

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Dennis CAMPBELL

Support person present: No

1. My name is Dennis Hutton Campbell. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1944. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

EXPERIENCES AS A FOSTER CARER

Background

2. As far as being a foster carer I have no official qualifications. In my working life I was an RMN (Registered Mental Nurse), DN (District Nurse) and a RGN (Registered General Nurse). I have worked in Dundee Royal Infirmary, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee along with specialist diseases clinic and left there around 1995. In 1996 I was working as a nurse in the prison system, working in Castle Huntley open prison and worked there for about four years. I worked at Ninewells Hospital for about fifteen years. During that period I worked night shift as that allowed me plenty of time with my family.
3. Working as a nurse was not the best paid job and with a growing family I began working on a part time basis as a taxi driver. I did that for a few months before I found that I was overworking and too tired and had to give it up.
4. I was brought up as a member of the Church of Scotland but when I was nineteen I converted to the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints and have been a member ever since. It is commonly referred to as the Mormon Church but that is a nickname coming from the Book of Mormons.
5. As part of my membership of the church I began working as part of a building mission being completed by the church. The target was to build one hundred chapels in the

United Kingdom. I was sent to Scarborough as a labourer helping to build a chapel there.

6. While I worked there I met my wife Avril and we were married in 1968. We moved back to Scotland to stay in Dundee, where we brought up our family. We had Emma, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. In 1975 I came home to find that our daughter [REDACTED] had died suddenly. For a few months afterwards and during some of the early time Christopher was with us, Avril had her sister staying with us. She was providing some moral support for Avril while she was coping with our loss.
7. On 23 November 1975 I was ordained as a Bishop in the church. Unlike in other religious organisations this role is carried out on a rotational basis. I did this role for five years and then I was released and the role was taken over by another member of the church. To be selected as a Bishop in our church it is based on your commitment and sincerity to the church and the manner in how you live your daily life.

Becoming a Foster Carer

8. Not long after the death of our daughter we were approached by a lady in our congregation, Roslyn Tippin. I think Roslyn was either a social worker or an assistant social worker. She told us that she was aware of a young boy called Christopher, who was in need of a foster home and that he would be a good fit in our home. We thought it would give us a nice balance for the kids and a companion for [REDACTED]. Having been persuaded by Roslyn that fostering was a good idea, we did it because we thought we could help, and not for the financial side of things.
9. I don't know if we completed any paperwork to become foster parents or whether there were any interviews. I am sure they must have carried some sort of checks on us and not just accept the recommendation. We were then introduced to Morag Auchterlonie who was a social worker.
10. Roslyn persuaded us that as Avril and I were both nurses we would be able to look after Christopher. She gave us very brief details that he had had a difficult upbringing.

She told us he had a few problems and that he had suffered a few rejections in the care system. We agreed to take Christopher and we were to receive a small remuneration from the social work. When he arrived with us he was about six years old, similar to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was a year younger and Emma about a year older.

11. When we were no longer working as foster parents we had four more of our own children, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Training

12. Even with bringing up our own children there were never any books that would have covered all that we needed to do. The social work appeared to accept that as we were nurses we would be able to good foster parents. I don't recall any formal training being given by the social work. I am not being critical of that as we never thought we needed any training.

Foster Care Arrangements

13. I don't think we had any conversations about the requirements for the different foster care arrangements, emergency, short term or long term fostering. I think after Christopher left there must have been some sort of talks, as we did mainly short terms and emergency placements. We did have a choice in those placements, not only the length of time but also whether we wanted to accept the placement.
14. I never thought that my arrangement with the social work was a form of employment. We started out to help Christopher and then then continued thereafter to take on other children on short term placements. We never gave it any thought as to what legal basis we were working with the social work.
15. Morag Auchterlonie was the only social worker we had any dealings with. She was Christopher's social worker but obviously we had many conversations with her when she came to the house. We got on really well with her.

Financial Support

16. We did not do it for the money, which unlike today, was not a great amount. If we were getting anything like the money that some people can be paid nowadays then maybe I could have given up my own work and spent much more time on the fostering. As it was I had to continue to work to support our own family and the foster children we looked after. Again this is not meant to be derogatory as I think part of the reason the foster parents are given much more today is that the social work cannot get enough people to do this work. I would have thought by offering a decent salary it may attract more people.
17. I don't remember how much we were actually paid or whether it was paid into our bank account or some other method. Any money we did get just went into the large family pot and used as required. There might have been a clothing grant given to us but again I am not sure. I do seem to recall that the social work may have supplied a set of bunk beds. I did not have any issue with whatever financial support we were given.

Foster Home Household

18. When Christopher arrived at our house there was myself, Avril, Emma, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We must have spoken to our children about taking on fostering but I can't remember when that may have taken place. They would have been too young to have given any objections. I think [REDACTED] was happy he had a brother to play with.
19. When Christopher arrived we were living at [REDACTED] in Dundee. This was a bungalow and we had a converted attic turned into another room. I think it was the boys who slept there and on the ground floor we had two rooms. One for the girls and one for my wife and I.
20. I always wanted a house in the country and that was the main reason we moved to [REDACTED] in Auchterhouse. In this cottage I think there were two rooms up in the attic and again two rooms in the main house. As we found out when we moved there it was difficult to survive without a car. We did not have a lot of money and the

car was old. Eventually it was costing so much to keep it on the road we realised we really needed to get back into the town.

21. After a few years there we sold the cottage to a minister who was retiring and moved to [REDACTED] in Dundee. This was a much bigger house with twelve rooms.

Children Fostered

22. After Christopher left our care we were asked by the social work to take some other children into our care. We had some emergency placements and then we looked after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who were brother and sister, for around six or seven months. When they left we looked after one more young boy on an emergency placement before we decided to stop being foster parents.
23. When it came to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] we wanted to adopt them but were unable to do so as their mother was still alive.
24. When Christopher arrived, from the very first day, he wanted to call us mum and dad. We found that a bit strange as he had his own mum and dad. We accepted that but still checked with Morag Auchterlonie. She told us that was okay for him to do that. The one time we took him for a visit to his own family he reverted back. During the conversations he was calling his own parents mum and dad and he would tell them that myself and Avril, using our names, had taken him out somewhere.
25. When it came to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] they just called us Dennis and Avril.

Placement Preparation

26. The arrangements for Christopher arriving with us had obviously taken some time as we were being recommended as foster parents and had to follow some sort of procedure before being accepted.

27. When it came to any background information about Christopher. I have learned more about his background from the court process than we were ever provided by the social work. From my wife, I am now aware of the different places he had been in, but not the reasons why he left each of them.
28. Some of things we did know was that he was Coeliac and that impacted on making sure he was not given any gluten in his meals. He had appointments with doctors about his illness and with psychologists for his mental well-being.
29. I think the other placements, including [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], were mainly emergency situations. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stayed for several months but most of the others were very much shorter, some days, some weeks. That meant there was little time for the children being taken into care and finding a home for them to stay in. We still had the option of refusing a placement if we wished, but I don't think we ever took that option.

Daily Routine and Sleeping Arrangements

30. The normal morning routine would be same as with our own children. All would be woken to get washed, dressed and have breakfast. After that it was get them ready to go to school. I can't remember the exact sleeping arrangements, as to who used the attic rooms and who had the other room in the main house. I know there was a set of bunkbeds somewhere, but not sure which room we used for it.

Bed wetting

31. Christopher did suffer on occasions from bed wetting. I am not sure the frequency of him having that problem. He was never punished for that as that is the last thing a child needs. They need to know they have done nothing wrong and hopefully grow out of the problem. If you shouted at them or punished them then the problem might persist for much longer.
32. I am sure one of our own children did have a similar problem and they ended up with a bell fitted to the bed to alert them when they had wet the bed.

Work

33. I don't think we tasked any of the children with specific chores. They might be asked to keep their rooms clean and tidy, but nothing more than that.

Washing and Bathing

34. We had a bath in the house and the children, our own and the foster children, were all allowed a bath whenever it was needed. When the children were younger they might have been helped to get washed by Avril, but as they grew older they were able to bath themselves.
35. Any time that Christopher had wet the bed then Avril would make sure he was able to have a bath before going to school. We were conscious that we did not want him sitting in a class room smelling badly. If we did that he might have been bullied by other children and we wanted to avoid that.

Clothes and Shoes

36. Over and above Christopher having his own clothes, we had a lot of clothes from our own children. Some of [REDACTED] clothes may have fitted Christopher. We also received a lot of donations of clothing through the church. Most, if not all were all in good condition. As far as the social work is concerned I am not sure if we got a grant from them for new clothes for Christopher. Avril looked after all the washing and ironing of the clothes.

Mealtimes

37. I worked a lot during the day, but when we could we all ate as a family. Avril cooked and prepared all the meals. I never had any problem with any of the kids not liking what was prepared. Christopher did have meals that would take into account his Coeliac disease.

Leisure Time

38. I think all the kids did normal things like going to the park. There were also a lot of activities within the church which they also took part in. Having meals out was a special treat as with all the kids it was obviously quite expensive. I think they had normal things like comics in the house and there was a garden at each of the houses, where they were free to play.
39. As far as pocket money was concerned it was not something we did. Neither Christopher nor our kids were given any. If we had given it to our kids we would have given the same to Christopher.

Trips and Holidays

40. We did go to Scarborough for holidays. We went as a family and Christopher was with us. During those visits we also visited some of Avril's family. We did go so regular that even our kids might have been fed up with going there all the time. I don't remember any places we might have gone for the day.

Schooling

41. When we moved from one house to another the children, including Christopher, had to change schools. Reflecting back I can see that all those moves may have had an effect on the children. Sometimes as adults we might not have taken those things into consideration when we moved to a bigger house. If there was a lack of stability it was only temporary. All my own children have made a success of their careers and Christopher has also gone on to own his own photography business.
42. When it came to parent's nights then mostly it was Avril who went to the school. I was a bit more lax when it came to those nights.

Healthcare

43. There was one time when Christopher had rubbed some chemical around his mouth. Avril was giving him lots of water to drink as that was the treatment we would have done as nurses. He was taken to Ninewells Hospital when he started feigning unconsciousness. From the staff at the hospital the chemical he was suspected of rubbing into his face was not going to cause anything like the symptoms he was trying to convey. They thought it was something like '**Lennox**' as being the chemical involved, and definitely not bleach. The medical staff were unable to come to a proper diagnosis as to what was wrong with him. A few years later he was speaking with some of our children and he was describing to them all about the needle going in for the blood tests and some other things during the procedures. I am not sure how that could have been the case unless he was not unconscious as he was making out.
44. Christopher also had appointments with his dietician and Morag Auchterlonie took him for most of those visits. During those appointments he was also having his height and weight checked regularly. All those checks showed they were all within normal parameters.
45. When any of the children were with us on a long term basis we would register them with our own GP. There were also similar arrangements made with our dentist, where they had regular check-ups.

Christmas and Birthdays

46. We did celebrate Christmas with our kids and Christopher was included as part of the family. He would also come along with us if there were things taking place at our church. On birthdays all the children were treated special on their day and would be given something for their birthday.

Religion

47. As far as our religion is concerned it is obviously important to me. All our own children were baptised in our church but none of them ever said they did not want to be part of the church. There was discussion with the social work and they felt that if Christopher wanted to, then he could also be baptised in our church and that is what happened. His parents had also been involved in the talks and they were happy with this happening. If Christopher had decided he did not want to be part of the church that would have made absolutely no difference in how we looked after him.
48. Some of our children would go on missions with the church and others decided not to do that. It never proved an issue for us as a family. There must be a freedom of choice.
49. I did have a lot of involvement in the church which took up a lot of time. That combined with my time at work and the short period I was taxi driving, all may have had an impact on the time I had to be involved with the children. Part of our beliefs is that we should spend time with our family. When I was carrying out the role of Bishop it did involve attending more meetings and I can see how it may have impacted on family time. The amount of time I was working, was to bring in money for the family.

Discipline

50. In the house I did regress to school tactics. I also believed in smacking as a punishment for the children. There were times that I also reverted to the use of my trouser belt to punish the children. I would threaten the children that if they continued to do bad things then they would be belted. On one or two occasions that I can think of I belted them on the backside. To this day I regret having used that form of punishment, but in those days those forms of corporal punishment were legal. It does not make it right and as I have said I do regret my actions.
51. We were never given any guidance by the social work as to what discipline may have been allowed and what was not.

Relationship with Foster Children

52. I always thought that I got on well with Christopher and the other children we looked after. The thing started to change when our son [REDACTED] was born. When he arrived he had to be on a monitor. Having lost one daughter, Avril was quite obviously concerned regarding [REDACTED]. She had to pay much more attention to him and less to others in the house. I think that was when Christopher began to feel a bit left out. He was changing a lot and he was becoming difficult to cope with and eventually we had to ask Morag for him to be moved.
53. Even when he went back to stay with his mother she phoned us and was lavishing us with praise for all we had done for her son. A year or two after Christopher left the house he came back to visit us. When he came back he was really happy and he brought flowers and chocolates. For a number of years he was still friends with our son [REDACTED]
54. When it came to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] again we had a very good relationship with them even though it was a much shorter period. [REDACTED] even appeared as a witness on our behalf during our trial.

Contact with Family (other than siblings)

55. I can't recall how many times Christopher was having any visits with his mum and dad, other than the time I met the parents. There must have been contact because the aim was always to have him reunited with his own family. In our first house we did not even have a telephone. I am not sure if he telephoned when we were in the other houses.
56. I am not sure what arrangements were made with the social work to facilitate contact with his mum. I don't think we had any advice from the social work about this type of contact.

Review of Care/placement

57. There were many visits made by Morag Auchterlonie, most when I was at work. When she came to the house she would speak to Avril and with Christopher. I am not sure if she spoke with her on his own.
58. If I was the social worker and was looking to check on the foster parents then I would want to speak to the child on their own. That would give the child the opportunity to tell them if they were having any issues or if they were unhappy.

Records

59. We did not keep any records of any medical issues or any other type of record around punishments. At that time I did not see the need to keep those type of records. We were never given any instructions by the social work that we should be keeping such records.

Moving Placement

60. In the house as Christopher was much older Avril and I were finding he was more difficult to look after. The social work were approached and it was agreed that he move on. When Christopher was leaving us he went to another placement. I found out later that he ran away from the place, something that he never did when he stayed with us. I was also told that when he ran away it was back to his mother's house. I think that was the reason that he ended up going back to her permanently as the social work saw that it may be seen as a success for him and his life if they were reunited.
61. I can't recall the reasons for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] leaving us after the few months. I think when they left us it may have been to go back and live with their mother. I did hear that she later passed away. I am not sure if it was natural causes or as a result of her addictions.

Complaints

62. My experience in our dealings with the social work is one that I cannot find fault with them. Morag Auchterlonie was always just a phone call away. We never had any complaints, but if we did then I am sure our starting point would have been Morag. I don't think we were ever given any instructions about what the formal procedure should have been.
63. As I say I have no issues with the social work department. The only issue I have is how we were dealt with by the police for our recent court case. The officers making enquiries into the allegations made, listened to Christopher and Emma. At no time did they speak with my other children who were staying in the same house. They never spoke with [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] about their experiences. Perhaps if they did a full and proper investigation then that could have been forwarded to the Procurator Fiscal and it would have been seen the number of lies and inconsistencies that they were alleging. Only after a complaint was made to the police about their lack of investigations did they eventually speak with all my children and they were able to contradict many things alleged by Christopher and Emma.
64. I don't think anything we did at the time of the fostering could have been done any different which may have helped protect Avril and I. We lived thinking we had done a good job as foster parents and we were praised by Christopher's mother about how well we done in looking after her son. As I have said Christopher came back to visit us and was happy. I don't think there is anything forty years later that could have protected us.

Convictions

Convictions

65. I have a clean slate with no convictions.

Allegations of Abuse

Awareness of Abuse

66. Throughout our time as foster parents I was not involved in any abuse and I never saw any abuse of any kind taking place.
67. The use of the belt that I have told you about was never excessive. There was never any issue with having caused bleeding or other injury. Although it was allowed in those days I still regret my actions. Nothing else we did was abusive in anyway.
68. I and other members of the family were always having fallouts with Emma. My son [REDACTED] who is a peacemaker in our family suggested that I get together with Emma. We met in a restaurant and I told her that if there was anything that she felt I did wrong as a parent then I was sorry for that. We were both a bit emotional and for a few weeks all was okay with Emma.
69. Following on from that I decided I would phone around the family and speak to them all and tell them the same thing, that if I had done anything wrong in their eyes as a parent, then I was sorry for that. When I spoke with my daughter [REDACTED] she said I don't know what you are talking about and that I had not been wrong in the way I raised her and the rest of the family. That was the sentiment I got from the rest of my children. I did not have to do this but as I had done it with Emma I thought it only fair I speak to the rest.
70. [REDACTED] then suggested I should consider contacting Christopher. [REDACTED] managed to get his number and I phoned it. He did not answer and I got his voicemail. I said I was not sure if he remembered me but gave him the same message I had given to my family. He got back to me and we met up. When we spoke he said to me that he never had an issue with me but that he had problems with Avril. He said that she was a witch for the way he was treated. I am sure having spoken with him that if the roles were different and Avril had met him he would have said that he had a problem with me and not her. He told me about some of the issues he had with Avril, most of which I found

were nonsense. The purpose of the calls were broad based in case they had a problem with me. It was not something I had to do.

Reporting of Abuse

71. If any of the children in our care had any issue or complaint, other than Morag Auchterlonie, I have no idea who the children could have approached. Maybe that is an area that could have been better, having someone the children could be made aware of that they would have the freedom to speak to.

Allegations of Abuse for which there has been no Criminal Conviction

72. At our trial the charges were read out but I can't remember each individual element of the charges. I know that part of the allegations were that Avril was supposed to have thrown Emma downstairs causing an injury to her Coccyx. She never did that as Emma had slipped. I can only recall there were screeds being read out. We were both upset with the lies being alleged.
73. I think the only reason Christopher brought the charges were he was suing the council for compensation and if he managed to get a guilty verdict against either Avril or me then he would get more money from the council.

Reporting to Police/Criminal Proceedings

74. About twenty years ago two female police officers came to the house. They were quite vague about all the allegations, other than Christopher had alleged some abuse by Avril. We were spoken in the house for about an hour but nothing ever came of those allegations. Apart from us denying what he was alleging had happened, there was also no corroboration.

Specific Allegations Against you that have been made to the Inquiry

75. Christopher Scott has given a statement to the Inquiry that includes the following allegations. *'From the day I arrived at the Dennis Campbell and Avril 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'*
That is a load of lies. Time has not affected my thoughts of it being a lie. I believed his total motivation in saying these things was to get compensation from the Council. If a child was being treated as he described then I would deserve to be sent to Castle Huntley and not as a nurse.
76. *'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'*
I was there the first night that Christopher that arrived. That wasn't true and there were other things that he described during the court case that were also untrue.
77. *'My routine at the Dennis Campbell and Avril 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'*
Those are all lies.
78. *'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 ... 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'

Christopher did wet the bed but not all the time. When it came to him wetting the bed Avril was very diligent. As I have said earlier she would make sure he was clean for going to school. The rest of it is just lies. It so absurd some of the things he has said.

79. *'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.'*

If I had belted him or any of the children in the manner he is describing I would deserve to be in Castle Huntley. When I used the belt I can't remember how many times I would have struck them, it was more symbolic. I was wrong for using the belt but it was once possibly twice and never in the manner he makes out. He made mention about there being bleeding. If that was the case the school would have noticed that. He could also have spoken to Morag about it.

80. *'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'*

That is more lies.

81. *'There was one time when Dennis and Avril Campbell 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 Campbell's and I was slapped about by Avril and Dennis belted me. I remember I was made to sleep on the stone floor that night'*

That is more lies. He did have a baby sitter on occasion and there may have been an issue of wetting his bed. That would not have been an issue as Avril would just change the sheets and make sure he was clean.

82. *'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 ... Avril and Dennis always believed them and it didn't matter what I said'*

It is a load of nonsense.

83. *'Dennis was more the physical enforcer of punishment. He almost always used the belt ... 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'*

When the police interviewed the other children they found that there was nothing happening as he was describing. He describes Avril as evil and I can sure you she is the opposite, she is an angel. She loves children. His mind is twisted and his total motivation is money.

84. *'There weren't many days that Dennis didn't belt me when he came home ... She would get in a rage and then ask Dennis what he was going to do about it, and invariably he would punish me ... If something had happened Avril would tell me 'wait until Dennis gets home' ... 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'*

I have heard all this before during the court case and it is all lies.

85. *'When we moved to [REDACTED] in Dundee the abuse notched up again. The beatings became more physical ... 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'*

When we were at [REDACTED] Christopher and my kids were all getting to the teenage stage, they were never even smacked by then. They were only physically punished when they were young. I can't remember the exact age we stopped it. The things he described never happened. Any punishment as teenagers would probably involve grounding and maybe stop them going to their clubs.

86. *'I think we still got the belt 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'*

I never hit any of the kids on the face.

87. *'According to my records when I moved from Dennis Campbell and Avril Campbell's ... 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.'*

It is all lies.

88. Emma says *'My dad would lose his temper. My mum would complain and get irritated she would get my dad to do physical punishments and get the belt out. He can be aggressive ... I remember Chris getting the belt and seeing the red burst blood vessel and thinking he'd got the marks from the belt. The marks were on his bottom. Normally my dad was stronger with the belt and it was probably him who'd belted Chris ... My dad had this rage and aggression and could really deal out the hits ... My parents, but predominately my dad, used the belt on all of us. Chris was in trouble more so he'd get more of the belt'*

That is totally untrue. It sounds evil and as I said earlier if they were true they would be abuse and I would deserve to be in jail.

89. Christopher also makes mention that on his first day we made him remove his clothes and dressed him in girls' underwear, when he was then humiliated by our family. That is utterly false. Taking things into consideration about how perverts would operate surely they would build up a relationship and trust first before they did anything. It is totally unlikely it would be as soon as someone walks in the door.

90. He also made mention that he was made to suckle Avril's breast while I looked on, like some sort of pervert. Again total lies, which he later denied when it came to the court case.
91. A few years ago I remember having a conversation with my daughter in America and her opinion of Emma is that she re-writes history. She is just a compulsive liar.
92. Emma's husband Roy once spoke to me at the church and said he would never forgive me for all the bruising I gave her when Emma was being brought up. Emma was at school every day and never missed any day. She was also a regular attender at the church on many days of the week. How would the black eyes and bleeding noses be missed by the teachers or any of the congregation?

Helping the Inquiry

93. I cannot fault the social work during that time. I also think the police do a good job but those two police officers who listened to Christopher and Emma let themselves down by not speaking to all the people who could speak to our lives together. They need to be better trained in carrying out this sort of investigation.

Other information

94. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed... 

Dated... 23 June 2022