

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EEZ

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is EEZ My date of birth is 1951. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Family Background and Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow. My mum was and she was married to my father I had seven brothers and sisters. was a year older than me but died eighteen years ago. I am the next oldest then it is who we call and he is nearly two years younger than me. ESE is three years younger than me and EEY is four years younger. My sister is deceased as well but was seven years younger than me. is eight years younger than me and we have a young sister who is ten years younger than me. She was born after we were taken away.
3. I was born in Lennoxton Maternity Hospital. I'm not sure where my family were staying at that time. I have been told that we stayed in Edinburgh, in a flat for a year. This was when I was just a baby with my brother Back then I know my Dad worked at as a labourer making Terrazzo for the floors. My mum at one point, before we were born was a seamstress but once she had us she was at home.
4. Before I went to school we moved to Glasgow with my Grandparents. I don't know why we moved there but think it was because we had nowhere else to go. McGill Primary School was my first school. That's all I remember

about that. I then remember moving to [REDACTED] Glasgow with my brothers and sisters who were only babies. I then went to the only school I remember, Centre Street Primary School, just round the corner from [REDACTED]

5. My memories of childhood are not happy at all. We were basically hungry all the time. I don't remember getting school dinners. We used to struggle just to get a heat. Sometimes my father was in prison and mum was on her own which made it more difficult. I don't remember if we had social workers.

6. I was epileptic from age two up 'til I was seven or eight years old and actually grew out of it. Basically I was one of the lucky ones as I was on the drug Phenobarbitone and my brother [REDACTED] used to look after me. I was in and out of hospital, I used to fall asleep in class and lost a lot of school. I actually left school in the first term of second year because of this. There are things I remember but there are a lot of things I don't remember because of it. I remember a couple of my aunties coming up to help clean the house in [REDACTED] sometimes but that's about it.

7. The other thing I can remember was when we had moved from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] The Gorbals, Glasgow. We couldn't keep a house and we kept moving, maybe because my dad was in prison. That house is where we were taken away from. I will always remember that.

8. The man who took us away was called Mr Meldrum. He was from Glasgow Corporation Social Services. I will never forget that guy. He just dragged us all out the house. I don't know why he did it, maybe somebody reported us. He got the whole load of us out the house and put us into this big van and took us down to, I think it was John Street, Glasgow. Then the next thing we were in homes, all separated and in homes. I don't know why he took us away. Probably because we were hungry, we didn't have anything to eat and we had one big double bed between us all. Some of us slept on the floor basically, it was just a single room in [REDACTED] It was all my siblings apart from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was just a baby and I was about eight or nine.

9. We got taken into an office and then we all got split up. The only thing I can remember or know, and this is because I helped get my sister [REDACTED] get her diary from Tiree, is it said on there that she had gone there from St Ann's. I've no idea where that is. I don't know if [REDACTED] was with her. I don't know where my brothers went. I don't remember any of them being at Mugdock Bank or Gryffe Children's Homes with me. When we went to Tiree it was me, [REDACTED] and ^{ESE} [REDACTED] who were together and the other four were at the other side of the island. I don't know how long I was in Mugdock Bank or Gryffe and that's one thing I want to do is get the records to find out.

Mugdock Bank Children's Home

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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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Gryffe Children's Home

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Gryffe Children's Home

36. I don't know how long I was at Gryffe and I don't know why I got moved from there. All I remember is that I was moved to Tiree three or four weeks later than my brothers and I think this was due to my illness. It was Mr Meldrum from Glasgow Corporation that was responsible for moving me to Tiree. He was responsible for all the decisions regarding my care, I think he was the head of the children's department.

Isle of Tiree

First day

37. I don't remember anybody explaining to me why or what was happening or where I was going. The day I went to Tiree all I can remember is going on a plane over to the island, that's it. I was accompanied by a woman but I cannae remember her name. There's a lot of things I don't remember because of my epilepsy, my brain didn't function properly then.
38. I think it was about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] and I think it was 1962 when I went there. The reason I know is because I've got a school diary from 1962 to 1966. It tells me in there. It actually mentions in it that I came to Tiree three or four weeks late.
39. When I arrived I was taken from the airport to [REDACTED] where I was met and introduced to ^{EFA-EFB}[REDACTED]. They told me I would be staying for a while and I was to call them Uncle and Aunty.
40. My brothers, [REDACTED] and ^{ESE}[REDACTED] were outside at the water pump when I arrived. The house didn't have any running water. I recognised them immediately and they

recognised me. I had a feeling of relief seeing people around me that I knew. Having them there definitely made it easier.

41. I was shown around the croft. They took me to where the byers were and showed me where the cows and sheep were. It was lambing time I remember that.
42. I was shown my bedroom and I shared a double bed with ESE [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was in a single bed and I think it was in the same room but I'm not a hundred percent about that.
43. When you went into the house there was a living room come kitchen and aunt used to bake on a big stove in there. I remember there was a big old fashioned radio in front of the window. Through the back was a big kitchen that had another big stove and that's where they made the oatmeal that we got for breakfast. That's where they used to keep the four big buckets for filling the water from the well.
44. When you came in the front door you turned right and there was a rest room where latterly they had a TV.
45. After that there was the bedrooms and there were more bedrooms upstairs.
46. Upstairs there was two bedrooms with dormer windows to the front and another to the back with a skylight. There was another room above that kitchen that I think they had a lodger in. His name was [REDACTED]

Routine at [REDACTED] Isle of Tiree

Mornings and bedtime

47. We used to get up at 6:00 am. EFA [REDACTED] would come to the door and say 'right up boys'. We would get up, get dressed and go out to work. [REDACTED] milked the cows and I fed the lambs and the hens.

48. We would go in about 7:30 am and have breakfast together. After that we'd go back out to work on more jobs before we went to school.
49. We would go to our bed about 9:00 pm. I can't remember if there was any bedtime routine or not to try and stop us wetting the bed.

Food and Mealtime

50. All of us would eat together and sit at the kitchen table. Breakfast was oatmeal. They used to make it the night before and then it was covered with a film of water until they served it the next morning. I hated it. You used to have to take it before you went to school. You'd sometimes get a boiled or fried egg from the hens or ducks they kept.
51. We used to get our lunch at school. For dinner, the food was okay. We got fresh vegetables and sometimes we'd kill one of the hens and have chicken. We drank the milk, it wasn't in bottles it was fresh from the cow. The extra milk was put in these big jars and into a cupboard for a few days until the cream came to the top. We had to skim the cream off the top and then put it into a big urn then they'd make their own butter.

Washing / bathing

52. There was an extension with an outside toilet. It was the type that didn't flush and it had to be emptied manually. We were sometimes made to do that. There was a tin bath in there where we had to wash. It was normally cold water but sometimes heated on the big stove or in the twin tub washing machine. We did get privacy, ^{EFA} [REDACTED] left us to it. I honestly can't remember if I knew how to wash myself properly.

Healthcare

53. There was a doctor on the island but I can't remember ever getting check-ups. I don't remember having any accidents or illness when I was there.

54. There was also a dentist on the island who came to the school every so often to give us a check-up.

Chores / Pocket Money

55. When I first arrived and met my brothers I asked them what like the place was like. They told me that we need to do this and we need to do that. It was basically croft work. Clean the byers out for the cows, go out in the fields and help with the hay and the corn in the summer when it was the season for it.
56. EFA would hand out the work but don't get me wrong she would work with us as well. If their son was at home he would sometimes work with us but never had to do as much as us. He was often away playing with his friends.
57. We had to work before and after breakfast before school and when I got home from school we had to work on the croft again. We had to check the sheep, lambs and take the cows back out onto the fields. We would work in the garden. It was all self-sufficient and we would pick the weeds off the vegetables.
58. We had to work the fields, I'm an expert at tattie fields now and have a couple of plots of my own. Mr EFB worked the plough and the tractor and we had to go behind him dropping them every foot or so and then at the end of the season we had to pick the tatties, put them into big metal baskets and empty them into the trailer. Then when they came down we then had to unload them against the wall. About September and October we had to lift the turnips. They were used for dinner but also we had to burst the leftovers up for the cows.
59. We had to cut the corn and hay, tie them, make them into sheaths and stack them at the stack yard. We did have to use tools. Forks, rakes and sickles to cut the corn where the reaper couldn't reach.

60. We used to have to go to the shore beach, get shingles and seaweed, put them in a trailer and take it back to the croft to be used as manure to spread on the fields as feed for the crops.
61. They had a field of daffodils and we had and take the heads off them. We had to take of the roots off all the bulbs so they could sell them.
62. I wasn't that big when I was there, probably thinly built. We were all quite thin. Sometimes I found the work physically difficult but there was nothing we could do, we just got made to do it. We just had to take it in our stride. There was nothing we couldn't manage to do but it was heavy lifting and it used to take two of us together to lift the baskets into the trailer.
63. We never got any pocket money for any of the work we did. EFA would sometimes buy us toffees off the mobile van that used to come round.

Clothing / uniform

64. I think we used to get a new supply of clothes from Glasgow Corporation sent over about every six months. It was just boots and basics. I don't think we ever got measured up. I think the EFA-EFB would just tell them the sizes and they would send stuff over.

School

65. When we were at primary we would walk as it was just about two hundred yards down the road. Later when I went to Cornaig Secondary School a bus used to pick us up at the bottom of our street. It was the only secondary school on the island. There were about four or five primaries but there is only one now and that is at Cornaig after they built an extension. I think we got lunches at school.
66. I went to Primary School. That is where the school diary was from. It's called School Diary Log Book. I got this in September last year from David Sinclair at Argyll

and Bute Council after I sent a subject access request to the Data Protection Officer. I have this on email as well so can provide a copy if it is needed.

67. They seemingly disputed they had records but they were found in the wee museum on Tìree in a box at the back of the room. It was as if they were trying to hide them.
68. My name is only mentioned in two or three bits of it. The first mention of me is in 1962. It has my date of birth and that I stayed at [REDACTED] with the name of Mr ^{EFB} [REDACTED] as guardian. ^{EFB} [REDACTED] We called him ^{EFB} [REDACTED] as he was the [REDACTED] as well.
69. There were about fifteen children at primary school and two teachers, Jean McFarlane and Mrs Watson who went out for a fly cigarette. My memories of primary school are, that it was okay. It was hard learning for me because before I went to Tìree I'd lost a lot of schooling because of my epilepsy. I was kept back for almost a year and a half. I was still learning to write. The only thing I was good at school was mental arithmetic. I was brilliant at it.
70. When I went up to high school there was about sixty pupils. I got taught all the normal subjects that they get taught now. In the school diary I spoke about earlier there is mention of other 'Boarded Out' boys getting removed in it. Mr McLean named in it was the headmaster.
71. There's a new daily register from 1966 with my name in it with the teacher Mr Thomas G. Connell. He is still alive, well into his nineties and still living on Tìree. I used to get the belt from him for not learning the words to Merchants of Venice off by heart. I couldn't do it. He used to tell me to learn seven lines of it over the weekend and when I didn't manage it he would give me the belt. It was the usual type school belt with two wee tongs. I think there was a nickname for it but I can't remember what.
72. I remember getting three of the belt one time but actually it was my own fault. It was the Gaelic teacher, he was writing on the board and when the Bic pens came out, we used to take the inside out, take barley to school and blow it through the pen. I got

caught. I can't remember the teacher's name but I have a photograph on my phone of the boys and teachers and I think their names are on it. He used to throw the duster from the black board at you if he caught you talking.

73. We had to go to Sunday School every week. It was Church of Scotland, nearly the whole island was. My religion had always been Church of Scotland. We never had to say prayers or anything.

Leisure time

74. After dinner we would sometimes get a break from working and be allowed to go down on our own to play at the beach and swim in the sea, in the cold Atlantic Ocean. That is where I learned to swim. We never had any games, books or toys just a football and a rugby ball.

75. At first we had to go elsewhere to watch TV. We went to the [REDACTED]'s house. It was Mrs ^{EFA}[REDACTED]'s sister in-law and we used to get taken up there at night to watch TV. Her husband was an ex-captain in the merchant navy so was never there and neither was she. Their favourite programme was 'That Was The Week That Was' and we also watched Cassius Clay winning the boxing there. They would then take us back down the road and we would go to our bed.

Birthdays / Christmas

76. No birthdays were celebrated. I didn't even know my date of birth when I was there. I only found out later when I came back from Tiree. Even the spelling of my name was wrong. I was spelling ^{EEZ}[REDACTED] [REDACTED] until I came back.

77. We never celebrated Christmas, we never had a Christmas tree and never got Christmas dinner or presents.

Personal Possessions

78. I never had any personal possessions. We never had books or toys or games, just a rugby ball and a football.
79. I have photographs, some from when I was over from five or six years ago with my wife for a visit and some of my sisters and brothers when they stayed with the other family.
80. There is no photographs of me when I was living there. We never got any photographs taken of us. The way I see it is either Mr Meldrum or the [EFA-EFB] must have told the school not to put us in photos. Other boarders are in photos and my brothers and sisters who didn't stay with us are in photos at the school so it is more likely to have been the [EFA-EFB] that stopped this.

Trips / Holidays

81. We never went on holidays. We were on the island twenty four hours a day, seven days a week on the island on the croft.

Family Contact

82. Other than [REDACTED] and [ESE] who I stayed with at [REDACTED] I never had any contact with other members of my family. I had asked my brothers if we were allowed to go and see our brothers and sisters who were with another family on the island. They were the [EMY-EVI] family and the woman [EVI] was [EFA] [EFA]'s cousin.
83. I can't remember how I knew my other brothers and sisters were on the island. I spotted [REDACTED] one day when we were at a sports day. I also saw him in the corridor now and again in high school. I think that I knew the rest of my brothers and sisters had all gone to the island together. We asked to see them but were told no, you're not allowed.

84. It would have been quite easy for us to go and see them. The size of the island is only ten miles by five miles. They stayed not far from us at [REDACTED] outside [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came under [REDACTED]. You could actually walk to [REDACTED] as it was only two or three miles from where we stayed. EFB [REDACTED] was a [REDACTED] and delivered all over the island. [REDACTED]. There was no excuse for us not to see them.

85. It really upset me then and still does that we were separated and didn't get to see my other brothers and sisters. It would have been nice to see them growing up. I still get emotional about it.

Good Memories

86. The good memories I have are from swimming at the beach or when we could play football between ourselves. There was a couple of local guys who stayed on the island who used to come and play football with us. One was called [REDACTED] who I have on Facebook. He stays in Aberdeenshire now. I cannae mind the other guy's name.

87. I was aware there were other boarded out kids. One was called [REDACTED]. I met up with him after we left the island. He left just before me. He got me a job as a commis waiter at [REDACTED] Hotel and then we got a flat together in [REDACTED].

88. There were others at primary and high school but I didn't mix with them and I don't know their names.

Supervision oversight / Inspection by fostering authority

89. The whole time I was on Tiree there were no visits or contacts from Mr Meldrum or any of the authorities to check on our welfare.

Relationship with Foster Parents / Other Children

90. It was more of an existence than a childhood. There was no love or affection.

91. The [EFA-EFB] called me [EEZ] but there was no loving there, no emotional connection when we were there, no cuddles, no nothing, nothing at all. In fact I can't even remember getting Christmas presents.
92. We were never treated like one of their own. There was never any conversation from the [EFA-EFB] about my family or the life we had before or what would happen in the future.
93. The [EFA-EFB] son [] was quite a bit older than us. He went to [] School and stayed in []. He only came home during the school holidays. He used to play football and rugby with us but he acted like a bully to us. He never hit us or anything but used to say things like, "You are here now and you will never see your mum and dad again".
94. He was treated better than us, had all his bits and pieces of personal stuff and had his own room. We never got invited in there. He ate the same food as us and did a bit of work but not a lot as he was away with his pals.
95. The only other people that visited were boarders that the [EFA-EFB] took in. I remember guys from British Telecom staying there while they were working on the island for a few days. Their accommodation was separate from us. They had their dinner in the house but I never had any contact with them other than once when the [EFA-EFB] made us sing Onward Christian Soldiers to them. It was really embarrassing.

Discipline

96. If we did anything wrong we would get the belt from either Mr or Mrs [EFA-EFB]

Running Away

97. I never ran away. There was nowhere to run to.

Bed Wetting

98. After I'd been there a few weeks I started wetting the bed and she didn't like that. ESE was also wetting the bed. I had never wet the bed before I went there and it wasn't nice at all.
99. When we wet the bed we had to get a cold bath, there was no running water. We weren't put in the bath together.
100. We had to steep the sheets ourselves and clean them. We had to rinse them and wring them out and then she would put them in this big washing machine after that.
101. The bed wetting happened most of the time we were there and Mrs EFA told us this had to stop. It was horrible getting put in that big tin bath of cold water.

Abuse at [REDACTED] Isle of Tiree

102. There was one time my brother ESE got threatened with a poker by EFA. I don't actually remember this but he has told me about it. It was something like she had been told by somebody that he had been playing with a box of matches. She seemingly held a hot poker towards him and said that if he ever did that again she would burn him with it. He denied he had been playing matches but she didn't believe him.
103. We were never called names by them. If we did anything wrong we used to get the belt like the teachers did with one hand out on top of the other. My brothers got the belt more than me.
104. To me we never did anything seriously wrong but would get it for doing things boys did, like sticking the bale fork in the bales and other childish things.

105. Both ^{EFB} and ^{EFA} that gave us the belt. It was a belt that used to be worn round the waist, not like the school teachers' belts. They used the end without the buckle to hit us. It was always just one strike and I was never left with a mark from it or really hurt.
106. I feel being separated from my other brothers and sisters and not being able to see them was abusive.
107. I also feel what happened to us after we wet the bed was abusive.
108. The fact we were made to work wasn't right. To me we weren't there to do that. To me I don't think we were supposed to do that but we were given no choice, we had to do it. We were basically put there to work and that wasn't right. We were just used as farm labour. We didn't like doing it but we had to do it.

Disclosure of Abuse

109. I never reported the abuse. There was nobody to tell.

Leaving [REDACTED] Isle of Tiree

110. In [REDACTED] 1966 we all came home together on the plane to Glasgow airport. Both sets of brothers and sisters. My young sisters didn't even know that we existed.
111. I didn't know why we were leaving the island. Nobody explained anything to us. We got a shock. They just told us you're going back to home, you're going back to Glasgow. We got a bus to the airport, then on the plane and then back to Glasgow.
112. I think there were two women from Glasgow Corporation who came on the plane with us then took us to [REDACTED] Dalmarnock. One of them was dressed all in green and was like the character Matilda from the children's film. I remember they still

had me in short trousers at fifteen, I never got long trousers. There was a big crowd waiting at the close. All my aunties and uncles or whatever. We went up this stair, I remember the shock basically and my mum and dad were waiting for us and giving us all cuddles. We were getting introduced to everyone. I was thinking 'who's this, who's that', I didn't have a clue. I had no memory of them.

113. We went into the house and it was a room and kitchen basically. It wasn't just for three or four people it was for eight children and two adults. That was never big enough.
114. My parents didn't explain why we were back, they just kept saying they were glad to have us home.

Life after being in care

115. It was horrendous back in the family house. There was one double bed and a couple of mattresses on the floor covered in coats and blankets. There wasn't a lot of food.
116. Mr Meldrum nor the authorities ever visited once we were home.
117. I didn't really know my father. He died on the [REDACTED] 1966 in a river in Ayrshire. He had been with my grandfather [REDACTED] I have a copy of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] about my mother being left with her eight children and a photograph of her surrounded by us.
118. After my father died I hardly spoke to my mother because I hardly knew her.
119. Food wise she would make a pot of potato soup and if not that just some chips. Sometimes she would have her tea and all we would get was a wee plate of chips between us. To tell you the truth I never got on with her because of this.
120. We did have electricity. It worked off a meter and we were meant to use shillings to feed it but we used to file down ha'pennys to make it cheaper. We got the electricity

cut when the money ran out and there was no warning. They just came and cut you off at the big box out on the landing. So what we done, it was either [REDACTED] or I, we would use copper wire, bend both sides, join them and put insulating tape around them and plug it back in again. We needed it to survive to get heat in the house and look after everyone.

121. I got a job at [REDACTED] Bakery. I had to go and buy myself trousers for work because my mum had sold a load of our clothes to get money for food and cigarettes when we came back from Tiree. I don't think she was a drinker.
122. I then got a job at [REDACTED] Bakery and that's where I got in touch with [REDACTED]. He got me the job as the commis waiter at the hotel. I was still fifteen nearly sixteen then.
123. He then asked if I wanted to get a flat with him and we got a lovely big house on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Glasgow. My mum didn't pay her rent on [REDACTED] so she decided she was moving into our house at [REDACTED] and I thought oh god here we go and one thing led to another. I couldn't exactly not let her in with all the kids. So they moved in and [REDACTED] and I moved out.
124. [REDACTED] and I sort of split and went our own ways. I left the hotel and got another few jobs. I went to stay with my Auntie [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] for a couple of years. She felt sorry for me so I stayed with her. I then just got flats all over the place and ended up fending for myself.
125. I had various jobs, then when I was about twenty three I took up the tools and that was when I met my wife [REDACTED]. We have two children [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] five grandchildren and a great grandchild.
126. I worked manually in construction until I was about forty and then went into the management side, general foreman then assistant and site manager.
127. We have always lived in Glasgow and I am now retired.

Impact

128. My time in care has had a massive impact on my relationship with my parents. The bonding I should've had with them was removed and there was never any contact with them. Nobody ever had a discussion about them with me as to who they were, who my family was, why we had gone into care and that was really difficult going back to them not knowing who they were.
129. The separation from my brothers and sisters wasn't good. I feel it did have an impact on our relationships.
130. When my son and daughter were born I said this isn't going to happen to you. You'll get what I never got.
131. In respect of relationships I found it difficult to show love basically. I still sometimes feel it but I get by with it. I try not to show it, that's the way I've been my whole life. I have lots of friends but don't mix the way other people mix as really proper friends. I'm more comfortable in smaller groups. I never went away on holiday with other friends until it was my sixty sixth birthday and we went away on a cruise with other friends for my retirement.
132. The abuse has had an impact on my sexual relationships. I'll be blunt, I didn't know much about sex until was sixteen or seventeen. I never knew about the changes to my body and what to expect.
133. There's not a week goes by that I don't think about my time in care. It's stuck in here in my head so it is.
134. There has been no impact on my physical health or strength but I believe it has had an effect on my mental health. I've never been diagnosed with anything. I never went to a doctor regarding that even although it was in my brain. I don't like going to doctors or hospitals. It's not in my lifestyle because I've been brought up hard, working in the

construction industry. I couldn't say to tell you the truth whether I'm anxious or depressed. Maybe I do get days when I'm upset about my time in care. When I see certain things on TV or in papers it brings it back and don't want to watch or read it. Especially when I see things in the paper like that kid the other day living in that house. I just don't want to read it.

135. I don't know if I had the same level of education as others. What I did when [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were born and went to school along the road I joined the PTA. I became chairman of the PTA for the ten years my children were there and that kept me going.

136. Sometimes when I am thinking back I feel as if I'm back at Gryff home.

137. I did learn things when I was in Tiree. Later in life I was going to get an allotment but there was a five year waiting list. My wife and I joined the gym through the council. Near there we found there was community allotment plots. I now help out there and have two plots of my own. I use the skills I got from working on the croft.

Revisits

138. I went back to Tiree twice. My wife and I went and we stayed in the lodge hotel and I went back before that with my two kids. I had a video of the primary school and they knew I had been there but I didn't tell them anything that happened. They were asking can we go to Tiree so I had the work van at the time and we went over on the ferry.

139. We stayed in a wee house in Milton at the top of Tiree and came back with a dog. The primary school is now flats and people that stayed in one of them was working in the Lodge Hotel and we got speaking to them. We started getting friendly with the dog and mucking about with it. The couple said do you want it as we've no time to look after it as we are here twenty four seven. We ended up coming back with a black Labrador. It was only a year at the time and we had it for fifteen years.

140. I went back again with my wife probably about ten years ago. We just went over for a quiet break. It brought back a lot of memories but it is a nice island, with lovely white sands and we stayed in the Lodge Hotel.
141. The EFA-EFB are dead and [REDACTED] is now a council house, maybe actually broken into two or three council houses.
142. When I was working for Interserve, I was working up at the whisky bond in [REDACTED] and found out that an [REDACTED] was a Rector in [REDACTED] Academy. So when I went there and asked if he was there, the receptionist asked who was calling so I said it was EEZ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] saw me but he was very cold so I said, "Och, I'll see you again [REDACTED]" and just left it. There's a rumour going about that he stays in Spain somewhere now, if he's still alive but I don't know.

Reporting of Abuse

143. I have never reported the abuse I suffered. This is the very first time.

Compensation

144. I applied for compensation and got the £10,000. I am now waiting on a further process to see if there will be a further claim.

Records

145. Other than the records from Tiree I have never tried to get other records. I got them from David Sinclair on 11 August last year, 2021.
146. What I really want to find out is how long I was in the homes. I understand that the records may not be there from that time.

Lessons to be Learned

147. What I think could have made things better for my time in care was before they took us away they should've helped my mum get into a better house or somewhere to stay and give us what we needed food wise and help us that way, support the family. But they just took us away separating us all. They just treated us like animals, that was the way I saw it.
148. I don't think my mum even knew where we were. She died sixteen years ago, two years after [REDACTED] and she never once spoke to us about Tiree, not once, not at all. We even put the hint into her but she wouldn't even respond to it, wouldn't talk about it.
149. My brother [REDACTED] and I have spoken about it. He is up staying with me just now from [REDACTED] It was me and [REDACTED] that spoke about it and decided we needed to get it off our chests basically because my brother [REDACTED] went private and we didn't want to do that. My brother [REDACTED] just doesn't want to know at all.
150. The way I see to make it easier for children going into care there needs to be more communication basically, a lot more communication to help them understand why they are they are going into care. Then once they are in care they need to speak to them once a week, not once a year or once a month, to help them understand what their situation is, why they are in that situation and what is going to happen. This needs to change as I don't think it happens.
151. The most suitable person to speak to them should be trained, independent and maybe somebody who has been there and done it themselves having been in care.
152. The distance I was away from my family was far too far. As soon as you're on that flight you're going over that water and you're on an island and there is no communication. None at all and that is more important than anything else. They shouldn't place people too far a distance away that no family or anybody can visit.

153. They should also try and keep families as close as possible. Even if you are not in the same house, somewhere close that they could see each other at weekends and go out and play together. That would keep the childhood bond.
154. I don't know if it's true or not but my Auntie [REDACTED] said she tried to get me when I was taken away but wasn't allowed. Whether it was because I had epilepsy or what I don't know. That's the kind of thing you're looking at though. Even an aunt or uncle taking even one or two of you that should be allowed. That is far better than putting kids into care.

Other information

155. It was me that got my family to do what they are doing just now. I've went through EGW [REDACTED] who is a good friend who was also boarded out on Tiree. He was in army and then went on to be a private investigator. He's actually helped the Scottish Government with the redress form.
156. I also speak on behalf of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are no longer here and can't speak for themselves.
157. 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]

Dated... 31-01-2022