

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

**Gordon KNOTT**

Support person present: No.

1. My name is Gordon Alexander Knott. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1954. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### **Qualifications/Background**

2. I left school with seven O grades and three Higher certificates. I was employed by Edinburgh Social Work Department in 1973. I worked in Clerwood Children's Home from 1973 to 1977. I moved over to Glenallan Children's Home from 1977 until its closure in 1985. After that, I started work in Liberton Gardens Old People's Home. I was there until 1991 when I was medically retired. From 1991, I worked for a computer company until I was arrested in 1996.
3. As a young eighteen-year-old, I worked with ex-offenders in a hostel in Manchester. I also worked between Strangeways Prison, Stoke Heath Borstal and Risley Remand Centre.
4. I was actually a community service volunteer. They are based in London but match you up with any community support volunteer vacancies they have across the country. They happened to have a place in Manchester, so, it was as simple as that.

5. When I applied to Edinburgh Social Work Department, I didn't apply for residential care, I applied for a social work assistant's post. When I was interviewed, I was told that social work assistant's posts were being done away with.
6. They asked me to go and look at two children's homes. Redhall was one of them and Clerwood was the other. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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## **Clerwood Children's Home**

### *The Institution / Culture*

7. Clerwood Children's Home was at the top of Corstorphine Hill in Edinburgh. Clerwood was a very large establishment, which catered for thirty children ranging from babies through to six or seven-year-olds, although the oldest child in there when I started, was a ten-year-old boy.
8. I felt Clerwood was a happy easy-going and well-run establishment. I was nineteen years old. Clerwood was run on a clinical basis because there was a matron, who was in charge, a sister and then two staff nurses. Below that, was my level, which was a nursery assistant. That was the structure within the staff group.
9. The matron, sister and staff nurses were all female. I think I was their first male member of staff; however, Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
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10. The staff at Clerwood had an excellent attitude towards the children. They were so caring towards them and I saw that from the day I started. I can't think of there ever being rifts between the staff and the children. The children were very young and were split into two groups. The front group looked after the babies. The back group, where I initially worked, had children ranging from maybe one and a half up to the oldest, who was ten or eleven. That was [REDACTED].

*Time at Clerwood Children's Home.*

11. I was initially employed as a nursery assistant but the structure changed towards the end of 1974. It became less clinical and the role titles changed. The matron and sister roles stayed but the staff nurses became house parents. I was then given the title of assistant house parent.
12. In 1976, a vacancy for a houseparent became available. I applied for it and was successful. I remained a houseparent until the middle of 1976, when I was promoted to acting third officer in charge. By that time, the structure had changed again. The matron title had changed to officer in charge and the sister title to deputy officer in charge.
13. Part of the reason for the change, was that the current matron had a brain haemorrhage and she had to retire. Somebody else took over and was given the title of officer in charge.
14. My responsibilities in the role of nursery assistant, assistant houseparent and houseparent were the general care of the children. That involved everything from the general running of the unit, bathing and feeding the children in the nursery to making sure the older children got to school on time. We weren't involved in getting them up in the morning, the night staff did that.
15. The third officer in charge role was slightly different as there was quite a lot of administration within the role. Along with the other officer in charge roles, I was responsible for keeping the children's notes and files up to date. We were responsible for ensuring the case conferences were held and that social workers were brought into the unit. We were also responsible for liaising between the children and their families.
16. I don't recall there ever being any probationary periods for these roles.
17. I had references from the people I worked with in Manchester, although I have no idea if anybody from the care home or social work spoke to them.

*Structure and recruitment of staff*

18. My immediate line managers were the staff nurses, the sister and then the matron. Peggy Hunter, and I'm sure it was a Miss Bain, would have been the managers from social work headquarters.
19. The matron was Ann Allan, and the sister was Olive Bagshaw. Margaret Allan was one of the staff nurses, we called her 'Moggy'. The other staff nurse was Margo, her surname eludes me. I think there were six nursery assistants in each group. There were two groups and thirty children in total, fifteen in each group. At some point, Gordon Hotchkiss took over from Ann Allan as officer in charge.
20. Ann Allan was very obviously nursing trained and a qualified matron. Her approach to everything was very clinical, almost like running a ward in a hospital. Her training would kick in if there was ever any concern. The sister and the staff nurses were all qualified nurses.
21. When Gordon came in, he wanted change and he did make changes. He changed the entire structure. Gordon wasn't a nurse, but he was qualified in social care. I'm not sure if he qualified at Moray House or somewhere through in the west of Scotland.
22. There were four-night staff and always two on duty. Two would do four nights and the other two would do three nights on a rotational basis. They were constant nightshift.
23. I was never involved in the recruitment of staff whilst at Clerwood.
24. I don't recall there ever being volunteers working at Clerwood.
25. As a houseparent and acting third officer in charge, I did have some responsibility for ensuring staff were doing their job correctly.

### *Supervision / appraisal / evaluation*

26. Initially, there was no structure in terms of supervision or an appraisal system. That all happened later on, probably when I was acting third officer in charge. That was when Gordon Hotchkiss took over. The second officer in charge would have been Brian McLennan by that time.
27. When Gordon took over, he was young and enthusiastic. Gordon was slightly older than I was, but he was incredibly enthusiastic for the job and always wanted to introduce change. He introduced the staff appraisal system.

### *Training*

28. We didn't really have any training when I started at Clerwood. You were taken through the different processes and routines you had to carry out during the day, but that was basically it back then.
29. Training didn't come in until later, when we started what was called 'in-service' training. They were one-day training sessions we carried out whilst in the job. We would report to Edinburgh Social Work Department, which was at that time in Bread Street, Edinburgh. The training would be carried out in there. There were various training sessions but with no specific structure. The sessions would vary according to whether it was for basic childcare or a higher level. There was no real qualification at the end of it. It was just noted that you had attended.

### *Policy*

30. I was not involved in policy whilst at Clerwood. There was structural change when Gordon Hotchkiss came in and a move away from the clinical side of things. I had no involvement in that.
31. I think the policy for an appraisal system was introduced just before I left Clerwood.
32. There was always a daily logbook kept at Clerwood.

*Strategic Planning*

33. I wasn't aware of the strategic approach whilst working at Clerwood Children's Home.

**Children / Routine at Clerwood Children's Home**

34. The children were brought into Clerwood under three different sections of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. That was under section 44.1(a) and 44.1(b), which were supervision orders, and section 16, which was removal of parental rights. I assume these orders were all made by the court. The children would be brought into the units by social work.
35. I think assessments were carried out before the children were taken into care. They wouldn't have been taken from the family home before being assessed as having a need for being placed into care. At that time, I think the only alternative to residential care was foster care.
36. Social work assessments were filed in the child's care plan and were available to the officers in charge to read. As third officer in charge, I would have had access to these files towards the end of my time in Clerwood.
37. I think, on average, children stayed at Clerwood for three years. There were around thirty children, probably twenty boys and ten girls and that included the babies in the home. As I've said, the age range at Clerwood was from babies up to our oldest, [REDACTED], who was ten. The next oldest to [REDACTED], would have been seven or eight.

*Mealtimes / Food*

38. The children had well-balanced meals in Clerwood. They had breakfast in the morning where they could have cereal or porridge. They also had tea, toast and milk.

39. The children who attended school would have school lunches. For those not at school, it would be mince and potatoes or something similar. If they didn't like what was being served, they could leave it, but it was a set menu.
40. I remember one child who had a set menu to himself. He had celiac disease and had a special diet to follow.

#### *Sleeping Arrangements*

41. There was a bedroom with four beds, another room with eight and a back room also with eight or ten beds. There was also a separate nursery downstairs for the babies. There were five babies within the home and a child who had cerebral palsy.
42. All the rooms were large and had beds set up around the rooms in dormitory style. Most of the children were in bed by 7pm. The older boy, [REDACTED], was allowed to stay up until 9pm. The nightshift staff would take care of [REDACTED] because the day staff finished at 8pm. The nightshift were also responsible for getting the children up in the morning.

#### *Washing and Bathing*

43. We had one bathroom down the stairs and that was used for the babies because of the tub-like sinks in there. There was a bathroom on the second floor and a shower room downstairs. The children were bathed every day and the younger children were always supervised by two members of staff. The older boy, [REDACTED], could bath himself, there was no problem with that.
44. Anybody who wanted a shower could have one, but the children seemed to prefer baths.

#### *Leisure*

45. Through the week, many of the kids were at school. The staff would play games with the children who weren't at school. We had all sorts of games. We would keep them

amused and take them out for walks. There was also a small play area they could go and play in.

#### *Trips / Holidays*

46. I don't recall any day trips or holidays at Clerwood. We used to take them out on walks down to Corstorphine. I didn't particularly like that because all the children were dressed the same so were identified as children from Clerwood. It wasn't that we had a uniform they were just dressed identically. They all wore brown trousers and the same coloured tops. People knew who they were and where they were from and I didn't like that aspect of it.
47. I think staff would take children to their own home. Not individually, but as a group. That would be for socialisation, I would have thought. I personally didn't take any to my home.

#### *Healthcare*

48. As all staff at Clerwood were nursing staff, initially, they would deal with health problems themselves. However, we also had a GP who was attached to the home. Her name was Dr Caldwell. She was a local GP based in Corstorphine.
49. Medication was administered either by the matron, the sister or the staff nurses. There were three brothers in Clerwood who took medication to control their behaviour. For the two younger children in particular, their behaviour would be classified as severe ADHD today. They were a danger to themselves and to others. Back then, they were classified as being hyperactive. The older boy, [REDACTED], was also on medication. I have a feeling he was on Largactil although I couldn't swear to that. I just remember it was a capsule he took.
50. [REDACTED]'s brothers, [REDACTED] BHE [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who would have been five and seven years respectively, were on Melleril, which was a liquid sedative. I didn't like the idea of sedating the children but that was what we did.

51. The medication administered was recorded on our cardex system. Normally, parents were aware and had given permission for medication to be administered to their child. In the case of [REDACTED], BHE [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], they had all been removed under section 16, parental rights removal, so their parents wouldn't have had any say in the matter.
52. BHE [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had speech impediments, so they saw a speech therapist. All three brothers also saw educational psychologists outwith the home.

#### *Schooling*

53. There was no schooling in the home. The children were either primary school age or too young for school. Most of the children walked to Fox Covert Primary School. Staff would walk with them in most cases. The children attending nursery school were driven there. We had two children who attended a special school and they were also driven there.

#### *Chores*

54. There were some chores such as tidying the nursery up, putting the toys away and such things but nothing else.

#### *Visitors*

55. We did have visitors at Clerwood. I don't remember many of the parents visiting but we did have some. If parents came in, they would be met by staff and supervised during the visit. I don't remember them ever taking the children out of the home. Social work visits were regular and they could speak to the children alone if that was required.

#### *Review of Care/placement*

56. The children's stay in Clerwood was always being reviewed. If there was a requirement for them to be moved on, such as, they were getting too old for the unit, these

recommendations would be made at their review dates, which were, on average, every six months.

#### *Living arrangements*

57. While working at Clerwood, I lived at home with my mother and father. That was around eight miles away from the home. There were several residential staff who stayed at Clerwood. I think there were four staff who stayed up at the stable area and four or five who were resident on the top floor of the home. The rest of the staff lived elsewhere.
58. The matron and the sister stayed in Clerwood and when the matron left, Gordon Hotchkiss took over her quarters.
59. Any member of staff had access to the children's residential areas. The main door to the building was locked at night, it was a very secure building.
60. There was an area downstairs where the nightshift staff would sit. That was basically the staff dining room.

#### *Discipline and Punishment*

61. There was no real discipline in Clerwood. If a child misbehaved, they would be sent to their room or were spoken to about their behaviour. Other than on one occasion, I didn't see any member of staff lift their hands to a child. Children would be sent to their room for a short time before staff went up to speak to them to see if they had settled down and were ready to come back downstairs. I would have sent children to their bedroom.
62. I can't remember if we took pocket money off the children if they misbehaved. We did take them down to Corstorphine and they would get things from the shop, but I can't remember if we controlled the money or whether they controlled it themselves.

63. I did see a member of staff, BFW [REDACTED], physically smack children on two or three occasions. I was at the end of my tether with it. I saw him smack children on their bottoms over their clothing. These were five-year-olds upwards and it happened in the nursery. He wasn't angry or losing control, I'd say he was cool, calm and collected when he was doing it.
64. I can't say I ever saw marks on the children as a result of him smacking them although the children would start crying because of what he was doing. I don't recall ever receiving a complaint from a child about it. He used his open hand to smack the children and I seem to remember, on one occasion, he used a slipper.
65. It was before I became a houseparent. He was a houseparent, and I didn't like his methods. I actually reported him and I don't think I was the only one who did. Not long after I had, he was removed from his position. I don't think he was dismissed, I think he was asked to resign. That would have been towards the end of 1975, beginning of 1976. I think he had been there for around nine months.

#### *Restraint*

66. The only time I ever used restraint was with BHE [REDACTED]. He was having a meltdown and was likely to have ended up injuring himself. It was only a gentle restraint and there was nothing else involved in it. Other members of staff had used restraint on BHE [REDACTED] because of his serious problem with ADHD, as you would call it today.
67. The restraint we used was almost like a hug. It was basically holding to control. I can't remember any other child being restrained during my time at Clerwood.
68. I don't recall ever reading a written policy on the use of restraint.

*Concerns about the institution*

69. I have no knowledge of Clerwood ever being the subject of concern within the home or to an external body or other person because of the way in which children were treated.

*Reporting of complaints/concerns*

70. If any person wished to make a complaint, they could report it to the senior officer on duty at that time. If they weren't happy with the answers they were given, they could then escalate the matter and report it to the line managers at the social work.
71. The children at Clerwood were aware they could complain, although I don't think they were aware of the procedure to do so. There was a written complaint procedure as far as I can remember.
72. Other than the BFW [REDACTED] matter, I don't remember any serious complaints ever being made at Clerwood.

*Trusted adult/confidante*

73. The children could speak to their social workers, although the younger children wouldn't be able to understand that. There was no poster or booklet advising the children who they could speak to, but we would speak to them about it.

**Abuse**

74. I don't recollect there ever being a definition of abuse in relation to the children during my time at Clerwood.
75. Other than the BFW [REDACTED] matter, I didn't see any other behaviour that I considered abusive within Clerwood, and no child ever came to me to report any abuse.

76. I believe any abuse would have come to light at the time because people were quite vigilant. Maybe not the younger ones but the older children probably would have reported it.
77. Having said that, abuse did happen and it did go undetected. It didn't come to light by the children reporting it to anybody at the time. I would say the staff were vigilant, they just weren't aware of the abuse, definitely not. If they had been, they would have reported it.

### **Child protection arrangements**

78. I can't recall any instruction with regards to how we should have protected children against abuse, ill-treatment or inappropriate behaviour. I don't recall any policies with regard to that.
79. If anything like that had come to light, it would have been reported to headquarters by the senior member of staff on duty at the time or any individual that wanted to report it. I couldn't swear to there being a policy on that.
80. I'm not aware of any 'whistleblowing' policy. In fact, I had never heard the term, 'whistleblower' at the time. Irrespective of that, I don't think there was a set procedure on staff reporting on other staff.
81. I think all staff had complete autonomy. There was no control over staff in that way, staff spoke for themselves.

### **External monitoring**

82. I don't recall there ever being visits from inspectors at Clerwood. The only people I remember coming in were the likes of Peggy Hunter and Miss Bain from the social work, no inspectors, as such.

### **Record-keeping**

83. There was a file kept on every child. There was also a daily logbook and everything that occurred within the unit on a daily basis was recorded in the logbook. These logbooks were kept from when the children's home opened in 1948.
84. If a child had an appointment, it would be logged. The time and date, who took them and where the appointment was would all be logged. If a child was ill, it would be logged. Social work visits were logged.
85. The child's own file contained any information that had been gathered by external social work. Any reports written by members of staff, were also kept in these files.
86. I didn't have access to the files until I was promoted to a senior position. I would have had access to the logbook as a nursery assistant. I could report something, which would then be entered into the logbook by the matron or a senior member of staff. Most of the entries were submitted by the matron or senior members of staff.
87. Once I was a houseparent, I had access to the personal files and I could then add comments to the logbooks myself. The files were kept in a filing cabinet in the staff office.

### **Investigations into abuse – personal involvement**

88. I was not involved in any investigation on behalf of Clerwood into allegations of abuse or ill-treatment of a child by staff or others at Clerwood.

### **Reports of abuse and civil claims**

89. I was never involved in the handling of reports submitted to Clerwood by former residents concerning historical abuse.

## Police investigations/ criminal proceedings

90. BFW [REDACTED]
91. I'm aware it was on the news and in the press. A number of years after he left Clerwood, I understand that he became director of social services [REDACTED] or somewhere [REDACTED]
92. Allegations made against me were all made subsequent to my time at Clerwood. I was accused of sexually abusing a number of children who had been in my care whilst I worked there. I wasn't made aware of this until I was arrested in 1996.

## Leaving Clerwood Children's Home

93. There was a position that came up at Glenallan Children's Home sometime in 1977. Peggy Hunter, who was the person in charge of the social work at that time, thought I would be well suited to the role of deputy officer in charge. I applied and was interviewed by RKR [REDACTED], who was SNR [REDACTED], and either MVF [REDACTED] or Brian Tait, who were line managers at [REDACTED] Social Work Department at that time.

## Experiences at Glenallan Children's Home

### *The Institution / Culture*

94. Glenallan Children's Home was at 142 Glenallan Drive, which was in the Inch, in Edinburgh. Glenallan was a purpose-built family group home, which catered for twelve children ranging from five or six to eighteen years old.

95. My first impression of Glenallan Children's Home was that it had a much more relaxed atmosphere to Clerwood. It was a smaller group unit and the kids seemed more relaxed about meeting with strangers.
96. Glenallan was run with an officer in charge, a depute and three houseparents. The culture there was superb. [RKR] was [SNR] and she had a great attitude to childcare. All the staff did.
97. The staff at Glenallan had great relationships with the children and I didn't get any indication of there being any friction between staff and children before I started there. There was very little friction between staff and children during the time I worked there.

*Time at Glenallan Children's Home*

98. I started at Glenallan as deputy officer in charge in 1977. I was interviewed for the role sometime towards the beginning of July. That was by [SNR], [RKR] [RKR], Peggy Hunter and Miss Bain from the social work department based at Castle Terrace in Edinburgh. I carried out that role until 1979 when I was promoted to officer in charge. I assume they based my interview on the experience I had gained at Clerwood and my ability to carry out the role.
99. As deputy and as officer in charge, I was responsible for the complete running of the unit. On the administrative side, I was responsible for all the necessary paperwork, salary sheets, rotas etc.
100. The deputy role was very much the same as the officer in charge role. When the officer in charge was off, the deputy stepped in and took on that role. As deputy, I would ensure case conferences were organised, I would liaise with social workers and parents.
101. Again, I don't recall any probationary periods, I just went straight into the positions. As deputy and as officer in charge, I did attend 'in-service' training. I would attend at [REDACTED] Social Work Department where the sessions were held. The 'in-service'

wasn't regular, maybe once every so many months. When they introduced new courses, I was expected to attend.

*Structure and recruitment of staff*

102. As deputy and as officer in charge, my line managers at [REDACTED] Social Work Department, were MVF [REDACTED] and Brian Tait.
103. We had three houseparents. We also had Jean and John, who were nightshift staff. We had a cook and a domestic member of staff. So, we only had five members of care staff, the officer in charge, the deputy and the three house parents.
104. We did have supervision sessions. Initially, I would have been [REDACTED] RKR [REDACTED]. When [REDACTED], I would have been supervised by either MVF [REDACTED] or Brian Tait. I would also have been responsible for the supervision and appraisal of all members of staff at Glenallan.
105. RKR [REDACTED] was a very easy-going lady. She had a great rapport with staff and with the children. Her style was totally different to Gordon Hotchkiss at Clerwood. She was more staid in her ways, due to her age, probably, and due to the length of time she had worked in childcare. She was in her fifties when I started at Glenallan.
106. There was another staff member called, Jimmy Liddle, who I think was older than me. The other staff were younger even though I was only twenty-five when I was promoted to officer in charge. I don't know if the staff being so young meant the children accepted them more or that the staff were able to relate to the children better. The staff had probably started at Glenallan when they were eighteen.
107. As depute, I was responsible for recruitment and would interview candidates for houseparents alongside RKR [REDACTED] and either MVF [REDACTED] or Brian Tait. I remember Johnny Sneddon, from the nightshift staff, being recruited by RKR [REDACTED] and myself along with MVF [REDACTED] or Brian Tait.

108. The cook and domestic cleaner were there from before I started and were there right through until the unit closed in 1985.
109. The structure of the staff interviews was based on ascertaining levels of experience in childcare. We would question applicants on how they would deal with certain situations, how they would cope and handle a child flying off the handle. We were basically asking them how they would cope in the job because it was quite a stressful job.
110. Some of the people who applied for houseparents roles did have qualifications from Moray House although qualifications were not a requirement. I didn't have any childcare qualifications myself.
111. I don't recall there being any volunteers working in Glenallan.
112. As deputy and as officer in charge, I had responsibility for the supervision and appraisal of staff. I also ensured staff were paid and rotas were set ensuring staff were able to fulfil them. I was also responsible for recommending staff for courses held outwith the home.

### *Training*

113. I didn't carry out any training, personally. All staff training was done outwith the home and was organised by MVF [REDACTED] and Brian Tait from the social work. That would be in the form of 'in-service' training and would take place at [REDACTED] Social Work Department. We all had to attend various 'in-service' training courses for our respective roles within childcare. As officer in charge, along with my deputy, we would perhaps go for training on the more administrative side of things. If they changed the way the administration was done for wages, for example, we would go on an 'in-service' day to understand it. That was the sort of training the senior staff went on. The rest of the staff would go for training on matters relating to childcare. There would be talks from lecturers and slideshows on overhead projectors.

*Supervision / appraisal / evaluation*

114. Appraisals would basically entail me sitting down in the office with a staff member. It would involve asking them how they were getting on, if they were having issues or conflicts with any of the children or members of staff, any issues they had come across and any issues with parents during visits. It was a general appraisal on how they were doing within their role.
115. If I felt they were lacking in judgement, for instance, I would raise that with them during the appraisal and talk through any of my concerns with them. I don't ever recall holding an appraisal where my intention was to dismiss somebody.

*Policy*

116. I suppose we had some amount of say in policy at Glenallan. No real say, ultimately, but we could voice opinion if we thought change was needed, but we had no real say or involvement in policy change or anything like that.
117. Glenallan basically stayed the same throughout my time there. The only thing I remember changing was the introduction of a third officer in charge. There may have been change in the general department in social work, but I don't recall many changes in childcare affecting us at Glenallan. I don't remember any change in policy for recruitment during my time and I don't remember a change in policy with regards to staff having to be qualified.
118. There was a complaint procedure, however complaints were generally dealt with within the units. If not, we would involve the line managers at social work. That policy never changed over the years I was there.
119. In terms of a policy for discipline and restraint, I don't ever recall physical punishment being carried out. I think things probably did change, but I wouldn't be able to tell you what these changes were.

120. There certainly wasn't a whistleblowing policy. If there was ever a complaint made against a member of staff, they would be taken to the likes of [MVF] and Brian Tait and they would deal with it.
121. In terms of record keeping, there was a daily log kept at Glenallan. It was a very detailed log which would include any comings and goings within the units. It would include logs of any incidents that had occurred involving the children. That policy was always there and I don't think it changed or was updated over my time at Glenallan.

#### *Strategic Planning*

122. I may have had some input but not much. The strategic planning for any of the units was dealt with by committee or by the line managers at [redacted] or the director of social work. The strategic approach for both Glenallan and Clerwood would have been to do with the general care of the children and to make sure they were well cared for in an environment they felt secure in.
123. I'm not aware of abuse featuring in the strategic approach for either Glenallan or Clerwood Children's Home.

#### **Children / Routine at Glenallan Children's Home**

124. As with Clerwood, children were removed under section 44.1(a), 44.1(b) and section 16 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. These were supervision orders and parental rights.
125. Assessments written by social work were filed within Glenallan and were available to me, my deputy and third in charge to read over. These assessments were to do with family circumstances, which had led to a child being placed in care. I would have read up on these. However, in terms of the children's full social work assessments, I don't think I had access to these.

126. The children tended to stay at Glenallan long-term. Most of the children stayed there throughout my time between 1977 and 1985.
127. I think we had five girls and seven boys aged between five or six all the way up to eighteen.

#### *Mealtimes / Food*

128. Like Clerwood, there was a well-balanced meal provided for the children. Those who didn't receive school lunches were given a set menu. Again, if they didn't like what was being served, they could leave it.

#### *Sleeping Arrangements*

129. We had one large bedroom, which had four children in it and a bedroom with two beds. After that, we had six single bedrooms, which were for the older children.
130. Bedtime was between 8pm and 10pm. It depended on the age of the child. A staff member would say it was bedtime and the children would go to bed. That was basically how it happened.

#### *Washing and Bathing*

131. There were two shower rooms and one bathroom at Glenallan. The children could choose what they wanted. Some of the younger children would ask the staff to bath them. It wasn't really a case of bathing them; it was a time the staff would sit and the children would talk to them. You could get lots of information from the children during that time.

#### *Leisure*

132. The children could do anything they wanted at Glenallan. We had a room at the back of the home we called the quiet room. If any child felt stressed or just wanted to have

a bit of time to themselves, they could go into the quiet room. If they wanted to speak to somebody in there, then a staff member could go in with them.

#### *Trips / Holidays*

133. We had organised trips at Glenallan. We went on holidays to caravan sites and day trips out. Generally, day trips were in Edinburgh. We would maybe go down to Queensferry or to the Commonwealth Swimming Pool. We would also go for walks or get on a bus.
134. One of the caravan sites we would go to was on the west coast. That was Sandhead in Newton Stewart. We didn't go every year as it depended on whether the money was available. Everybody would go at the same time, including all staff.
135. We would generally have an eight-berth caravan, so we would have two sleeping in a bunk room and one in a single room. The sitting room area would also be turned into beds.
136. I think staff would take some of the children to their homes. Again, that would not be done individually but the children could be taken as a group. As with Clerwood, I never did that, personally.

#### *Healthcare*

137. Any children with health issues would be taken to the local doctor, who was Dr Mukherjee. He was based in Liberton Surgery. I don't remember any children being on medication at Glenallan, other than paracetamol.

#### *Schooling*

138. The children were not schooled within the home. Children were both primary school age and secondary school age. They attended Inch Primary School and Liberton High School. Children would walk to school by themselves.

### *Chores*

139. The only chore the children had at Glenallan was to tidy their rooms.

### *Visitors*

140. During my entire time at Glenallan, I only remember three parents ever visiting. From the three, I only remember one mother taking her son out and that was MVE [REDACTED] MVE [REDACTED]. Again, we would have visits from social workers and line managers, such as MVE [REDACTED] and Brian Tait. We would also have visits from the GP and from the local police, who would come in to see us.
141. Social workers could speak to the children alone if that was requested. Social workers would provide reports and we would be able to read them and retain the files within the home.

### *Review of Care/placement*

142. We would have case conferences where recommendations were implemented.
143. The older boys would be assessed to see if they were able to take care of themselves. They were generally eighteen. I think we had an obligation to care for them until they were eighteen. They would be assessed to see if they were able to go into a flat or whether they required some other kind of accommodation.
144. If it was assessed they needed to be moved onto another unit, perhaps a teenage unit, that would be done if in their best interests.
145. All reviews were carried out on the same basis and decisions made by a group of individuals, never just one. Generally the older children attended their reviews. It was felt necessary that the older children were told face to face what was being decided for them.

146. When a child left the care of Glenallan, they were always welcome to come back and see us if they needed help or support. The social workers did support them outside of the home but as a rule, when they became eighteen, I think things were settled. It was almost as if the social work department had fulfilled their obligations. This was not something I agreed with.
147. We did try and prepare them for adult life when they were with us in care. We taught them to cook and to budget, as much as we could. I don't recall any of the children having a job to go to.

#### *Living arrangements*

148. When I moved to Glenallan, I stayed in the unit. It was compulsory. That was the rule for me, the deputy and Elaine Watt, who was one of the house parents. I think when Elaine applied for the job, she got the residency bedroom. I slept in a single bedroom within the building.
149. All staff would have access to the children's residential areas. The nightshift staff would sit downstairs during the night. There was a sitting room or an office if they wanted to sit in there.

#### *Discipline and Punishment*

150. We had a 'fine' system in Glenallan. If a child was caught swearing, they were fined. If they were becoming outrageous, they would be told to either go to their bedroom or to the quiet room and sit and have a think about what they had done or what they had said.
151. If a child was fined, we would take two pence from them and it would be kept in our safe. They knew if they had fines to pay it would come out of their pocket money. What they didn't know, was they actually got the money back because it was used to buy things for Christmas or whatever.

152. The children knew these were the rules because we told them. It wasn't written down in a policy or code of conduct; it was just word of mouth.
153. The older children at Glenallan had no role in disciplining the younger children.
154. Disciplining the children would be up to the member of staff on duty, be it a senior member of staff or a house parent. I would have sent children to their bedroom or the quiet room and I also fined them. That would have been because they had been aggressive, out of control or had been throwing things.
155. We didn't have a discipline book. The details of any child misbehaving would have been entered into the logbook. That would include their name, date and time it had occurred, along with a detailed description of why they had been punished. The incident wouldn't normally be recorded in the child's personal file although it may well have been that a note was taken from the logbook and raised at the child's review. The social worker at the review could record the matter in their own files at that time.
156. Staff wouldn't bring every incident recorded in the logbook up at a review. They would maybe highlight a few issues.

#### *Restraint*

157. I never had to use any physical restraint with any child at Glenallan. Not that I can remember. I can't speak for everybody, but I don't recall ever seeing a member of staff restraining a child. There was never anything in the logbooks to suggest a child had been restrained.
158. If a child was sent to their bedroom or to the quiet room, the doors were never locked. The only locks on doors in Glenallan were to our food cupboard and our staff office.
159. If a child was sent to their bedroom or to the quiet room, they weren't supervised, not unless they wanted to speak to a member of staff.

160. There was never any medication administered as a means of restraining or sedating a child in Glenallan.

161. I'm not aware of any written policy on the use of restraint.

*Concerns about the institution*

162. I have no knowledge of Glenallan being the subject of concern within the home or to an external body or other person because of the way in which children were treated.

*Reporting of complaints/concerns*

163. If any person wished to make a complaint, they could report it to the senior officer on duty at that time. If not satisfied with the senior officer's answers, they could escalate the matter and report it to the line managers at [REDACTED] Social Work Department.

164. There was a written complaint's policy in place and it directed complaints to the social work should the matter not be resolved by a senior officer within the home. I don't recollect many complaints having to go down to social work.

165. If a complaint came to me about a member of staff shouting or bawling at a child and it was serious enough, that member of staff would be brought in and spoken to about the incident and the way they had dealt with it. That sort of complaint would stay within the unit but again, it would be logged that a complaint had been made. I don't remember any more serious complaints ever being made at Glenallan.

*Trusted adult/confidante*

166. The children did have access to their social workers and also to [REDACTED] MVF and Brian Tait from the social work department. There was no information a child could read, which told them who they could speak to but we would try to speak to them about that.

167. There was a procedure's manual in the unit but that was more to do with the administration of the unit, more than anything else. That was kept in the filing cabinet in the staff office and was for staff to look at, not the children.
168. No child ever came to me to speak about any issue, and I don't recollect any child ever asking to speak to **MVF** or Brian from the social work. They could have spoken to them if they wanted to, there would have been no problem with that.

### **Abuse**

169. I don't recollect there ever being a definition of abuse that applied to the children during my time at Glenallan.
170. I didn't see any other behaviour that I considered to be abusive within Glenallan, and no child ever reported to me that any abuse had taken place.
171. I think staff were quite vigilant and would have reported any abuse they saw at the time. I think the children would also have reported it.
172. Although abuse did go undetected, it didn't come to light by the children reporting it to anybody, not until years later. The staff weren't aware of the abuse, if they had been, they would have reported it.

### **Child protection arrangements**

173. There was no guidance that I recall in relation to protecting children against abuse, ill-treatment or inappropriate behaviour. I don't recall any policies with regard to that whilst at Glenallan.
174. Senior members of staff on duty or any member of staff on duty, for that matter, could have reported it to headquarters. I'm not aware of there having been any policy on that

during my time at Glenallan. I still wasn't aware of the term, 'whistleblowing' or any policy on staff reporting on staff.

175. Like Clerwood, staff had autonomy at Glenallan and were free to speak for themselves. I think that arrangement worked. If there was any policy on that, staff would have read it, I just don't recollect such a policy. It would have been word of mouth, I think.

### **External monitoring**

176. There were no visits from inspectors. Other than <sup>MVF</sup> and Brian Tait from the social work, I don't recall any actual inspections during my time there. I would have remembered any such inspection, especially when I was officer in charge. I don't even know if there was an independent body at that time.

### **Record-keeping**

177. All the logbooks were kept in a filing cabinet in Glenallan along with the children's files. They were all kept under lock and key. I believe the older logbooks were sent for storage down at Social Work.
178. I did think the record-keeping system was good because it was accurate. Basically, the files were kept in a locked cabinet and, initially, only certain people had access to them. At the later stages of my time there, all staff were given access to the files. I don't recollect there ever being a written policy on record-keeping.
179. There were external files as well. The individual social workers also had their own files on the children. We kept our files, which were obviously relevant to us. The logbook was relevant because it literally held a record of everything that happened over the course of each individual day. I would say the logbooks were very accurate.

180. My understanding is that the logbooks from both Clerwood and Glenallan disappeared after they were taken from storage at [REDACTED] by the police. All of them. Before my trial in 1996, my defence team asked for the logbooks and were told that they couldn't have them because they had disappeared. So, all the logbooks from both Clerwood and Glenallan, to my understanding, are no longer in existence.

#### **Investigations into abuse – personal involvement**

181. I was not involved in any investigation on behalf of Glenallan into allegations of abuse or ill-treatment by staff or others towards children.

#### **Reports of abuse and civil claims**

182. I was never involved in the handling of reports to Glenallan by former residents concerning historical abuse.

#### **Police investigations/ criminal proceedings**

183. Allegations made against me were made subsequent to my time at Glenallan. I was accused of sexually abusing a number of children who had been in my care whilst I worked there. There was an investigation into the allegations. I was tried and convicted of several of them. I hadn't been aware of this until I was arrested in 1996. I was initially arrested and interviewed with regards to allegations that had been made against me by two boys. I then gave the police a voluntary statement, during which I provided the names of three other boys.
184. The only time I gave evidence in court in relation to the alleged abuse of children at Clerwood and Glenallan, was whilst giving my own evidence. I was questioned by the depute advocate and then cross-examined by my own QC, as they were then.

185. I originally had twenty-four charges against me however was eventually found guilty of seven of them. I was acquitted on the rest after giving my own evidence and the flaws in the evidence of some of the people giving evidence.
186. I told them exactly what offences I had committed. I was not in any way holding back. I defended myself on most of the allegations that were made against me. The trial was in 1997 and lasted for six weeks. I gave evidence for around one week.
187. Initially, my solicitor advised me against giving evidence, but I wanted to do it. It was my call.

### **Convicted Abusers**

188. Brian McLennan, the deputy officer in charge at Clerwood was found guilty. He was my boss for part of the time I worked there. Brian would have been in his late forties, early fifties at the time I knew him. He always had a stern look about him and wasn't somebody you could easily approach. That is my personal opinion.
189. He was a good boss and never caused me any concern. I didn't ever have concerns about him and was never made aware of others having had concerns about him.
190. Brian started at Clerwood in 1995, sometime after Gordon Hotchkiss started. I don't know if he had any previous childcare training. Brian was supervised and appraised by Gordon Hotchkiss, the officer in charge, while he was there.
191. Brian was tried in court at the same time as me. There was also a man called, Michael Cull, who was tried at the same time. I didn't even know who he was but believe he worked in Dean House and was associated with Brian who had ended up as officer in charge at Dean House after he left Clerwood. I believe allegations against Brian were from both Clerwood and Dean House.
192. Originally, Olive Bagshaw, the sister at Clerwood, was also in the dock. She was ill at the time though and was allowed to leave the court. No charges were ever brought

against her. I think there had been two charges libelled against her, physical abuse charges, but they were never brought. I think they were dropped on health grounds.

193. I asked my QC why we were being tried together and not separate and he said it was to save money for the crown. There were no joint charges brought against Brian and me.
194. The allegations against Brian were from both Clerwood and Dean House. I don't know the dates of his allegations; they could have related to a period after I had left Clerwood in 1977 because he was still there. My charge sheet was between 1973 until 1985, which covered the time I worked in Clerwood and Glenallan.
195. All the charges were on one indictment. It seemed unfair to me because it made it look like a body of people. In fact, the press referred to it as a 'paedophile ring' and I can understand why they would associate it with that. None of our charges over-lapped, none at all. I had asked for a separate trial, and I still believe to this day, that we were tried by the media due to the amount of reporting and the way it was reported.
196. Information was given by the police to the press. They said that they had found twelve passports belonging to me in different names. They said I had twelve flats in twelve porn capitals across the world. This was information that was being relayed to the press and obviously the jury were reading this. None of that was presented in court, but it was presented to the press. I was quite angry about that because none of it was true.

#### **Other Staff at Clerwood Children's Home**

BFW

197. I recollect BFW working at Clerwood in 1975. I would say he was twenty-four or twenty-five at that time. He was a houseparent and was my boss. He was a very aloof chap and I got the impression he thought he was above or better than everybody

else. His manner almost suggested that by the way he walked. He was politely spoken. I didn't get to know him very well, only as a work colleague and that was it.

198. I didn't often see him with the children. When he was on duty, I was off duty, other than perhaps a cross-over between shifts. I saw him smacking children and, as I've said, I reported it. I classified smacking a child with a slipper, as a form of abuse.
199. I don't remember anybody else ever raising their concern about him with me although I know that he was not asked to leave on what I had said only. I think he was employed at Clerwood for around nine months to a maximum of a year, no more than that.

*Olive Bagshaw*

200. Olive was the sister at Clerwood, so she was classed as the deputy. She worked there until Gordon Hotchkiss came along, which would have been the tail-end of 1975, start of 1976. She would have been in her sixties and she retired when she left Clerwood.
201. Olive was a very quiet, sedate lady. She was very posh and polite. She could get easily upset, especially if you sat on her chair in the dining room but ordinarily she was an easy-going person.
202. I did socialise with her. Me and several other members of staff went with her to concerts. We went to see James Last and the Scottish National Orchestra concerts at the Usher Hall.
203. I did see her with the children when she was giving medication, but she really wasn't heavily involved in the care of the children. When I did see her with children, she was good with them. I never saw her disciplining or abusing children.
204. She was charged with two counts of physical abuse. Personally, I cannot ever imagine that woman physically abusing anyone.

*Brian McLannan*

205. Brian was deputy officer in charge at Clerwood. Gordon Hotchkiss was there at the time and he employed Brian. I would say that was 1975 or 1976. Brian was stern looking. I don't mean he was strict, that was just the way he looked. He looked as if you couldn't approach him, but you could, he just gave that impression.
206. I knew Brian as a work colleague and that was it. I didn't socialise with him.
207. I occasionally saw Brian with the children and he seemed perfectly okay with them. Brian's role was more administrative. I never saw him disciplining or abusing any children.
208. Brian was found guilty of three or four charges of sexually abusing children from both Clerwood and Dean House. He was convicted and sentenced to eleven years, which was reduced to six years on appeal.

*Matron*

209. The matron at Clerwood was Ann Allan. Ann had a brain haemorrhage and was placed on long-term sick leave. During that time, there was a Mr and Mrs Beatson, who were from New Zealand, who came into the unit and took charge. They were there for around nine months.
210. Ann Allan did come back but she was clearly unwell and wasn't there long until she had to retire. I would have said Ann was around fifty when I started at Clerwood.
211. She was a really lovely person. She was our work colleague but never socialised with us.
212. I saw her with the children when they were sick or she was administering medication. She was great with the children and had the patience of a saint. I never saw her disciplining or abusing any children.

## Glenallan Children's Home

MVF

213. The only MVF I know is MVF from social work. He was a supervisor of some sort at the social work. I can't remember what his title was but he was my immediate line manager between 1979 and 1985. Brian Tait was MVF's boss and they were both based at Social Work Department.
214. I would say MVF was maybe forty something. He was a nice guy, easy going and a great guy to talk to and get along with. I think he attended every review we had in Glenallan. He would also attend as many of our staff meetings as he possibly could. We always had our meetings on a Wednesday because all the staff were on duty on that day.
215. I knew MVF as a work colleague but I never socialised with him. I saw him with the children when he came to the unit. He was great with the children and I'm sure the children felt at ease with him. They could have approached him no problem. I never saw him disciplining or abusing the children.

## Applicant Allegations

### Clerwood Children's Home

EHV

216. EHV has given a statement to the Inquiry. At page 3 paragraph 12 of her statement, she has said, *"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."*

217. I remember EHV. She was there with her brother, MTH, when I started in Clerwood in 1973. She was a small child with fair hair. She was very shy although she did interact with the other children. I have a feeling that she was four years old when I started there. She wasn't at primary school initially, although she did go on to attend school.
218. She was a lovely kid and I cannot remember any major issues with her. I did not sanction, punish or ever abuse her. We did not ever play a game like she describes, not that I remember. I can remember them going out and playing hide and seek but I never ever remember them sitting in a circle and playing a game such as that.
219. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of it. I don't know why she is saying this. It's false memory, that's all I can say. I would say what she described would be abuse, especially the kissing part.
220. EHV goes on to say the following at page 5, paragraph 18 of her statement, *"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."*
221. That never happened. I never ever did anything like that. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of this. My memory serves me extremely well. I cannot speak for anybody else, but I certainly never did anything like that. I'm not aware of such a thing ever happening. If I had, I would have reported it. If a child was treated in such a way, I would accept that was abuse.
222. EHV goes on to say at page 5, paragraph 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."*

223. That never happened. Children were never punished for having wet the bed. Never once was a child ever punished for that. The night staff would get the children up in the morning. Those who were bedwetters would be taken through to the bathroom. They would be bathed and clothed ready to go to school. Never ever was a child chastised or punished for wetting the bed. The passage of time has not affected my memory of this. I can't speak for anybody else but that is certainly not something that ever happened when I was on duty. If that happened it would definitely be abuse.
224. On the same page and paragraph, EHV goes on to say, *"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."*
225. I was never moody. I was almost always on the same level the whole time. Any of the children and staff that I ever worked with would verify and confirm that. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of this. I wouldn't even like to suggest why she has said this.
226. On page 6 in paragraph 20 and 21, EHV says, *"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."*
227. *"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."*

228. That never ever happened and the passage of time has not affected my memory in any way. I wouldn't like to comment on why she is saying that. I really couldn't tell you. It certainly never happened and again, I can only put it down to it being false memory. What is described would absolutely be abuse.
229. On page 6, paragraph 22, **EHV** says, *"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."*
230. No, never happened and the passage of time hasn't affected my memory. If you are going on to speak about **EHV**'s brother, **MTH**, I would like to comment on them both together at that time.
231. On page 6, paragraph 23, **EHV** says, *"He took just me to his mum and dad's house quite a lot. Their house was ..... 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 **MTH** used to be jealous of my sweets and he would take them from me."*
232. I never ever took **EHV** to my mother and fathers. Other members of staff did. My mother kept a diary and these diaries were presented in court as part of my defence. That line of enquiry was never pursued because the diaries actually proved that at no time had I ever taken **EHV** there. Yes, **EHV** had been taken there, so had **MTH**, to my mother and father's house but by other members of staff. My mother clearly indicated who the staff members were. I never took **EHV** or any child to my mother and father's house.

233. There was a time when Jane Brown took them. Marion Conter took them. I think perhaps, RKS took them. These staff members knew my mum and dad stayed in [REDACTED] and that the gardens were a great place to visit. They would take the kids to visit my mum and dad at the same time. I never took them there. Probably because I lived there and enough was enough.
234. I accept what she describes would be abuse, absolutely.
235. On page 7, paragraph 24, EHV says, *"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."*
236. That never happened and the passage of time has not affected my recollection. I can only say that this is a false memory. I would accept this would be abuse.
237. On page 7, paragraph 25, EHV says, *"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."*
238. No, never happened and the passage of time has not affected my recollection. Again, I would say there was false memory there. I would definitely accept this was abuse.
239. On page 7, paragraph 26, EHV says, *"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."*

240. EHV goes on to say on page 7 and 8, paragraph 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."*
241. Never once were they told that their mum was coming and never appeared. Nothing like that was ever done in spite. The passage of time has not affected my memory.
242. Again, I can only put it down to false memory. I mean, memories are there and perhaps something did happen but certainly not associated with me. It may have been the case but I'm not aware of it.
243. I believe that children's memories do not really develop until after they're three years of age, anyway. I think that's a case study done years ago and therefore anything before the age of three, is probably false memory. After that age, all I can say is that I did not abuse her at all. I've maintained my innocence of this through court, social workers, police. I still maintain my innocence with regard to that.
244. EHV goes on to say on page 15 paragraph 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."*
245. Never happened and the passage of time has not affected my memory. I can't explain why she has said these things. I do accept that would be abuse, absolutely.
246. How the abuse could have happened at the hands of someone else is very difficult to answer. I do have something further to say about this because the abuse was detected but it didn't involve me. I would rather answer that when speaking about EHV and MTH together as opposed to individually.

MTH

247. MTH was very small for his age. He had a stocky build with darkish curly hair. Again, he was a very easy-going kid and I don't recall having any trouble with him at all. He would have been about five when I started at Clerwood. There was around a year between him and his sister, EHV. MTH had definitely started at primary school. MTH had celiac condition so was given food that was okay for him to eat. He was restricted in his diet. We would say gluten free and lactose intolerant. I remember him clearly because he hated the food because it was bland. I remember tasting his bread and it was like sawdust.
248. There was nothing in my memory of MTH being a horrible, nasty or aggressive child, nothing like that.
249. MTH has given a statement to the inquiry. On page 16 and 17, paragraph 70, he says, *"Sometimes you were punished for wetting the bed. They made you stand in a corner facing the wall. I got smacked a few times as well. It was whoever was on duty who decided whether you were punished or not. ...., Gordon Knott and Brian McLelland were always the ones who did it."*
250. On page 18, paragraph 74, MTH goes on to say, *"There were other staff who smacked you, but it was ...., Gordon Knott and Brian McLelland who were the biggest physical abusers."*
251. The only person I can remember who would have smacked children were BFW or Brian McLennan.
252. I certainly never smacked MTH. That never happened and the passage of time hasn't affected my memory of it. It may well have happened with other staff, but it certainly didn't happen with me and I didn't witness MTH being smacked. I would accept that if a child was treated in such a way that would be abuse.

253. Between pages 18 and 23, which include consecutive paragraphs 75 through to 94 and paragraph 96 of his statement, MTH says, "Gordon Knott abused me both physically and sexually. I'm pretty sure there was mental abuse in there as well. I don't have any feelings towards him. I don't have any hatred towards him. Hatred would be something that would have a grip on my life and I'm never going to let him have a grip on my life again. He was a child abuser. He was a man who wasn't trained. He took advantage of the fact he worked in a children's home." (page 18, paragraph 75)
254. "For me the abuse probably started when I was three or four. It could have started earlier, and I just don't have any recollection of it. My earliest memories are from when he took me to the bathroom in the attic of the main house. Gordon Knott used to take me into the bath with him. He was naked and so was I. It started with him touching me. He was making me feel comfortable with what he was doing. It was always just me and him in the bath. There was nobody else involved. That happened quite a few times. I reckon that happened about once every couple of weeks. It wasn't a daily event. That went on for a while." (page 18, paragraph 76)
255. "I didn't realise what was going on at that time. I just thought that was what you did in a bath. It just happened to be a grown man in the bath with me. I never thought it was unusual or strange. I now realise that all the bath times were him grooming me. At the time when Gordon Knott was taking me for baths someone should have been questioning him why he was doing that." (Page 18, paragraph 77)
256. "Gordon Knott then started taking me to where the stables were. He was the only staff member who took me there and the only one that was there throughout the abuse. I would be taken into a room via the fire escape above the stables. The room ran along the full length of the stables. It just looked like an old barn. You could see the beams in the roof running along the length of the room. There were mattresses lain down on the floor." (Page 18, paragraph 78)
257. "I wasn't the only child taken into the room by Gordon Knott. There were other boys and girls. It was the same group of kids every time. There were about eight of us. EHV was one of the girls and later [REDACTED] was one of the boys. I don't remember the other

*ones. I don't know whether I joined a group of children that were already there. I don't know whether the children I met there had gone there for the first time at the same time as me.” (Page 19, paragraph 79)*

258. *“Gordon Knott would play wrestle with you. He would be in his underwear and so would you. It wasn't like wrestling. It was all gentle so you wouldn't get hurt. Before you knew it, he started slipping his hands into your pants. He'd start by groping you. He'd then encourage you to do the same with him. He would take your hand and put it to where he wanted it to be inside his underwear. It wasn't always me he was with. He'd have a turn with everybody.” (Page 19, paragraph 80)*
259. *“If you weren't partnered with him you would be partnered with one of the other children. He made sure he had a turn with everybody but wasn't concerned who you were partnered up with if you weren't with him. The other person could be a boy or a girl. It was almost as if he was giving us lessons on how to abuse each other. It was like a class to show you how to do it. To begin with there was no more to it than Gordon Knott teaching us how to wrestle and put our hands in each other's pants. There was no sex or anything like that. That all went on for months. It was the same scenario every time. I guess at the start I thought that it was all good. It was better than doing nothing.” (Page 19, paragraph 81)*
260. *“After a few months Gordon Knott progressed with us. We started doing it all naked. Everybody, including him, had to be naked. It was the same sort of thing. He'd encourage you to touch him if you were with him. If you were with another child, he would encourage you to touch them. It didn't matter whether the person you were partnered with was a boy or a girl.” (Page 19 and 20, paragraph 82)*
261. *“After a while it progressed from there to oral stuff. When he did it he would put the penis of the boy he was wrestling with in his mouth. He'd then encourage the boy to do the same to him. He did that with me. He'd encourage the children who weren't partnered with him to do the same. If you were partnered with a girl he would encourage you to perform oral sex on them. All that went on for a while. It perhaps went on for about two or three weeks. We weren't there every day. It was perhaps*

*once or twice a week. It was mostly at weekend times.” (Page 20, paragraph 83)*

262. *It then progressed from oral sex to full penetrative sex. That was with boys and girls. It would be boys penetrating girls and boys penetrating boys. He'd also penetrate the boys and girls. He'd make it seem as if it was a game. He treated it all like it was "just what people do." He'd make it out as if "this is what wrestling is about." Having not wrestled before, how were we to know that that wasn't what wrestling was about? It all continued like that for a while. It wasn't as if it went on for a few months and then it stopped. All that went on for years. It went on until I left there. Even after I left to be adopted and returned it still carried on. It carried on right up until I left to go to Glasclune.” (Page 20, paragraph 84)*

263. *“Gordon Knott made me have sex with my sister. I was about seven then. It was in the stables in the room where the mattresses were. He told me to do that. He put his hand on my back and forced me to lie on her. That was the worst abuse I ever suffered. It's something I will probably never get over. I've got over the rest of it, but I will never get over that. It didn't cause any shame then because I didn't know what I was doing. However, it caused me a great deal of shame later on. Of all the abuse that was the thing that killed me inside. It wasn't horrid at the time but horrid after I realised what he had made me do. It's also horrid because of the pain it caused my sister. That's the worst part of it all. That's the part that will always live with me. I will always have negative feelings about that happening,” (Page 20, paragraph 85)*

264. *“Gordon Knott took me and [EHV] when I was six or seven to somebody's home in Costorphine to abuse me. That would have been in about 1974. [EHV] would have been about five when we were taken there. I don't recall where exactly the house was. I know it was close to the home, and it was a normal house rather than a children's home. It was a house that was near ..... I am pretty sure it was on a road that had the turnstile gate for .... on it. It was a bungalow. The reason I remember that it was a bungalow is that all the other houses around it were big, and it looked small next to them.” (Page 21, paragraph 86)*

265. *"A man and his daughter lived at the house. I'm pretty sure there wasn't anybody else in the house when I went there. My impression was that Gordon Knott knew who the man was. The man was about the same age as him. He might have been a little bit older. I didn't know who the man was or who the girl was. The girl was the same age as me. She was either six or seven. It was the first time I had seen this girl."* (Page 21, paragraph 87)
266. *"It was a summer's day. There was a blow-up paddling pool at the back full of water. The girl and I had to take our clothes off and jump into the paddling pool. Gordon Knott and this man sat about whilst I played with the girl in the paddling pool. Gordon Knott and this man made me fool about with the girl. We touched each other whilst they sat there and watched. They made me touch her vagina and made us perform oral sex. I was made to fondle this girl whilst EHV was sitting there in the pool. After that EHV was made to fondle the girl. EHV had to do the same things as I did."* (Page 21, paragraph 88)
267. *"That happened to me once. I was never taken back to the house or saw the man and his daughter again. However, EHV said she was taken back to this house quite a few times. From speaking to EHV in later life I have found out that she got taken more places than I was by Gordon Knott. She has told me that she was once taken to the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. She met a family there and was taken back to the family's home. Things happened. She told me she was sexually abused but didn't go into the detail of what happened. I learnt that in later life after the court case."* (Page 21, paragraph 89)
268. *"Gordon Knott stayed in a little house near the stables. He took me to his house. He abused me there. He penetrated me. The only reason I remember that is because he did that on a rug that was in the shape of a bear. He took me into his house and abused me there several times. All that happened after we returned to Clerwood after being adopted. I don't remember that happening before we were adopted. I don't remember being in that house before then. I didn't think anything about the rug until after the court case. It was then that I discovered that my sister had also been abused by Gordon Knott on that same rug."* (Page 22, paragraph 90)

269. *"Staff did come into my room at night. Sometimes you would think that if you closed your eyes tight enough, they would just go away. Gordon Knott would come into my room. It wasn't every night thing but it went on the whole time I was at Clerwood. Sometimes a week would go by and he wouldn't come in. I remember him touching me and [REDACTED]. I remember that the day I came back from being adopted Gordon Knott came into my room and fondled me in my bed. All I remember is him touching me when he came into the room."* (Page 22, paragraph 91)
270. *"When Gordon Knott wanted to punish an individual he would punish the whole home. He'd make it clear that everybody was getting punished for something one child had done. We would all have to line up for him. He would sit there in a chair. One by one we would have to go up to him and pull our pants down. He would then hit each of us in turn on our bums with a piece of wood. The piece of wood was a little bigger than a ruler. It was about two inches wide and half an inch thick. We would all be walking about holding our bums and screaming."* (Page 22, paragraph 92)
271. *"There was one occasion, when I was about seven, where Gordon Knott immediately apologised for hitting me after he hit me with his piece of wood. He said that he didn't want to hurt me. He also said that to my sister and one other wee guy. All three of us were children he was sexually abusing. I couldn't work out what that was about. He was apologising to children for hitting them with a piece of wood but was at the same time sexually abusing them."* (Page 22 and 23, paragraph 93)
272. *"Looking back, I realise that the reason he was apologising was because I was an important person. I was important to him because he was able to abuse me. Somewhere along the line in his warped mind he probably loved me. It's not love when you beat someone up and rape them. He was just a warped individual."* (Page 23, paragraph 94)
273. *"After seeing the dentist, I went back up to the home. Out of the blue Gordon Knott punched me full force right in the side of the face. It was the same side that I had had the tooth taken out on. He did that because I had sworn at the dentists. The only way I knew that I had sworn was because he told me that I swore. I was unconscious at*

*the time I swore. I didn't even have an idea whether I had actually sworn. I remember that I was already sore from getting the tooth out and I was sore again from being punched."* (Page 23, paragraph 96)

274. On page 26, paragraph 105, MTH says, "Gordon Knott was very good at telling us not to tell people what was happening in the stables. He made a point of saying "this is our secret game" all of the time. I could have gone and spoken to a staff member or my social worker and told them what was happening. However, what stops you is you think "how do I know that these people aren't also involved?" I had no way of knowing whether other staff members were doing what Gordon Knott was doing to other children in the home."
275. I did not abuse MTH. I committed no offences towards MTH whatsoever. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of events.
276. These things are being said because it did happen, but it wasn't with me. In 1975, we had an emergency admission from a boy aged between thirteen and fourteen years of age. His name was [REDACTED]. He was tall, thin with dark hair. He was admitted to Clerwood purely and simply on an emergency admission. There were no other places available in any children's home in Edinburgh at that time.
277. The boy was in the unit for several months, I think. It may well have been several weeks, I don't recollect, exactly. He was discovered abusing MTH and EHV up in the stable area and in the boiler house at Clerwood by a member of staff whose name was Jane Brown.
278. It was reported to the police and both MTH and EHV were interviewed by them. I think the matron or the sister, or maybe both, were there with them at that time. Jane Brown was also interviewed by the police. EHV and MTH were both examined by a doctor, Dr Caldwell, at that time. They checked to ensure EHV hadn't been penetrated in any way. She hadn't been.

279. So, basically, they were actually abused. I can confirm that. If the logbooks and their records were available, they would confirm that too. The member of staff who discovered them would definitely be able to confirm it.
280. This matter was never raised in court. I spoke to my QC about it. He said that unless the police called Jane Brown as a witness, we couldn't cross-examine and we could not request that she was put on the witness stand. She was never questioned in the court.
281. The account that MTH and EHV give was exactly the account that was given to the police by the person that discovered them and it was logged.
282. None of these allegations happened. I never at any time ever abused EHV and MTH. I can't explain why these allegations are being said but if it happened, it would be severe abuse.

BHE

283. BHE gave a statement to the Inquiry. On page 5, paragraph 27 of his statement he says, *"Most of us, at one stage or another, wet the bed. We would be told to strip the bed. Occasionally, Brian, Gordon or this other woman would put a nappy on you. You'd then be paraded around in the home. I don't know if we were paraded around to be humiliated but I remember feeling humiliated. You don't want to wear a nappy when your five, six or seven years old."*
284. BHE was one of the children who suffered from what we would now call ADHD. He was the youngest of the three brothers and would have been about five years old. was the oldest, then , then BHE. There was a sister as well, .
285. BHE was very hyperactive. He could literally climb the walls, hence why he was medicated to keep him calm. He had a very bad speech impediment and he attended speech therapy for it. He was also seen by an educational psychologist and was assessed not suitable to be in a normal school setting.

286. Again, a kid who, other than the hyperactivity that he suffered from, was fine. He did wet the bed, I think every night. He was never, ever paraded around in nappies or pants or anything like that. The only time he ever had a nappy on was when we had amoebic dysentery and there were several children who were put into nappies because they were passing faecal matter all the time. That's the only time I can recollect any child, other than babies, which of course we had, ever being put into nappies. They were certainly not paraded around the unit.
287. They weren't made to strip their beds; the nightshift staff stripped the beds and took care of the children in the morning.
288. I did not sanction or punish BHE, nor did I ever abuse him. He was definitely never paraded around. That could be confirmed and acknowledged by any member of staff that was ever there. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of this. I'm not saying that it didn't happen, because I can't say that, I wasn't there twenty-four hours a day, but it certainly never happened with me, and I never witnessed anything like that when on duty.
289. On page 6 and 7, paragraph 35, BHE says, *"I remember being taken up to the boiler room area with Brian or Gordon or both together, with some of the other kids under the pretence of wrestling. Gordon or Brian would force you to strip down to your y fronts or until you were completely naked. Youd be told that you were taking part in wrestling. It would start as general horseplay. I remember Gordon and Brian at various times touching us in inappropriate places in the pretence of wrestling. They would touch you around your testicles and penis. It had nothing to do with wrestling."*
290. Wrestling did occur in Clerwood, there's no denying that. It was something that was introduced by Mr and Mrs Beatson who thought it was a good idea for the kids to get rid of some of their energies. They did actually wrestle. They didn't wrestle naked and they didn't wrestle with staff. They wrestled together and it was up in the stable area. That is absolutely perfectly true. But there was no sexual activity between any children or any adult and children at that time.

291. Boys and girls were never together wrestling. It was all boys and generally at weekends. It would be either supervised by myself and maybe Colin Robertson or by Mr and Mrs Beatson. It would basically be by whoever was on because it generally happened on a Sunday afternoon. So, it would be supervised by members of staff that were on duty.
292. As to the allegation, that never happened. The wrestling, yes but the allegation, no, that never happened. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what happened. I cannot explain why these things are being said and accept that would be abuse if it was to happen.
293. On page 7, paragraph 37 and 38, BHE [REDACTED] says, *"I remember being taken to the air raid shelter by either Brian or Gordon. It was dark and damp in there. It was really dank. I know something happened in there, but I don't know what. I don't know if I am supressing what happened, but it wasn't nice. It is not a comfortable thought to remember.*
294. *I remember being taken to the bathroom...I recall being taken in there by both Brian and Gordon. I don't remember them taking me into the bathroom together."*
295. He's right in saying there was an air raid shelter but it was closed off. You could never enter that. It was closed off with a steel door. It was an ancient thing, and I would imagine it would have been totally flooded, because it was a really old building. It was set off from the unit, slightly out the back and offset to the right. You couldn't gain access to it. It was completely shuttered off with a rusty old metal door, as far as I remember. To suggest something happened in there, then it didn't. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of this. I'm not able to explain why this is being said. I accept if that happened, that would be abuse.
296. On page 8, paragraph 41 of his statement, BHE [REDACTED] says, *"I remember being fascinated by Gordon Knott's motorcycle and touching the exhaust after the engine had been switched off and burning my fingers. I remember him taking me up and down the drive*

*on his motorcycle. I was sitting in front of him, and he was pushed right up against me, which looking back doesn't seem right. I know it wasn't right."*

297. I did indeed take the children on the back of the motorbike in Clerwood because it was private grounds. I was a learner driver so couldn't take them out on the road. They were taken on the back of the motorcycle not on the front of it. I cannot remember BHE ever burning his fingers on the exhaust. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of this. He's right in saying he was on the motorbike but he certainly wasn't on the front, he was on the rear seat. If he had been sitting in front then, yes, that would have been abuse.

### **Glenallan Children's Home**

PJJ

298. PJJ has given a statement to the Inquiry. On page 13, paragraph 64 and 65 of his statement he says, *"The first occasion that I've not shut out would be on a holiday to Stranraer. It was 1980. Gordon Knott was making out he was not doing anything bad; he was just teaching me about the birds and the bees. He masturbated into a hankie in front of me."*
299. *"There were two caravans for ten or twelve kids. So, there wasn't enough beds to sleep in. Everyone took alternate turns to share Gordon Knott's bed. I shared his bed with him. He didn't sodomise me, but he put it between my legs. It wasn't nice."*
300. PJJ was a nice lad, easy going. I can't think that he ever caused any problems for anybody or anything. He is correct in saying that we did go on holiday. It was to Sandhead Caravan Park, which is in Newton Stewart, close to Stranraer. He's also right about sharing my bed, he's absolutely correct about that. I did masturbate him. I have to admit that, and I did admit that in court and to the police. At no time did I ever put my penis between his legs and the masturbating into a hanky, no.

301. I admit I did abuse the child, I openly admit that and the passage of time has not affected my recollection of it. I can't explain why the things I deny in this allegation are being said. If a child was treated as described, I accept that was abuse.

PVY

302. PVY has given a statement to the Inquiry. On page 6, paragraph 27 and 28 of his statement he says, *"I remember being taken out of my bed at night by Gordon Knott, the man who ran the home, I was very tired and not wanting to go. I got taken through to his room. I must have been a bit older as it was when I was at the end of the home above the garage. I don't know if that side was for older kids. It felt at the time that it was quite often. I remember being so tired and being lifted out of my bed. I remember falling asleep and being wakened and falling asleep again."*

303. *"I don't remember how long this lasted or if anyone else was abused. I was sexually abused by Gordon Knott. I didn't speak to anyone about it. That's all I'd like to say about this."*

304. PVY was a very small boy, fair-haired. He was very quiet and caused no trouble whatsoever for anybody. Everybody called him, 'PVY', that was his nickname. He was well-loved by all the staff. I don't think any member of staff disliked PVY. His favourite was the cook, Mrs Adie. He certainly was never lifted out of his bed at night by me, or I would imagine by anybody that I could think of, unless he had been ill.

305. He shared a bedroom with five other kids. Also, the night staff would have been aware of any movement in the building because they patrolled every hour or so. No, I certainly never lifted him out of his bed and I'm not aware that anybody else lifted him out of his bed through the night.

306. I did not abuse PVY. This never happened. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of this. I wouldn't like to even hazard a guess why he made that statement. If it had happened, I accept that would be abuse.

307. MVE gave a statement to the Inquiry. On page 10, paragraph 52 and 53 he says, *"Within the first couple of weeks of being at Glenallan the kids were messing about whilst I was in the shower. They were opening the lock on the shower door with a coin. I just wanted to have a shower in peace. I had locked the door again. It all went quiet. I was listening for the kids. The door opened again, and Gordon Knott was there. I thought it was just going to be the kids. Gordon must have used a coin to open the door."*
308. *"Gordon Knott just walked right in. The shower was on one side. I was in the shower behind the shower curtain. He tried to pull the shower curtain back. I had wrapped it around my hip because the kids had been pulling it. I was quite shocked. He tried to yank the shower curtain off me, but he couldn't. He tried to yank it off me a second time, then he just walked out. He didn't say anything. I did not interpret it in a sexual way. I thought it was slightly over the top at the time."*
309. On page 11, paragraph 56, he says, *"After the incident in the shower, Gordon Knott was a bit aloof towards me. Anytime I had to ask for anything like food or juice, he would be a bit huffy and make snide remarks. He looked down on me and the rest of the children."*
310. I remember MVE. He was a tall, thin, very pale, dark-haired lad. He was thirteen or fourteen. I couldn't say when he came to Glenallan. MVE only associated with one person and that was a girl. I can see the girl, but I can't remember her name. He really didn't communicate with anybody else. He was non-confrontational; he never confronted anybody. He never fell out with the other kids. He was reluctant to share anything at all about his past and about his family. He did have regular visits from his mother.
311. Again, I would have said he was sort of almost like a model child, if you like, for a children's home, because he just seemed to go along on this one level plain and he never complained about anything. He would have been punished in terms of fined if

he was swearing or something. Again, I couldn't swear to that as an absolute recollection.

312. I did not abuse him. The matter with the shower never happened. The children were allowed to go and shower or bath and it was absolutely private to them. They could lock the door. I'm not aware that you could gain entry from outside, other than if you knocked the door down. The actual shower was behind the door when you opened it. So, you would have to have gone in and to get access to the shower, you would have had to close the door as well. That certainly never happened and the passage of time hasn't affected my recollection of it. I don't know why he is saying that. I would say that would be abuse if a child was treated in such a way, certainly abuse of privacy.

313. MVE goes on to say on page 12 and 13, paragraph 61 and 62, MVF *put his arm around me, and I felt the weight of his arm on me. He started grabbing me around the ankle and said, "Can I see the grips on your trainers?". He grabbed my trainer and tried to tip me over by pulling my foot up. He was trying to open my legs up. I started to fall backwards. He was forcing his body over me, and his face was right next to my face. I could feel the wetness and stubble of his face on mine. It was absolutely disgusting. My hands were pushing his chin away from me. I put my palms under his chin and pushed myself away. The weight of his body pushing forward helped push me away. I pushed my leg onto the ground and pushed myself back to my feet. It was really quiet because all of the kids were at school. I heard the door downstairs open. I heard running up the stairs. It was Silvia and another woman. As soon as I heard door downstairs open my room door flew open and I was confronted by Gordon Knott. Gordon looked surprised when I opened the door and saw him. Then I realised that he was there keeping an eye out and had been there the whole time. Silvia and the other woman came running up the stairs and I just left the building. I never said anything. I ran past them. I think they suspected what was going on. They were always frosty towards him. I ran to the park. I knew MVE would go away if I stayed away from my room."*

314. *"Not even a week after the incident in my room I had another run-in with Gordon Knott. I was going to school. I had to get my bus money and dinner money from the staff*

*before leaving. I had to ask Gordon. He would always be a bit snippy with me. Everything was a bit difficult. There was a girl from New Zealand working there. I remember she was on duty that day. I was going out of the door and Gordon Knott stopped me. He said really quietly that I had to go to [MVF]'s office in .... after school. I said "No I'm not" quite loudly. I wanted the girl to hear. Gordon then said "You are going or I will stop your pocket money". He also said that if I went he would give me an extra bus fare. He took it out of his pocket and gave it to me. I took the extra bus fare and just intended to spend it."*

315. I'm assuming he's talking about [MVF]. That's the only [MVF] that I know and have worked with. [MVF]'s office was at [REDACTED]. That definitely never happened. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of it. The bus fare could be given by anybody. The money was contained in a cash box in the safe. It wouldn't be taken out of anybody's pocket. I would say that's false memory there because it just wouldn't happen.
316. [MVF] was only ever in the unit for staff meetings, child case reviews, appraisals and supervision. [MVF] would never have been with him by himself, ever. I can't explain why these things are being said. I would definitely say it would be abuse.
317. On page 14, paragraph 67 of his statement, he says, *"There was another boy in Glenallan with me who I think was also being abused by Gordon Knott. His name was [REDACTED]. He was small and had a gruff voice. I remember chatting to him. He said "At least I get to go to Gordon's house". I said "Why would you want to go to Gordon's House?" and he just put his head down. He didn't say "Because its great!" or anything like that. I thought that was pretty telling. I had the protection of my Mum but [REDACTED] didn't.*
318. If he's talking about [REDACTED], then no. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of this. I cannot answer why this has been said.
319. On page 15, paragraph 70, [MVE] says, *"One day I was going on the bus to visit a new home. The new home was called South Gyle. I had stolen a red Lacoste t-shirt*

*from a shop and had hidden it in the hatch along with the other items. Gordon Knott stopped the bus and told me to get off the bus and to go with him. He took me back to Glenallan. He grabbed me from behind and was pulling me by his arm around my neck. He called the police about the stolen items."*

320. That never ever happened. I've never chased after a bus or stopped a bus in mid-flight and dragged anybody off a bus. The passage of time has definitely not affected my recollection of this. I can't explain this at all. I certainly don't remember him stealing anything. He just wasn't that kind of kid. If he needed anything his mum supplied it to him. He had no reason to steal. That's thrown me. I would say if that happened it would be physical abuse.

303. MVE goes on to say on page 15, paragraph 75, "*I don't believe for a second that there weren't other people involved with Gordon Knott and MVE together. I assumed when the trial came out that it would involve MVE too. If you are into something obscure like paedophilia, you find others who are similarly minded. When I heard what had happened and what Gordon Knott had been doing, I am sure he would have done other stuff. He pounced on me when I was at my weakest. I have no doubt that that scumbag could have pounced on another small child.*"

304. On page 22, paragraph 109, he says, "*I think that Gordon Knott saw my mum and her boyfriend, who was a joiner and an ex-sprinter with long legs and big shoulders, and kept himself of doing worse.*"

306. Again, that's not the case. I never abused MVE in any way at all. I never had any confrontations with MVE. I never had any reason, as I can recollect, to punish him in any way or anything. There's just nothing there at all. I did meet his mum although I don't know what boyfriend he's talking about. I never met his mum's boyfriend. But I did meet his mum anytime she came to the unit. If I was on duty, then I met her, yes.

## Ponton House

HWD

307. HWD has given a statement to the Inquiry. On pages 22, 23 and 24, paragraphs 138 to 144 consecutively, he says, *"There were guys who didn't live there and weren't staff, who used to hang around. Anybody could just come and go from the hostel as they pleased. The staff were upstairs and didn't care. One was called Nott and another guy called John Wilson, who was known as 'Sticky Wilson.' They would get the boys to fight each other, half naked. I didn't think anything of it at the time but I can see now that they were doing it to get their own kicks from watching. They would tell us to play fight and not go too far."* (page 22, paragraph 138)
308. *"Sticky Wilson and Nott, and other younger guys, would go round to Tam Paton's house for drink and drugs. Tam Paton was the manager for the band, The Bay City Rollers. There were a few guys who hung about at Ponton House who lived in flats nearby, on ....., who would go to parties at Tam's House. I ended up going out with these guys who hung around and was taken to Tam Paton's House. That was the start of my shit life."* (page 23, paragraph 139)
309. *"Tam Paton was an older man. He had a big, fancy house in Gogarburn that was always full of drink and drugs and a party going on with young boys. I went a few times and when I was there, he would try to cuddle and kiss me."* (page 23, paragraph 140)
310. *"One night, I was drugged while I was there. I didn't take drugs but I did drink so it must have been in my drink. I don't know who drugged me but I woke up on a bed, naked on top with my trousers round my ankles with Tam Paton and another guy abusing me. One of them was trying to put his willy in my mouth and the other was trying to have sex with me. I was out of my face on drugs and was coming and going out of consciousness, while they were abusing me and trying to get me to do things to them. I remember shouting out something like "I'm only fourteen. Leave me alone."* (page 23, paragraph 141)

311. *"The next thing I remember is being carried down a hallway in Tam's house with my clothes back on, and being put in the boot of a car. I remember coming to and hearing men talk about what to do with me and where to dump me. I was scared because I thought I was going to be killed. I heard someone saying they would take me back."* (page 23, paragraph 142)
312. *"The car stopped and I was dragged out the boot and taken into Ponton House and put into my bed. One of the guys was Nott and he was trying to put his willy in my mouth. I managed to grab a bottle and swung it at him. I heard a smash and clatter so I must have got him. ...., who I shared the room with, came into the room and he started punching Nott until Nott left."* (page 23, paragraph 143)
313. *"The next day, I was sitting on .... bed beside him and he told me that I had got Nott a cracker with the bottle. He said that Nott was trying to put his willy in my mouth while I was punching and kicking. He told me that Sticky Wilson was also there and had been half naked."* (page 23 and 24, paragraph 144)
314. *"The staff at Ponton House knew what was going on with Nott, Sticky Wilson and Tam Paton and what they were doing to the boys from Ponton House but they turned a blind eye to it. I knew .... had been at Tam's house too because he spoke about being there. I had never seen him there."* (page 24, paragraph 148)
315. *"Nott would always be in Ponton House groping or kissing boys. Sticky Wilson would always be walking about Ponton House half naked, calling boys his "chickens." Tam would also hang about outside Ponton House in his car but I never saw him come in."* (page 24, paragraph 149)
316. I don't know HWD at all. I don't even know Ponton House, I've never even heard of Ponton House. That statement, I'm sure, during my trial in 1997, there is something so similar to that, that was read out against Michael Cull. That strikes my memory so clear, that was allegations that were made against Michael Cull. There was insufficient evidence. The case was dropped and he was set free. Just the way it's been described, I can't even tell you what the person looked like, but a lad gave

evidence in the court and that just rings bells with me. Not word for word, but certain parts of that allegation.

317. I don't know who [HWD] is. I don't know a [HWD]. I certainly don't know of a Ponton House. I know you told me where it was, but it doesn't register with me at all. I wouldn't have been able to tell you where it was. Drink and drugs, no. I was never involved in any drugs. I'll take a drink but no, not drugs.
318. I know he's referring to me. He's got my name but I don't know where he got it from apart from the fact my name has been in the public domain since my trial in 1997.
319. I've never heard of Sticky Wilson, that name doesn't mean anything to me at all. I have heard of Tam Paton. I believe he was the manager of the Bay City Rollers and that would have been common knowledge but I've never met him. I wouldn't be able to tell you where he stayed and I've certainly never been to his house or attended any wild parties there. I wouldn't know any of his associates either.
320. These allegations are false, really false allegations. The passage of time has not in the slightest bit affected my recollection of this. The only thing I can say is, if indeed that is the case that was presented to the court, then he obviously knew my name. Obviously, I can think what I like but I don't want to say it. It's about money, I'm sorry, I didn't really want to say that, but that's what I feel. If I give a name and something comes of it, then compensation is coming my way. I'm sorry, but that to me is a total false allegation. If it was a genuine allegation, I'd tell you right now. I would admit to it. But it's not. That's a totally false statement about me. I'm sorry, I haven't been riled by anything else today, but that.
321. If I was at Ponton House at anytime, I'm sure somebody could verify that or verify I was never there.
322. You've told me that Ponton House was a hostel for kids who had been in care. I don't recollect anybody from Glenallan, and it would only have been from Glenallan, ever

going to Ponton House. My recollection of any child moving from Glenallan, was to individual flats or they were moved to other children's homes.

### **Convictions**

323. I was convicted of sexually abusing MTH, EHV and BHE. More recently, in the last case against me, I was convicted of abusing BHE, although his name was different in court, PJJ. He wasn't named as PJJ on the indictment.

### **Edinburgh Inquiry Investigation**

324. I was interviewed in Peterhead Prison for the Edinburgh investigation. I can't remember the year. People from the Edinburgh Inquiry came to interview me. I think there were three people involved in the interview. The interview lasted for around two hours. I cooperated fully with them and answered all the questions that were asked. The interview was in relation to the allegations that were made against me.

### **Note posted under door**

325. I remember there was a note posted by [REDACTED]. It was posted under me and my wife's door at Glenallan. We were residents in the place. [REDACTED] had made an allegation and then withdrew it. The note was actually an apology to me and Lorna for having made the allegation. The reason he made the allegation, was because he was jealous of Lorna and I getting married and he thought we were going to take each other away from him. That note was actually stapled onto a page within one of the logbooks that appear to no longer exist.

326. Lorna was originally a peripatetic worker in Glenallan, but when we married, she wasn't allowed to work in the same unit. Husbands and wives were not allowed to work in the same unit. Lorna moved to another unit, which I forget the name of.

#### **Members of staff simultaneously resigning from Glenallan Children's Home**

327. Nobody ever resigned from Glenallan, not simultaneously. We maybe had staff moving on, but they didn't resign and never three together. When I took over as officer in charge, I employed Ann King as my deputy and Pat Little as my third in charge. There was Elaine Watt, who was a houseparent and she was there when I first started. There was Sandra Grant and a third houseparent, Anne McDonald, who came from Lewis.
328. Anne McDonald, I believe, left to go somewhere else. I then employed a girl called Karen; I can't remember her last name. She was from New Zealand. There was also a houseparent called Silvia Barnet and I think Silvia took over Anne's role as houseparent when Anne left. The staff were there with me until the unit closed in 1985. There were never three resignations at the same time, never ever.

#### **Leaving Glenallan Children's Home**

329. Glenallan closed because they wanted to change it to a home for physically and mentally disabled adults, not children, so they were repurposing it at that time. They had been speaking about it for some time, and it wasn't just Glenallan that closed. I think they closed four or five of the purpose-built family group homes at the same time.
330. I went on to work in Liberton Gardens Old People's Home. I would imagine that references were provided for me by MVF and Brian Tait. I knew the person in charge of Liberton Gardens because as units, we had met regularly as a collective.

**Helping the Inquiry**

- 331. I never witnessed anyone being abused, other than when I reported **BFW**. That was the only abuse I ever witnessed.
  
- 332. I've never once said that children weren't abused. I'm not saying they weren't, what I'm saying is I never witnessed any abuse. I'm not aware that they were ever abused. They never spoke to me about anybody abusing them so I can't explain why it still affects them. I can accept what they're saying if they were abused and that it would still affect them. I can well and truly accept that.
  
- 333. The ones that I pled guilty to and I abused; they're the ones that have made allegations against me that I still maintain my innocence on.
  
- 334. I think there needs to be stricter guidelines. There has to be better training for staff to be able to identify whether a child has been abused. There needs to be acceptance if a child is saying they have been abused and it needs to be accepted and investigated fully. Safeguards have to be put in place, and I would imagine that good screening would screen anything out during interview.

**Other information**

- 335. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed.....  .....

Dated..... 08-04-2026 .....