

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PJL

Support person present: No

1. My name is PJL. My date of birth is 1960. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My parents' names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I was born at [REDACTED] in Perth, in the house at 4:10 am. I was one of twelve siblings, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], who died of cot death when she was two weeks old, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], the oldest, is now 82 and [REDACTED], the youngest, is now 58. My sister [REDACTED]'s surname was [REDACTED]. My mum was widowed when her husband died during the War. Her children then took the name [REDACTED], her maiden name, because she wasn't married to my dad. My mum and dad were married in 1963. They weren't married when I was born so my surname is PJL. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] then came along and their surname was [REDACTED].
3. We lived at [REDACTED]. My mum didn't work because she was too busy giving birth and had all of us children to look after. My dad worked. I can remember him working in the slaughter house on [REDACTED]. He also worked in the [REDACTED] at Perth Royal Infirmary. He used to tell us a story about a limb coming down into the [REDACTED] and he almost had a heart attack. That story used to put the fear of death into me.

4. I loved life at home. I can still see my mum sitting at the window in her blue dress. Life was great. We didn't have a lot, no carpets or anything, but it was a great life and a great childhood. There was no social work involvement with our family. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I were still staying at home when my mum became unwell. [REDACTED] had one bedroom, the boys were in the other room and my mum and dad were in the living room. It was a two-bedroomed house. When my older siblings had still been at home, there had been six girls in a double bed in one room, three at the top and three at the bottom.

5. My mum was taken into hospital with breast cancer. She had a breast and a lymph gland removed and got home. While she was in hospital, I think we stayed at Nimmo Place for the first time. We weren't there for very long. A memory that sticks in my mind is that we were having our tea. I overheard Mrs GKK [REDACTED] in the kitchen saying that our cases had been packed and our mother was upstairs. My mum was upstairs in our bedroom, sitting on an orange chair. We got to go home from Nimmo Place but it was only for about a month. We weren't there long before my mum took ill again. Mum was taken back into hospital and she died from double pneumonia. I turned nine in [REDACTED] 1969 and my mum died on [REDACTED] 1970.

6. When my mum died, [REDACTED] and I were staying with my sister, [REDACTED], at [REDACTED]. My sister had a two-bedroomed house and four children of her own. We were only there for about a month. We were lifted from there and taken into care. She wasn't allowed to keep us because she already had four children in a two-bedroomed house. She wanted us, my sister [REDACTED] wanted us and my sister [REDACTED] wanted us. Because they all had young children, the social work department wouldn't allow them to take us. It was horrible. We were taken out of [REDACTED]'s house by the welfare. I can't remember whether there was one or two social workers or what their names were.

Nimmo Place, 22 Nimmo Place, Hillyland, Perth

7. I went into the home when I was nine years old. [REDACTED] was six. They did try to keep siblings together. There were other sibling sets in Nimmo Place and about nine

children altogether. The youngest child was [REDACTED], who went in to the home as a baby. The oldest would have been fifteen, sixteen years old. There were three or four children's homes in Perth and Nimmo Place was one of them. The home was in the Hillyland area of Perth. The area is known as Tulloch nowadays.

8. On the ground floor, there was the storeroom, the kitchen, the living room and bathroom. Down from the bathroom was the toilet and down from there was the room where we all kept our shoes. Off that there was a laundry and then as you came back up there was a playroom with cupboards for our toys and then the office. The dining room went off from the sitting area in the living room and then there were patio windows at the back going out into a back garden. I could draw a whole diagram of that house. I remember it vividly.

9. The stairs were to the right of the front door as you went in. Upstairs, there was a bathroom on the left and then [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s bedroom was there. [REDACTED] RHR-GKK [REDACTED] room was across from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s room. You then came down to another room, which I think was [REDACTED]'s room. You then came to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s room, who was the sister of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Down from [REDACTED]'s room was Margaret's room. She was one of the carers. I can't remember her second name, but her sister's name is Liz Taylor. Liz lives in Abernethy and is one of [REDACTED]. Margaret's room was across from our bedroom. Down from our room was the fire exit and another bathroom. [REDACTED] and I shared our room with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED], who were brother. There was another wee boy, a baby called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] GKK [REDACTED] adopted him.

Staff

10. [REDACTED] GKK [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] RHR [REDACTED] were [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] of the home. We used to have to call them Aunty [REDACTED] GKK and Uncle [REDACTED] RHR, [REDACTED] GKK [REDACTED] was the main one. What she said, [REDACTED] RHR [REDACTED] did. He was her poodle. She was a bitch. She wore her hair up and she had glasses. She had a [REDACTED]. She was quite stout and she had very muscly legs. She was good at knitting and crocheting. [REDACTED] RHR [REDACTED] was a wee fat

man. He was balding. I remember that he smoked gold packets of Kensitas Club cigarettes.

11. GKK [REDACTED] and RHR [REDACTED] had their own house [REDACTED]. GKK [REDACTED] lived in the home, but on her days off she went over to her own house [REDACTED]. She had a son called RGG [REDACTED], who was three or four years older than me. He lived in their house [REDACTED]. They also had an older son, [REDACTED], who stayed in Musselburgh with his wife, [REDACTED], and their son. RHR [REDACTED] and GKK [REDACTED] were in the children's home five or six days a week. They maybe stayed in their own house one night a week or two nights if they had a day off, but they were almost always in the home.

12. Mrs Christie was the cook. She stayed [REDACTED]. She was lovely. Mrs Herring was the cleaner. Her daughter, Irene Herring, used to come in and help. They were both lovely as well. Margaret worked as a carer, but she didn't stay for very long because she wasn't happy about what was going on. She was lovely and I still speak to her when I see her. I've spoken to Margaret as an adult and she told me that she hated GKK [REDACTED] and RHR [REDACTED] because of what was happening in the home. She's quite venomous about it. I didn't pressurise her to tell me anymore because I knew what had been happening in the home anyway.

Routine at Nimmo Place

First day

13. I remember getting uplifted from our sister's. All we had with us was the clothes on our backs. I can remember arriving at Nimmo Place. The first thing that GKK [REDACTED] said was, "Get them in a bath, they're from [REDACTED]." It was as if to say, "They're from a dirty area, get them in a bath." That never left my mind. [REDACTED] and I were put into a bath. She scrubbed us with a scrubbing brush. We weren't dirty kids. We had a bath every day. My mum made sure of that. After the bath, we were taken upstairs and shown where our beds were. I would say that the first three or four weeks

of being in the home were alright, but once you were in you were in and then that was it.

Mornings/bedtime

14. There were four boys in our room. [REDACTED] and I shared with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My bed was next to a long horizontal window. When you looked out, it was onto the top of the garage where the caravanette was. There were beds in our room, an orange seat and wardrobes. The wardrobes were sort of built-in.
15. We always had a bath or a shower at bedtime. We then got into our pyjamas and dressing gown. We got to watch a bit of TV. My favourite TV show was *Star Trek* at that time. We would get a supper of cereal or toast. Because I was a bit older, bedtime was 9:00 pm. The younger kids went up to bed earlier. We weren't allowed to shut the bedroom door. All doors had to be opened. I don't know if any children had difficulties with bed wetting. There was definitely nobody in my room who wet the bed.
16. If we were late home from school we were sent up to bed. When we went to bed, we weren't allowed to talk. We were supposed to just shut our eyes and switch off. Kids don't do that. We would get into trouble if we were caught talking. We were made to stand in the corridor.
17. The staff got us up in the morning. We had a wash, got ready for school and went downstairs for breakfast. When I got to secondary school age, I used to leave for school at about 8:30 am. I would go down the bank at the back of the home and get the bus from Maxton Place.

Mealtimes/food

18. There were three glass panels from the kitchen into the dining room. They used to pass through our tea to put it onto the table. I don't like to think about mealtimes. [REDACTED] GKK would force feed me if I didn't like something. If we didn't eat

something, she would also try to give it to us the next morning. They never asked us what we liked. If it was put in front of us, we had to eat it or we got nothing.

Washing and bathing

19. If we were bad, we got a cold bath. If we were good, we got a decent hot bath. The washing facilities were alright. We always got clean towels and things like that. We got the bath to ourselves. We weren't allowed to lock the bathroom door, but I think that was a safety thing in case anybody banged their head. We were allowed to close the door.

Clothing

20. The home provided us with our clothes. We went to a shop in Perth called Bennies, which was on South Street. We would get our school clothes and jeans there. We didn't get a choice, but I did in the end. I refused to go to school unless I got what I wanted. I got my duffel coat, stay-pressed trousers, two-toned jumper and my West shoes. I wasn't going to look out of place. When I think of it now, they probably had an allowance for each child. I was just one of those children who wasn't going to look out of place amongst my schoolmates.

Schooling

21. When I first went into the home I moved schools. When my mum had been alive, I had been at Goodlyburn Primary School. When she died and we went into the home, I was put into Tulloch Primary School. I think I was there for Primary 6 and 7. I missed my mates at Goodlyburn, but I liked Tulloch. As I got older I moved up to Viewlands Academy. I can still remember the school motto, 'Pro Rege Lege et Grege'. We didn't get any help with our school work or encouragement from the staff at Nimmo Place. I think I could have gone to Irene if I'd needed help. She was nice and she was clever. I was able to do my homework by myself, but I just didn't push myself hard enough.

22. We had our lunch at school. We were given a free lunch ticket. I think that was because we were in the home. I still have a lot of good friends from Viewlands. I was known as PJJ. I was very clever at school, but I didn't push myself as much as I should have. I was more interested in getting away and getting out into the world. I left school when I was fifteen and a half. All my school mates were leaving before me because my birthday was in . I went to do catering at college, just to get out of school.

Work/chores

23. After school, we went upstairs and got changed and then we all had duties to do. Sometimes, I'd have to do the shoes. Other days, it would be other wee jobs. We would have to tidy up the dining room after tea. One person would wash dishes and another would dry them. There was no rota, but our duties varied. Mrs GKK would tell us what we were doing. We also had to make up our beds in the morning.

Leisure time

24. I liked painting. I used to do painting by numbers and the home would give me that and oil paints for Christmas. We used to have sales of work in the home. GKK was talented at knitting and crocheting. She could do it without looking. She would make beautiful shawls and mohair jumpers. I would paint pictures for the sales of work. We used to sell draught excluders. used to make jewellery for it. They had a machine in the garage. You could put stones from the beach in it and it would buff them up. They would come up with nice colours. He would stick them onto a bracelet or a ring.
25. I learned how to swim when I was at school camp. After that, I joined Puller's Swimming Club. I got all my certificates. I would go to the soldiers' pool in the old swimming baths in Perth. I got the bus down to the baths myself. I went there from the age of about thirteen to fourteen and a half. I was also in the Boys' Brigade, the Sixth Boys' Brigade at St. Andrew's Church.

26. I had a tortoise called Toto. Mrs GKK would make us grow things out the back so I grew lettuce for my tortoise. I also had a cat called Brandy and I used to set him on Mrs GKK's dog.

Personal possessions

27. We did get pocket money, but it wasn't much. I saved most of mine. I just used to buy one thing, the *Warlord* magazine. I always got a free gift with it. When I came out of the home, I had money saved in my TSB bank account.

Trips and holidays

28. I remember going to Belmont camp with school. It was next to the river Tummel. It was a luxury for me because I was just there with other schoolkids. I think I was there for two weeks and GKK and RHR only got to visit once. They did bring me sweets and things. I enjoyed school camp. That was where I learned to swim.
29. I don't really remember going out to the cinema and things like that. We did go to Camperdown Park one Sunday. I remember the bear, Ben. I can only remember going on that one trip. It was when I was younger. I can't remember doing things like that when I got older. We did go to a school in Dyce once. All the children from Nimmo Place stayed in a big dormitory on mattresses on the floor. That was great. We all loved it because we were all together in this big dormitory.
30. We would all go on holiday in the caravanette, which they used as a mini bus. We went on holiday once a year. Sometimes we went to Monifieth and stayed in a big caravan. There was a big tent as well. We also used to go to a massive house in Carnoustie. It was a lovely big house, belonging to the Brands. There was Westhaven Beach, Easthaven Beach and Carnoustie beach. We all loved going to Carnoustie. We got to go out without the staff and it was a bit of freedom. I won the pavement artist competition by drawing Bambi. won the fancy dress competition. He went as Lily the Pink. He had cold tea for whisky, hanging out of a handbag, and he wore a wig and a hat.

31. There was a big white cat called Princess at the Brands'. She had kittens. I stole a wee black and white kitten. I remember travelling back to Perth and I had hidden him in my coat. It wasn't until we'd got way down the road that the cat meowed. Mrs GKK turned round and said that she had heard a cat. I told her that I had a kitten. She couldn't take it back. I called the cat Brandy after the Brands. He was a big black and white cat and I loved him to bits. I used to set him on Mrs GKK's dog, a wee Papillon.

Healthcare

32. They always made sure that we got medical and dental care. We were registered with a GP and a dentist. We would be taken for check-ups at the dentist. Mrs GKK made sure we had all our immunisations and things like that.
33. I remember one occasion when I was riding my racer bike. At the back of the home there was a big bank that went down to Maxton Place. I thought I was being smart, going down the bank on my bike. I went into the swings and ended up going over my handle bars. The way I did it, one of my testicles went up inside my stomach. I was taken to Bridge of Earn Hospital and operated on. I remember that I was in ward 2. I was about eleven when that happened.

Religious instruction

34. We always used to go to church on a Sunday. We went to St. Andrew's Church. All the children would go with GKK and RHR. I think they were heathens after what they did to us, but they had the cheek to take us to church. We went to bible class after church and then back to the home for our lunch. I enjoyed going to church and bible class. We didn't say prayers or do anything religious in the home.

Christmas and birthdays

35. My birthday was in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s was in [REDACTED]. They used to get our birthdays mixed up in the home. I would sometimes get my birthday early, in [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] would get his late, in [REDACTED]. We always got a birthday cake and a present. [REDACTED] and I got quite a lot from our brothers and sisters as well.
36. At Christmas time, we got a stocking at the end of our beds. We also got a pillowcase with toys in it. I used to like painting. The children's home often gave me painting by numbers and oil paints because they knew I liked that. [REDACTED] and I were also given toys from our sisters and brothers. The staff used to give them to other children. They thought that we didn't know what our siblings were sending us. I loved wildlife when I was a child. My sister, [REDACTED], got me a beautiful wildlife book for Christmas. They gave it to [REDACTED], but they made one mistake. My sister had written inside the book, "To P.J.L. [REDACTED], lots of love your sister [REDACTED] and family." I got belted that day because I took the book off [REDACTED].
37. [REDACTED] and I were also supposed to get two Kodak instamatic cameras. They were given to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] gave us remote control cars, which were given to other kids. Our siblings had told us what they were giving us so we knew they were our presents. We did get a lot and I don't think we really minded. I wasn't worried about anything else, but the only time I minded was the wildlife book. I had been really excited about it.
38. I remember going up to Roslin House at Christmas time. It was an old folks' home and we went to help with a Christmas party. I enjoyed doing that. We all went up in the caravanette.
39. On Christmas morning the year that my mum died, they had to get the police and my social worker up to the home. I was sitting up in my bed having a full conversation with my mum. I was looking at the orange chair in my bedroom. I don't remember it, but apparently it did happen. I think they thought I'd flipped my lid, but I was fine afterwards. My wee brother told me about it. The only thing that came out of the

conversation was that my mum wanted a ten bob note that had been in the tea caddy. My big brother [REDACTED] had it.

Visits/inspections

40. My social worker's name was David Scott. He lived [REDACTED] from the children's home. Although Mr Scott stayed [REDACTED], I very rarely saw him. We only saw him if we had done something really bad. He would be called over to come and speak to us. Mr Scott did appear at Christmas time when I was talking to my mother and they thought there was something wrong with me.
41. It never really occurred to me how infrequent the visits were, until being asked about it by the Inquiry. I remember that MCF [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] social worker. She very rarely came into the home as well, even though she lived nearby. The only time I saw her was at the Boys' Brigade because she was one of the [REDACTED] there. I wasn't aware of any inspections of the home or reviews. I didn't see anybody other than the staff come into the home.

Siblings/family contact

42. I can remember all of my older siblings' addresses when we were in the home. [REDACTED] and I used to go and visit my brother, [REDACTED], at the weekends. We went to his on alternate Sundays. [REDACTED] would come and get us but we always went back. He used to play pontoon with us. He would let us win to give us pocket money. When we went back to the home, GKK [REDACTED] asked us where we got the money. We told her we had been playing cards with our brother. We were just innocent kids. She stopped us from going to see our big brother. I didn't know that at the time. When I was an adult, I asked my big brother why he had stopped taking us. He said that GKK [REDACTED] had stopped us from seeing him because she said that he was encouraging us to gamble. All he was doing was letting us win some pocket money. It was hard because we were quite close to [REDACTED] and his sons, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

43. We'd also go to our older sister, [REDACTED]. She lived at [REDACTED] in Perth. We normally went there on a Sunday after lunch. We used to go through to my sister [REDACTED]'s for the weekend. We would go through on a Friday on a big, red bus, the Fife bus. The bus would stop across the road from a garage on Caddon Road End. It went down to Leslie and up to Glenrothes. [REDACTED] would pick us up in her Minor 1000 car. My sister lived at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Glenrothes. I loved going through there. We went there about once a month, from the Friday to the Sunday. That was my highlight when I was younger. I loved it there.
44. We didn't start seeing our dad until later on. He was living at [REDACTED]. I think I was about fourteen by then. He was working as a porter in the kitchen at [REDACTED].

Running away

45. I wasn't aware of any children running away from Nimmo Place. I was tempted myself a few times but I knew that I'd get caught. I would have gone to my sisters or brothers and they would have found me.

Abuse at Nimmo Place

46. GKK [REDACTED] force fed us if we didn't like something. I remember one occasion when we were given pilchers on toast. I can still taste the tomato sauce on it. She would hold my head back by my nose and force it down my throat. She would pull you back and her hand was on your nose so you had to breathe through your mouth. She would force it in. She did that to me with cheese as well. I was older by then and I thought, "No, you're not doing this to me again." I spat the cheese in her face. I just missed her [REDACTED]. I got belted stupid for that but it was well worth it.
47. GKK [REDACTED] force fed my brother as well when we were having cabbage. [REDACTED] got away from her and got under the table. Mrs GKK [REDACTED] was trying to kick him under the table to get a hold of him. The force feeding happened whenever we were given

food that we didn't like. I could suffer the belt or anything else, but the force feeding is a vivid memory.

48. If we did something bad, we were taken to the downstairs toilet. Mrs GKK would put soap into our mouths until we were physically sick. Being bad was just carrying on or fighting with someone else, just doing normal kids' things. If we were talking in our bedrooms and that old witch, Mrs GKK, heard us talking, she would take us downstairs. She would make us stand in a corner and she would sit in a chair by the kitchen door until one of us collapsed. She did that quite regularly. Sometimes, RHR would sit while we stood in the corridor if GKK had told him to do it. I think she got enjoyment out of these things. All I can say is that she was evil.
49. When I had my accident on my racer bike, I was taken to Bridge of Earn Hospital and operated on. I was about eleven years old. When I got out of hospital, they had got me a big divan bed with a board on it. The next morning, I fell back onto the bed and the board snapped. It was an accident. I had only been out of the hospital for one day and I fell back onto the bed. That night, Mrs GKK made us sleep on the floor. That was the night that [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were talking. Mrs GKK made us go downstairs and stand in a corner of the corridor. She sat in a chair at the kitchen until I collapsed. Only after I collapsed did she give me a mattress to sleep on. I don't think I would have been given my mattress if I hadn't collapsed.
50. Mr RHR and Mrs GKK would belt us. GKK would hold us over a chair, holding our hands. RHR would belt us with a belt or a cane. They did that in the office across from the downstairs bathroom. It happened if you were bad or if you were late home. I think GKK was the instigator. I don't think Uncle RHR wanted to do it and I don't think he was a bad man. She was the one who would say that someone had done something wrong so they were getting the belt. She was the one who held your hands over the chair so you couldn't get up. We were belted on our backsides over our boxers. It wasn't on the bare flesh, but it was still sore.
51. I don't think that children should have been treated like that, especially when they knew what we had been through. It's unacceptable. They wouldn't have got away with

it nowadays. They would be in the jail. I liked Uncle RHR. Even though he did belt us, deep down I knew that it was her. RHR was a real lapdog. GKK was the bad one. If she told RHR to belt us, he had to do it. He would have sat there quite happily and drunk his cup of tea and had a smoke. I was terrified of GKK when I was younger. As I got older, I stopped being scared of her. I was able to fight back. I couldn't fight back when I was nine years old. I was more worried about my wee brother. I made sure that he was always with me.

Reporting of abuse whilst at Nimmo Place

52. My brother and I were talking to my sister, [REDACTED], recently. She asked us why we never told her what was going on in the home. I said to her that if we had told any of our siblings what was happening to us, they would have created a scene. She's a wee firecracker and she's furious about it. I didn't tell anybody in my family what was happening to us at the time.

53. We hardly ever saw our social worker. If Mr Scott had come to visit us, I would have told him what was happening. I wouldn't have told my sisters because they would have created such a scene. It would have made things ten times worse for us. Mr Scott could probably have done something about it.

Leaving care

54. All my friends left school earlier than me because my birthday was in [REDACTED]. I left school at fifteen to go to college. Basically, I just wanted to get out of school. When I was in that home, I was like a bird in a cage, wanting to get free. I knew I couldn't until I was a certain age. I studied catering at college. I was quite clever. I knew that if I went into catering and I was alright at it, I could get a live-in job. I left the children's home when I was fifteen and a half and at college. I was put into a guest house belonging to Mamie Mannion at [REDACTED] in Perth. I wasn't there for very long before I went to work in Bridge of Earn.

55. When I was staying with Mamie Mannion, I was still under the welfare system. I had to go up to Balhousie Street to get my allowance from social work every week. When I was sixteen, I went to collect my birth certificate and things like that. The social worker asked me where [REDACTED] was. I didn't know that I'd had another sister until then. He turned over the page and it said that she was deceased. He hadn't realised. That was how I found out that I'd had a little sister who had passed away when she was two weeks old. It wasn't the social worker's fault. [REDACTED] had only been about eleven months younger than me so he thought she had been in the home with me.

Life after leaving care

56. I excelled in catering at college. When I turned sixteen, I was no longer under the welfare. I got a live-in job at Bridge of Earn. I got on my feet, working as a waiter. I lived off my tips and kept my wages in the bank. I stayed in a caravan at the back. I was quite clever with my finances. I never wanted to end up back in the [REDACTED] area. I wanted to better myself and I did.
57. From there, I continued to excel. I bought my flat and I never looked back. I've ran hotels and had my own business. I qualified as a staff trainer at [REDACTED] Hotel in Windermere and have worked as a staff trainer. In 1976, I went to work with my friend, [REDACTED], in Bridge of Earn. I then worked with him in a restaurant in Perth for twenty years and a different restaurant in Perth for another fifteen years. [REDACTED] now works for me. I've worked with [REDACTED] for 45 years. I worked for him for forty years and he's worked for me for five years. We get on great together. [REDACTED] was brought up in the same close as me at [REDACTED]. He knows all of my sisters and brothers. He keeps telling me that he used to push me in my pram.
58. After I left Nimmo Place, I wasn't allowed to go back to the home to visit [REDACTED]. Once you were away, you weren't allowed to go back. I didn't see [REDACTED] again until he came out of the army. Army or catering were careers children in care chose so they could get a roof over their heads and food in their stomachs. The army and catering were like escape routes for us. [REDACTED] left the army when he was eighteen and came back

to live with our dad. I was staying with my dad at that time as well. It was as if [REDACTED] and I had never been apart. We were so close. The bond was always there.

59. I'm still in touch with some of the other children from Nimmo Place. [REDACTED] passed away when he was in his early fifties. He took to drugs and I sometimes wonder if that was because of what happened in the home. He was younger than me and [REDACTED]. I saw [REDACTED] years ago. She lives in Cornwall now and she came up to visit me. [REDACTED] lives in Canada. [REDACTED] went over to India to do modelling. He married an Indian model.
60. When I was working in a restaurant in Perth, GKK [REDACTED]'s son, RGG [REDACTED], came in to tell me that she had died. I was clearing a table and I said, "Good riddance to bad news." I'm not a nasty person but I couldn't help myself from saying that. I apologised to RGG [REDACTED], but said that he knew the score. He knew what happened, but he was only three or four years older than me.
61. I always tell folk that we couldn't possibly do a family tree. It would have to be a forest. There are four generations still living. I'm a great great Uncle. I met one of my great nieces for the first time just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. My sister [REDACTED] had her when she was sixteen. She was still living at home. My mum told her that if she couldn't look after the child, she'd have to get her adopted. My mum had myself and [REDACTED]. She couldn't take on another child. [REDACTED] got [REDACTED] adopted but they've met now. [REDACTED] got in touch with [REDACTED]. She's the spitting image of my mum.
62. I've worked really hard to get to where I am. I own my flat outright. I've left everything to my wee brother in my will. I've told him I don't want a fancy funeral. I've paid for my funeral and it'll be a poor cremation. I'm not spending money for two-faced folk who come to a funeral. I don't want a fuss because when you're gone, you're gone.

Reporting of abuse

63. I've never reported what happened at Nimmo Place to the police. I think my wee brother suffered more than me after I left Nimmo Place. [REDACTED] comes into the pub where I work. She's one of my customers. She lived [REDACTED] from Nimmo Place Children's Home. [REDACTED] has told me a few things that happened to my brother after I'd left the home. I've never mentioned it to my brother because [REDACTED] told me in confidence. She told me that [REDACTED] got home late one night. [REDACTED] and her dad saw Mrs GKK [REDACTED] drag him in through the back door by the hair of his head. Her dad has told me that as well.

Impact

64. I think my experiences in care affected the way I form relationships. I've never been in a relationship. I don't trust people. I'm close to my other siblings, but not in the same sense that I'm close to my younger brother, [REDACTED]. We've got that bond, from 1970 right through. It's a long time. I'll look after him until the day I die. My brother has been off work with depression for the last two years. I'd put everything to the back of my mind until [REDACTED] started to become depressed. It built up and built up in him. I hate to think of what happened to him after I left. He only has to talk about it and he bursts into tears. It then all started to come back to me and I would remember the things that GKK [REDACTED] had done. I had buried it all, but it all came to a head when [REDACTED] started getting depressed. It's really bad.
65. I used to be quite easy-going. I would laugh and joke. Now, it only takes someone to say something to trigger me off and then I'm off. I saw [REDACTED] talking to my brother about Nimmo Place and he was getting upset. He was crying his eyes out. That triggered me off. I told her she didn't know what went on behind closed doors so she shouldn't talk about it. My temper goes from zero to one hundred in seconds. I spoke to someone at Redress Scotland who thinks that I'm suffering from PTSD. When certain things are asked, I fly off the handle. I never used to have a temper like that. I'm managing to control it more now that I'm older. I'm trying to get help from

Future Pathways, to see if there's a way that I can learn to control it better. I've spoken to my GP about these problems but I never get to see my GP anymore. It's so difficult to get an appointment.

66. Because of the force feeding at Nimmo Place, I can't eat sardines or pilchers. My excuse to people about cheese is that I'm allergic to it. I'm scared to even touch cheese. It terrifies me. I won't even have pizza. I just won't go near it. I was on holiday on a ship. They served fresh sardines and salad. I just had to say, "No, thank you." I can still taste the tomato sauce that was on those pilchers. It sticks in my mind really vividly.

Records

67. [REDACTED], who was in the home with me, got her records. She put a claim in years ago and got a pay-out. I can't remember what happened, but I think she broke her ankle. Her brothers got to go home but she didn't. I think that was why she might have received a pay-out. I know I can get my records but I haven't tried to obtain them yet. I've thought about getting my records. I then think that they wouldn't have put everything that happened in my records. The fact that I was in hospital and things like that will be in my records, but not the fact that they belted me and force fed me.
68. Scott from Wellbeing Scotland is my brother's worker. He has just made contact with us to advise that he has managed to obtain my brother's records and that they also have mine. I haven't seen them yet. Apparently, my brother's records are missing after I left. Five years are missing, which I think is very strange.

Lessons to be learned

69. I think that care facilities should be constantly checked. Their records should be thoroughly checked. GKK [REDACTED] didn't just get like she was overnight. She was doing that for a long time. There should be regular inspections, weekly, not

monthly. I hate to think another child is going through what we went through, but I think all the children's homes in Perth are now closed.

70. We didn't see our social worker. I think social workers should be checking on the children in their care. I would have told my social worker what was happening to us but I wouldn't have told my sisters. They would have created such a scene. I would have told my social worker if I'd had the chance.

Hopes for the Inquiry

71. I hope that children's homes are investigated and checked and the abuse that happened to us is no longer going on. I saw it on the news about Ireland, that there was abuse there from the 1970s to the 1990s. I was shouting at the television. It was happening in Ireland as well. People in charge need to have their backgrounds thoroughly checked. I don't think **GKK** was ever checked. She couldn't have been. I'd hate to think of this happening to my niece and nephew, but I've survived.
72. 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..... **PJL**

Dated..... 25-8-22