football on a Wednesday. The home had a special ticket for the enclosure at Dundee and Dundee United.
87. Doctor [REDACTED] was still in touch with me and I would see him every Wednesday. He was very good to me and would also take me to his house in Perth at the weekends.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

88. Christmas was celebrated but it was all false. They were doing it for the sake of it. I couldn't wait for it to finish.

*Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention*

89. I would go to some of my thirty day reviews. I never spoke. You weren't allowed to speak. At these reviews there would be two staff members, the head of social work and a psychologist.
90. I was sick of not being listened to. Eventually I lost the plot and smashed up the office. I was fed up being told that I was bad. I hit Miss MYB with one of the phones.
91. My social worker, Ken, would visit but only for case conferences. I still had my journal that I wrote my thoughts in. Ken knew I wanted to find my family but he never provided me with any information. This started making more angry and violent.
92. I also wrote in my journal what was happening to me and other people at the home. Ken would say that it wasn't his concern.

*Running away*

93. The first time I ran away I was about eleven. I went with two girls who had been misbehaving. We didn't get far. One of the staff saw us and took us back to the home.
94. The two girls were put to bed without any supper. I was locked in the wee room.

*Bed Wetting*

95. I used to wet the bed. If this happened you were locked in the wee room. There was nothing in the room apart from a radiator. There was a raised box in the corner. That

was your bed when you were in there. You might get water and a sandwich. The staff would check on you but you could be left in there for days. There was a small toilet in the room as well.

96. You would also get put in the room for doing other things. This could be fighting or not doing well at school.

### **Abuse at Rannoch Mhoire**

Miss **MYB**

97. Miss **MYB** would hit you with a big paddle if you misbehaved. The paddle was a big wooden spoon used in the kitchen. She would usually pick on the girls but the boys would get it as well. You would get hit by the paddle for anything. Toy fighting or being cheeky. It was just what kids got up to. I thought she was a bitter old woman.
98. After being hit with the paddle I would be dragged into the locked room and left there.

Mr **MYC**

99. Mr **MYC** was **SNR**. He would punish the boys. **MYC** who was one of the boys in my room would wet the bed. I would see Mr **MYC** come into the room. He would then drag **MYC** out of the bed by the hair.
100. I was dragged off the bed one night by Mr **MYC**. This was because I was talking. Mr **MYC** had a baby monitor in his room and could hear you. I hit my mouth on the floor and lost my front teeth. I was taken to the dentist and told to say that I had fallen.
101. Mr **MYC** would go into the girl's rooms at night as well. I couldn't say what he was doing but you heard the girls shouting at him. Some of the girls tried to commit

suicide after he had been in their room. You don't do that unless it was something really bad that was happening to you.

### **Reporting of abuse at Rannoch Mhoire**

102. I told Ken and another social worker, Norma Fairbrother, what was happening to me. They weren't interested. They would say it was either that or getting the police involved. This seemed to justify it to them. In any case Ken was just a yes man.

### **Leaving Rannoch Mhoire**

103. After I hit Miss MYB with a phone there was a case conference. I had also fell out with Ken and hit him. It was then decided that I would go to Burnside Assessment Centre, Hairstane Road, Dundee.

### **Routine at Burnside Assessment Centre, Hairstane Road, Dundee**

#### *First day*

104. Ken took me to Burnside assessment Centre. He dropped me of at the foyer and left me there without saying anything. One of the staff, Jean Pirrie, came and took me to the senior assessment room. I knew then I was in trouble.
105. There were about fifty people in the assessment centre. Thirty of these were in the senior assessment centre. I was only supposed to be there for three weeks and ended up staying for eighteen months. Mr MYD was in charge of senior assessment.
106. There were boys and girls in the assessment centre. Most of them were between fourteen and sixteen years old. I was only thirteen at the time and the youngest in

the centre. You had to wear a yellow shirt, yellow jumper and a pair of joggers. They took my clothes from me when I arrived whilst I was having a shower.

107. That night I smashed a window and ran away to Perth. The police found me at the train station and took me back to Burnside.

*Mornings and bedtime*

108. In the morning I would get up and dress myself. I then went for breakfast and after that I would go to school.

*Bullying*

109. I was picked on because I was the youngest. The other kids would put chewing gum in my shoes and things like that. When I took the bait they would just laugh. This went on for a couple of weeks. The third week I ran away again.

*Mealtimes / Food*

110. The food was rubbish. There were too many people to cook for.

*Washing / bathing*

111. There were never any issues when you were having a shower. Staff would only check if you were taking too long.

*Chores*

112. There were chores to do in the centre but I refused to do them.

*School*

113. I went to Kirkton High School. I liked it there. One of the teachers, Miss Budge, was blind. Everyone liked her she was very good and looked after the kids. She took a genuine interest in me and what I was doing.

114. I didn't get any qualifications at Kirkton. I was told that I wasn't able to sit exams there.

#### *Leisure*

115. I went to the army cadets. I liked it there, because of the discipline and everyone looked the same.

116. As long as you were doing your schoolwork there were no issues getting to go back out. I loved doing homework so it wasn't a problem for me. When you were out at night you didn't have to be back to the unit until quarter to ten.

117. Once you were back in the unit at night the door was locked behind you.

#### *Trips / Holidays*

118. There were a lot of trips at Burnside. We went to Butlins at Filey, the Backwater Dam and the West Highland Way.

#### *Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention*

119. Ken was still my social worker although Norma Fairbrother took over halfway through my time at Burnside.

120. I was still having my thirty day reviews. It was the same people at these reviews. Doctor [REDACTED], the social work, a psychiatrist and a note taker. I was given the chance to speak. I told them that if they kept me in care I would become institutionalised and forget what families were. There were great plans but nothing happened. I thought they were trying to get me to the orphanage at Carolina House.

121. [REDACTED] would take me swimming at Dundee University. [REDACTED] would tell me that they didn't want me back at my mother's. They said I was too institutionalised for this to happen and I wouldn't cope in a home environment.

122. I didn't have any other visits when I was at Burnside.

#### *Healthcare*

123. There wasn't a doctor at Burnside although I did have to go and see the dentist.

#### *Running away*

124. One day Mr EIF [REDACTED] who was in charge of the assessment centre downstairs, tried it on with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was one of the girls at the centre. Because of this the whole unit ran away. When we went back we told them why we did it. Nothing was done. Everyone was away for a different amount of time. I was away for about three months staying with a friend.

125. After we were all caught everyone was scattered to different care homes. You didn't know what was happening. It just happened and you were away. This was when I was put into Carolina House.

126. The furthest I ever ran away was to London. The police from Scotland came and took me back on a plane. I ran away from Burnside a total of four times.

#### *Punishments*

127. There was a small room in the home that you could be locked in as a punishment. It was a small room with a big window. There were two radiators and it was boiling hot. The only other thing in the room was a pillow. I was in there a few times. It didn't bother me. You were given liquids and sandwiches at meal times.

128. The longest time I was in there was for seven days. You were taken out at night and put to bed. I was hardly able to walk because of the heat. On one occasion when I was being taken to the room Mr MYD [REDACTED] banged my head of the walls.

129. Other punishments would be stopping your pocket money, not being allowed out on excursions or banned from the playroom.

*Punishment books*

130. There was a book at Burnside where every incident was recorded. This detailed who was involved and what had happened.

*Glue sniffing*

131. I started sniffing glue when I was at Burnside. There was an old mansion called Bentleys, that's where we went to sniff glue. I would have been about thirteen years old.

**Abuse at Burnside**

132. I slept in a room with three other boys. The girl's rooms were on the other side of the corridor. One of the staff, GNO [REDACTED], would check on you at four in the morning. If you were awake he would give you a doing` with a big rubber torch. He would then go to the girl's side. He was a pest. I would hear the girls throwing things at him. I saw GNO [REDACTED] with his hands under the bed covers of the girls. He eventually went to court and was given five years in jail for what he did to one of the girls.

133. Mr MYD [REDACTED] would be the main person to dish out any punishments. He would bite me to try and get me to remove my clothing. I still have the scars from when he did this.

**Reporting of abuse at Burnside**

134. I told one of the staff, Mick, about GNO [REDACTED] hitting me after I was given a black eye. He said that I was big enough to deal with that.

**Leaving Burnside**

135. It was decided I would leave Burnside. Whilst it was being discussed about where I would go, I went and stayed at Uncle [REDACTED]'s. I then had to go back to Burnside for a children's panel. I was told I would be going to Carolina House, which was an orphanage. I went straight there from Burnside. There was no input from me and no discussion it was just decided. I didn't want to go because I was settled at school.
136. I shouldn't have been sent to Carolina as it was an orphanage. I wasn't an orphan, I had my parents.

**Carolina Orphanage, Broughty Ferry Road, Dundee**

137. I was taken to Carolina by my social worker, Norma. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

[REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

138. [REDACTED]

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

### Leaving Carolina House

184. Secondary Institutions - to be published later at my mums they told me that there was no legal requirement for me to be in care. This is what I had thought all along. I had always believed that my mother had me and my sister taken off her as a punishment for having mixed race children.

185. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

186. Norma was still my social worker and was visiting me at my mums. I didn't get on with my step father so I would run away and live on the street. I felt safer with my friends.

187. One day Norma came to the house and saw my step father drunk. She realised then why I had been running away from my mum's.

188. It was then decided that I would go to Colonsay during the week and come back to my mum's at the weekend. I had been in Colonsay before but I can't remember anything about when this was. I know that I was only there for a short time.

### Colonsay House, Colonsay Street, Perth

189. Colonsay is like two big houses joined together with grounds outside. There was a play room and kitchen. LND and MYJ, who were SNR, had a house on one side. The other side had the children's bedrooms. This was ran by [REDACTED] and Peter. They were monsters. [REDACTED] and Peter usually worked the night shift.

190. There were only about fourteen children in the home. The children were aged between seven and sixteen. Each bedroom slept two children. I slept in a room with [REDACTED] who was the same age as me. [REDACTED] nickname was "[REDACTED]". In the next room was [REDACTED] who had cerebral palsy. She was very ill. I don't think she could speak. She had a room of her own.

### **Routine at Colonsay**

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

191. In the morning you would get yourself up. The staff might shout for you to get up from the end of the corridor. If you didn't get up then you didn't get any breakfast.
192. You had to be in bed between half nine and ten. I didn't like going to bed because of what was happening during the night.

#### *Mealtimes/Food*

193. There was a small kitchen, which was more like what you would find in a proper house. The food was okay. They knew about my lactose intolerance. If you never ate what you didn't like there were no issues with this.

#### *Chores*

194. You were meant to do work at the home. I would make my own bed but that's it. I never used the playroom or the kitchen so I never done any work in there. I didn't see why I should do jobs for other people.

*Washing/bathing*

195. I always had a shower first thing in the morning. I preferred this as no one else was about.

*Clothing/uniform*

196. I had my own clothes, which I had taken with me to the home.

*School*

197. I went to Perth Grammar School. This was one of the better schools I had been at. They just let me get on with things. Nobody knew me there. This suited me.
198. I was too late to sit any exams. I just marked time until I could leave. By this time I had made my mind up that I was going to be moving away to London.

*Leisure*

199. You made up your own mind about what you wanted to do with your time. I would go out and about to different places to see my friends. Colonsay was like a holding place.

*Visits/Inspections/Review of Detention*

200. My social worker, Norma, would come and take me to my mum's at the weekends. I didn't like going back because everyone was arguing with each other. After this I stopped going to my mum's and stayed at the home for the weekends.
201. I had one visit at the home from my mother. I also used to go to my foster parents. This was okay as [REDACTED] was still there.

*Healthcare*

202. I never saw a doctor at Colonsay. [Redacted] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

[Redacted] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

*Running away*

203. I used to run away with my friends from the home. One time I hit Peter and I thought the police would come so I ran away.

*Punishments*

204. If you did something wrong you would be grounded and your pocket money stopped. I was very rarely given any pocket money. I had always done something wrong that meant I never got any.

**Abuse at Colonsay**

[Redacted] and Peter

205. There was a baby monitor in each of the rooms. This was so that when Peter and [Redacted] were in their office they could hear you in the room. It would always make a cackling noise and you knew that it was on. If it went silent then you knew they had switched it off and were on their way.

206. If they came into your room and you were awake then Peter would give you a hiding. I would be punched and kicked when I was under the covers.

207. I heard him and [Redacted] going into [Redacted]'s room. I could hear noises but didn't know what was going on. When they came out [Redacted] and Peter would be arguing. I know now that Peter was convicted for molesting [Redacted].

LND and MYJ

208. On my first day at the home I saw LND and MYJ dragging one of the children, [REDACTED], by the hair into their house. Not long after this the police came and took [REDACTED] away.

#### **Reporting of abuse at Colonsay**

209. When I was on holiday with Doctor [REDACTED] I told him about what was happening at Colonsay.

#### **Leaving Colonsay**

210. I was in Colonsay for about five or six months. I left when I was sixteen. I was given £200. That was my preparation for leaving the care system.

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

211. After leaving Colonsay I still had contact with the social work. Not long after this I was arrested for police assault. When I went to the children's panel they decided I would no longer be a ward of the court. I became a ward of the state. I was sent to Perth prison.
212. After my sentence at Perth I moved into a homeless hostel. I stayed there about a year. I was still in contact with the social work. Because I was under supervision the criminal justice system provided the social worker.
213. In 1986 I moved to London. There was about thirty of us all went there together. We travelled down by the Stagecoach bus. When we arrived we met some homeless

people. They showed us around. I stayed in London for about eight months in a squat.

214. After this I moved to Brighton and worked in the amusement arcades. I stayed there for a few months then moved to Newcastle before travelling around Europe and Asia.
215. When I was 31 I married [REDACTED] who I had been in care with at Rannoch Mhoire. I had been in a relationship with her before and met up with her again when I went back to Perth. I was with [REDACTED] for about fourteen or fifteen years. [REDACTED] died about nine years ago. By this time we had split up.
216. When I was 36 my brother, [REDACTED] was shot and I ended up binging on drugs for about four or five weeks. I never bothered with drugs before this. I did used to drink a lot.

### **Impact**

217. I always wanted to move around. I had been in so many care places that I could never settle when I was older. I have never seen myself as a civilian.
218. My time in care affected my relationship with my parents. I used to detest my mother until I found out the truth about why I was in care. I met my father in Manchester but I never forgot that he had hit my mother.
219. Even though I have been in prison a long time it doesn't bother me. After you have been in care for the time that I have there is nothing can be done that will affect me. If I was to be released tomorrow and get a life sentence the next day this would have no impact on me at all.

220. Being in care was an education for me. I learnt a lot about myself and how to take care of myself. After I was in care I learned to educate myself. I see myself as well educated now.
221. I do think about my time in care a lot. I have panic attacks and sometimes night terrors. There are triggers like bullying. If I see things happening I will act first and think about the consequences later.

### **Records**

222. When I was around 31 years old I went Rosslyn House with [REDACTED]. We were given a copy of our records. I read [REDACTED]'s and she read mine.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

223. Children in care have to be listened to so that you can hear what they have to say.
224. There is a group meeting that I have been to. This is called the thousand voices. It is people who are in prison and who have previously been in care. They were all saying that the same things were still happening.
225. Children should be treated better. When they are in care it shouldn't be a sterile environment.

### **Other information**

#### *Counselling*

226. I have been to anger management classes. It seemed though that it was always my fault. Whilst I have been in prison I have regular counselling sessions. This is helping

227. The counselling sessions have helped me. I have been diagnosed with multiple personality social disorders.

228. I have never asked for an apology or been in contact with any of the institutions where I have been in care.

229. I know now that I should never have been in care. There was no legal reason for it. I think it was to punish my mum for having mixed race children.

*Hopes for the Inquiry*

230. I hope that the people who have hurt children in care are found and locked up.

231. 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 MXZ .....

Dated 24/10/18 .....