

To: Mr. D. Gunn.

WILLIAM HEPBURN.

This gentleman has never been a client of the Forres Office. In fact I was not aware that he was a brother of Phyllis, Sheila, Maureen, Mary, Robert and James Hepburn until he walked into our office on 25/9/75 accompanied by a client of Mrs. Salt, Evelyn Michie, Altyre Estate, Mr. Forres.

- 25.9.75. Office Visit. Wanted advice on whether or not to marry [redacted] and to discuss his siblings. I told him latest news of Robert and James, Maureen and Mary. With regard to his own problem I contacted Mr. Kennedy, Senior S/W. Banff who had William Hepburn under Probation, and he spoke to him direct and advised William to get off back to Aberdeen and make no commitment to wed anyone far less an inadequate person like [redacted].
- 30/10/75 Received a letter from Mr. Hepburn asking that all Hepburn children should meet his Granny at 79 High Street, Rothes at a date suitable to them all. Contacted Nairn Office and obtained address of yet another Hepburn (Mrs. Ann Buchnar).
- 3.11.75 Finalised all arrangements for family re-union: 1. Mr. & Mrs. Buchnar (Ann), 2. Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Smith (Phyllis), 3. Mary and Maureen Hepburn (maureen is fostered with Mrs. Mackay, Wester Milton of Moyness) but Mary is now lodging there, Robert & Jas. Hepburn (fostered with Mr. & Mrs. Munro, Sanquhar Mains Cottages). Foster parents NOT keen but reluctantly agreed. Date fixed for 14/11/75. Robert in Boy's Army Service now in Aberdeen.
- 7.11.75 Granny in Rothes cancelled meeting - all family notified.
- 12.12.75 Office Visit. William Hepburn. He has apparently been back in Cornhill for period of treatment. Much aggression about S/W. Dept's NON action, but I tried to explain that if his family is not interested in meeting William I am not prepared to upset the Foster Parents, Neither James nor Maureen are even aware of William's existence.
- 2.2.76 Office Visit.  
William Hepburn now living at Lodging House, 33 East North Street, Aberdeen - S/W Ronnie Wilson.  
William has weekended with Ann Buchnar in Ardersier and caused much trouble on his own admission - said he left Ann feeling [redacted]. I telephoned Nairn Office who will visit.
- 17.6.76 Te. call from William Hepburn asking for news of family - sent letter to 9 Craig Place and gave him his father's address.  
I saw father on 8/6/76 on occasion of James's running away from Foster Home. He was not interested in William - said he did not wish to have any dealings with him - had done all he intends to do for him.
- 24.6.76 Letter explaining difficulties sent to William Hepburn.

Summation.

As Social Worker to Robert, James, Maureen and Mary, I feel that particularly in the case of James and Maureen it would be detrimental to their present development for our Dept. to introduce William to them. James is particularly vulnerable having run away from his Foster Home for the Sixth time, and is at present staying in Clydeville Buckie. We have high hopes of introducing James gradually to a new set of Foster Parents and this is under way at the moment, and I would not wish to bring in any distructive element until he is settled again.

24.6.76

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Mrs. Mackay (Maureen's foster mother) is NOT at all keen that we should give her address to William Hepburn, and would not welcome any visits either.

Phyllis & Raymond Smith have informed me that they will also NOT welcome/

WILLIAM HEPBURN (contd):

welcome William in their home. Phyllis is expecting her first baby and does not welcome upset.

Although Mary Hepburn and Robert are in full time employment they have not shown any desire to meet their brother either.

I feel it is inappropriate that our Dept. should be called upon to arrange any Meetings at the present though I do appreciate Mr. William Hepburn's feelings about seeing them all.

Mrs. E.M. Cluley,  
Social Worker.

18th August, 197

Mr. & Mrs. R. Smith,  
61 Grant Street,  
Burghead.

Dear Phyllis and Raymond,

I have called on you twice in the past week to tell you the news about James.

Mr. and Mrs. Munro reached a decision on Friday of last week that they would welcome him back. On Monday I duly took him back to Marcassie Cottage, Rafford. I know it will not be easy for either James or Mrs. Munro to forget the happenings of this summer but I get the feeling that James is more prepared to adapt himself to his original foster home having moved about so much and having seen how other children cope. We can but hope that he will settle down again.

He tells me he left a blazer and sponge bag with you and perhaps I could collect them from you sometime when convenient.

I hope you both enjoyed the wedding last weekend and that Phyllis is keeping well.

With lots of love.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. E.M. Cluley  
Social Worker

Our Ref. IS/JM

5th August, 1969

Mrs. D. Tait,  
272 South Lesmurdie,  
Elgin.

Dear Mrs. Tait,

After you left the office yesterday I re-checked the payments made to you in respect of maintenance for Robert and James Hepburn and according to our records full payment has been made. I attach a note of these payments and also a calculation of the amount due for the period and if you disagree with this please do not hesitate to contact this office again.

Yours sincerely,

Children's Officer.

HEPBURN CHILDREN

Boarded with Mrs. Tait from 8.11.68  
to 24. 7.69

37 weeks at 50s. = £92.10.-d.

Payments made

15th November	£ 5. - . - .
22nd November	7.10. - .
13th December	10. - . - .
10th January	10. - . - .
7th February	10. - . - .
7th March	10. - . - .
4th April	10. - . - .
2nd May	10. - . - .
30th May	10. - . - .
27th June	10. - . - .

Total paid per child = £92.10. -d.

Claim 3  
C.P.

Our Ref. DLS/JM

Your Ref. 810/W/3/WGG

19th May, 1969

F. B. Henry, Esq.,  
H.M. Inspector of Taxes,  
Virginia Buildings,  
High Street,  
Buckie,  
Banffshire.  
AB5 1AN.

Dear Sir,

Mr. W.G. Hepburn, New Croft, Aberchirder, Huntly.

Mr. Hepburn has asked me to reply to your letter of 14th May, addressed to me in connection with the claim made by his wife, separated from him since 20th July 1968, that for tax purposes she be permitted to claim a part of the children's allowance in view of her claim that she is contributing £2.-.-d. per week towards their maintenance.

Mr. and Mrs. Hepburn's children, Phyllis, Mary, Sheila, Maureen, Robert, and James were received into care by this Department on 22nd. July, 1968 in terms of Section 1 of the Children Act, 1948. Since that date Mrs. Hepburn has contributed the sum of £6.-.-d. towards the children's maintenance in contributions of £2.-.-d. received on 9th September, 16th October and 26th November, 1968. During the same period Mr. Hepburn has contributed the sum of £355.7.8d.

As we have had considerable difficulty in maintaining contact with Mrs. Hepburn I should be glad if you would advise me as to her present whereabouts and also if she is in employment.

I should be glad to learn the result of Mrs. Hepburn's application to you and would add that her husband is not prepared to relinquish any part of his entitlement in respect of the children for income tax purposes.

Yours faithfully,

Children's Officer.

24.7.69  
(Contd.) going on holiday and as she has already indicated that she is finding it too much to care for the boys now that she has had an addition to her family. I.C.S.

24.7.70 Since going to Mrs. Munro's, neither of the boys has presented any problems. They have settled well both in the home and at school. Their father does not visit them as often as he does the girls and the younger boy was a bit upset after his father's last visit. Mr. Hepburn was informed of this and agreed to see them more often. Their sister, Phyllis, visited and took them out twice while she was up on holiday.

Should remain where they are until they can be returned home. I.C.S.

15.9.70 I called in to see Mrs. Munro today at her new home. The family are quite pleased with the new move although the children now need to take school meals and an additional allowance has been made to cover this. Mrs. Munro indicates that the boys are causing no problem. J.D.

16.12.70/  
10.2.71 Social worker on sick leave.

22.2.71 I called in to see Robert and James today. Both were busy doing their homework when their sister, Phyllis, and I arrived on our way home from the other sister Mary. The boys said little to Phyllis though they often see her and this may be part of the reason. Mr. and Mrs. Munro look after the boys very well and there are no difficulties here. J.D.

29.6.71 Mr. Hepburn called in today and informed me that he was a little bit concerned about the care Robert and James were receiving from Mr. and Mrs. Munro at Sanquhar Mains. The man is not particularly intelligent and was not able to give me any real ideas to the nature of his concern but it does seem that it was a general lack of care that the boys were receiving. He talked about their finger nails being long and their being a bit frightened to tell their father anything less Mr. and Mrs. Munro reprimand them. I discussed this at length with Mr. Hepburn and agreed to call in to see Mrs. Munro in the not too distant future. J.D.

1.7.71 I called on Mrs. Munro this afternoon but unfortunately the boys were not at home. Mrs. Munro feels that the boys are getting on well with her although I rather feel this is a situation which may well be as described by Mr. Hepburn. I feel that some discussion with the boys should be held fairly soon to try to sort out the difficulties. J.D.

#### TRANSFER SUMMARY

Robert and James are presently in the care of Mr. and Mrs. Munro, Sanquhar Mains, Nr. Forres, and Mr. Hepburn, the boys' father, feels that they are not receiving adequate care and attention. I have certainly not found this on my visits to the home but clearly this is something which will require looking into urgently.. J.I

26.7.71 I today visiting Robert and James at the home of Mrs. Munro. They gave every indication of being quite happy and settled and at the time of visit were engaged in some rather boisterous game out/

26.7.71 out at the back of the house. I could ascertain no evidence of Mr. Hepburn's allegations that the children are not receiving adequate care and attention. I did manage to get to see the children alone for a few minutes but they immediately became shy and withdrawn. Obviously I must work at building up a relationship with these children in order that they would feel free to come to me if they have any complaints about their treatment. With a view to this, I propose to arrange a meeting between the boys and their sister Mary. This would enable me to build up a relationship with the boys and also be beneficial to Mary herself. K.C.

September 1971 These two boys appear to be getting on reasonably well. Robert commenced attendance at the Academy this term and is in the highest class which does not take French. James is also making satisfactory progress at school. He keeps fairly good health but is very small in stature for his age.

There is still no evidence of any reason to believe that these children are receiving anything but adequate care. Mr. Hepburn himself appears to have had a change of heart about his previous allegations. I have discussed this with him at length and it would appear that he did not fear that the children were being ill-treated in any way but was concerned about the firm control that Mrs. Munro kept over them. This is a total contrast to Mr. Hepburn's own free and easy way with his children, however, Mr. Hepburn now accepts that these two boys were very unruly in the past and Mrs. Munro's firmness with them has proved beneficial. K.C.

December 1971 These two boys continue to stay with Mrs. Munro and their circumstances remain unchanged. When seen recently they had just returned from the dentist where they had been receiving treatment. They were both full of life, however, and looking forward to Christmas. Mrs. Munro reports that Mr. Hepburn and the boys' sister, Phyllis, keep reasonably good contact with James and Robert and occasionally called to take them out for the day during holiday periods. K.C.

April 72 Boys remain well and settled with Mrs. Munro. No further concern from Mr. Hepburn who visits family regularly. Mrs. Munro has got used to some difficulties presented by the boys' behaviour following their father's visits, but is able to accept and cope with this. K.C.

August 72 Circumstances remain unchanged. The boys keep well and happy. Robert has been helping local farmer in return for a little extra pocket money. These are two well-mannered but rather shy boys, neither of whom seems to have the same spirit which has been endowed in their sisters. One senses that they resent being in care and take it out of Mrs. Munro after being disturbed by visits from father or Phyllis. K.C.

October 72 Some problems arisen of late with these two boys, tended to become rather insolent and wayward in their attitude towards Mrs. Munro. Staying out late and not returning home from school on time. I have discussed this with the boys who cannot give any reason for their behaviour, other than they feel restricted in the foster home. Mrs. Munro accepts that she keeps firm control over the boys and imposes rigid rules with regard to bedtimes etc. Says that she was advised that this would be necessary when the children were placed with her. K.C.

May 73 The boys have not had much contact with their family recently and have become a little restless. Father seems to be very busy and does not visit them much now. In view of this I took the boys out on the 23rd of this month. We visited their sisters at Wester Milton of Moyness. Mrs. McKay made us all welcome and the boys thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon out. K.C.

July 73/..

- July 73 The boys more settled now. Received a visit from father the day after I had taken them out. Looking forward to a short holiday with Mrs. Munro's daughter later this month.
- K.C.
- Nov. 73 The boys have been up to their old tricks again. Recently James failed to come home from school. Police search transpired. James was found in the home of a school friend. He was most unconcerned about the trouble he had caused. Could offer no explanation. Short time later Robert began to indulge in similar activities. Both boys seem to revel in the attention they receive, particularly when Police are involved. They seem intent upon causing sufficient difficulties to force their removal from the home. What they are not aware of is the fact that Mrs. Munro has been giving consideration to asking that they be removed.
- K.C.
- Dec. 73 Some discussion with James Headmaster reveals that he is perfectly well behaved in school. Has few friends, but is close to one or two boys. There is some feeling that perhaps Mrs. Munro is too rigid and whilst there was perhaps initially cause to effect firm control over the boys, this should be relaxed a little now. There is no suggestion whatsoever that these boys are being ill treated in any way.
- K.C.
- Feb. 74 Things are beginning to ease a little with the boys now. There has been some continued acting out and attention seeking behaviour, but of late this has not been caused by contact with their father (now living at Wester Rarichie, Nigg, Tain). On the contrary, it seems that the boys know that their father is visiting Elgin occasionally and resent the fact that he does not call to see them. Discreet attempts to effect changes in Mrs. Munro's attitude towards discipline and freedom with the boys has had little effect. She prefers to cling to the advice from earlier social workers with regard to the control that these boys require. Because of this I have had to be fairly directive lately and let it be known that the boys join the Community Centre, go swimming, friends etc.
- K.C.
- May 1974 Reports are now more favourable. The boys seem to be enjoying the more relaxed atmosphere and degree of freedom which they have been allowed. A lot of their misperceptions have been cleared up. They are no longer under the impression that Mrs. Munro is making a profit out of them, nor are they in any doubt about the value of homework, something which Mrs. Munro pursues diligently and which the boys have seen as a punishment and imposition.
- K.C.