

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PIK

Support person present: Yes

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

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Kinning Park in Glasgow. My mum and dad had two other daughters before me. is three years older than me and is two years older than me. Apparently I wasn't breathing properly when I was born so I spent six weeks in an incubator. I have been told that when I was nearly three my mother went in to hospital to have my brother. My dad at that time was in jail so me and my two older sisters went to temporary foster carers. I seem to remember getting taken there in a taxi. I don't know anything about these foster carers other than their last name was. I believe we stayed with them for six weeks because there was no one else who could look after us.
3. We went back to live with my mum and I remember going to the nursery in Easterhouse. There was a girl in my class who lived in the next close to me. I would have been only three when I remember her father took me into their house. He gave me a drink and the next thing I remember was waking up and I was lying on the table and he sexually abused me. I was lying on the table and my legs were open. He must have drugged me and I kept falling asleep and the next thing I remember was him giving me a biscuit and he sent me away. I went home and fell asleep. For days after that I have a memory of being really badly constipated and then I had an

episode when my eardrum burst and I was really ill and I ended up going to hospital. I never told anyone about what the girl's dad did to me.

4. My dad came back to live with us at some point but I am not sure when. He didn't really have much to do with his children and there wasn't a lot of interaction between him and us. I didn't have a particularly happy childhood. My mother was an alcoholic.
5. I would have been four when we left Easterhouse and it was quite dramatic. My two older sisters weren't there because they were on a sort of a holiday for poor children at a residential home. My mum and a neighbour got involved in a big fight and it ended up my dad got put in jail. The following day the neighbour's sons were throwing bricks at our windows and forced us out of our house. He went to the jail to tell our dad then went to my Granny's house at Pollok.
6. We stayed for a while in Pollok. My two sisters stayed with our aunt. Me, my mum and ██████ stayed with my gran. I remember going to McGill primary school but didn't have a great time there but in a way I did enjoy it. I had difficulty because I was hard of hearing and I was bullied and picked on by other children and they said I was a tramp. In class I did the work but I just didn't take it in probably because I didn't hear properly. I got fed at school and the food was good. At home we were treated a bit better when we were at our granny's house because she was there so my mum was a bit more careful. My dad didn't live with us because he didn't get on with my gran or my aunt.
7. We lived with our granny for about eighteen months before we moved into our new house which was just a couple of closes away. I would have been about six when we moved. It was a three bedroomed house. All the children were in one room. My mum and dad were in another room. After we moved in there we weren't looked after properly. Dad looked after us and fed us better than mum did probably because he was a better cook. My mum continued drinking.
8. Problems really started in 1978 when my dad died. I was eight. ██████ and I had been out shopping with my dad because he had won some money in the bookies and was

going to buy me new clothes. The shop was shut so he went to the pub instead and [REDACTED] and I waited outside. When he eventually came out he sent us ahead to get fish suppers and take them home. My dad didn't appear home and later two girls came to the door and told me my dad was lying on a bridge. I went with my mum and got him home. An ambulance came for him but he died. It was horrific. We never had any social work involvement up to this point as far as I am aware.

9. Things just went from bad to worse when my mum was left to look after us. One day when [REDACTED] and I came home from school we couldn't wake mum up. She had overdosed and ended up in hospital for weeks. [REDACTED] and I were looked after by my granny and my aunt while mum was in hospital. When mum got out of hospital things just deteriorated and she was drinking more than usual. There wasn't always food for us and sometimes weeks went by and I never even saw her. She got together with another man who lived in the street and he too was an alcoholic. Between their two houses they had eight children and we were all dirty, neglected and not getting looked after while they were away doing their own thing.
10. At some point mum's boyfriend battered my sisters. They told someone and the cruelty officers were contacted. They got involved that night and things changed immediately. Social work used emergency powers and removed us all. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went to Park Lodge and me and [REDACTED] went to Glenrosa. There apparently wasn't enough room for us all to go to Park Lodge. This was in 1979 and I would have been ten.

Glenrosa, Maxwell Drive, Glasgow

11.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

12. The social worker that took me to Glenrosa never explained where we were going or what was happening.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

They said that when I arrived I was suffering from malnutrition and was very dirty.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Glenrosa

18. I knew that our stay at Glenrosa was only temporary and that [REDACTED] and I were going on to Park Lodge, which is where our sisters were, when spaces became available. [REDACTED] and I were taken for a visit one Sunday afternoon before we moved. We saw round Park Lodge and I saw my sisters. This was the first time I had seen my sisters since I was put in Glenrosa. Within a few weeks, as soon as beds became available, we were moved to Park Lodge.

Park Lodge children's home, Newlands, Glasgow

19. Park Lodge was a big Victorian style house. It was on a corner site so had big grounds, with a front gate and a back gate. Out the back was a bungalow and a garage. Inside the front door on the right was a living room and a bedroom on the left. Stairs went up the middle to the office which was upstairs. Back on the ground floor the kitchen was to the left and at the back was the laundry. There was a corridor leading to the back door leading to more stairs leading upstairs. There was a half landing where the staffroom and staff toilet were located. There was also a spare bedroom which was used by the older children who were preparing to leave Park Lodge. Apart from the office upstairs there was a big bathroom, bedrooms, shower room, living room and a small kitchen, and the dispensary.

20. The matron was Elizabeth Stewart and she was in charge and ran the home. She lived in the bungalow within the grounds. The head of the social work department at that time worked from the Crookston head office and was responsible for the children going in there. The other staff under Elizabeth Stewart were Betty Blaker and Chris McEwan. They were both seniors. The keyworker for the downstairs group, which was my group, was Isobel. Other staff were Frank McMenemy, Isobel Ferguson, Doris McIntyre, Mary McLaughlin and Edna. Some staff were dayshift and some were nightshift. It was always the same people who were nightshift and the same ones that were dayshift but they changed when there were days off. Alistair Findlay was a member of staff responsible for the upstairs group and looked after the children there. I didn't really have very much to do with him.

21. The children at Park Lodge were from babies right up to teenagers. There were boys and girls. Girls were in one room and the boys in another. I think there were twelve children downstairs and twelve upstairs.

Routine at Park Lodge

First day

22. I remember going from Glenrosa to Park Lodge in a car but I can't recall who took us. I didn't have anything to take with me, just the clothes I was standing in. When we arrived I just remember getting put into the sitting room. My sisters were there when we arrived and it was all quite relaxed. I was shown the dining room where we ate, then the bedrooms. My bedroom was downstairs next to the bathroom. There were four beds in this room. Initially I shared the room with my brother [REDACTED] along with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We were the youngest so were put in this room. After seeing round the house I went into the garden with my sisters and we played.

Mornings and bedtime

23. I think it was about half past seven in the morning that a member of staff would knock on the door and tell us it was time to get up. It was quite relaxed. We would get washed, dressed and go for breakfast then get organised then walk to school. Bedtime was around 10pm but it varied slightly with your age. The older ones got to stay up a little later. Bedtime was a bit chaotic but was quite relaxed.

Mealtimes/Food

24. Breakfast was in the lounge where the dining tables were set up and the cook brought the food to us. Sometimes we got things like eggs and bacon and we could choose what we wanted. Cereal and orange juice were on a table and we could help ourselves. We had our lunch at school and our dinner back at Park lodge at five o'clock. We sat wherever we wanted and the food we got was always lovely and wholesome. The cook made things I had never had before and it was delicious. There were no issues at mealtimes but to be honest there was nothing put down to me that I didn't like. There was always plenty food and if you were hungry at any time you could make yourself a sandwich or have some cereal.

Washing/bathing

25. We could shower or bath more or less whenever we wanted. The bathrooms had locks so we could shower or bath in private. The staff didn't supervise us. Anyone who hadn't showered for a while might be encouraged by the staff to do so.

Clothing/uniform

26. All my clothes were kept in the wardrobe beside my bed. I went into Park Lodge with nothing so they took me to buy me a school uniform and other clothes. I got to choose the clothes that were bought for me. My name was put on my clothes so I got them back when they were washed.

Leisure time

27. After school when I got back to Park Lodge I got changed in to comfortable clothes, chatted with the others then went for dinner. After dinner we sometimes went to various clubs and did activities like swimming. Staff didn't come with us. We always had to tell staff where we were going and when we would be back. In the evening we were given some supper which we ate sitting at the couches and we chatted. It was very relaxed.
28. Saturday was pocket money day. We signed for our money in the office then went to the shops and bought whatever we wanted. Anything we bought with our money, we were allowed to keep. Sometimes we would go to Pollok Park for a picnic and play there all day. The staff didn't come with us. Occasionally we were taken in the minibus to Ayr to go swimming. I just enjoyed the freedom of not having school. On Sunday, after church we would just relax or go out and play all day in the park.

Trips and holidays

29. I had a few holidays when I was at Park Lodge. The first one was to Islay and I remember going on a big boat and we stayed in a lovely big house. Alistair Findlay, a

member of staff was on this trip. At other times we also went to Culzean, Montrose and Anstruther. I enjoyed these holidays and always looked forward to them.

Schooling

30. I went to Merrylee primary school when I moved to Park Lodge where I was in P6 then P7. I then went to Hill Park secondary school. I made friends at school and in primary school there was never any issue with the fact that I was in care. Secondary school wasn't quite as easy. We were given homework which I did back at Park Lodge. If I had any difficulties the staff were always there to help me. Staff signed the school jotters to let the teacher know they had seen my homework. I was given yearly report cards which I read on the way home then passed them to Elizabeth Stewart. She never sat down with me and went over the report card.
31. The only sex education I ever got was at school. The staff at Park Lodge never explained anything to me about my periods or anything like that. I didn't really have anyone that I could ask about any personal issues.

Healthcare

32. I remember the local GP from Merrylee saw everyone in the home. I needed a lot of medical care because I was often unwell. The doctor was often called into Park Lodge to see me. I was quite poorly as a child. My poor hearing was only picked up on one of my hospital visits when I was around eleven or twelve. The staff always came to me to these appointments. It wasn't until I was fourteen or fifteen that I got my first ear operation then not long after that I got a hearing aid. I remember getting injections for things like the BCG and the sugar lump for polio at school. I went to the dentist too, and he gave us sweets afterwards. I had dreadful teeth and I was never encouraged to brush my teeth at home. I was encouraged when I was in care.

Religious instruction

33. It wasn't a religious place and we didn't really get taught any religion when I was there. On Sunday we would go to the local church in Merrylee for the service. We wore our good clothes to church. Elizabeth Stewart encouraged everyone to go to the church especially the younger ones. When you got older you could choose not to go. They didn't force us.

Work

34. We had a rota in Park Lodge for all the household chores. These included washing dishes and hoovering the living-room floor after dinner.

Birthdays and Christmas

35. Birthdays and Christmases were great at Park Lodge. I remember my first Christmas there because I got a whole bag full of stuff. It was really exciting to find a bag with my name on it. This was the first time I had experienced anything like this. On our birthdays we got a cake, everyone sang 'Happy Birthday, and there were parties. On your birthday you were made to feel special.

Personal possessions

36. In the bedroom we each had a bed and a wardrobe where we kept our clothes. That was all we had.

Visitors

37. Initially when mum visited everything was fine but then she started coming in drunk. Sometimes she came more regularly than other times. It just depended what she was doing. Sometimes if she went off the rails and was drinking she missed a few visits. Occasionally she was drunk when she visited us and I didn't like that. She became quite emotional and would cry because she had let us down and couldn't

look after us. Staff tried to stop her coming when she was drunk or encouraged her to leave and come back another day.

38. Generally we knew when she was going to visit us because the staff told us. When she came she would sit in the living-room with the four of us. The staff didn't stay with us. She was sometimes nasty but never violent or aggressive when she came. I knew that I didn't want to go home and live with her. When I was older and after the time that I went home to try and live with her I was always given the choice whether I saw my mum or not when she visited.

39. Social workers came and visited us maybe once a month, sometimes more. It was usually the same social workers who came until they moved on. I remember the first one was Mr True but I can't remember who it was after him. My last one was Elaine Johnstone. It was quite relaxed when they visited. They usually asked how we were getting on, how school was, and if there was anything concerning or worrying me. We might have also discussed the last review that I had and how I felt about it. I found these visits quite positive but can't really say that they achieved anything. Some of my school friends came into Park Lodge to visit me.

Review of care / detention

40. I remember going to a few meetings when they were deciding what was the best for us. At these meetings was my social worker, my key worker, and my mum. It was at one of these meeting when I was eleven they decided it would be best if I went back to live with my mum. [REDACTED] and I went home for a short while but it didn't work out.

External Inspections

41. I am not aware of any external inspections or anyone coming in to see how Park Lodge was being run.

Bedwetting

42. I didn't wet the bed but my brother [REDACTED] did. He had a buzzer which went off when it happened and it woke everyone in the room. A member of staff would normally come in and take him to the toilet and changed his bed. There wasn't an issue made about him wetting the bed and he wasn't punished. [REDACTED] wet the bed before we moved in to Park Lodge.

Discipline

43. I don't remember being told any of the house rules when I was there. I just picked up on things as we went along. The staff weren't that strict. We were allowed to go out of the grounds, if we wanted, as long as we told the staff where we were going. Sometimes at bedtime we would muck about or be cheeky to the staff and they would punish us by making us stand in the hall outside the dorm for a little while. We were never hit and they never got physical with us. Sometimes you might just be sent to your room for a while or be grounded and not allowed out to play for a few days.

Abuse at Park Lodge

44. I had only been in Park Lodge for a few months before the abuse started. I would have been ten or maybe just eleven. It was before our first holiday to Islay. I remember I was walking up the back stairs within the building. Alistair Findlay came out the door at the top of the stairs and he asked me to go with him so he could show me something. He led me into the staff room which was half way up these stairs. He then locked both doors to the staff room. He took my pants down and put his finger inside my vagina. He asked me if it felt good but I shook my head. He told me that I should practice to make it easier and then he stopped. He pulled my pants up and let me leave the room.

45. When we were on our holiday at Islay Alistair Findlay was one of the members of staff who came with us. I remember when he was in the garden he liked picking the girls up and tickling them. One time I was with him he touched me over my clothes and he asked me if I had been practicing like he had told me to. I just said 'No' and ran away. I would still have been only eleven.
46. Later that summer, I would have been twelve, when I broke my arm and had to get help getting bathed and dressed. Me and my siblings had been out this day and when we got back Alistair Findlay was on duty covering my group. I told him that I needed help to get bathed and he said that he would help me. I told him that I didn't want that and that I wanted a girl to help me. He tried to insist but I was adamant that I wanted a girl. I went into the bathroom and was just sitting there on a stool becoming more and more upset. An older girl, [REDACTED], who was a couple of years older than me, came down and by that time I was crying because I was frightened of Alistair and what he was going to do. She asked if I was okay and if Alistair had done anything to me. I told her that he hadn't that day but he had done before. She then helped me get bathed then left.
47. A short while later [REDACTED], another member of staff from upstairs came into the bathroom. [REDACTED] had obviously told [REDACTED] what I had said as [REDACTED] slapped me across the face and called me a liar. Nothing else was said again about this incident and I never spoke to [REDACTED] about it.
48. A long time after this Alistair said that he was going out for ice cream and asked me if I wanted to go with him and he said he would meet me outside in his car. I assumed that others were going with us. It was only when he pulled up in his car that I realised it was just me with him. I got in the car and he didn't go the way that I knew was the way to get to the shop. He drove out the back gate then took me on a detour and stopped the car. He took my trousers down and put his tongue in my vagina. He did this for a few minutes. I was terrified, shaking and was telling him that I wanted to go home. He stopped then sat up and took his penis out and started masturbating. He told me to do it for him but I told him I didn't want to and that I wanted to go home. He carried on himself for a few minutes but I don't think he finished. He then

drove round the corner and let me out of his car. I went back home but never told anyone.

49. The only other abuse which I suffered when I was at Park Lodge was that my care wasn't appropriate as my needs weren't getting addressed properly. By that I mean that I was the victim of sexual abuse and I didn't get any support from anyone after the police became involved.
50. Overall I would say that my time at Park Lodge was a good experience spoiled only by Alistair Findlay. I think I was well looked after, food was good and I was comfortable. After Alistair Findlay left my time at Park Lodge was good.

Reporting of abuse at Park Lodge

51. I never told anyone about these incidents because I just couldn't understand what had happened. I didn't even know that part of my body was there. I didn't know what to think. I tried to ignore it and distract myself by getting on with things and put it to the back of my mind. I assumed that ^{RGI} [REDACTED] and other staff knew what was going on with Alistair but that didn't appear to be the case because no one ever talked to me about it. I never told anyone about the incident in the car. I was visited by the social worker but I just couldn't tell them because I didn't understand what had happened and didn't know how to talk about it. I never talked about it to any of the other girls.
52. About a year later when I was still at Park Lodge I was taken into the sitting room and I was interviewed by two male CID officers. None of the staff stayed with me while I gave this statement. I would have been thirteen. They wanted to speak about Alistair Findlay so I gave them a statement. I didn't tell them about the other incidents, just the one when I was in his car. A few weeks later I had to go to an Identification parade to pick out Alistair Findlay. I saw other girls from my school who were there for the same reason. Alistair Findlay would have got to know these girls through church groups, youth clubs, and homework clubs. He was involved in clubs

within and outwith the school. The police told us we shouldn't discuss what happened to us with each other.

53. Some time later after giving a statement to the police, early one morning, Elizabeth Stewart told me that I wasn't going to school that day. I would have been fourteen by then. She told me I was going to court and she came with me. I had never seen a citation. It was a terrible experience and I was terrified. I gave evidence and I was made out to be a liar and wasn't to be believed. At the end of the trial, later that week, the verdict was announced as not proven. No one at Park Lodge ever talked to me again about what happened. Alistair Findlay left Park Lodge at some point but I can't remember exactly when this was because I wasn't in his group but it was before the trial. I was never told why he left. I heard from others that the head of the social work department came to Park Lodge as Alistair Findlay was being investigated out with Park Lodge and Alistair Findlay had been asked to leave.
54. In my social work file it is recorded in a letter that Elizabeth Stewart told Elaine Johnston my social worker that Alistair Findlay leaving Park Lodge had nothing to do with me and it was because of things that happened outside the home. Elaine Johnston told her boss this and he had told her to be quiet and not do anything with the information. This shows that they knew what was going on and didn't do anything about it.
55. None of the staff or social workers ever gave me any support after I spoke to the police, or during or after giving evidence at the trial. I don't think any of the staff apart from Elizabeth Stewart knew what Alistair Findlay had done to me. No outside organisation ever spoke to me or told me what to expect or what would happen at court.

Leaving Park Lodge

56. Me and my brother [REDACTED] were sent back home to live with mum probably about half way through my first year at Park Lodge. I was still only eleven. Social workers made

this decision and I can't remember if I was given any choice in the matter. I remember I didn't think that it would work but they were keen for me to try. My sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] refused to go so they stayed at Park Lodge. My mum lived in Drumoyne by that time and had a new boyfriend. My mum mistreated me. [REDACTED] got all the attention and I was left to do all the cooking and housework and I wasn't getting fed properly. I never had any visits from the social work department after I went home.

57. I was only home for a few months and I decided that I couldn't continue to live there. One day I just left and walked back to Park Lodge. I told them about my mum mistreating me and that I didn't want to stay there anymore. Elizabeth Stewart was fine and she took me back in. I presume she cleared it through the social work department. After that [REDACTED] got removed from our mum's and he came back to Park Lodge. After that my mum hated me for what I did. She continued to visit but the visit's went downhill. She was obviously drinking more and more and only visited us occasionally.

58. When I turned sixteen I did a YTS course so I was out most days at college. At that age I was moved into the bedroom on the half landing where you learn a bit more about independent living. I did my own washing and cooking. This was all to prepare me for moving out. At seventeen I moved to a flat in Cowcaddens with three other girls. This was organised by my social worker Elaine Johnston and the social work department.

Life after being in care

59. When I was seventeen I got into a relationship with a boy, [REDACTED], who had been at Park Lodge. This turned out to be a bad relationship as he became possessive, manipulative, obsessive and he even raped me at knifepoint. We moved in to my sisters flat in Govan but the beatings and the abuse continued. There was an incident between him and my sister and she reported him to the police.

60. We ended up going to London where the abuse continued and he even tried to put me on the streets and prostitute me. I was stealing and was caught robbing by the police and I was sent to a bail hostel for six months. He was put in jail. I had just turned eighteen before the trial and the case was thrown out of court. That was the last I saw of [REDACTED]. I eventually came back to Glasgow.
61. I stayed between my two sister's houses and at 20 I had my first child. I really enjoyed being a mum and I did the best I could for my son. I split up with my son's father when my son was 3 and I ended up going to Women's Aid. I left there and was homeless for a while. I got my own home in the Gorbals but at 28 got involved in illegal drugs again. I was taking heroin and I injected it for a number of years. I got a new partner and fell pregnant with my second child who was born ten years after my first son but we split up two years later and I got my life back on track.
62. I managed to get myself off drugs and went back to college and did an HNC in social care. My kids have always lived with me. They have never been in care. After I qualified I tried to get a job but for four years I couldn't get one because of the recession. I eventually got a job and worked for a year. My poor health and illness then deteriorated such that I couldn't work anymore. I have always had an eating disorder and had weight issues. I have COPD, Stage three Emphysema, and have had a heart attack which happened a short time after the second police inquiry into Alistair Findlay. Some of these health issues I was born with and have been with me all my life but just getting worse as I get older.

Impact

63. I was grieving for my dad when I went into Glenrosa. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] I never believed for a while that my father had died and I was really confused.
64. After the last incident with Alistair Findlay I started having dreams, more like horrible nightmares about him. When I was in London I had a breakdown and took an

overdose [REDACTED]. After that I started seeing a psychologist. I came back to Glasgow but I was really messed up. I took un-prescribed drugs and regularly had panic attacks. I improved for a while then things got on top of me. It swung back and forth like this for a while.

65. I know I have poor mental health and at times have felt suicidal. It is only my children that have grounded me and stopped me from doing something stupid. In 1991 I went to a psychiatrist and was diagnosed with PTSD and I have been diagnosed with anxiety and depression. This was put down to my time in care. I attribute some of my poor physical health to my time in care. I also think I would be better mentally if I had been prepared for and given support through the court process or afterwards been given proper counselling.
66. My life in care was better than my home life. It was a positive experience and I made friends in there. I was given a good grounding and I was given a chance to grow. It was a good care home and it was well run.
67. The abuse that I suffered from Alistair Findlay was dreadful and traumatic for me. It felt dreadful because I wasn't believed. I never had any support either. At the end of the first trial I felt that it was me that had done something wrong and no one ever tried to convince me otherwise.
68. I know that my time in care it affected how I looked after my own children. I always gave them a good routine and was probably more protective over them. I wouldn't let them stay with anyone else overnight.

Treatment/support

69. I saw a psychologist when I was in London. When I was back in Glasgow I went to a psychologist looking for help but she said she wasn't qualified to help me so I left there and started smoking heroin. I got Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)

through the drugs addiction team. I saw a psychiatrist after I stopped working when my health was deteriorating. They were worried about my weight loss.

Reporting of Abuse

70. In 2017 I heard from my friend [REDACTED] about an appeal on the radio looking for people who had been in Park Lodge. One day I saw it on the news an appeal for people who had been in Park Lodge from 1979 to 1986 to come forward. I went to the police station and I subsequently spoke with Stuart Espin. He asked if I had been abused and I told him I had, by Alistair Findlay. The next day I gave a statement. They knew I had previously given a statement and were trying to find the transcript for the original trial.
71. At the end of 2018 into the beginning of March 2019 the case went to trial and I gave evidence by video link. I dealt with Victim Support the whole way through and in the whole process I felt believed by everyone. I was able to phone the police at any time if I had any questions. The whole experience was completely different to the way it was dealt with when I was at Park Lodge. I learned that it was [REDACTED] who had been at Park Lodge when I was there that had initiated the investigation and I was really thankful that he did.
72. I was there in court for the verdict and Alistair Findlay was found guilty. He was sent to prison and given a lifetime restriction order.

Records

73. I obtained my records but it was quite difficult. I can't remember how I first requested them but it took me nine months. They were posted to me and no one contacted me to prepare me for getting them or what was within them. The only advice I got was to have someone with me when I opened them. For me it was quite a revelation reading some bits. Although there were around about ninety pages a lot of the

information was redacted and there was a lot of information missing. The notes were very official and to be honest not very accurate. On the back of a letter Isobel Ferguson one of the members of staff had written that I was a liar and shouldn't be trusted.

74. There are a number of mentions of fostering, almost as if it was a big thing for me, and that I had asked for it. I never did so don't know where that came from.

Lessons to be Learned

75. Things might have been different for me if I had been able to phone my social worker at the time when things were bothering me. It would have been better than having to wait until the next time she visited. I also think it is important for social work contact and support to continue for a while after leaving care.
76. Children must be heard. When I was in care we did not have a big enough voice. If things happen, children need to be given time to adjust to work things through and they must be given good support. It can be a long process and they need support from start to finish. This support should be given by the social work department, especially if there are no parents.
77. Children have to be able to speak to someone they trust in a less structured, less formal setting. Children are more likely to open up and discuss things if they are more relaxed and possibly more so if this person is independent and detached from the care home.
78. I hope that by me coming forward this stops what happened to me happen to all other children. A 'place of safety' should be exactly that and children shouldn't be further abused. It is not the child's fault they are in care and they should be given the right treatment and support.

79. There has to be stricter procedures for disclosure to ensure abusers can't sneak through. Part of this process could include an interview rather than just filling in a form with the right answer. Vetting must be stricter. I learned through the criminal trial that Alistair Findlay wasn't vetted properly and that he got his job at Park Lodge with no qualifications and was there because he was a friend of Elizabeth Stewart.

Other information

80. I am currently writing a book about my own life which includes my time in care. I am in the process of applying for criminal compensation. I have also received money through the redress scheme which is subject to review.

81. 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..... PIK

Dated..... *14-7-21*