

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PRP

Support person present: No.

1. My full name is PRP or PRP. My date of birth is the 1972. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going to Fornethy House

2. I was born in Maryhill and then we moved to a scheme in Ruchazie when I was about two or three years old. I lived in a tenement house with mum and dad, and and my brother and sister. My brother was the oldest he was born in 1969, then it was sister, who was born in 1970. I call.
3. Life was quite poverty stricken, we didn't have a lot of money and my dad drank alcohol. Sometimes there was an atmosphere in the family home because of that. I remember us having some quite hard times but I remember us having good times as well. I don't remember us ever having any social work involvement at home.
4. As an adult, I have spoken to my mum about life in the family home when we were young and there are parts of it we don't talk about, like alcohol in the house and some domestic violence.
5. I started at Ruchazie Primary School when I was five and I remember had been there a few years by the time I started there. She had also been to Fornethy Residential School by then as well. My mum sent us both there because she thought

she was giving us a break, she thought she was doing good. A break from the scheme, because we didn't have a lot and there wasn't a lot to do. I never thought it would be bad especially because I had my big sister with me. Maybe that made it a bit easier for me.

6. I don't have any memory of [REDACTED] going to Fornethy before me, but I remember her talking about it and she knew what to do when I went with her. I remember her keeping me right. I can't remember the context of what she said about the place when she was there. I was only young at that time.
7. I think I went to Fornethy twice with [REDACTED] and twice on my own. When she left primary school I just went on my own until I finished primary as well. It was only primary school age kids that went to Fornethy.
8. I don't know how we first found out about Fornethy, it must have been through the school. I asked my mum that and she doesn't have much of a recollection either. She just remembered it was there and she saw it as a place for me and [REDACTED] to go where we would get good food and things would be better for us.
9. The first time I went to Fornethy, I was with [REDACTED] and I think me [REDACTED] and my mum went into Glasgow. I remember we had wee old fashioned suitcases, and I was all excited. We had a list of stuff that we had to take with us, so we must have been given some paperwork, but I don't know where that came from. We had to take a facecloth, flannels, a washbag with toothpaste and a toothbrush, six pairs of socks, all our underwear and vests and everything like that. Our dad had a military background, he was in the army, so when we were packing for that I remember everything was laid out on our beds and then we packed our suitcases.
10. I was at Fornethy when it was hot and when it was wet and wild. I've always thought it was [REDACTED] time but it may have been another time of year I'm not sure. It was for four weeks, and we were off school so that makes me think it was [REDACTED] time. Every time I went to Fornethy House it was for four weeks. I don't know if that was the same for everyone.

Fornethy House Residential Home, Alyth, Perth

General

11. I vaguely remember getting on the bus, I think it was at Buchanan Street and it was a single decker. It was all primary school girls, there were no boys at Fornethy. The girls were all different ages and everyone was going to Fornethy. There was a couple of other girls from my school there as well. I was definitely one of the youngest that first time.
12. It was just exactly the same every time I went, the only difference was that some of the girls changed, because once they had left primary they couldn't go back there. My sister was there with me twice, but she was older than me so when she went on to high school I continued going on my own.
13. Fornethy was a big building on two levels possibly three, it had turrets and was painted white. I remember there were spiral staircases that we went up and down to get to our dorms. Our dormitories were upstairs and the washrooms, dining hall and kitchen were all downstairs on ground level. There was a classroom as well, which was like an annexe separate from the main building.
14. After a few times there I got to know the place inside out. I went on to become a captain of the dormitories and a captain of the tables as well. I remember the dormitories were named after water landmarks from within the vicinity of Fornethy House. I can remember the names of two, Prosen and Reekie Linn.
15. I think there would have been about fifty or sixty girls at Fornethy, or possibly less than that. There were about six or seven dormitories and there must have been about six to ten girls in each one. The dorms were big and uniform, with big shutters and high ceilings. I remember at night the lights went off and this blue night light came on.

16. Mrs Fletcher was the woman in charge at Fornethy. She always had her wee West Highland Terrier with her, called Kirsty. There was also a Mrs Robinson and a Mrs PWH, those three were the stand out brutal ones although Fletcher didn't hit us as far as I can remember. It was the way she would look at you, that put the fear of God through us all. There were other teachers, some were very nice, but I can't remember any other names.

Routine at Fornethy House

First day

17. The routine never changed, I don't recall it changing from when we arrived until when we left, every time I went to Fornethy.
18. When we arrived the luggage was taken off the bus and we were separated into dorms. We went into a big hall and gave our names then we were separated into groups. We went into the cloak room then and we sat on the benches where we had wee individual boxes underneath where we sat, that we put our slippers and sandshoes in.
19. Then we were told which dorms we were in and we went upstairs to the dorms to unpack our cases. There was about seven or eight dorms and they all had names. We had to get changed out of the clothes we arrived in and we all had to go and have a bath before we could put on their house clothes.
20. We wore our own clothes but they did give us some house clothes, if someone didn't have any clothing for example. We all got a pinafore that we wore every day. It went over your head and you tied it round your middle. They were made of old fashioned fabric and were all different colours, perhaps it was something to do with the dorm colours, I can't quite remember.
21. Then we went downstairs to this room, it was a shower room with sinks and it had two baths in it as well. Each bath had a person at it who would give you a wash down with

a facecloth and carbolic soap. They also washed our hair for de-lousing, that was with this smelly stuff. That wasn't good, we were all standing queued up naked, waiting until you were shouted at to go in and get washed. One of the women who did the washing was called Gladys, I remember her, she was a nice wee woman and she felt for us so she would go as fast as she could to get us in and out the bath. It was just a little bit of water in the bath, it didn't even cover up to your knees. It was flushed away quickly and filled again between every girl.

22. After the wash we were all sat in the big hall, where we would do the assembly and we would be talked to until lunch time.

Mornings and bedtime

23. I was in the same dorm as my sister which was good because I was quite young and I was a bit frightened, especially the first time. That was when I got up one night and got into bed with my sister.
24. At night-time we would all have to strip off and put on our nightwear. We would then put out our clothes for the next day. So our pants and vests would be on the chair at the end of the bed. Our slippers were underneath the chair.
25. On a typical day we would be up early, it just depended who was coming in to get you up, as sometimes it was alright but with some people, like Mrs Robinson or Mrs PWH, they would start banging the beds and making lots of noise in their loud rough voices.
26. You would get up and stand at the bottom of your bed. It was all quite military like when I think about it. You had to make your bed and it would be checked to see that you had done it properly. You had a chair at the end of your bed and a wee locker and that was checked as well. You had a couple of wee boxes that you kept in your locker for your underwear and they checked the clothes that were hanging up as well. If somebody didn't get something right the staff would whip it all out and tell you to get it all back in again neatly and tidy. You were actually told where everything had to go. Every lassie was the same.

27. After we had done all that we had to get our wash kit and march down to the toilet area where we had these wee wire mesh pigeon holes with our toothpaste, toothbrush a bar of soap and a facecloth. Every girl had their own wee pigeon hole. We would get washed and I remember always being freezing cold standing brushing my teeth. Then we would go back upstairs, get changed and go down to the breakfast room.
28. We didn't bath every evening, baths were on standard days but I don't remember what day it was.

Mealtimes/Food

29. Each dorm had their own table, with the right amount of people on it, and they all had to sit at that table. They were big round tables. I remember going in to breakfast for the first time and thinking 'wow' as it was all set up with knives and forks and proper crockery. There was even curled butter in the middle of the table. I wasn't used to all that and it looked so cool. Then you got your porridge plopped on your bowl and it was a different ball game, it wasn't as cool as it looked.
30. There is a lady I remember from meal times, I can't remember her name, but she had dark curly hair and big black framed glasses. She came round the tables and poured our tea out from an old fashioned teapot. I remember she wasn't very nice, and she used to stare at us.
31. The breakfast we had was porridge that was all thick and gooey and I couldn't really eat it. I had difficulty eating a lot of the food to be honest and then they started trying to force feed me. That was quite early on and I started to hide my food in my pinafore pockets, pretending I had eaten it. Sometimes other girls would help you out as well and if they liked the food they would eat it for you.
32. I hated semolina, I would never eat it and depending who was on duty I could get that forced into my mouth. Some were just bullies, like Robinson and PWH, and others you got on with and they liked you. Robinson and PWH would try to make me eat

food I didn't like. They would physically hold me and push the spoon down my throat, which usually ended up with me being sick.

33. If I was sick they would give me a hard time and make me clean it up. It wasn't just me though, that happened to a lot of the girls there. You would be cleaning up the sick and crying and they would just be shouting at you and they might even punish you and make you stand and face a wall. That could be in the bedroom or outside the dining room or the main hall.

Leisure time

34. We did get a playtime and then we would go outside and play. We had to stay within the grounds and there was a play park with some swings and a wee apex type hut that we kidded on was a shop.
35. There was more of us playing outside at playtime than there was in the class so there must have been other things happening elsewhere. We definitely did all go into the playground together. The girls would sometimes fight as well at playtime, but the staff didn't bother, they just let the girls fight and let the best man win. That was difficult as there were some bigger girls there.
36. We would sometimes go and look at wee animals that Fornethy kept, they kept rabbits and guinea pigs in hutches underneath the annexe for the school. That would be at playtime and there would be girls allocated to look after them. After play time they rang an old fashioned hand bell and that meant we were to line up as we were going in for lunch. Then we would go back in, change out of our jackets and shoes and go for lunch.
37. We would also gather in the main hall at some point every day. Mrs Fletcher or whoever, would take these gatherings or assembly's and talk to us or give us instructions. We would be told who the monitors were, they wore a wee sash and were older, and helped out in the dorms and at meal times, things like that. My sister was one and I became one as well, when I was older.

38. My sister [REDACTED] got to know one of the catering assistants at Fornethy, her name was Irene and she helped dish out the dinners. She was really nice and they swapped addresses and became pen pals. Irene had a wee sister [REDACTED], and I became pen pals with her. That all had to be done secretly because if the staff had ever found out about that we would all have got into serious trouble because staff members weren't allowed to speak to any of the children at all. Even when Gladys was giving you a bath she couldn't really speak to you. We were told by Mrs Fletcher we weren't to interact with the staff at all when we first arrived at Fornethy.
39. One of the main things we did at Fornethy was to go on these big long walks. They were big walks and we did them every day, no matter what the weather. Rain, hail or snow we always had to go out and walk. Some walks were shorter than others. I remember we got our rain jackets and welly boots on and we would be paired up by Mrs Robinson. She took us on nearly all the big walks, she was a big masculine looking woman with big legs and put you in mind of someone who ate porridge every day. She was very outdoorsy and dressed and looked that way.
40. The walks went out through marshes and down ditches and what not. I remember these stones we always had to walk to, they had a name, they were in a big pile and when we got to them we had to walk up and around them while singing this rhyming song. It was apparently meant to be lucky. You can imagine what we were all wishing for.
41. Sometimes on the walks, if you weren't keeping up, Mrs Robinson would grab you and dig her nails into your neck and back. She did that with me and [REDACTED] and she banged our heads together. I once fell down a ditch and couldn't get out, so Mrs Robinson pulled me out by the hair. My welly boot got stuck in the mud and came off when she hauled me out. She then made we walk all the way back to Fornethy with only one welly boot on. She was a hard brutal woman and everybody tried their best to avoid her and just do what she wanted to do so you weren't getting any physical or verbal abuse from her.

42. Sometimes we used to pick rosehip berries on the walks, the staff made this medicine for coughs from the rosehip. We also picked berries and the staff made jam in the kitchen with them. I remember the bushes were quite brambly and we would all be covered in scratches on our hands while we were picking the rosehips. Those walks lasted all afternoon, I'm sure they went on for hours, I remember it being dark when we came back sometimes.
43. Every night we would get shown a film or play games in the main hall. We also listened to records, I remember listening to John Travolta and Summer Nights or Grease Lightening, that was on all the time. They only had about six records. They would put out rows of chairs at night and we would all sit there. We would get a digestive or rich tea biscuit with either a cup of milk or orange juice.
44. We also had a tuck shop where we would get to pick our tuck. My mum used to send me and [REDACTED] a shoe box full of sweeties and it also had a postal order and letter in it. [REDACTED] and I never ever saw that postal order. I don't know how much it was for but my mum told us she had sent it in the shoe box.

Trips

45. The only trip I ever remember was when a group of us got in the minibus and we went to the cinema. We went to see 'Annie'. I don't remember anything else like that.

Schooling

46. We did go to lessons at Fornethy, in the classroom which was off the main building. We didn't all do the same thing at the same time so some dorms would maybe go to the classrooms and others would maybe go for walks or other activities, like cleaning and other different things.
47. You went up these stairs to get into the classroom and I remember it had an old fashioned blackboard that went round and round and desks and chairs. It wasn't a full

size classroom it was about half a normal size. They definitely had a different routine for different dorms throughout the week.

48. The teachers were the same staff at Fornethy so it was Mrs Robinson or Mrs PWH or whoever, it changed on different days, just whoever would be on rota. There were a few teachers but I can only remember those two.
49. In the classroom we did writing, it was worksheets and stuff. We also wrote letters home, although it was my sister that wrote for the two of us until I was there on my own. The teachers would write up on the blackboard what we were to write and we then copied it word for word, into our letter. I didn't ever write anything other than what was on the board, if you did they would have hit you with a ruler on the hand.
50. I remember I was at Fornethy one year when Princess Diana, who was then Lady Diana Spencer, was visiting Glasgow. I was upset about that because I didn't get to see her and my brother wrote to me telling me he had gone to see her. I remember I was skelped by the teacher for crying about that after reading that in his letter. I was hit for being upset.
51. If you stepped out of line in class the teachers would hit you across the hand with a ruler or shout at you. You could get hit for just having messy writing or not having your pencil sharpened properly. The teachers weren't very nice in class. That happened every day and you would be glad if it was someone else as it wouldn't be you. That was more or less standard practice.
52. I feel I have blocked a lot out of my memory from Fornethy but one thing I do know is that I didn't learn a lot when I was there. I was never an academic when I was at school and I struggled at primary and secondary because of my experiences at Fornethy. I also found out later on that I had dyslexia. I didn't know that at Fornethy but it wouldn't have made any difference because if you didn't do something right everyone just got the same whack on the knuckles with a ruler.

Healthcare

53. I can't remember ever seeing a doctor or a nurse in any time I was at Fornethy. If someone was unwell I would have thought they would go home but that's just an assumption. I seem to remember someone not being well once and having a bowl of soup taken up to them in their bed. That's all a bit vague.

Religious instruction

54. Some of us were picked to go to church on a Sunday. It wasn't everybody, they would just fill the minibus with whoever was picked. We would put on our best coat and shoes for that. I remember we would polish our shoes the day before. I don't know what church it was. Sometimes a minister would come to Fornethy and give a service in the main hall, that would be for the children that hadn't gone to church that Sunday.
55. We had to say prayers and Grace every day. I remember the night time prayer off by heart, we said it every night;

*"Father we thank you for the night, and for the pleasant morning light,
For rest and sleep and love and care, and all that makes the world so fair
Help us to do the things we should, to be to each other kind and good
Hear us as we humbly pray, for Jesus sake amen"*

56. Every time we ate, breakfast, lunch or dinner we would always say Grace, and that was a song;

"Bees of paradise, do the work of Jesus Christ, Do the work that no man can. Amen"

57. It's very strange that I remember them both after all these years. My sister says she cannot believe how I still remember them. I don't know how but I just do.

Bed Wetting

58. It was quite a bad time whenever anybody wet the bed because the next morning the fear was already in the room, and everybody felt it in the dormitory. Even if you hadn't wet the bed you felt it for the other girl in the dorm.
59. Sometimes that person was my sister. She was made to take all her bed clothes off her bed and put them outside in the corridor. Then she was dragged around the dorm and put outside with the bed clothes. She would be grabbed by her nightie physically dragged out the dorm. She would also be made to pick the bed clothes up and take them to the laundry, although sometimes I would help her. That for me was traumatising.
60. If you were known to wet the bed you only got half a cup of tea at dinner time. That was at the dining room table and you had to declare you were a bed wetter to the tea lady so everyone else then knew you were a bed wetter.
61. Most of the time it was either Mrs PWH or Mrs Robinson that would come in to the dorm in the morning and name the culprits and deal with them. Some people would try and hide that they had wet the bed, but both of them would inspect the beds, check the cupboards for wet sheets and check the girls nightwear, so it would always come to light. You could never really hide it.
62. Some girls would even mess the bed, through fear or whatever. You would always hear girls crying in their beds at night, missing home or fearful.

Family contact

63. I told you about the letters we wrote from the blackboard but we also got mail sent to us from our mother. We had mail days at Fornethy and I'm sure it was Mrs Fletcher that handed out all the letters that had been sent in for the girls. They had always been opened and Mrs Fletcher would read out the names and whoever the letter was for would go up and collect their letter.

Sibling Contact if in care

64. I shared a dorm with my sister [REDACTED] when we were both at Fornethy together. As far as I remember there was never any problem with me being with [REDACTED] or doing things with her. I don't think there was ever an issue with us not being in contact.

Discipline

65. Fornethy was so regimental and strict. We all followed the same routine each day in terms of getting up in the morning, lunch, night-time, going to bed, prayers and then lights out. If you weren't doing as you were told or there was any noise, you would get punishments.
66. You could be taken out your bed and told to stand outside the dorm for long periods of time. I also seem to remember being taken to the library and being told to read this big book that Mrs Fletcher would give to you. It wasn't a normal book and that only happened at night-time. I remember doing that while I was wearing my night dress and house coat. It was only ever two or three girls doing that. Another thing she had us do was play this game 'beetle' something. I have no idea why we were getting picked to do that.
67. You would also be punished if you were sick when Mrs Robinson or Mrs PWH [REDACTED] had been forcing you to eat your food. They would sometimes have you clean shoes or clean the toilets or fix the laundry when it came back, something like that. They would always think of some sort of punishment.
68. You could also be sent to your dormitory or chastised. That could be a slap or being hit with the sand shoe.

Running away

69. I didn't ever run away, but there were some lassies that did. They would be brought back but I don't remember how they were punished or what happened to them.

Abuse at Fornethy House

70. I can't remember if it was the first or second time I was at Fornethy but Mrs PWH wasn't happy about me getting into bed with my sister [REDACTED]. She dragged the two of us out the bed by the hair. She stripped us down from our nightdresses to our pants, made us stand out in the hall and hit us with a sandshoe. I remember we were standing out in the hall for what seemed like forever and it was dark and cold, with just the blue night light on. [REDACTED] told me I wasn't getting in her bed again after that.
71. The main ones were Fletcher, Robinson and Mrs PWH, they were always brutal and were the stand out ones. All the girls were definitely fearful of all three of them.
72. PWH wore a skirt and a cardigan, she had black hair that she wore in a beehive and she smoked cigarettes. She had a frightening presence about her. You avoided looking at her so that it wasn't you she was picking on. Mrs Robinson was a big woman, she would march about the place and make us all march about the place as well.
73. Those three women were so harsh with all the girls, none of us knew how to place ourselves properly and I was always just trying my best to stop or prevent anything happening. We all just tried to do everything they told us to do but there were some lassies that weren't going to do as they were told.

Reporting of abuse at Fornethy House

74. I didn't know to say anything to mum and I don't know if my sister did either. I don't think I ever spoke to my mum about how we were treated at Fornethy. I doubt it because I don't think my mum would have sent us back.
75. Back in those days it was very much that children were seen and not heard, and it was probably the case that I felt I deserved whatever was happening to me. I would have

been thinking I'd done something wrong and that's what happens to you because of that. I don't know if I took on that responsibility myself as a wee one.

76. One of the old fashioned sayings was that you don't get a clout round the ear for nothing, so maybe there was a bit of that and that's what happened at school as well. If something happened at school you wouldn't go home and tell your mum and dad and if the school contacted them you would get in to even more trouble at home than you would at school.
77. Maybe that was something that was with me and my sister and that's why we didn't say anything about what happened. Me and [REDACTED] were able to talk to each other about Fornethy but only every now and again. I never thought to report it at all at the time. I didn't see it as a crime, I didn't understand that back then, at that age.

Leaving Fornethy House

78. I remember every time we went back home from Fornethy my mum always had some nice new blankets or a new night dress or a house coat lying out on the bed for us.
79. We got the bus back just the same as when we went there and my mum would pick us up in Glasgow.

Life after being in care

80. I've worked more or less my whole life since I left school at fifteen. I went into the box factory, then I became a clothes presser and then I went into care of the elderly. To start with I was working in [REDACTED] Nursing Home in Glasgow and then I went to work for Glasgow City Council in the older adults sector. I did that for a lot of years. I then worked for Glasgow City Council in day services for people with learning and physical disabilities and then qualified as a social worker which is what I do now.

81. I have always worked with people. I remember years after Fornethy I was at a party and this girl came up to me and told me she remembered me from Fornethy and that I looked after her there. Just watching after her and making sure she was alright. I do wonder if that might have been part of me, and what made me go into the care sector.
82. Another part of going into the care sector might have been me going to girls brigade because part of that was looking after older adults in the community, getting them bread and milk and asking them if they needed anything at the shops in the winter time. I just kind of fell into care employment.

Impact

83. As a child at Fornethy it was such a rubbish time, particularly with the three teachers I've mentioned, throughout. One or two of the other teachers were nice and were the buffers, keeping it a wee bit better for us but it really was a brutal time for us at Fornethy.
84. What was particularly distressing was the fact that you couldn't speak to your parents. You couldn't phone them or speak to them, you couldn't have a private conversation with them and tell them to come and get you because you were unhappy.
85. When I thought about it as an adult, the force feeding and my dislike of foods at Fornethy was surely something to do with me ending up with bulimia. I didn't know and understand at that time, but when I was about ten or eleven I was very thin. My mum used to take me to the doctor but no one really knew what was wrong with me. I was prescribed Complan to bulk me up because I was so thin but I was being sick. I was too young to know what was wrong with me. All I was doing at that time was eating cheese and drinking milk.
86. When I was older I was at the dental hospital one time and the dentist noticed something with my teeth. I don't know how they managed it but he suddenly asked me if I was bulimic. I was shocked and very embarrassed I just wasn't expecting that, and

I said I wasn't bulimic. He asked if I was sick often and I had been, I had actually been making myself sick but I didn't understand why I was doing it, or what I was doing.

87. It all started on the back end of being force fed and being scared, maybe it's my body's way of coping, I really don't know but after that shock, things changed and I thought differently because I didn't want to lose my teeth. I realised the damage it can do to your teeth.
88. I do get flashbacks but one of the main things I get when I look back is the limited learning I suffered throughout school. I think I just shut my brain down to protect it but from primary school to secondary school I feel I learnt so little and I left school with no qualifications. I don't think I had the brain capacity to learn at that time so I think being at Fornethy definitely impacted negatively on my learning. The treatment in the classroom has got to be linked. It wasn't until much later on in life that I went back into education.
89. Back then I wasn't a confident girl and had no self-esteem. At a young age in emotional intelligence I was always backing down from any confrontation. I would keep myself from getting into any situations or confrontations so that I wasn't exposed to any verbal or physical abuse. I was bullied at school, by my peers and that made me avoid frightening and fearful situations. I think that in that context it had a significant impact on me even as a young adult when I was going to work in factories' and places like that.
90. My sister and I shared very similar experiences at Fornethy but we are very different from one another. I would say I came out of it all not too badly considering the experiences I suffered. I've used a lot of them as strengths and learnt and moved forward however the whole thing really knocked my sister and she became really depressed and anxious. She was very fearful of schools and stuff like that.

Treatment/support

91. I've never had any treatment or counselling, I just learned as I went along to stay positive. Fight or flight was one of the things I learned as I got older. I was always in flight mode, trying to find a safe place or whatever, or freeze, that could be in my head or physically and I didn't let anyone see things. Later on in life as a younger adult, I started to get more of a spirit in me and I would stand my ground and fight back.

Reporting of Abuse

92. My sister was part of Fornethy Residential School's [REDACTED] Group [REDACTED] and then she told me about [REDACTED] and about Thompson's solicitors representing some of the girls from the group to hold Fornethy staff to account and to take ownership for their behaviour.
93. [REDACTED] gave me the number for Thompson's and for the Dundee Police who were also dealing with Fornethy. That was all last year and I gave a statement over the phone to Thompson's Solicitors, which was actually quite brief. I then gave a statement to the police in Jersey and they forwarded it on to the police in Dundee.
94. Thompson's are trying to recover our records and hold Fornethy staff to account for the way they treated the girls that were in their care. Thompson's contacted me recently to say they are only taking one case forward as a test case example. That's all fine for me as it's all about supporting change for young people in the future. I haven't heard back from the police as yet.
95. Having now given my statement to the police I do see how important it is to support any positive change that can come from any residential provisions. I now work with children and young people who are accommodated into care so it wouldn't be right for me not to be strong enough to share my care experiences.

Records

96. I've not asked for any of my records from Fornethy however Thompson's Solicitors are meant to be dealing with this on my behalf. I have also not asked for my medical records either but there will definitely be something in my records regarding my eating. I know I went to the doctors on a number of occasions during my primary school years while also attending Fornethy Residential School as my weight was a worry to some people.

Lessons to be Learned

97. A lot has changed since I was at Fornethy but I do think there needs to be an independent person or body overseeing the care sector. That would be one of the best changes that could happen and making sure that the routines and the structures are safe for children and young people. Adults cannot be allowed to be emotionally and physically abusive towards children.
98. I think they should have counsellors already at residential facilities as many of the children that went to Fornethy were already traumatised anyway. Those kids were just going into another trauma arena without having had the previous trauma at home dealt with. That could be related to alcohol, domestic abuse or even being bullied at school. Kids just had to put all their experiences and feelings into a box, or hide them, and then, boom, they're right into this other, regimental type abuse, which was consistent and daily.
99. There should definitely be people there that can recognise children who were having traumatic experiences, some kind of counsellors that would be available for these children and young people.

Hopes for the Inquiry

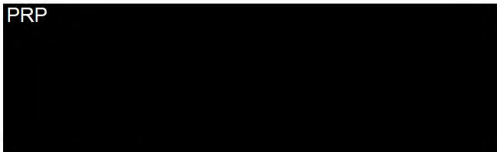
100. I hope the children and young people get a voice which is heard. I know they are being much more heard nowadays, and it's not so much like children should be seen and

not heard, but I do hope the Inquiry allows openness and accountability in terms of residential schools and the reasons, whatever they might be, that children need to go there.

101. Children and young people must feel safe and if they do not feel safe they need to know who they can turn to or go to in times of need. I know there are big changes already in place but it's important to ensure that those placed to make the change actually do what they say they're going to do.

Other information

102. 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..... 13th DECEMBER 2021