

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

**Christopher SCOTT**

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is Christopher Richard Scott. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1970. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. I was brought up initially by my mum and dad, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were not married. We lived in Dundee. I have no recollection of my life with them. My dad worked on the buses and he did a lot of shift work. My dad had two sons from a previous marriage. They lived with their mother and my dad had very little to do with them.
3. Most of the information from the first part of my life in care I have found out from my social work records. From them I am able to say I was taken into care as a result of my mother's mental illness. She was diagnosed with bipolar schizophrenia and was in and out of a mental hospital in Dundee. At one point my mother threatened to commit suicide and take me with her. She was admitted to hospital and I was taken into care. According to my records I was put into foster care on 19 September 1973. I was three.


**Early life in foster care.**

4. My first foster home was with a Mrs [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] in Dundee. I was there for a month. I had been diagnosed with celiac disease by then so I was on a special

diet. This caused a bit of jealousy with her other children so I was moved from there. It is not clear if I went back home or if I went to Duncan Place children's home for a short while but on the 23 October 1973 I went to another foster home. I was moved to Mrs [REDACTED] who lived in Wormit in Fife. Again there was some jealousy shown by her biological son so I was only there for three months. I then lived with Mrs [REDACTED] who lived in [REDACTED] in Dundee from 26 January 1974. She apparently doted on me and according to my notes I really thrived there. I had previously wet the bed but it stopped and my diet was being managed properly. I was growing and developing well.

5. Unfortunately this was in the same area as my biological parents and my mother found out where I was living. She threatened to come and remove me. Because of this I was removed from Mrs [REDACTED] and on 3 September 1974 was moved to live with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Glenrothes. I stayed there until 20 September 1974 then went back home to my parents for some reason. I was still only four. In October 1975 I was put in Duncan Place children's home. I may have been removed from home again as my mum was threatening to harm me. My only memories I have from my time in foster care before I went into Duncan Place young person's unit is the smell of Horlicks and I remember the song 'Tie a yellow ribbon' being played on a radio. I also have a vague recollection of walking under a bridge, which could have been when I was in Wormit in Fife.
6. I have no recollection of anything traumatic happening in my life up to this point, but I suppose this could have been because I was too young.

#### **Duncan Place children's home, Dundee**

7. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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8.

9.

#### **Leaving Duncan Place children's home**

10. I was at Duncan Place for six months until 23 April 1976 and when I left there I went to foster carers called the Campbells at [REDACTED] Dundee. I am not really very sure why I was moved although reading my records I have worked out why. There was a social worker called Rosalind Tipping who was a Mormon and she became my social worker in October 1975. The Campbells were Mormons and Dennis was the Bishop of the local church. Rosalind introduced me to the Campbell family with a view to them fostering me. I was there for a couple of visits and they appeared open and friendly. I very vaguely remember these visits. I was desperate to have a loving family so was probably keen to go there. I don't actually remember arriving there for my first day.

### **Foster care with the Campbells**

11. Avril and Dennis had three other children, Emma, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Emma was one year older than me. [REDACTED] was about the same age as me. [REDACTED] was maybe two years younger than me. Avril, I think, would have been in her thirties. Dennis and Avril were both trained nurses. For a while Dennis had two jobs. He was also driving a taxi and was the Bishop of the local Mormon church. Avril had a cot death around six months before I moved in. They were keen for me to call them mum and dad but I never felt comfortable about it. By the time we moved to [REDACTED] I told them I was going to call them Avril and Dennis. They weren't very happy about that.
12. The house we were in initially was in [REDACTED], Dundee. It was a bungalow although it had been converted as it had an upstairs. There were two bedrooms downstairs and at the back of the house was the joint kitchen/dining room. There was a bedroom upstairs which was like an attic room with bunk beds. I shared this room with [REDACTED]. The Campbells also stored dried fruits and other food up there. There was a small garden out the back.
13. When I was eight we moved to Auchterhouse, then at the age of ten we moved to [REDACTED] Dundee. I don't know why we moved to these addresses but I know the Campbells bought the house at [REDACTED]. By the time we moved to [REDACTED] the Campbells had another three children of their own. They were [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born when we were in [REDACTED], [REDACTED] when we were in Auchterhouse and [REDACTED] when we were at [REDACTED].

### **Routine with fosters carers, the Campbells**

#### *Food*

14. I just remember being starving all the time. Avril was supposed to cook separate special meals for me because I was celiac. She didn't. When I was given food it was exactly the same as the other children. I don't recall any adverse effects from eating

her food. I just remember that I was hungry and thirsty all the time. When we went to church there was a thing called the sacrament, where there was bread and water. We used to wolf down the bread because we were so hungry.

*Clothing and personal possessions*

15. When I was at the Campbell's I don't remember ever getting any new clothes. Clothes were always handed down. Anything I got was always second hand. I never got any pocket money from them.

*Schooling*

16. Because the Campbells moved house three times, I had to move school. When I went to [REDACTED] I moved from West March primary to Rockwell primary, then to Auchterhouse primary just outside Dundee then to Park Place primary. At Auchterhouse it was a small village school with only two classes. Primary one to four were in one class and primary five to seven were in the other. Mr Allison took the older children and was also the headmaster. He was very old school and didn't take any nonsense. He took a dislike to me. I think I was quite argumentative probably because I didn't like taking authority from someone I didn't know. This was quite a difficult period in school for me. On saying that school was a bit of a refuge and I at least felt quite safe there. I was away from Avril and I also got food at lunch time which was my only guaranteed meal and something Avril couldn't take away from me.
17. When I was at school in Auchterhouse my attendance was probably very good. Avril was always happy to see the back of us so she made sure we didn't miss any school days.

*Leisure time*

18. After school we played as normal children but almost always I wasn't allowed to go out because I was being punished for something. At Auchterhouse the play park was at the back of the house so when I was being punished I could hear the children playing

outside. When they came in after playing Avril would get the children to say how good a time they had been having when they had been playing. Sometimes she would call them in during play time and tell them to speak to me to get me to admit to whatever it was I was being punished for. This was done as bait so that I would think that I would get out to play if I admitted it. This made it psychologically worse for me. I knew that if I admitted it I would get further punishment. We were never encouraged to make friends at school and bring them home to play.

19. I spent a lot of leisure time in neighbours and houses of other people who I was familiar with. I would go in there just to hide and keep away from Avril.

*Love and affection*

20. There was never a time that I felt wanted in the Campbell house. There was a constant feeling of anxiety and fear. Every day was spent just thinking about how I was going to get something to eat and how to avoid getting smacked and survive the next day. I always clung onto the hope that I would get back home to my mum and dad. Even when I was getting hit I used to convince myself that it would soon be over and I would be going home.

*Trips and excursions*

21. I never went on any holidays with them. We occasionally went day trips here and a couple of times we went to Scarborough for a few days each time. We went there to visit Avril's mum..

*Suggestion of adoption*

22. The Campbells did consider adopting me at one point and made their intentions known. Someone asked me if I wanted them to adopt me and I remember saying that I did because Avril had told me to say that. Nothing ever came of it.

*Religion*

23. I wasn't a Mormon before I went to the Campbells. I quickly joined the Mormon church. Apparently I asked to become a Mormon and I would imagine there would have been pressure put on me if I wanted to be part of the family. Dennis was the Bishop of the church so there was probably added pressure on him that his family showed conformity. It would have looked bad if I wasn't a Mormon. Being the Bishop, Dennis spent a lot of his time at the church. Sometimes through the week he was there until late at night and a lot at the weekends.
24. We regularly went to church. Every Sunday we were there most of the day. We were there through the week too. We were always praying, in the mornings and before meals. They would often bring their church friends to their house and we were the entertainment for them. We had to sing and dance just like in the 'Sound of music'. This again helped portray a nice happy family unit.

*Healthcare*

25. Morag Auchterlonie, the social worker, regularly took me to my appointments with the dietician and other places. I went to see the consultant about my diet every six months. Morag and Avril were very keen to get me off the special diet but the consultant regularly told them that biopsies had been done and confirmed that I had celiac which is a lifelong condition. Avril always told me before I saw the consultant that I was to say that I was sticking to the diet. Some of the notes made in my records after they had met with the consultant indicate that they believed it was in my best interests that I got occasional treats. They obviously didn't understand the implications of celiac and went against the consultant's instructions.

*Bed wetting*

26. I was referred to a child psychologist when I was six or seven, apparently because of my behaviour. Avril convinced them I was bed wetting on purpose just to get attention. I know this from my notes. I remember going to see different people but I have no idea

who they were or what I was seeing them for. I remember that I was wetting the bed. When we were living in Auchterhouse, Avril warned me regularly not to wet the bed. I tried to stay awake but I would fall asleep and I wet the bed. If I did wet the bed I would try and hide my pyjamas and the wet sheets in the bottom of the washing basket. I would quite often sleep on a wet mattress without any sheets.

#### *Birthdays/Christmas*

27. Christmas was celebrated and I remember getting a stocking with sweets and a colouring-in book. We had a special Christmas dinner but even on Christmas day I would get punished either by getting hit or put in isolation. I don't remember celebrating my birthday at the Campbells.

#### *Visits/inspections/review of care*

28. I don't remember the social worker Rosalind Tipping but I do remember Morag Auchterlonie. She was a big part of my childhood and I remember she had a cleft palate. I know from the notes that I sometimes stayed at Morag Auchterlonie's house with some of the other Campbell's children when the Campbells went away for a few days. I don't know if Morag was a Mormon but she was a big supporter of Dennis and Avril. Morag, when she was leaving, wrote in the notes that she considered Avril and Dennis to be the 'gold standard' of fostering. When Morag left my new social worker was Joyce Carrie.
29. There were six monthly reviews when I was at the Campbells. I was never present at them. I vaguely remember going to a couple of children's panels but most were conducted without my being there. I don't recall being told about any panels.

#### *Running away*

30. I often thought about running away but I was too frightened. When I was eleven I remember going into a railway yard and jumping on a train. I pressed some buttons and I imagined going across the Tay Bridge. The train engine actually started so I



panicked and got off. Most dinner times when I was about ten and at primary school I would stand at the back of the school because I could see the road which led to my dad's work. I was torn because I wanted to go down there but if I was caught I knew I would be punished.

### **Abuse at foster carers, the Campbells**

31. From the day I arrived at the Campbell's I was subjected to systematic, manipulative and cruel behaviour. This included humiliation, isolation and psychological treatment to try and bring me into line with their regime. I remember the first night that I arrived we were in the living-room and Avril told us to get changed into our pyjamas. I said I didn't want to get changed in front of everyone, because even though I was only six, I was embarrassed. Avril Campbell then made me put a pair of her daughter's pants on. All her children were there and they all, including Avril were pointing at me and were laughing and ridiculing me. I believe this was Avril, in her way, telling me if I wanted to be part of the family then I should do what I was told otherwise this is the sort of treatment I could expect.
32. My routine at the Campbell's house was always different to the other children. Quite often I would not be given my evening meal and I would be put in isolation. By isolation I mean that they would either have me facing a wall in a room or sometimes I would be sent to my own bed room where I had to stand in a corner facing the wall.
33. Avril would serve up food to me at meal-times, unless I was being punished in which case I wouldn't get any food. If I didn't like the food or couldn't eat it, I would get the same plate of food served back to me at the next meal. I would get the same plate for two days. Sometimes the food she made was horrible. Avril stood over me and made me eat it. I would take a couple of bites and often I would be gagging and nearly sick. If I didn't eat it she would make me leave the table and put me back in isolation. She would never make me anything else to eat.

34. I was hungry all the time because we never got enough food. Every day I had to try and figure out how I was going to get something to eat so I could survive that day. I would regularly try and steal food without getting caught. All the food in the house was monitored for example the milk bottle was marked. If I took a slither off a cake or pie she would know. There was an occasion when I was at a friend's house and I was caught eating food from a dog's bowl because I was so hungry. I knew this would get back to the Campbells because everything did. Nothing happened for a couple of days so those two days were torture for me waiting for something to happen. Eventually it happened and I think for that I was made to sleep on the stone floor in the kitchen.
35. Avril obviously hated that I wet the bed. She often got me out my bed and took me into the kitchen where she made me sleep on the stone floor. I didn't have any covers or a pillow and it was cold. Sometimes I had pyjamas and sometimes I was naked. The only time I got relief from that was when she had visitors. Before they arrived I would be allowed into my own comfortable bed until the visitors went away. When they left I would be made to lie on the stone floor again. She said if I was going to wet anywhere it would be better if it was on the floor. For a while I was made to sleep on the floor two or three times a week sometimes more. The only good thing about that was I could rummage for food in the kitchen although I was caught a few times.
36. Dennis was usually out working through the day. When he came home Avril would tell him that I hadn't eaten my tea, or that I had done something wrong and he would give me a hiding. He normally used a trouser belt and he would hit me on my bare backside or on the back of my legs. I wasn't the only one getting belted. I saw the other children getting hit by Dennis with the belt. Dennis would hit me until I cried. The others all cried very quickly and I wouldn't. I learned to pretend to cry because he would keep hitting me until I did. I got hit with the belt just about every day by Dennis. Avril would give me a hiding at least once every day.
37. I wet the bed quite a lot. If Avril found out that I had wet the bed she would sometimes rub my nose on the wet sheets or she would hit me. Often she would slap me across the face with her open hand, other times she punched or kicked me. You were never allowed to defend yourself so you couldn't even put your hands up to protect your face.

I also remember sometimes getting put in a cold bath. She was brutal. There were times when I would try and hide it from her but this meant my pyjamas would smell the next night when I went to put them on. If she realised this I would get another hiding. She would slap me or Dennis would belt me. When Dennis belted me it was often the buckle that hit me so it made me bleed. Dennis sometimes lined us up and gave us the belt one after another. I was usually last for some reason.

38. There was one time when the Campbells had arranged for a babysitter to look after us. It was a girl and she got into my bed to read a bedtime story. She realised that my sheets and pyjamas were wet as I had wet myself. That got back to the Campbells and I was slapped about by Avril and Dennis belted me. I remember I was made to sleep on the stone floor that night.
39. One time Avril put hot water from the kettle into the bath, then put me in. I was screaming and jumping about. She pulled me out and said she forgot to put any cold water in. I wasn't burnt or injured luckily. Avril regularly made me eat soap. The other children would get away with a couple of bites. I was forced to eat the whole bar. It was horrible.
40. Sometimes one of the other children would do something and then Avril would try and find out who did it. I would usually get the blame, and after a while all the other children used to gang up and blame me. They knew it wasn't me but it deflected the punishment away from them and it was all about them developing their own survival techniques. They knew I hadn't done it and didn't care that I got punished. I suppose I can't blame them for doing this. Avril and Dennis always believed them and it didn't matter what I said. Sometimes the other children would say that I had said or done something just to take the focus away from them. Avril would confront me and tell me that one of us was lying and she accused me of saying she was lying. She always manipulated the situation to make me out to be a liar or to at least admit that I was lying. It was all a big game for her.

41. Sometimes she would line the other children up in front of me and ask them if I had said or done something. They would back her and say that I had. She would later get me to apologise to the other children for lying and potentially getting them into trouble.
42. At other times she would pull me into her room and say that one of the other children had said I had done something. I resigned myself to the fact and thought the easiest and quickest way was just to admit to it, even if I hadn't done whatever it was. She would then say that I was lying as she knew who had really done it. That is the sort of wicked mind games she would play.
43. One time the other children went to Avril and told her that I had said I wanted to run about naked outside. I was six or seven at the time. Avril grabbed me and even though it was a cold, dark November night she made me take my clothes off and put me out naked into the back garden. She left me there until she felt I had been there long enough. I am not sure how long I was there for.
44. I remember Avril pulling me aside and asking me if I had done something. I can't remember what I was supposed to have done. I denied it and she told me I was lying and sent me to my room without any dinner. This went on for days and I was stuck in my bedroom and wasn't allowed to come out. I was made to stand against the wall. I was only allowed to go to bed when Avril told me to. The other children sometimes came in and I would ask them to ask Avril if I could come out. They came back and told me that I could only come out if I was going to admit to whatever it was. After a few days my will broke and I admitted it even though it wasn't me. Avril said to me that she was glad I told the truth and then smacked me with her open hand across my face.
45. If I needed the toilet at any time when I was sent to my room as punishment I couldn't just go. I had to wait until someone came into the room and I would ask them to ask Avril if I could go. At bedtime Avril would tell me that I could go to my bed. In the morning I got up and had to stand beside the wall again and not move from the spot. This would go on for days until I eventually gave up and apologised or admitted to something I hadn't done. I didn't get any food when I was sent to my room for days. I was so hungry I would eat some of the dried oats and dried fruit that was being stored

up there. Sometimes at night I would try sneaking downstairs to try and get some food but more often than not I was caught. I was given a serious hiding by Avril when she caught me, and I wouldn't get dinner the next day.

46. There were other times when Avril would come into my room through the night and drag me out of my bed. She would then ask me to explain why I had done something or told me to tell the truth. She would then give me a hiding. I was often slow at getting dressed in the morning. That would be enough to get a hiding from Avril. It even got to the stage that I would sleep in my school clothes. Avril realised when she saw my crushed clothes so I got a hiding for that. The other children did that too but I got the hiding because it was my idea.
47. There was one time where [REDACTED] stole two pounds from Avril's purse. On the way to school he gave me a pound so we went and bought sweets. When we got home Avril had realised the money was missing and she was livid. I denied it but [REDACTED] eventually admitted it. We were both told to go to the bedroom as punishment so we did. After a while [REDACTED] was called down but I was left standing there. [REDACTED] didn't come back. I then smelled the food being cooked downstairs. When I was put to my room for days like this I didn't get any food. All the other children were told systematically to come to the bottom of the ladder and make sure I heard them saying how amazing and nice their food was.
48. One time, when I was six, I got up through the night to go to the toilet. Avril caught me and I told her I was going to the toilet. She didn't believe me. I went to the toilet and I knew she would check after I had been to make sure that I had gone. There was nothing for her to see in the toilet so I must have picked up a bottle of bleach that was in the bathroom, unscrewed it and put it against my lips. I came out the bathroom and Avril saw a red ring round my lips. I was then made to drink lots and lots of water. I don't even know if I drank any bleach. I think I just did it to take Avril's attention away from checking the toilet. Avril made me drink lots of water and put me back to bed. I actually drank so much water she gave me water intoxication.

49. The next morning apparently I was dizzy and incoherent and ended up in hospital. In the report that is in my records it says that Avril was checking up on the children through the night, which she never did, and she noticed the red mark round my mouth so made me drink water. In the official social work notes it says that I wasn't dizzy or incoherent so Avril sent me to bed, but there is another report saying that I was dizzy and incoherent and not able to stand. I was in hospital for a few days and when I got out Avril said that she knew that I was pretending to be unconscious. Dennis said he knew that wasn't the case. In the records there are conflicting versions of events.
50. Avril regularly told me that I was never going to be part of a family, and that I would never see my mum again. She also said that if I said anything to anybody about what went in the house nobody would believe me because I was a liar. She did this almost on a daily basis. Every day I had to avoid her as much as I could and in my head I had to try and think about how I was going to survive that day.
51. Avril one day asked me, when I was about seven, if I wanted to go back to live with my mum. She knew the answer because I always talked about my mum and dad. Avril then packed my case and sent me out the door. I got about four doors away and I thought that I had done it and had managed to escape. Just at that point Avril came running after me and dragged me back into the house. She then gave me such a hiding. This was the sort of psychological games she would play with me.
52. Dennis was more the physical enforcer of punishment. He almost always used the belt. He didn't say anything to psychologically abuse us. Dennis was definitely not the main abuser. Avril was an evil person and I think she wore him down and he just gave in to what she wanted him to do for an easy life. I probably had some bruises and bled as a result of the belting but I never really needed any medical attention. All the other children had similar bruises and were bleeding when he hit them.
53. I was supposed to be on a special diet because I was celiac. Avril never adhered to the diet or made me the food that I should have been eating. She would defy the consultants who told her what I could and couldn't eat. In the social work records it says that she cooked food separately for me. That was definitely not the case. I was

always very small for my age and my regular visits to the celiac clinic reported frequently that I was underweight and there was no weight gain or growth. Avril regularly told the social work department and the doctors that I cheated on my diet and this was the reason why I was not gaining weight, to hide the fact that she wasn't feeding me properly.

54. We moved house to Auchterhouse when I was eight. When we moved there the violence and abuse got a whole lot worse. I was beaten by Avril on a daily basis, sometimes three or four times every day. There weren't many days that Dennis didn't belt me when he came home. Avril still got me up through the night and asked me about something that had happened the previous day. It might even have been because the other children had said to her that I had done something. If she hit me she would either slap me across the face or on my bare backside. She would get in a rage and then ask Dennis what he was going to do about it, and invariably he would punish me.
55. Often at Auchterhouse I would be in my bed, it would be daylight and all the other children would be out playing in the park. I could hear them. If something had happened Avril would tell me 'wait until Dennis gets home'. I would lie awake in my bed for ages, petrified, waiting for him to come home. I recognised the sound his car made when it got to the house and I knew that a couple of minutes after he got into the house he would come upstairs and as usual belt me on my backside. Living at Auchterhouse was a scary existence. The intensity of violence was incredible. The amount of hate shown by Avril was scary. I felt very lonely, isolated and powerless.
56. When we moved to [REDACTED] in Dundee the abuse notched up again. The beatings became more physical and the starvation continued. Because I was getting older and bigger the hits were getting harder. I developed a complete daily survival mode. I got into a routine and accepted the abuse and just went along with it. The psychological games continued. One time Avril sent me through to the bedroom to get a nappy. When I came back I was given a hiding. They had left some money lying in the room and Dennis had been hiding in a cupboard. She said that I didn't steal the money because I had seen Dennis. That was her reason for hitting me. I think we still

got the belt from Dennis in [REDACTED] but it was more getting hit on the face and body with their hands. I saw [REDACTED] Emma and [REDACTED] getting hit by Avril and Dennis.

57. When I went to Rockwell and Park Place primary schools I was fighting quite a lot. When I had been fighting, the school told Avril and she battered me. There was one time when I was living in Auchterhouse a friend and I had the police at the door. We had broken a concrete slab when we were looking for frogs. Avril was furious and when the police left she gave me a serious beating. I didn't get any food at my next meal either.
58. According to my records when I moved from the Campbells to Roineach Mhor they found that I had scabies, ingrown toenails and something else which has been redacted. It also said there were signs of neglect, and my clothes were ripped and falling apart.

#### **Reporting of abuse at the Campbells**

59. I could never trust anyone to tell them about what was going on in the Campbell house. I knew that if I told someone outside the house it would get back to the Campbells and it would be worse for me. One time I had been at church and I had been admiring a man's watch. Apparently I asked him if I could have it and he gave it to me. This got back to the Campbells and they were furious. There were lots of times outside the house when I said things and it got back to them. That's why I had no trust in anyone. Even the other children in the house would always go to them with things that I said. That's why I learned to be involved in their conversations and pretend that I trusted them but never to say anything that would give them ammunition. This probably made me feel even more isolated.
60. Morag Auchterlonie, the social worker, did ask me how I was and how things were going but Avril was always there when she asked. I was never given the opportunity to speak to her on her own. There was no way I could have said anything when Avril was there, in fact even if she hadn't I didn't trust Morag. Avril had always told me before



anyone came to visit what I should say if I was asked. I was told to say that I was happy here and that I loved the Campbells and wanted to stay there.

61. There were neighbours at [REDACTED] called the Farquharsons. They were older and they were lovely. I often went and played in their house. Emma the Campbell's other daughter told me that she had kept in touch with the social worker Rosalind Tipping after we left. Rosalind had told Emma that the neighbours had reported the Campbells, concerned about the way they were treating either just me or all the children. There is nothing in the records about this claim, so I am not sure if it was made direct to Rosalind and she didn't log it or follow it up.
62. It may have been just after I left the Campbells that I completed some sort of questionnaire for the social work department. One of the questions was what I hated most about being in care. I replied with 'a good hiding when I was bad'. There was no follow up to this and no one ever asked me what I meant. This questionnaire is within my records although I don't remember writing it. There were other questions about missing my mum and things like that.

### **Leaving foster care**

63. I was eleven and I was desperate to leave the Campbells. I had asked Avril when we were at Auchterhouse if I could go back to the children's home in Duncan Place. She told me she would phone about it when I was at school. After school I ran home and Avril just told me it wasn't going to happen. I decided when we were at [REDACTED] that I should try again. I knew there was no point in asking the Campbells. I had to time it correctly and ask someone else. I waited until there was a social worker visiting and I told her that I wanted to go back to Duncan Place. I think my social worker at this time was Joyce Carrie. This clearly made my intentions known and shortly after that things moved pretty quickly to get me out of there.
64. I think around the same time there was a chap in the social work department called Mr Ingram, he was an area controller. I think he started to pick up on the fact I was

bedwetting and about my lying and other stuff. I think he was starting to realise that maybe Avril wasn't coping and that also had something to do with me leaving the Campbells.

65. I was asked by Joyce Carrie why I wanted to leave and I just said that I didn't know. This was all the way through when I was with the Campbells that I asked to leave and go back to Duncan Place. This is recorded in my notes that I wanted to leave. The Campbells always told me to say that I loved the Campbells and that I was sorry but that I would go back to the Campbells again. I would say whatever to appease the Campbells. After the Campbells knew I was leaving everything more or less continued as before, but I was at the stage that I didn't care.
66. I recall that when it was confirmed that I was leaving the Campbells I was absolutely delighted. I went to school and in class I put my hand up and told everyone that I was leaving. It was a great feeling.
67. When I knew I was going, my behaviour in the house probably deteriorated and Avril was keen to get rid of me. I believe she phoned the social workers and told them I was out of control.

#### **Roineach Mhor, Strathmartine Road, Dundee**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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**Leaving Roineach Mhor**

96. I went to Ann Street on 1 July 1981. I am not sure if Roineach more was closing or if there was some other reason.

**Ann Street children's home, Dundee**

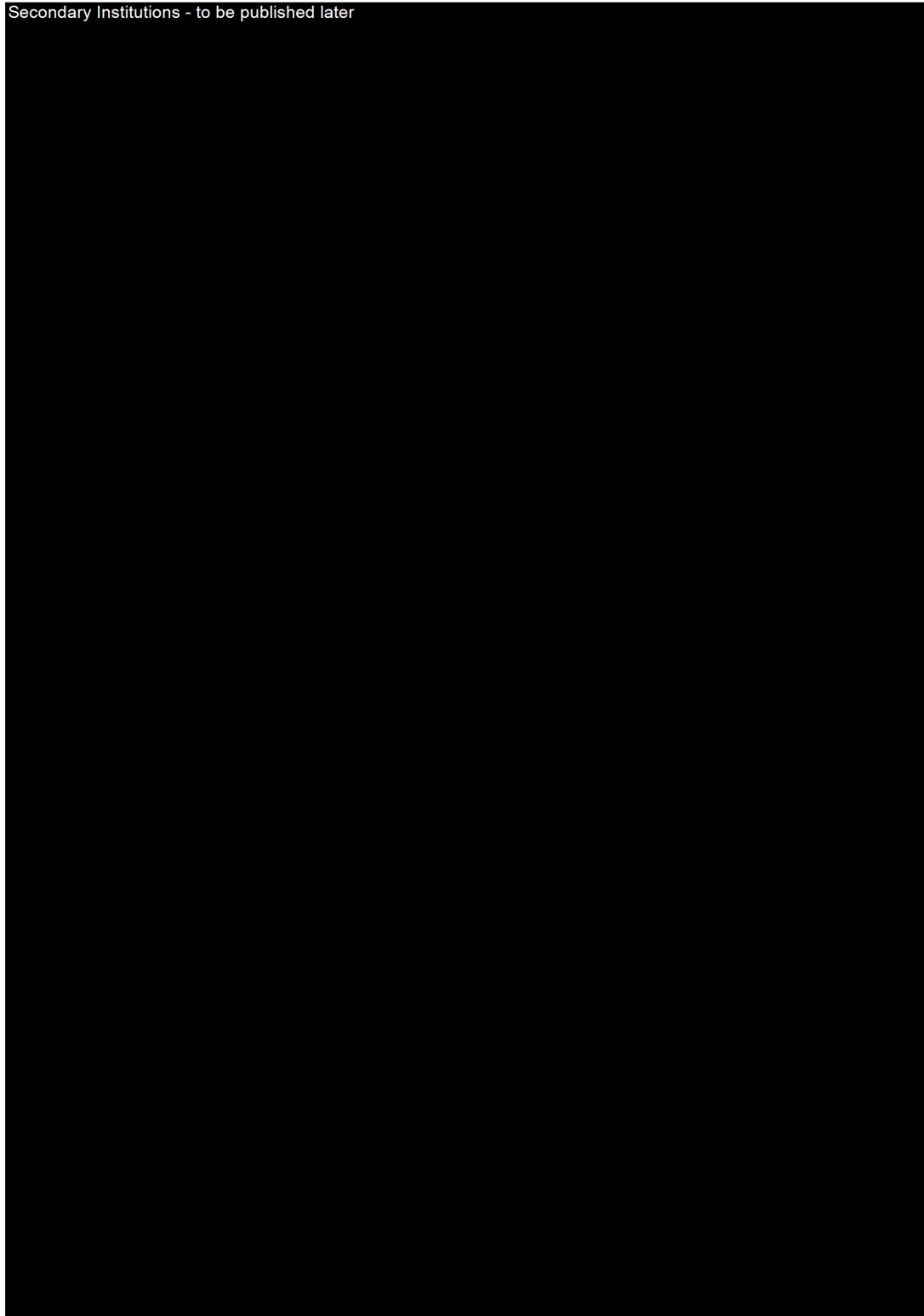
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### **Leaving Ann Street**

111. Probably within a couple of months of arriving in Ann Street I learned that I would soon be leaving to live with my mum and dad. I arrived in 1 July 1981 and left in November 1981. I was more and more getting to see my mum and dad. I was going for weekends and then for holidays. It was a gradual process.

### **Life after being in care**

112. I went home to my mum and dad, and moved to Kirkton High School. It was quite noticeable after I went back to live with them how I started growing and putting on weight. My mum made several comments about my massive appetite. A while after I got home my mum and dad were given full parental rights again and after that I never saw the social worker again. I may have seen the social worker on a couple of occasions in the first few months after I got home. I know that I was noticeably over clingy to my parents. I think this was through fear of losing them again, and because I had no trust in any adults. The first time that they left me alone I set fire to a waste paper bin in the house, but I have no idea why. I also took money from my dad's wallet, without any real reason and I would deny this when I was asked. I think I was almost testing my parent's reaction and to see if they would push me away.

113. About two years after I went home my mother's health deteriorated and took a bad turn. My father spent most of his time looking after her. This meant I was more and more having to look after myself. The happy life at home I was hoping for didn't really materialise. Any contact I had with the social work department stopped when I was about twelve. Because there was no contact they wouldn't have been aware of what was happening. I probably would never have told the social worker anything anyway in case they decided to put me into care again.
114. From the time that my mum took ill when I was thirteen until I was sixteen I basically looked after myself. When I turned sixteen I left home and I went to Hartlepool with a friend. I went to the DHSS and through them I got a room in a hotel. I went back home for a while then back to Hartlepool again then to Cardiff. I was broke almost all the time. I decided to look for something where no-one knew me and I could start afresh. I did this several times. I worked for British Telecomm and I was very successful in my time there.
115. In 2007 I sold my flat in Cardiff and moved back to Dundee to help look after my mum until she passed away. I worked off shore for a while. I have been involved in photography since around 2012 and I now have a successful photography business.

### **Impact**

116. I wasn't treated any differently at school because I was a foster child. The only issue I had was because I had a special diet. The other children were jealous because I got different food. This caused a little bit of friction. My education was affected partly because for a while I was looking after my mum. I left school before I sat any exams. I still can't do maths. My spelling, reading and communication are all good but being able to transfer my education into the workplace failed me. This resulted in a very varied employment history. With one job I had I just didn't turn up on the Monday morning so I was sacked. I have great difficulty retaining information.

117. Throughout my adult life I had large, broken periods of unemployment and couldn't keep jobs as a result of my Disassociation Identity Disorder which I was diagnosed with in 2012 and basic trust issues. I had no understanding of and ability to understand the consequences of my actions or inaction. I had never been taught any of this when I was brought up. I had a great fear of being punished if I did the slightest thing wrong in any aspect of life. This would force me into isolation and would fail to look after myself properly. I have always been fearful of being identified as being different to other people.
118. When I was with the Campbells at Auchterhouse I became friendly with an American boy who stayed not that far away. I was in their house one time and I happened to be left alone in the room where their dogs food bowl was. There was food in the bowl like beans in a tomato sauce. I was starving, as always, and I was in survival mode so I scooped some of the dog's food into my hand and started eating it. That's how desperate I was. An adult came in and caught me. They were really surprised and I remember apologising. I don't recall them asking why I was so hungry. This incident somehow got back to the Campbells and they were not happy.
119. Ever since the incident with the bleach when Avril made me drink loads of water and got water intoxication I have always had, and still have, great difficulty in drinking water. I cannot just drink water as it brings on a gagging reflex. I have to drink juice or milk.
120. There is no doubt that my education was affected by me getting moved from school to school, and also when I was with the Campbells I couldn't concentrate in the class. Some of my school reports say that I didn't do any work and had to stay in class over break-time. I know that my mind was focussed on what was going to happen when I got home and I would day-dream for hours and hours thinking about it. I never took in anything in class at that time because all I was thinking about was the next hiding I was going to get at home.
121. When I was at Park Place primary school, which was when I was at [REDACTED] with the Campbells my behaviour was quite bad. I was attending school regularly.

Apparently I was quite often fighting with girls and just fighting in general. I remember my behaviour wasn't good and I think it was because I was angry all the time. I think the other children were picking on me a bit because of my special diet and because of the way I looked in my tattered clothes.

122. When I got home to my parents after Ann Street my behaviour was still bad and I was still stealing food, lying and wetting the bed. I think I was deliberately doing stuff so that I would get caught and get attention. I even stole money from under my dad's bed. I think it was a massive anti-climax at being home and I just couldn't handle it.
123. I have always had and still have the negative feeling that I don't deserve to be part of a family. I struggle with being accepted into a family and probably just don't see anyone as family because it is something I have never had. I distance myself from them if they try to get close. I have never had a feeling of belonging which has led to suicidal thoughts.
124. I have had suicidal thoughts on many occasions. I think the trigger for these have been the times when I have had no feelings of belonging. I have had these feeling since I was seventeen up to around 2012. Daily I suffer from stress. I just have an inbuilt fear of being vulnerable and going back to periods of uncertainty and financial difficulty. I had a heart stent fitted in 2017 as a result of angina. I have been told by the medical profession that my heart condition is a result of my stress. I have also developed psoriasis which is through the stress. This has been aggravated recently as a result of increased involvement with the police in relation to the Campbells and my contact with the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry.
125. After I left home at sixteen and went down south I would get set up somewhere but then I would move on and abandon any belongs I had. It was like I was trying to find a new beginning where no-one could ask me any questions. This caused me a number of broken relationships too. I would just get up and leave. I didn't even tell anyone where I was going when I moved on. I probably did this until 1993 when I was 23 and I went back to Cardiff. I had a daughter when I was seventeen but I never got to see

her. I only met up with her when she was 27. In 1997 I moved to Bristol and shared a flat with a couple of guys and got a job with Orange.

126. I used to have great problems in relationships with women because I would straight away be very clingy, and told them I loved them straight away, probably because I was desperately looking for love from someone. I was far too keen. I didn't know how to build or keep a relationship. All of a sudden without any warning and with no good reason I would then end the relationship. I had no emotional attachment to the relationship. Some were purely for sexual gratification. I was so overwhelmed that someone wanted me, this seriously affected my ability to perform in a normal manner and often resulted in premature ejaculation in new relationships.
127. I never had a role model in my life in the most important period. During my care with the Campbells and afterwards I had a very isolated existence and always felt lonely. Sometimes I felt like I was the only person in the world. This reinforced the negative beliefs that were instilled in me. This still affects me now.
128. I have always just gone with the crowd and would change my persona to try and fit in with the crowd I was with. I have always wanted to be part of a unit. I would behave in such a manner to fit in with whoever would accept me as a friend. This resulted in my involvement in crime and as such I ended up with a criminal record. I was fighting, and sometimes stole things but I don't really know why. I would steal from work and would always deny this and I would convince myself that I hadn't. Usually I was stealing to get money to buy things for other people so they would be my friends.
129. Over the years I have got myself into considerable debt. I would buy things for people, even though I couldn't afford it. I bought people things because I wanted them to be my friends. Sometimes I thought that was the only way to get and keep friends or to fit in somewhere. I know lots and lots of people but only have a small group of people I would call real friends. This is probably because of my difficulty in forming relationships.

130. Since I left the Campbells I have not continued to follow the Mormon religion. I don't consider it to be a religion. It is more like a cult. I don't follow religion. I think it is all nonsense. I consider the Mormon religion to be like an old man's club just there to take money from people.
131. When I left my mum and dad's when I was sixteen I abandoned my special diet. For the next twenty years I denied my diet and this resulted in me ending up with borderline osteopenia because there were no physical signs for me to see but there was no nourishment getting to my internal organs or my bones. The biggest health impact for me was anxiety and stress which happens on a daily basis. I am forever losing the rag at silly things. Sometimes I take it out on my partner.
132. Throughout my teenage years up to present day I have periods of self imposed isolation. Usually this is through fear of always being on my own, or embarrassment at being found out as having disassociated identity disorder. Before I met my partner this also led to periods of self neglect.
133. I think about my time in care every single day. I regularly have flashbacks and this happens multiple times daily. This could be because of either witnessing or having a confrontation with someone, this takes me back to my time in care.
134. Over the years I have occasionally taken social drugs. I thing this actually helped me, or at least I don't think it did me any harm. What it did was open my mind to their cultures because in the different scenes no one judged me. It was good for me because it put me in situations where I was anonymous which is what I wanted. I didn't take drugs or alcohol to combat sorrow. It was always just to enhance my experience of the world. I feel that I am nearly fifty and haven't yet lived and I still have a lot I want to do and see.



**Treatment / support**

135. From the age of 17 probably up to 25 I have been in and out of psychiatric hospitals and institutions basically because my head has been so messed up. There were times when I wanted to end my life. I felt like I was living in a bubble and I was viewing life from inside this bubble, and the world was looking in on me. I felt I was different to everyone else. I considered ending my life but then I had a vision of the police finding me days later because no one had reported not seeing me. I could smell death and I didn't want to be found like that so it pulled me out of it.
136. In 1999 I met a woman who was a social worker and over the next couple of years I started to tell her a bit about what I had been through. She recommended that I read a book titled 'A child called 'it''. I read this book and it was the first time that I was able to see that it wasn't just me. It was enlightening but on the other hand upset me because I realised that the hate and treatment from the Campbells was focussed and targeted at me.
137. Around 2012 when I was 42 I started seeing a clinical psychologist, Dr Eilidh Castle. She is a trauma specialist. I was referred to her through my GP as I had hit rock bottom in my life. I went through an intense psychotherapy treatment plan with her. I was then passed to a specialist team in Alloway Place, Dundee but I couldn't get on with the psychiatrist there and couldn't take medication. This was because I saw how the medication affected my mum when she was ill so I never took it.
138. I was diagnosed then with Disassociation Identity Disorder, which is caused through childhood trauma. I was told that I would always have it and given advice on how to manage it. It is when you feel like you are in a bubble and I would re-enact a situation which had happened years earlier but I came over as being the brave person or say things that I wanted to say and be the person that I wanted to be. I would end up interacting with myself in the street sometimes. Once I accepted it I found it much easier to manage. I no longer dwell on it.

**Reporting of abuse**

139. In 1997 I read an article about two Mormon police officers who had abused children. This made me contact the police in Dundee. A short while later two police officers came to see me and I gave a statement. I seem to recall that it was a bit garbled the statement I gave and I am not sure it made a lot of sense. I never heard anything back about it. I understand now that the police had interviewed the Campbells in their home and asked some questions. I was told this by Emma who was living with me there at the same time who I met a few years ago. There was no corroboration so the case wasn't taken any further.
140. I often tried to talk to my mum about my time in care but she didn't really want to hear about it. She often encouraged to talk to her about things and be honest but you could see that it affected her so I ended up watering things down for her.
141. Last year, around the time that Dennis Campbell got in touch with me I got in touch with Pat Page from the social work department in Dundee. She makes the polices for the social work department in Angus and Tayside. I met with her and she said she would support me if I wanted to speak to the police. I subsequently met with the police in her office and I gave another statement about the Campbells. Emma, only a few months ago, also gave a statement. The Campbells have apparently both been interviewed under caution and have been charged with several counts of assault on myself and Emma, in three addresses and I heard recently that they have now been charged with two counts of assault on me and wilful neglect. They have appeared on petition and the case is currently with the Crown Office.

**Records**

142. Before my mum died I decided to apply for my records from the social work department in Dundee. I was surprised how easily I got them. A social worker turned up at the house one day with them and handed over a bundle of notes saying that was everything they held. I asked if they were aware that the notes related to abusive foster

parents. They didn't really say anything and they just left saying if I had any questions just to contact their department. The records have only been redacted slightly and I am surprised about how much information is in them.

143. I have gone through some of my records with Pat Page and she has expressed her shock, worry and concern at the number of flags and signs that have been missed and has said that from a reporting point of view there is a lot of information that is missing from these records. She has been very encouraging and supportive.

*Records re foster carers, the Campbells*

144. I am not aware of the Campbells keeping any sort of record or book containing information about me, or any discipline they administered. In my records it says that I was stealing food when I was at the Campbells. It was documented that Avril blamed my non adherence to the celiac diet on me being hungry all the time. This was never questioned.
145. In the records it shows that I changed social workers a couple of times when I was with the Campbells. It is clear from all the entries in the social workers notes that I am at fault because I wet the bed, and that I was a liar, and that I was always up to no good. They say that they had words with me about it, but there is nothing documented to say that they tried to find out why I was wetting the bed, why I was lying or why I was being naughty. I knew that the social workers backed Avril all the time. Avril always said I was worse after I had received a letter from my mum. This wasn't the case. On other occasions she blamed it on my diet or because I was psychologically damaged. After Avril had her other children sometimes she blamed my behaviour on the fact that I was jealous of the attention the new children were getting. This wasn't true, I was delighted to be a brother.
146. According to my records there were six monthly reviews when I was at the Campbells. I was never present nor was aware of these reviews. In the records Morag Auchterlonie, my social worker has given conflicting stories in relation to the incident

where I may have taken some bleach. Her report varies from what she said at one of the case reviews.

147. I have no doubt that the Campbells only fostered me to get money. It states in my records she frequently applied for money for clothing stating that I was outgrowing my clothing. In all the medical reports however they state that I am growing at a very slow rate and not putting on weight. The Campbells asked for money for dancing too, which I hated.

148. My opinion of the records from my time at the Campbells is that reading them they could quite easily have been written by Avril and Dennis Campbell. They are completely the way that the Campbells wanted them to be written, and my voice cannot be heard anywhere in them.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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**Lessons to be learned**

151. There has to be better training of social workers. They should sometimes take a step back and have a more pragmatic look at each case they are dealing with. I think if any social worker were to be shown my notes they would pick up on a number of other questions that should have been asked and identified quite quickly that abuse was going on. The children should be the focus of the social worker and not the foster parent. I also think that each social worker should have better mentoring, perhaps even someone independent, who can examine the notes to look for any signs that might have been missed. They should be specially trained to identify these signs.
152. I also think there should be more people who have been in care themselves to become employed and work with the children. They know the score and know exactly what to look out for. They have personal experience and understand the implications of abuse and the effects it can have. I believe they would be fantastic mentors for the children.
153. I would like to see the people who were responsible for my abuse to be questioned about the abuse I suffered and asked how it was allowed to happen. I want to see people held accountable. Not just the abusers but those in the social work department, and their managers and the local authority that let this happen.

**Other information**

154. The examples of abuse I was subjected to at the hands of the Campbells are only a small example of the types of treatment I suffered. There are many more experiences I could share with the Inquiry. Through my photography business I happened to meet my foster sister Emma about 3 years ago. We had a long chat and she told me a whole lot of stuff about the Campbells. I subsequently met up with Emma, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the other children who lived with the Campbells. I hadn't seen them for nearly thirty years. They told me that they felt guilty that they had made things up and told Avril lies just so that I would get into trouble. We all really opened up during this meeting and we were all amazed when we compared stories at how each of us suffered.

155. Apparently when I left the Campbells, Emma took the brunt of the abuse from them. I have heard that there was one time the Campbells had a visitor from the church. Emma was in the next room and Avril shouted on her to go through but she refused. The lady visitor then ran into the room where Emma was and started punching her in the face. The Campbells only response was to tell the lady that this was the sort of behaviour they had to put up with. On another occasion I heard that Dennis punched Emma full in the face. I didn't see this as I had left but apparently she had a black eye.
156. I have also heard that [REDACTED] the Campbells daughter, had her head smashed against a door by the Campbells and had her nose broken. This happened after I left so I didn't actually see it happen. She has just come through psychological treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of treatment from her parents. She is currently living in America.
157. In late 2017 I received a voicemail from Dennis Campbell the foster carer. In the message he said he had been reflecting on his past and that he had gone round all his children apologising to them all and he wanted to arrange to meet me. I accepted his invitation and he came along to my photographic studio. Emma, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were there. It turned out he wasn't there to apologise, he wanted us to heal him. He defended his wife and himself and dismissed a lot of the stuff I brought up. When he was back at the car with his daughter he said something along the lines that he had apologised to all his children, when were they going to apologise to him.
158. I got to know my dad's two sons from his first marriage when I went home in 1981, and I am still in touch with them. It is a fairly distant contact but I probably have more of a relationship with them than my dad does.
159. 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..... 20/11/19 .....