

Witness Name: [REDACTED]  
Statement No: [REDACTED]  
Exhibits: [REDACTED] 1- [REDACTED] 7  
Dated:

## THE INDEPENDENT JERSEY CARE INQUIRY

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Witness Statement of [REDACTED]

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I, [REDACTED] will say as follows:-

1. I was born in Jersey on [REDACTED] 1936. In this statement I will detail my interaction with staff and children at Haut de la Garenne in the 1960s. I have been shown records indicating that this took place between 1963 and 1967.

### My Introduction to Haut de la Garenne

2. I grew up in Jersey, where [REDACTED] I was resident there until I was married in 1965, by which time [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
3. I do not recall the precise date, but I remember meeting a gentleman from Haut de la Garenne in the bar at the Links Hotel. I am almost certain that this Colin Tilbrook.
4. The gentleman who I met at the Links invited me and my wife to meet for dinner with him and his wife at Haut de la Garenne. I remember having dinner in a little flat which was separated from the main home. I cannot recall looking around the whole home at that time, but I can remember seeing a dining room and a hall. Soon after our dinner with the gentleman and his wife, I was invited to Haut de la Garenne to have tea with the children. As I recall, there were a couple of dozen children and the gentleman and his wife in the dining hall. I cannot remember the layout of Haut de la Garenne; all I

can recall is that it was like a school building. I do not recall discussing any arrangements to take the children out on trips on either occasion.

### **Trips with the children**

5. I have previously provided to the police a description as to how I came into contact with Haut de la Garenne, and the trips on which I took children. To assist the Inquiry I attach the relevant extract from my police transcript as my **Exhibit [REDACTED] 1.**
6. I cannot remember the first occasion on which I took children from Haut de la Garenne out, or how this came about. I seem to think the situation may have been that I was already going to the beach and one of the staff suggested that I take some of the children with me, or alternatively it might have been that a member of staff was absent and I was asked to take the children, or join in with a group, in their place. I have been shown a police report which suggests that I took children from the home out on trips between 26 October 1963 (when I would have been 27 years of age) to February 1967. I have no reason to doubt this.
7. I have been asked whether any checks or references were carried out before I was allowed to take the children out. I am not aware of any checks or vetting procedures having been carried out, although it would seem sensible for them to have carried out some kind of check.
8. I have been asked what motivated me to spend my spare time taking children out from Haut de la Garenne. To be honest, I just seemed to get drawn into it. I enjoyed spending time with the children and I thought it was good for them to spend time with people from outside of the home.
9. It soon became a regular occurrence for me to take children out from Haut de la Garenne. I can only recall taking children out on Saturdays, but I suppose it is possible that I could have taken them out during the week if they were on holiday
10. The arrangement worked as follows: I would arrive at Haut de la Garenne in my car, shortly after lunch on a Saturday. I do not specifically recall making

contact in advance, but I suppose there may have been a telephone call during the week to agree a date and time. Equally it may be that we agreed the arrangements for the following week when I dropped the children off each time.

11. When I arrived, I would see a member of staff – usually Mr Tilbrook. They would inform me which children I would be taking out. Normally the children would be ready for me. I would meet the children in the hall or outside the dining room. I do remember one occasion when Mr Tilbrook had a great gang of children outside. He pointed to the children who would be going with me and said 'you, you, you and you'. I have been shown an extract of the witness statement of witness 195, which suggests that I would speak to the children outside on the sports field. A copy of this extract is attached as my **Exhibit [REDACTED] 2**. I have no recollection of this, but that is not to say it did not happen.
12. I would usually take three or four children out at a time, at the most five or six. I remember I always used to have a car load. I cannot remember the names of the children I took out. I do not recall regularly taking the same children out each time. As far as I can remember, the children would be different each time. I do not recall staff from Haut de la Garenne joining the children on their trips with me, but I think they may have done on occasion. I do not recall telling the staff where we were going, it was normally a case of the children getting in the car (sometimes it was a bit of a squeeze to fit them all in) and me asking them where they wanted to go. I would typically take the children out for two or three hours, either to the beach or to the cinema by car.
13. If we were going to the beach, I would take the children and when we got there the children would undress, swim in the sea, play ball and have an ice cream. We would be on the beach for the afternoon, possibly until the children got hungry or for as long as the weather allowed. I have been asked if I ever helped the children to undress themselves, when they would go for a swim. I didn't and there was no need to as they could undress themselves. I was not taking out toddlers – these were older children.

14. If we went to the cinema, it would be the Odeon Cinema in St Helier. I would pay for my ticket, but the owner would let the children in for free. With the exception of [REDACTED], I do not remember going anywhere else other than either the beach or the cinema. I remember that I would sometimes take [REDACTED] shopping with me. [REDACTED] was eventually boarded out with my wife and I for a short period. I will describe this arrangement in more detail below.
15. After our trip we would go for some food at a nearby café or, once I was married, my wife would sometimes cook for the children at our house. She never joined us on the outings – I am not sure why. After tea I would drive the children back to Haut de la Garenne and drop them off there, before their bedtime.
16. I have been shown a police document dated 1 February 2010, a copy of which I attach as my **Exhibit [REDACTED] 3**. The document states that I used to collect the children at around 2pm and have them home by 8pm. That accords with my recollection. I did have an apartment for a short while, before I moved in with my wife, but, contrary to one suggestion on the first page of the document, I do not ever recall taking a child to it.
17. I would take both boys and girls out. I have been shown a police document, attached as my **Exhibit [REDACTED] 4** which suggests that I took individual children out by themselves. I do not recall doing that, I only recall taking groups of children out. This document also suggests that children came on whole-weekend visits. I do not recall this happening. The suggestion that I took individual children out on their own was put to me when I was interviewed by the police, and I stated at the time that I had no recollection of doing so. The relevant section of the transcript can be found attached as my **Exhibit [REDACTED] 5**.
18. I do not recall giving any feedback to staff at the home, or otherwise discussing with the staff how the children had behaved, or what we had been doing. I do not recall the children having any behavioural issues. Overall I thought they were very well behaved, considering they were in a children's

home. I am not aware of anyone else taking children out. However I would have no reason to know if they did.

19. I married in 1965 and I remember that some of the children from Haut de la Garenne turned up at my wedding. A year or so later my daughter was born.

**Boarding out of [REDACTED]**

20. In 1965, after my wedding, [REDACTED] who was one of the children at Haut de la Garenne, came to board with my wife and I. I have been shown a letter from Patricia Thornton, dated 14 September 1965, which refers to a child being boarded out to us on 13 September 1965. This was [REDACTED]. I attach a copy of this letter as my **Exhibit [REDACTED] 6**.

21. It was a fairly informal arrangement as I recall. I remember there was a woman in charge of children who may have had something to do with the arrangement - this may well have been Patricia Thornton, but I am not sure. The staff at Haut de la Garenne may also have had some involvement, but I do not recall the details of their involvement or any processes which we had to go through.

22. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED], his brother was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] did not stay with us, and I believe this may be because he had already got himself a job by the time they left school. As I recall, their mother refused to let them stay with her until they could pay their own way. After one or two months staying with us, I found [REDACTED] a job at [REDACTED] whereupon he moved in with his mother. [REDACTED] got on well with my wife, but he would have had to move out when my daughter arrived in any event.

23. I have been shown a document dated 7 July 1965, which, although redacted, I believe refers to the arrangements in place regarding [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I attach a copy of this document as my **Exhibit [REDACTED] 7**. This document seems to indicate I thought it would be too much for my wife to cope with if both boys were to board with us. I expect that is the truth. The document also indicates that I met with another individual (perhaps the mother of the boys)

to discuss the arrangements and it notes that this person was in full agreement with the plan.

24. I have no recollection of any checks or vetting being carried out before [REDACTED] was allowed to move in with us. Of course, I knew [REDACTED] to some extent by this point because he was one of the children who came out with me on Saturday trips.
25. I have been asked whether I was made aware of [REDACTED] background, either when I took him out at Haut de la Garenne or subsequently when he boarded with us. I was never made aware of the background of either [REDACTED] or any of the other children for that matter.
26. I do not have any clear recollection as to what we did with [REDACTED] during his time boarding with us. I certainly cannot recall any meetings or contact with Haut de la Garenne or Children's Services during this time.

**The birth of my daughter, and death of my wife.**

27. In around 1968, not long after the birth of our daughter, my wife died from cancer, having become very ill very quickly. My involvement with Haut de la Garenne stopped very suddenly when my wife became ill as I had both her and our baby daughter to look after. This was certainly a very difficult time in my life.
28. I am willing to provide oral evidence to this Inquiry if requested to do so.

Statement of Truth

I believe [REDACTED] to be true.

Signed .. [REDACTED] .....

Dated .. 27 July 15 .....