

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MTU

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is MTU. When I was in care my name was MTU. My date of birth is 1968. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to Fornethy House, Kilry

2. My mum is called. She worked as a tea lady. My dad was called. He was a in the shipyards. My mum and dad weren't married when they had me so I grew up with my sister's surname. I think it was just one of those things that people did back then. People just didn't want to raise two different kids who had two different fathers with two different names. My sister is called. She is six years older than me.
3. The four of us lived in a maisonette flat in Possilpark in Glasgow. I lived in that flat until I was about twenty. My father wasn't always there so my mother more or less raised me and my sister singlehandedly. I went to Hawthorn Primary School in Possilpark in Glasgow.
4. I don't really know how it all came about. I was the only one in my family who went. All I remember is my name being put down and then I was going to Fornethy House. I can't really remember any talk about it. I didn't know what Fornethy House was at the time. I think my mum might have just applied for me to go because she needed a break. I know that my mother struggled at times financially because she was on

her own with me and my sister at times. It could be that Fornethy House provided respite for parents or something like that.

5. I remember that my mum took me down to catch the coach that took us there. It left from behind the Barras in Glasgow. I waited with my mum outside a big school. I remember other children being dropped off there by their parents. The coach then arrived and took all the children to Fornethy House. If I remember rightly there were about fifty children who all went together. Our parents all stayed behind. I think it took us about three hours to get there. I'm sure we left about 9:00 am and didn't get to Fornethy House until about lunchtime.

Fornethy House, Kilry, Angus

6. I was at Fornethy House four times over four years. Each time it was for a period of four weeks. I went there between the ages of seven and eleven. The first time I went there it was around [REDACTED] 1976. I can't remember what time of the year I was there the second and third times I went. I remember there being different weather over those times so I can't work out what season it was. I do remember that it was always during school term time that we went though. The fourth time I was there was in [REDACTED] 1979. I remember going to secondary school when I got back. Looking back, I don't think I was in what I personally would call "care."
7. Fornethy House was in the middle of nowhere. I think Glasgow City Council ran the place. It was all girls. I think there were about fifty girls at Fornethy at any one time. I remember that because I remember five rows of ten chairs laid out in the playroom and everybody sitting there at one time. All the girls were primary school age. I think that was between five and about twelve back then.

Layout of Fornethy House

8. It was a big white huge building that sat in its own grounds. It was like a big castle. The grounds were very large. There was a playground with swings, a climbing

frame, a wee wooden shop we played in and grass areas for us to play on. There were lots of forests in the grounds with wee pathways through them.

9. As soon as you went in the front door there was a door that led to what they called the playroom. Past the playroom was a set of spiral stairs. Past those stairs on the ground floor were two classrooms. Those classrooms were used for the younger children that were there. Beyond that was a cloakroom full of benches, shelves and pegs where we put our shoes, slippers, wellies and coats. At the end of the cloakroom to the right was the back door. That was the only door you used during the time you were there. The only time you used the front door was when you first arrived and when you finally left. To the left at the back was a set of concrete stairs that took you up the back way to the first floor. They also had a medical room on the ground floor which was located at the back of the building near to the cloakroom.
10. The kitchen and dining room was on the first floor at the back. There was a library. I remember it had a big stone fire place and was full of books. There were photographs of the Coats sisters up on the wall. I think they were the people who gifted the property to Glasgow City Council so that it could be used in the way that it was. There were two dormitories on the first floor. Those dormitories were called Reekie Linn and Foster. There was also a wee toilet and a bathroom on that floor. Past the dormitories was a set of concrete stairs that took you up to the second floor. There were five dormitories on the second floor. They were called Isla, Ogle, Prosen, Clova and Esk.
11. If you went outside through the back door there was an area where there were some guinea pigs. Near that area was another set of stairs that led up to another building. It was an annexe or something like that. That building had a classroom in it that was used for the older kids.

Staff

12. Mrs Fletcher was like the headmistress. I'd say she was in her late forties or early fifties when I went there. She certainly wasn't a spring chicken. She was quite tall

and well built. She had blonde hair and buck teeth. She had a dog called Kirsty that was white and had buck teeth too. They always say animals resemble their owners and that was the same with Mrs Fletcher.

13. Mrs Robinson was a teacher and carer. I reckon she was in her early to mid-thirties when I was at Fornethy House. She had brown curly hair. She was well made and dead tall. She was easily a good six feet tall. She had rough skin. It wasn't so much acne but she had pot holes in her skin. She took the older children's classes in the building that was separate from the main house.
14. Mrs **RHH** was a teacher and carer. She got married over the time I was at Fornethy House. I can't remember what her married name was. I reckon she was in her early to mid-thirties when I was at Fornethy House. She was about five feet four inches tall. She took the younger children's classes in the main house.
15. Mrs **PWH** was a teacher and carer. She must have been in her late fifties when I was there. She wore glasses. She would have been a bit smaller than Mrs **RHH**. She was about five foot one inches. She took the youngest children's classes in the main house.
16. I remember that during the fourth time I was there in 1979 Mrs Robinson, Mrs **RHH**, Mrs **PWH** and Mrs Fletcher only stayed for the first week. They were replaced by three other young teachers for the last three weeks. The replacement teachers were all in their twenties. I can't remember all their names. One was called Miss Geddes. She had brown curly hair. I remember one of the other ones had long blonde hair. It was a relief when we got those teachers. I actually enjoyed my time at Fornethy House when they were there.
17. There were two cleaners called **RJJ** and **RJN**. They helped out with bath times and did the laundry. They did loads of other things there. There was a cook. I think her name was Jean. She had an eye that went the other way. Her role was really only to cook and serve the meals. She also helped out with carrying the suitcases to the dorms.

Children at Fornethy House

18. All the girls who went there went together on the coach and left together at the same time. We were all there for the same periods of time. All the children were from various places in Glasgow. I don't really remember the backgrounds of the other children who were there. The only ones I remember went to the same school as me or were from the same area.
19. I remember that my mum was friendly with one of the other parents who sent their children to Fornethy House. Her name was [REDACTED]. She had two girls. They were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was about the same age as me. [REDACTED] might have been a little bit older.

Routine at Fornethy House*First day*

20. I think Mrs Fletcher greeted us at the front door. She wasn't the only one there. I think Mrs Robinson, Mrs PWH and Mrs RHH were also around in the building. I remember that the first thing they made us do is go into the playroom and put down our cases. I remember that because on subsequent visits I discovered that if I put down my case next to my mate's then that would mean I would be put into the same dorm as them. I think one of the cleaners and the cook took our cases up to the dormitories. I think we then went into the cloakroom to put our coats up on the pegs there. I think we were told which was our peg and locker. We were then taken up to the dining room for our lunch. After that the teachers told us which dormitories we were going to be in. Someone shouted your name out and you had to line up according to your dormitory. I don't really remember what happened after that.

Daily routine

21. You were up early in the morning. The staff would come into your dormitory, turn the lights on and tell everybody to get up. That was maybe at about 7:30 am. You would then get dressed and make your bed up. You would then go to wash your face and brush your teeth before returning back to your dorm. You were then called dorm by dorm to go down for breakfast. We'd all walk in lines to the dining room. It was all quite regimented. I'd say breakfast was at about 8:00 am. I can't remember what happened after breakfast. I can't remember whether we were all lined up again and went to the playroom or whether we just went straight to classes.
22. Classes started at about 9:00 am. You had classes in classrooms until about 10:00 am. I think after that you got washed up for lunch. Lunch was held in the dining room. After lunch we came downstairs to the cloakroom to put our coats, wellies and trousers on. They gave you a balaclava and a scarf to wear no matter how hot it was. After that we would go on walks. Occasionally we got to play in the grounds in the playground but usually we went out for walks. When we came back from our walks we went back to the cloakroom and took our wellies, coats and things off. I don't know whether we then got some time in the playroom before it was time to line up to go upstairs for dinner in the dining room. After dinner we played in the playroom until it was time to go to bed. Everybody had to go up to bed at the same time. I think that after you got changed you got twenty to thirty minutes to wind down in your dormitory. You had to fold your clothes up and put them onto your chair before you went to bed. The lights then went out. I think that was at about 8:30 pm or 9:00 pm.
23. The routine was pretty much the same at weekends. I think you played in the playroom instead of classes in the mornings on weekends. The only other differences were that you got to go to bed at 9:00 pm on Saturdays and some of the children got to go to church on Sunday mornings.

Sleeping arrangements

24. It wasn't all girls of the same age in the dormitories. There were girls from the age of five all the way up to twelve sharing the same dormitory. All the dorms contained single beds. Each person had a small wardrobe and a chair by the front of their bed.
25. The first time I went I was in Reekie Linn. That was one of the big dormitories. I think there were between ten and twelve of us in that dormitory. If I remember right there was a fire escape that led out of that dormitory. The second and third time I was there I was in Prosen. It was a smaller dorm. It had five or six beds in it. The last time I was there I was in Clova. That had about ten beds.
26. The teachers had their own bedroom in Fornethy House which they could use. Their bedroom was on the top floor close by to the dormitory called Clova. One staff member would stay each night. They would be on duty through the night whilst the other ones went home. I think they had a rota. After lights out you had to be quiet otherwise you could get into trouble. The dormitory doors were always left open. There were night lights on in the corridors. I think they were blue.

Washing / bathing

27. I think you could have a shower any night of the week. I think you only got to use the baths once a week. All the children of all ages were bathed on the same day. You had to have a bath on that day. There was no choice. RJJ and RJN were in charge of bath times. There were two big baths in the bathroom. I can't remember where you took your clothes off but you had to line up naked before getting into one of the baths one after the other. The bath water wasn't changed in between each child. The water was warm but it wasn't hot. RJJ and RJN would wash you when you were in the bath.
28. After bath times you got dressed. I can't remember where you put your clothes back on. You then went downstairs to the medical room where they put the nit comb

through your hair. I think it was a member of staff who did that but I can't remember which one.

Mealtimes / food

29. The dining room was a big room with a kitchen coming off of it. There were big round tables in the dining room. Everybody sat together around those tables at mealtimes. All the age groups ate together. There were maybe about eight children per table. You had to sit on the same seat for the whole time you were staying there. All the staff sat at a long table whilst you ate. They had their meals in the dining room at the same time as us. They would supervise us at the same time.
30. Thinking back the food was mostly lovely. Breakfast was things like cereal, toast or boiled eggs. You always had big three course meals at the other mealtimes. It always felt like they were big meals. It was soup, dinner and pudding. I wasn't used to having three big meals back then. People didn't do that then. It was a lot for someone of my age to be eating.
31. You had to eat every bit of your meals. You couldn't stash away any of the meals because the staff were in there supervising you at the same time. I hated boiled eggs. They sometimes served those at breakfast time but occasionally they served them at dinner time with a cheese sauce as well. I just couldn't eat them. They made me sick. I remember trying to force the boiled eggs down but I couldn't do it. I remember refusing to eat them and crying.
32. When I didn't eat my food the staff made me sit for hours on my own in the dining room. Sometimes I wasn't allowed to take part in any of the activities or get sweets from the sweetshop as a punishment. Other times the staff would take me to the medical room for what they called "a dose of castor oil." When they did that it wasn't just "a dose" it was a great big tablespoon of the stuff. It was mostly Mrs Robinson who did that as a punishment. Sometimes the staff would taunt me before dinner if they knew it was boiled eggs and say "MTU, it's castor oil today." Sometimes I was slapped for not eating my food. They would do that in the dining hall in front of all of

the other children. I saw them doing that to other children as well. All these things were done by the staff to punish me. Mrs Fletcher, Mrs PWH, Mrs RHH and Mrs Robinson did all of these things. They did these things to me and to other children.

33. I remember that on one occasion my mother gave me a letter to give to the staff. She told them in her letter that I didn't like boiled eggs. I gave the letter to the staff. It didn't change anything. They still gave me boiled eggs.
34. I can't remember whether other children didn't eat things or, if they did refuse things, what they refused to eat. I do remember the castor oil treatment being used on other children to punish them. It wasn't just me who was punished like that. I remember them doing that with children who they thought had misbehaved in other ways as well.

Table monitors / dorm captains

35. Certain children were appointed to be table monitors or captains of each dormitory. The dorm captains and table monitors were usually picked from the older girls. I think that they got selected on the first day of arrival. I think it was usually the more sensible girls who were selected. The table monitors wore a green sash and the captains of the dormitories wore a red sash.
36. Table monitors would keep everybody in order on their table. I think they were the leader at the front of lines when we had to go somewhere in and around mealtimes. They didn't really have a role in disciplining or punishing other children.
37. Dorm captains tried to keep everyone quiet and tried to make sure that people weren't disruptive in their dorms. They would front up the lines if you were being lined up by your dorm. They didn't really have a role in disciplining or punishing other children.
38. I remember that during my last time at Fornethy House Mrs RHH and Mrs Robinson looked at each other after I arrived and said something like "are you

thinking what I am thinking?" They then called me over and made me a table monitor. I think I was only a table monitor for something like a day before the boiled eggs came on the scene. Looking back, I think they only gave that role to me because they knew we were going to have boiled eggs and they could take that role off me as a punishment. They were bullies.

Chores

39. You had to make your own bed in the morning. The teachers would come round and inspect whether you had done it right. If you hadn't done it right you were told to do it again. Nobody else in the dorm would be able to go down for breakfast until the person who hadn't made their bed properly had done it right. I don't remember any other chores. We didn't have to do cleaning or anything like that. I think we had to tidy up a bit in the playroom but that was about it.

Clothing / uniform

40. You brought your own clothes with you. The only time you wore trousers was when you went out on walks. The rest of the time you wore skirts. They gave you a pinnie to wear over your clothes. I think the pinnies were flowery. They were like something out of 'Little House on the Prairie'. I think we wore them to protect our other clothes. All you wore in bed was a nightdress. They didn't let you sleep with your underwear on.
41. I remember that all your clothes had to be labelled with your name. Even your toiletry bag had your name in it. I think my mum did all that for me. I think the parents were told to do that before you came.

Pocket money / possessions

42. My mum used to send in postal orders. You used the money from your postal orders to buy sweets from the tuck shop that they had in the home. The tuck shop was really more like a wee cupboard. I think that your money was spread out over

whatever time you were at Fornethy House. You never actually handled money. You were told how much you had on whatever particular day it was when you got your sweets. I don't think that was every day. I'm not sure what days that was but I remember having sweets on Saturday evenings when they showed the films.

43. You weren't allowed to bring any personal possessions with you other than the clothes you had when you went there.

School

44. There were a range of ages in each class, however, they were grouped together according to a particular range of age. You started off in Mrs PWH's classes in the main house. That class was for girls aged between five and seven. As you got a bit older you moved into Mrs RHH's classes in the main house. That was for girls aged between eight and nine. As you got older again you went to the classes Mrs Robinson held in the building that was apart from the main house. That was for girls aged between nine and eleven or twelve. I'd say there was roughly between fifteen and twenty five girls in each class.
45. I wouldn't say that it was the same as the schoolwork that you would do at your primary school. They weren't proper teachers. It wasn't things like Maths, English and things like that. I remember making things. We'd make things out of the things we collected when we were out on walks. Things like pheasant feathers. We made bookmarks out of them. I used to take mine home to give to my mum.

Afternoon walks

46. Everybody in Fornethy House had to go on walks in the afternoons. You went whatever the weather was like. It was whatever teacher who was on duty that day who took us. It was just one teacher who took us. I remember it being Mrs Robinson a lot of the time. I don't remember Mr Fletcher taking us. We would walk for miles and miles. We would walk through the forests or climb a big hill called Stoney Brae. I remember walking to the Dundee Reservoir one time. It was seven

miles in total there and back. We really did walk a long way for our age. I remember there were wishing stones that we passed on one of the walks. We used to hold hands around them and make wishes. My wishes never came true. I was always wishing to leave Fornethy House and go home.

47. We would walk in lines. The staff members would walk at their own pace. They didn't slow down for the children. It would be too fast for us. You would end up being told to speed up. It was difficult trying to keep up with the staff. You did talk but the staff member taking you would keep on telling you to be quiet. I remember the midges. You would put your hand in the air and it would get absolutely covered in them. I remember getting welly rashes. I don't remember ever getting treatment for those.
48. I was contacted in later life [REDACTED] by someone who had spoken to some of the people who lived near Fornethy House. He said that those people told him that they had seen the girls from Fornethy House going on those walks. They said that they thought it had been a shame for the Fornethy girls because they were out walking in terrible weather. That's interesting to me because it shows that people were aware of how we were getting treated at that time on those walks.

Religious instruction

49. It wasn't a religious place. It wasn't run by the church or anything like that. You had to say grace before your meals. I don't think you had to say prayers before bed time. Sometimes Mrs Fletcher would come down to the playroom and read us biblical stories out of a big book. It was stories like Moses and things like that.
50. Not everybody was allowed to go to church on Sundays. I think that was because there was only a certain amount of space available on the minibus that took you there. It was maybe ten or twelve children and a teacher that would go. I think I only got to go once. I don't remember there being different churches for the different children in the minibus. I think the church was a protestant church. If you didn't go to church you stayed back and played in the playroom.

Trips

51. I remember one occasion when all the children were taken to Aviemore. I can't remember why that was. It could have been a treat. We were taken to see 'Santa Claus Land.' I think it may have been the student teachers who took us there. That's the only trip I remember happening.

Leisure time

52. There was a large playroom in Fornethy House. You more or less spent all of your time in the playroom if you weren't at school or out on walks. A lot of the time you just sat in rows listening to the teachers telling stories or you would be singing. I think Mrs PWH sometimes played the piano. When you weren't doing that the teachers played games like musical statues or musical bumps with you. If you were good you were allowed to play with the toys. It was mostly dolls and teddies and things like that.
53. On Saturday nights they would set up a projector and a screen in the playroom and put on a film. You only really got to play outside in the grounds a couple of times a week. If we did we played on the swings, slide and in the wee hut we pretended was a shop.
54. During the fourth time I was there in 1979 three new staff members took over. They put on a play with us. It was Oliver Twist. I initially got the part of Oliver Twist. I then got that taken off me for 'carrying on'. I was then given the part of Nancy. That too ended up being taken off me. In the end I was given the role of Fagan. I remember that all the townsfolk came to see the performance.

Birthdays / Christmas

55. I was never there over Christmas time so I don't know what happened. I had my eighth birthday there in 1976. If it was your birthday you got a birthday cake at tea

time. Everybody on your table would get a slice of that. You couldn't give cake to anyone else, it just had to be the people on your table. I don't remember getting any presents that had been sent in by my parents. I don't think she sent in anything. She wouldn't have been able to afford that back then.

Phone / letters

56. You couldn't phone home. That wasn't possible. You had to write letters home in classes. I can't remember but I think that we had to do that once a week. I remember that my mum gave me stamps so that I could do that. You couldn't write anything in your letters other than what the teachers had written out on the blackboard. That happened in whatever class you were in. It was whatever teacher who took your class who made you do that. All the teachers did the same.
57. The teachers checked your letters after you had finished. If you wrote anything different to what they had written out you got slapped. I remember one time that I wrote something different. I knew that my cousin's wedding was coming up. I wanted to chip in for a wedding present. I wrote that into my letter. I also asked my granny to come and get me and take me home. A teacher must have read my letter because I ended up being taken to Mrs Fletcher. She bent me over, pulled up my skirt and slapped the hell out of my arse. I remember that happening with other girls who wrote in their letters that they wanted to go home.
58. You did get mail and parcels. I remember getting letters from my mum and my granny.

Visits / Inspections

59. I didn't have any visitors whilst I was there. Parents weren't allowed near the place. I don't remember social workers or anyone like that coming to visit. I don't remember any inspectors or anyone coming in from the outside to check we were ok.

Healthcare

60. If you were ill or injured you went to the medical room. There wasn't a nurse there. You wouldn't get taken to hospital if you were injured. You would just be given a plaster or whatever by a member of staff. I was in the medical room often. I remember getting castor oil forced down my throat. That wasn't for healthcare reasons though. It was used as a punishment. I remember an occasion where I was given castor oil as a punishment in the medical room. I ran out to be sick. I ended up being sick in Mrs Robinson's wellies. The following day they tried to find out who had been sick in her wellies. I think I got away with it.
61. I do remember that we had to have a medical before we went. That was arranged through Glasgow Council. I think I went to a clinic in Possilpark before each time I went there for a check-up. I don't remember there being any medicals or check-ups undertaken at Fornethy House itself.
62. On one occasion I had flu or something. I would have been seven or eight. I must have been sick or something. I wasn't allowed to go to bed. During the afternoon I was made to sit in the playroom whilst everyone else went out on their walk. I'm sure it was Mrs Robinson who made me do that. It could have been Mrs Locky though. I ended up falling asleep on a window seat in the playroom. All I wanted to do is go to bed. Nobody came in to check on me. Anything could have happened to me during the time I was left alone in that room. I remember I never received any medical attention or any medication for that illness.

Running away

63. I remember girls trying to run away a few times during my times at Fornethy House. It happened over the different years when I was there. The girls who ran away always got brought back. There was nowhere you could get to. We were in the middle of nowhere. I think the only time I was there when girls didn't try and escape was during the last time I was there in 1979. That was when the usual teachers weren't there.

64. I remember that when I was seven or eight, and I was in Reekie Linn, two girls tried to escape down the fire escape. They wanted to run away. I remember that the girls' mother was called [REDACTED]. For some reason I don't think their surname was [REDACTED]. I think their names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I can't remember how far the girls got. They got caught and brought back. I don't remember who caught them. I think they got battered with a belt by Mrs Fletcher as a punishment for running away. I think the girls told me that.

Bed-wetting

65. You could get up through the night if you needed to go the toilet. There wasn't a problem with that. However, children did still wet the bed. I never wet the bed but other girls did. I don't think they got punished for it but I might not be remembering that right. It wasn't a problem for me so I don't really know what the staff did with the children who wet the bed.

Discipline and abuse at Fornethy House

66. I was frequently disciplined for 'carrying on' or talking. I don't know whether I was like that because I was rebelling against them. All the staff members disciplined you in exactly the same way. The staff were like the Gestapo. If they raised their voice then you knew you had to shut up.
67. You knew you would be made to stand in the library or outside the playroom if you misbehaved. I was regularly pulled out of my dorm and made to stand in the cold library or toilet in the pitch black on my own. All the teachers made me and other children do that if I or they misbehaved in the dormitories. They all used that punishment on different occasions. One night I got up too often to go to the toilet. I think I was carrying on. I ended up being dragged into the library for getting up too often to go to the toilet. I don't remember which teacher it was who did that on that

occasion. That was a regular thing they did to me. Sometimes there would be other children in there doing the same thing because they too had been carrying on.

68. All the staff would slap you. If you were talking too much at night time in your dormitory you could be punished. You would get slapped. They would lift your skirt up and slap you on your bare legs. When they slapped you it wasn't just once. They slapped you a few times. I was always getting slapped on my legs or having my ears pulled by the staff. It was mostly Mrs PWH who pulled your ears. The slapping and the ear pulling happened pretty much daily because I never shut up and was carrying on. It happened to all the girls.
69. Mrs Fletcher gave out the main punishments for serious things like running away. She would give girls the belt. I think she was the only one who used the belt. She never used the belt on me but I heard that she had used it on people from other girls. I think the belt was only used when girls ran away.
70. I wouldn't say they called you names but they did say things that made you feel bad. They would say things like "it's castor oil for breakfast today" or "guess who's not getting any sweeties tonight." It was things more like that.

Specific incidents involving Mrs Robinson

71. Mrs Robinson was a bitch. She battered the lot of us. I can remember everything about her. I remember the way she used to stand. She had a horrible face and was particularly ruthless. She was a power freak.
72. I was a talker so I always got into trouble at night time. I remember during the first time I was there, when I was in Reekie Linn, I got into trouble. I don't know what I was doing but I was carrying on. I was dragged out of the dormitory by Mrs Robinson and made to stand on my own in the corner of the toilet. I was told to stand there facing the wall and told not to sit down. It was freezing cold and I was in my bare feet and just a nightie. Mrs Robinson forgot about me. I ended up sleeping on the concrete floor in the corner of the toilet. I remember that when she came

back into the toilet she said something like "oh god I had to come out of my bed to come and get you. I'd forgotten about you." I don't know what time that would have been but it would've been in the early hours of the morning.

73. I remember one occasion when we were out on a walk to Stoney Brae. I was carrying on and talking in the line. Mrs Robinson dragged me from the back of the line over the rocks to the front of the line so that I would be walking with her. I got cut on my elbow and my knee. I was crying. When we got back to Fornethy House I was taken to the medical room. I was cleaned up and given a plaster.
74. That wasn't the only occasion when Mrs Robinson dragged me along the ground during a walk. During the second time I was there, when I was about nine, I was what they called the "dog girl" on one of the walks. The dog girl was in charge of the home's dog. We were on Stoney Brae. The dog ran off after a rabbit. Mrs Robinson shouted after me to go and get the dog. I was talking to another girl and didn't hear her. Mrs Robinson then came up to me, grabbed me by my arm and dragged me along to the front of the line. It felt as if my shoulder was going to come out of its socket. When we got back I wasn't taken to a hospital or to a doctor or anything like that but I was sore.

Reporting of abuse whilst at Fornethy House

75. There was nobody I could talk to. There was no one I could have told about what was happening there. There were just the other kids to speak to. I didn't tell my mother anything about what happened. If I had, my mother would have said something to them. She wasn't the sort of person who would have kept quiet. She would have been right on the ball if I had said anything. My mother has asked me now why I didn't mention anything about what was happening. I think that when I went back home I just wanted to get on with things, put it out of my head and get out to play. By the time it came around to go the following year I was speaking with my pals and had convinced myself I wanted to go back.

Life after leaving Fornethy House

76. The last time I went in 1979 was the last time because children in secondary school didn't go to Fornethy House. Life was just normal after I came back after the last time. I went to secondary school. I left at the age of fifteen. I did end up in juvenile institutions but those aren't the places I want to talk to the Inquiry about.
77. I left Glasgow when I was twenty in 1988. I wanted to go and work and travel around Europe. I took a stop gap job for a week in Blackpool so that I could save some money. I ended up not getting any further than Blackpool. I met someone in Blackpool. I have three children. [REDACTED] is thirty this year, [REDACTED] is twenty seven this year and [REDACTED] has just turned twenty one. I have four grandchildren.
78. I left school with no qualifications but I have made sure I have had further education. I have qualifications in business administration and cheffing. It's OCRs and things like that. I went on to become a chef. One year I won a chef of the year award. I've worked as a [REDACTED] for the NHS in Blackpool. I've always worked. I moved back up to Glasgow permanently about two years ago. My kids are still in Blackpool so I am down there a lot visiting them.

Impact

79. It's difficult to think what the impact has been. You could probably blame what happened there for anything that went on in my life afterwards. However, I know I am to blame for many of the things I have gone on to do. My mother reckons that the reason I became more boisterous, snappy and willing to get into fights was because of what I experienced at Fornethy House. I'm not sure about that. Maybe those experiences were the cause of me turning from a quiet wee lassie into an angry person. You could pinpoint blame on those things for anything. I can't say that's all definitely because of the way I was treated. It could all just be because of the way I was as a person. It could all just be me and my own nature.

80. I have definitely been impacted physically because of the things that happened at Fornethy House. I still have the scars from the cuts to my knee and elbow I got the first time I was dragged along the ground by Mrs Robinson. I remember that when I went back home after the incident where Mrs Robinson dragged me by my arm my dad tried to pick me up by my arms. There was a pain in my shoulder. As a kid I thought it was dislocated. I couldn't move my arm at all. It wasn't actually dislocated though. I had pain in that arm for years. It wasn't until I was in my forties that my arm came right out of its socket. About seven years ago I ended up having to get keyhole surgery on my shoulder. I'm currently waiting to have another operation for my bad shoulder. It's going to be a big operation and it's going to cause me financial difficulties because of my work situation. They're removing bone from somewhere else and putting it into my shoulder. All that's because of the incident when Mrs Robinson dragged me during a walk when we went to Stoney Brae. Forty years on I'm still being impacted by that.

Reporting of abuse after leaving Fornethy House

81. [I have never spoken to anyone officially about what happened. I have never brought it up with anyone like the police, lawyers or social services. I don't know why it's just not something that has come up.

Records

82. I've never tried to get hold of any records. I've never really given that any thought. I might be interested in recovering some records in the future to see what I was like.

Lessons to be Learned / Hopes for the Inquiry

- 83. I have thought about going up to Fornethy House to give it a look now. I don't know why I have thought that. It could just be curiosity. I have seen on the internet photographs of what it looks like now. It's all run down. That was different to what it was like before. When I was there it was immaculate.

- 84. I think there should be inspectors who go around places where children are placed speaking to individual children at random. There should be someone coming into these places making sure that there is no abuse going on. That didn't happen when I was at Fornethy House. There was nobody there checking up on the teachers. We were just left in their hands.

- 85. If Mrs Robinson is still alive I hope that she gets time in prison. I want her prosecuted. She was a horrible woman. I have no sympathy for people like her. She was just a bully. Looking back it was all a power thing. We were all wee girls and she shouldn't have been doing what she was doing.

- 86. I do think now, having become a mother and a grandmother, "how could those people have done what they did to me?" I just don't know how people could have done those things to wee kids. Kids shouldn't have been treated the way I was. I reckon the things I experienced were probably happening in a lot of other places and it was all hidden away. They need to change something so that what happened to me doesn't happen again with other children.

- 87. 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.

MTU


Signed.....

Dated... 10.7.2019