

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

BCN

Support person present: No

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

Life before going into care

2. I was born in a little place called near Falkirk. My mother and dad were alcoholics. I had six brothers and sisters. I was number four. There was who I call me, and We were a scruffy, dirty, smelly, little family, from what I can remember. I was always hungry.
3. In the house, there might have been three bedrooms. I remember there was a lot of us in one bedroom and we all shared one bed. I went to Primary School. The school often put me in the sink for a wash, so I must've been smelly or something. I can't remember ever having a bath or shower at home. I'd be first into the dinner hall at school. I think social work was involved with our family but I was too young to understand.
4. Before going into care, things happened with the family. Not good things. I was abused before I went into care. Grandads, uncles and brothers were all abusive when I was at home, as a youngster. I'd be below nine years old when all of that was taking place. I remember being in bed with my brother, behind me. was doing stuff to my back. I can't remember stuff past that. My sister, says there is stuff past that. My grandad, my mam's dad, raped his own kids. He was just

appalling. My poppa's dad, I called him old grandad, I was scared to walk past him. I was tiny and he'd be in your skirt. He was really filthy. I know I told social workers what had been done to me when I went into care.

5. I know I was fostered out a lot before I went into care. Every time my mam had a baby, we were fostered out. I was too young to remember any of that. It was short term, while mam had the baby and recovered. [REDACTED] told me I was fostered out to a couple who used a belt on me. [REDACTED] got into trouble because the man was using a belt on me and [REDACTED] was sticking up for me.
6. My mam ran away with her alcoholic boyfriend, leaving us behind with my dad. I remember being in a phone box with my dad when he was ringing up social work. My dad was saying, "I can't cope, I can't cope, you're going to have to come and get them". My dad was a frail old man with lung disease, and he worked fulltime. We were picked up a few days later from school.
7. Being picked up from school was absolutely horrible. I didn't know it was going to happen. You were put in a car and that was it, gone. There was me, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] all in the same car. The social work took us to Weedingshall Children's Home at Polmont. [REDACTED] was sent to a place in Edinburgh, like a borstal type place. [REDACTED] was left with my dad because she was fifteen and [REDACTED] was left with my dad because he was seventeen. I was nine, nearly ten when I went to Weedingshall.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Aberlour Children's Home, Dunfermline

18. There was a man and a woman that run Aberlour, who were called BGO/BGP
BGO/BGP It was horrendous in Aberlour. BGO was really, really bad. That man

was absolutely horrific. [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED] were in their forties. I was abused mentally, physically and emotionally. There were other helpers there to do the linen and stuff. I don't remember any wrong from the other helpers or them having a lot to do with the kids.

19. I went into Aberlour aged ten, going on to my eleventh birthday. I was there for a two year period. I went to Queen Anne High School. I started fresh at eleven years old and had a uniform. At school, everyone took me under their wing. They knew I was a children's home child. I remember the bigger ones looking after me. That school scared me because when I started school, there was a stabbing. Two boys had been fighting and one had stabbed the other and killed him. I thought it was a bit rough.

Routine at Aberlour Children's Home

20. There was a bedtime routine. Some things were normal, some things weren't. There were a lot of bad things in Aberlour.
21. I think Aberlour was the only place I was in that did trips and holidays. That was one good thing about Aberlour. We got taken out to Eyemouth, Spittle, Berwick upon Tweed. A mini bus took you. The [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED] drove the mini bus. We'd all be handed boxes of chocolate and stuff. That was a rare treat in a children's home. We'd stay weekends and more. Nothing bad happened on holiday. While we were on holiday, we'd all be in a big house. I remember one time we were all playing in the water and it was sunny. At night the [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED] lined us up to get the blisters with needles because we were all sunburnt.
22. I don't remember birthdays but I remember at Christmas getting a "Sooty and Sweep" sponge. I remember being happy at Christmas so we must've got nice presents.
23. I went to church every week, on my own choice. I went to get away from the abuse at the home. I quite enjoyed it. I'd sit singing.

24. I ran away from Aberlour four or five times. I was running away from the abuse by [BGO] I'd never be away for long, I was only a kid. I'd get as far as the motorway then the police would get me.
25. I had started my periods when I was in Aberlour. I remember [BGP] doing the pep talk, telling me what they were. I went to the dentist at Aberlour. He pulled some of my teeth out to make some spaces.

Abuse at Aberlour Children's Home

26. When me and my brothers and sisters went into Aberlour, all the other children were already established. There was a big table. You'd sit there and you'd be given these meals. If you didn't eat your meal, it was then presented at every meal until you ate it. I don't like cod roe, I still don't like cod roe to this day. I'd sit there and starve.
27. I was the oldest sibling taken in there. My sister [redacted] she was younger, she'd be a couple of seats up from me. I remember [BGO/BGP] saying, "Eat your peas and carrots". [redacted] was crying, she couldn't eat the peas and carrots. [BGO] got the peas and carrots and was putting them in [redacted] mouth, shovelling them in. There was tears and snot and everything from [redacted] I could see the peas and carrots coming down my sisters nose. I stood up and had a go at [BGO] I thought, I'm not having that. They could do what they want with me, starve me and put my dinner in front of me day after day, but they're not doing that to my young kid sister.
28. [BGO] took me upstairs, put me over his knee and pulled my pants down. [BGO] pulled my bum right up and he was slapping my private bits with his slipper. That was the first of the sexual abuse. I remember thinking, why is he doing that? Why is he going there? Haven't I had enough of that? I've come away from that. I remember thinking, the pain, the pain.
29. I was abused by [BGO] I was abused sexually, physically and emotionally. He found me an easy target. The abuse at Aberlour happened when I was eleven. I was

continually abused. I remember kicking out and trying to fight back. I remember trying to scratch [BGO]. Some things happened to my sister, [REDACTED], at Aberlour. I think the same things. I think it happened to other kids too. The girls spoke about it. [BGO] threatened me not to tell anyone or something would happen to my brothers and sister or to me. There were all different threats.

30. Each child would go up on their own for their own bath. [BGO] would walk into the bathroom when you were having your bath. He'd touch my breasts and say, "Oh, you look like you'll be needing a bra soon, looks like you're going through puberty". He was a gross, dirty old man. The way he spoke just makes me shiver. The weekends were bad, you either got abused or you went out. I went to church every week. I joined the Brownies and then the Guides to get away some nights
31. One day we were all standing in line waiting for school and [BGO] comes out like Hitler. He was a total control freak. He would examine each child to see if the child was ok to go to school. [BGO] came up to me. He said, "You haven't brushed your teeth". I told him I had, but he said, "You haven't brushed your teeth, get up and brush your teeth". All the kids went off to school. [BGO] came up to the bathroom. I was brushing my teeth. He said, "You're not doing your teeth properly". [BGO] got the brush and he was nearly choking me. He had my mouth open and he was ramming this brush in my mouth. [BGO] got a pleasure out of doing things like that to you.
32. [BGP] sat back and she knew everything that was going on. She was downstairs, listening. You could hear the abuse happening. [BGP] had long, black hair. She'd make me brush her hair most nights, until your arm ached. You'd be going to watch telly and you'd have to brush this hair. It was only me that she made do that. [BGP] was like Cruella, in the film, 101 Dalmatians, she was evil. [BGP] would bark orders [BGO] and he would jump.
33. It was always [BGO] battered you. [BGP] would come up and do a couple of things to me. She would slap me on the bed. [BGP] would be laying into me on the bed. I'd

kick back, punch and retaliate. At that age, I thought, I'm not having this, getting beaten and battered for protecting my sister and my brothers.

34. The children in Aberlour were told not to go to the park and one time we all went to the park. We all came back. [BGO/BGP] lined us up and said, "Have you been in the park?" Everybody, including my sister, nodded. I shook my head. I was taken upstairs and battered again. I was put to bed for lying. Later, my sister [] came up and said, "We all had Easter eggs". [BGO/BGP] had waited until I was put to bed and then provided an Easter egg to all the other children. Chocolate and sweets were a rarity back then, a real treat. [] said, "It's alright, I sneaked you some in my pyjamas". [] had saved half her egg for me. She knew I'd be heartbroken.
35. [BGO/BGP] hated me. [] told me we saved stamps and one time we stole some from the shop. [] says, "You got hammered. You absolutely got hammered". I don't remember it.
36. [BGP] wrote down each day what happened with a child. It's written in my records from Aberlour, [BCN] was bad today and out of control, so had a short, sharp, slap". You can times that by ten and put sexual abuse in between it. That's what they failed to write. I was petrified at Aberlour. I used to run out and hide behind the trees and in the garden at the back.

Peer abuse

37. There was abuse from other children in Aberlour. There was an older boy, his name was [BGQ] and he had a little brother called []. As a young child, I looked on him as a great big man. He would be one of the older children in the home, maybe fourteen or fifteen years old. I was about eleven and I wasn't long in the home He took me into the toilet and pulled out his thing. [BGQ] would get me behind the tree out the front. He took me many times behind that tree and tried "kiss, chase". He would put his tongue in my mouth. I experienced things with [BGQ] that were vulgar, absolutely vulgar.

38. [BGQ] and [REDACTED] were the two children in Aberlour that [BGP] had raised from when they were young kids. [BGQ] and [REDACTED] were [BGP] favourites. There was obvious favouritism. [REDACTED] didn't like cream. He didn't have to eat his cream at mealtimes. I said, "Why doesn't [REDACTED] have to eat his cream when I've got to sit and eat this cod roe?". [REDACTED] was like [BGP] son. He went with her when the [BGO/BGP] left Aberlour.

39. There was loads of incidents. When we all moved to Aberlour, there was this girl in our dormitory of four. I always remember her name, [REDACTED] My sister, [REDACTED] was screaming. When I went up, [REDACTED] was hitting [REDACTED] with a coat-hanger. When I look back now, [REDACTED] was just making her mark probably. I opened a coat hanger, put it round [REDACTED] neck and strangled her. I pulled her through the hall. It's not that I was being naughty, I was protecting my siblings.

Healthcare

40. According to my records, I was sent to see psychologists when I was younger and in Aberlour. I have a two page psychologist letter in my records that says, [BCN] is a bright, normal, healthy child". It says I didn't know anything about sex, I was not at all sexually interested in anything. The people who did those things to me actually sent me to a therapist.

41. I remember a time where, every day, I was waking up in Aberlour and crying and crying. My ear would be stuck to the pillow. I'd go down to [BGP] and say, "Oh, my ear, my ear". [BGP] would say, "Stop attention seeking, off to school". [BGP] must have seen the gunk on the pillow. I was picking it off my face in the morning. It went on for a long time. Eventually she took me to the doctors. The doctor said, "This child should have been brought in a long time ago". Both my eardrums were perforated. I was rushed straight into hospital to get my adenoids and tonsils out. [REDACTED]

Reporting of abuse at Aberlour Children's Home

42. After the first incident with [REDACTED] BGQ, I remember running to [REDACTED] BGP and telling her what happened. [REDACTED] BGP wrote in my notes that I was attention seeking and that I was sexually promiscuous. What I said about [REDACTED] BGQ was ignored. You just learned in the end to shut up and say nothing because you weren't believed. You were not believed by social workers, you were not believed by the staff.
43. I had a social worker, Mr William Crearer. He was the most crap social worker. I don't remember social work visits at Aberlour. I was trying to tell Mr Crearer, about the abuse. I was a little child, about eleven years old. I remember writing all these letters which clearly state, "I need to speak to you, something's happening to me, come and see me, come and see me". I'm begging him to come and see me. I have the letters in my social work file, so he received them, they are stamped. There's loads and loads of letters.
44. They put me down to being a difficult child and, because of that, I was removed from Aberlour and split up from my own family. It was at that point I told my social worker, Mr Crearer, about the abuse in Aberlour. [REDACTED] BGO/BGP disappeared three weeks later.

Leaving Aberlour Children's Home

45. I remember Mr Crearer coming to take me out of the home. I was about eleven or twelve. The day I left, [REDACTED] BGO was shouting in my face, "You're a sex maniac, you're a nuisance, you keep running away. We can't watch over you". Mr Crearer was stood there. I couldn't say anything. The person who was shouting all of this, [REDACTED] BGO [REDACTED] BGO was actually doing it to me. I sat there, sobbing. Looking back, [REDACTED] BGO was shouting to cover his own tracks.

46. That was it, I never saw my brothers and sister again until I was an adult. I kept in touch by letter and phone. I was put back to Weedingshall just for a few weeks until they found me something else. Then social work sent me to a place in Glasgow, I think it was called Cardross. That's when, somehow, my mam found out I was nearby her. I ended up going to live with my mam. She lived in Glasgow.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Being returned to mother's home

49. I would be about twelve or thirteen years old when the social work gave my mam a chance to take me at weekends to see how we got on. I know from my records that it was on the assumption that my mam would get back to them about how I was getting on. From then, I went from Cardross to stay with my mam, in Priesthill in Glasgow. How that happened is all a blur to me.
50. I was at my mam's for a short spell, for about six months. I was raped at Priesthill, by her man, **AJX** All of this abuse was going on and I never told anybody. I was only tiny. Again I was unfed and unkempt. My mam was still an alcoholic, with an alcoholic boyfriend, who turned out to be a rapist. No-one from the social work

department came to visit me while I was there. I wish they had because I was starving. My mam and [REDACTED] AJX [REDACTED] chose drink over food. If you got food, you were lucky.

51. My mam and [REDACTED] AJX [REDACTED] disappeared overnight. They went back to [REDACTED] because [REDACTED] AJX [REDACTED] comes from [REDACTED]. My mam and [REDACTED] AJX [REDACTED] abandoned me. There's a letter in my file that says I rang social work. I was going to school most days and I'd come back to a boarded up house. The neighbour was giving me food.

Reporting of abuse at mother's home

52. I told my social worker, William Crearer, that I had been raped by [REDACTED] AJX [REDACTED] at my mam's home. Nothing was done about it, to my knowledge. I think I would know if something was done because someone would have wanted a statement from me. Nobody official spoke to me about the rape.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Life after being in care

98. When I came out of St Euphrasia's, I was nearly sixteen. I went to stay at my Auntie [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I went on to Larbert High School to take my exams because I wanted to be a nurse. I was at Larbert High School for six months, then I sat my exams. I only just passed so I wasn't clever enough to be a nurse. I got a B in Maths and English, the rest were Ds.
99. I stayed at Auntie [REDACTED] until I was nearly seventeen. I did a bit of "Avon" selling. That was a disaster. Then [REDACTED] my brother, rang me and he said, "There's a job here in Leicester at the hotel, where you live in and you wash pots". I thought, well, I've left school, I can't be a nurse because I'm too thick, so I'll go and wash the pots and live in. I wanted an excuse to leave Scotland. That was my excuse and I got away. Then my life began down in England. I moved to the [REDACTED] Hotel. I stayed there about a year. I washed up and I lived in the accommodation. I got paid wages.
100. I married at 17 to a man who was 49 years old. I had two kids. We moved to Skegness. The marriage broke down after nine years. A year later, I met somebody else. That wasn't a bad marriage. I had two kids again. The marriage broke down after seven years.

101. I've always worked hard. I'm a mobile dog groomer. That's the main job I've always done. I was also a self-employed market trader. I've had to cut it all back because of my health.

Impact

102. I got my social work records two years ago. That's what's kicked everything off. I'm reading through the files and it's brought back horrible memories. Everything I've got in my social work records is about **BCN** being naughty, **BCN** being this, **BCN** being that. **BCN** was just defending her family.
103. I have read in my records, from Aberlour, all these things like, **BCN** a misfit, **BCN** the ugly duckling of the family, **BCN** sexually active, **BCN** promiscuous, **BCN** attention seeking". The list goes on, and on, and on. The things I've read are awful. I mean, when you've been abused, you're certainly not going to be sexually active at nine years of age. I was seventeen before I even thought about that.
104. **BGO** and **BGP** wrote these things. Most of it was signed by **BGP** **BGP** wrote that, when I was eleven years old, I started to masturbate. I can't remember doing that, but even if I did, how the hell does she know? It freaks me out to this day that **BGP** made me brush her hair. I don't know why she did that.
105. When I read the psychologist's letter in my records, I was so relieved. I thought, someone believes me. It was just nice to have something in writing to say I'm normal, healthy, not sexually active, not the slightest bit interested in sex. I have kept that report in a special place.
106. Why didn't social workers read these reports? You can clearly see a kid who's really in distress, a kid that's being sexually abused. Why didn't social workers listen to me? **BGO/BGP** wrote the most degrading things. Why did nobody pick up on it? When I was running away from Aberlour, why did no-one sit me down and ask, "Why?" When I was running away, I was just trying to get away from **BGO** in

Aberlour. Social services were supposed to care for and protect me, not put me into the hands of abusers. I'm so angry. It's important to me to know that I'm not the only one who was abused at Aberlour.

107. I was a child abused before I went into care, [REDACTED] abused in Aberlour. The social work department put me down to being a difficult child when, all along, I wasn't difficult or naughty. What no-one said was, "You came in here as an abused kid, you were a difficult kid, you needed specialist treatment." Social work should have looked at me as a case who needed help, not a case that needed taken away from my siblings. Social work looked on me as an out of control child from a dysfunctional family. I was very late in stopping bedwetting. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

108. My sister, [REDACTED] says, "I can't see why they never brought you back to us because [REDACTED] BGO and [REDACTED] BGP chose to leave." I wonder if questions were being asked by the police or somebody and the [REDACTED] BGO/BGP did a moonlight flit. When the [REDACTED] BGO/BGP left, new people came in and [REDACTED] still talks to those people.

109. When I lie down to go to sleep, the bedroom door's always open and the hall light is always on. Before I go to sleep I have to look into the hall three times to make sure nobody's there. I have to look at the door handle three times to make sure it doesn't turn. It's a form of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder , OCD.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

111. I have nightmares where someone is chasing me to rape me. I climb a wall to get away from them. I get my hands on the wall and one leg up to climb over but the man chasing me gets the other leg. At this point the nightmare breaks. I've been getting up in the night and kicking things. It's not good, with my diabetes. I'd get up in the morning and the clothes-horse wouldn't be where I'd left it. The clothes would be all over the floor. To me, the clothes-horse, in my dream, must've been who was after me. The nightmares are "fight or flight nightmares." I wake up sweating, crying and gasping for breath. The only thing I can do is to get out of bed, make a cup of tea and sit at the computer for twenty minutes.

112. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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114. You get insecure when you get shifted about from place to place and you don't know where your family is. It's your background that affects people who've been in care. No-one ever tells you they love you or cuddles you. You can't trust anybody. You don't let anybody near. You're in your own bubble and there's a wall. If anyone tries to get by the wall, woe betide them. I wanted to work hard and bring my kids up. That's all I was interested in. Not the men. Relationships are disasters.

115. The disaster of being in care is that you meet someone who shows some interest and you marry them. When I got married at seventeen, I don't know whether I was looking for a father-figure or looking for someone just to care for me. Needless to say it was a disaster. When I started to grow up, I looked at him and thought, you've just

jumped straight into another predator. I thought, why did I do this? I said to him the age difference was too big and we got divorced.

116. When you have been abused as a child, you never have a proper life. Things like marriages failing, you can cope with. I wanted to be the best mum that anybody could be. I brought up four beautiful kids. They are all good kids. They all work. They're all respectful, good adults. I've got seven beautiful grandkids. My kids are all educationally good. They are all headstrong, they've all got opinions.
117. You'll never be a normal person. You're scarred and you're damaged for life. You can say your experience turns you into a better person in other ways. You're a more protective mother. You're stronger. You work harder. It works two ways. What happened to me in the past hasn't stopped me turning my life around and proving the system wrong. I've created a good life and a lovely family.
118. Between the ages of 19 and 22, I nearly killed myself with drink. I don't drink now. I was drinking a lot of vodka. I thought to myself, you're turning into your mother and your kids will have to go into care. It hit me like a brick and I just stopped. I haven't drunk vodka since. I have an easily addicted nature. It's in the past history of the family.
119. The abuse by men in the family, it seems to have run through the family. I don't know why that's happened. This is why I said, "This is stopping, I'm bringing up four wonderful kids." I watched them all the time. When my marriage failed, I worked, and I worked, and I worked, for the simple reason, somebody's got to break the chain. I wasn't going to bring my kids up with anything like that abuse at home. I wasn't ever going to let them go into care. [REDACTED] broke the chain, she had the same feeling as me. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] didn't. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I don't know because I don't really know them.
120. When I moved to the [REDACTED] Hotel, the only things I struggled with was the simple day to day jobs, like I'd never been shown how to use a washing machine. Little things would aggravate the people I lived with. I didn't know I had to wash the

bath when I was finished. I had to quickly learn to keep the peace. I picked it up in the end.

121. I have diabetes and asthma. I can't hear too well because of the lack of medical care at Aberlour, which resulted in hearing loss. That's affected me big time. As a result of [REDACTED] ^{AJX} [REDACTED] raping me, I have a split. It's the most painful split to this day. I have to have a big operation because I have a tumour in my bowel. This is the ninth lump which will have been taken out. I can't have internals or tubes in my backside. I can't have anybody going near me there. I want to be put to sleep for the operation. My consultant doesn't want to because of the dangers with my asthma and diabetes. I managed to tell him why I wanted to be put to sleep the last time I was there. I asked if the lump could be to do with my abuse when I was younger. The consultant can't say, "Yes" and he can't say, "No" but it's a possibility. He says now that he knows about my childhood, that's something they can look into.

122. I never did get back in touch with [REDACTED] auntie. It's a shame. I should've done. When I left care, I saw the opportunity to flee. At the time you're a messed up kid. The thought of a new life, in another country, was brilliant. It was what I needed. When I got my social work records, they had written down that I used to go to [REDACTED] auntie and uncle. Social work had put [REDACTED] auntie and uncle's name and phone number there. I thought, I wonder? I rang the phone number and they answered. They are really, really old now. [REDACTED] uncle said, "I can't believe it." They put me back in touch with [REDACTED] who is in England. It was such a fluke, that they could be so old and still have the same phone number. I'll try and visit them sometime.

Relationship with Siblings

123. After I left Aberlour, I kept in touch with my brothers and sisters by phone and writing letters. I didn't see them. Being in care has affected my relationship with them because we were separated. At St Euphrasia's you weren't allowed to use a phone. Only [REDACTED] kept in touch with me. I didn't get to speak to [REDACTED] until we were adults and we'd left the homes.

124. I get on with [REDACTED] alright. [REDACTED] is too snobby. She has OCD. [REDACTED] came to my house and was going across the tops of the doors with her fingers. I said to her, "If you're coming to visit me, none of that sort of thing." My house is tidy enough, I don't need that. [REDACTED] nearly killed herself with drink but she's alright, she doesn't drink now.
125. [REDACTED] killed himself with an overdose. He was badly abused. I think [REDACTED] was in Barnardo's or something in Edinburgh. One time, [REDACTED] was homeless and I took him in. I kept him for eighteen months when I was bringing up the kids. It wasn't until years later, my older daughter said, "Uncle [REDACTED] used to ask me to stand with no clothes on so he could take pictures." I phoned [REDACTED] and told him what [REDACTED] had said. I said, "If that's true, I'm reporting it to the police, what's your answer?" Next thing, he admitted himself into a psychiatric hospital. I never did get the answers.
126. Before my mam died, I phoned her up. I was in England and she was in Scotland. I had a big row with her. [REDACTED] had gone to stay with her for a few days before he went to the psychiatric hospital. I said to her, "Why is [REDACTED] living with you? How is it that you choose to believe the perpetrator rather than the innocent person? You chose not to believe me when [REDACTED] ^{AJX} did what he did to me." My mam said, "I ken hen and I was wrong." That means a lot to me. [REDACTED] died and I'm glad of it.
127. My brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] keep trying to talk to me. They'll say, "Hello" and I'll say, "Hello" back. That's online. The connection's not there. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have got out of care and got married. They're probably the only two normal ones out of us. Maybe because they went in so tiny, that's all they ever knew. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] didn't know abuse like what we got.
128. [REDACTED] I'm very close to. We've got a strong bond. I can't talk to her about what went on at Aberlour because I have a police case going on just now. She is in the process of coming forward to talk about it. [REDACTED] wants to see how my case goes before she decides what she is going to do. [REDACTED] can remember a lot more than me and she's a

year younger. [REDACTED] remembers a lot being done to me, so maybe I've blocked stuff out.

Treatment/Counselling

129. I think my doctor has known about my experiences for a long time. I have had nightmares for a long time. The nightmares got worse after I got my records. I'd be waking up with bruises and injuries to my head. I had tablets to help me sleep for a while. I thought, you're going to have to get some help here.

130. I went to my doctor about the nightmares and she referred me to a counsellor. I've been seeing my counsellor for nearly a year. My counsellor has really helped me. I'm glad I've got him. My counsellor has been able to explain to me what predators do. [REDACTED] BGO was a really, really, bad predator. My counsellor has given me strategies to cope with the nightmares. He is starting EMDR therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing therapy, with me soon.

131. When I read my records from Aberlour, I went into my counselling session feeling really upset, thinking, I'm the ugly duckling. My brothers and sisters are really pretty. How can they write that about kids? My counsellor has told me that that's what the perpetrators do. They are covering their tracks. They make out, this kid's bad, she's ugly, she's a misfit, she's a problem, she's misbehaved. The perpetrators do that so that if you ever report that they've abused you, they'll say, "There's [REDACTED] BCN record, what a horrible kid she was, she exaggerates." I came out of the session feeling much better.

Reporting of Abuse

132. About two years ago I walked into Skegness Police Station and reported the abuse at Aberlour [REDACTED] and the rape by [REDACTED] AJX. The Skegness police referred it to the police in Dunfermline. Dunfermline dealt with Aberlour and [REDACTED] AJX. Glasgow dealt with [REDACTED]. I took part in a recorded

interview in Skegness. The interview was sent to the police in Scotland. PC Warbie in Dunfermline got the ball rolling.

133. I gave the police the names of [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED] who ran Aberlour. At first I gave them the wrong name. The police came back to me and said they'd found out who the couple were who ran Aberlour. The police said the couple's name was [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED]. The police say they can't find where [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED] are now. I can't understand why the police can't find them. [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED] went on to have two children of their own. They took [REDACTED] away from Aberlour with them. Even if they've changed names, they should be findable. I don't believe the Scottish police one bit. There's a lot of answers needed from Aberlour which no-one will ever get because the police can't find them. I want to see [REDACTED] BGO/BGP [REDACTED] in court.
134. I wanted to report [REDACTED] AJX [REDACTED] a long, long time ago. Two reasons stopped me doing it. One, my mam was still alive. Why I protected my mam, don't ask me. My mam was dying of cancer. She had a long, drawn out death, many years. The other reason was that I had four beautiful kids. I thought, I'm not letting my kids know about this, I'm not letting them go through that.
135. The police in Glasgow are now involved with the rape by [REDACTED] AJX [REDACTED] When my mam died, I thought, right, the kids are grown up, they're married. My mam has died. That's my time now. Time to go. That was two years ago. [REDACTED] AJX [REDACTED] been arrested just recently, about six months ago. He sat and said "no comment", so they have "red flagged" him. The police told me they'd never seen a man be so scared, he sat there shaking and he was in such a mess. I said, "Good, I'm glad he struggled, now he'll know how I felt all them years ago." I've got no sympathy for how he felt. [REDACTED] AJX [REDACTED] not been punished for what he did to me but one day I'm going to go to his door and say, "Why?"

136.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Records

137. About two and half years ago, I found out that every child could ask for their records, by law. I rang up Falkirk District Council first. The woman I spoke to thought my records were archived. The woman phoned me back to say the council had the records but it would take her a few weeks to copy them and post them out recorded delivery. I now have those records. Some of my records are from Glasgow, some are from Grangemouth and some are from Stirling.

Lessons to be Learned

138. There's always going to be paedophiles and predators. There's always going to be ways they'll get through loopholes. Anybody who works with kids in a children's home should be vetted. Social workers need vetting and checking. Social workers need updating and training. There has to be much more regular contact between the child in care and their social worker. There should be more interaction from school. Kids might talk to their teachers. More attention has to be paid to troubled children and young offenders, who might be behaving the way they are because they are being abused.
139. Children in care should get one social worker who really is good. The social worker should take the child from the beginning. The top priority has to be trust. The social worker should get the child's trust, visit regularly and ask the child what they need or want. If I'd had someone like that, I would have told them straight away what was happening. You need a lot of time for that kind of relationship. The social worker has to listen to the child and believe the child.

Other information

140. The failings back then were absolutely terrible. I think back in those days, care was a paedophile attraction. I think [REDACTED] BGO/BGP were covering up what they were doing by taking the children out on trips and holidays. They were making themselves look good. I want to see [REDACTED] BGO [REDACTED] BGP and [REDACTED] AJX in court. I don't care how many times I have to stand in court. I'm going to have the lot of them.
141. I took part in the National Confidential Forum about two years ago. I was asked to go up to take part in a group and to go back to see the findings, from what everybody had contributed. They put on a video. My quotes were on there, I knew they were my words and they hadn't asked for my permission for that. There was loud music and the whole room exploded into tears. It was too much.
142. The police told me to get in touch with Thompson's, the solicitors, they have been quite helpful. I'm hoping their investigator can find [REDACTED] BGO/BGP.
143. For me, this all started with getting my records, the paperwork, and making them into a book. My son, [REDACTED] asked me, "Can I read your book when it's all over?" I said, "Nope, when it's all over, the only person getting the book is the fire."
144. 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.. [REDACTED] BCN

Dated.. 16/5/2018