

## **SUPPORT STATEMENT**

### **SECTION A — SURVIVOR DETAILS**

**Survivor Name:** Edward Michael Burnett

**Date of Birth:** 20/01/1986

### **SECTION B — Supporting Person Details**

**Name:** Simeon N Ewing

**Relationship to Survivor:** Friend

**Length of Relationship:** 15 months

#### **Purpose of This Statement**

I am providing this statement in support of the above survivors Redress Scotland application. I know them personally and wish to offer information about their experiences they have shared with me, and the impact this has had on their life.

#### **What the Survivor shared with me**

I have had a number of conversations with Eddie during our weekly meetings, where he has spoken about the extremely difficult circumstances he faced early in life and the lasting impact these experiences have had on him.

Eddie has shared with me that he was put into care at a young age along with his younger brother. This seems to have created a deep sense of insecurity from very early on, as well as a heavy sense of responsibility for looking after his brother, who also had additional needs.

Eddie has spoken much of his childhood, in foster care in Ardgay, and how the couple he was placed with, made it obvious at a young age, that he and his brother were not really their children. He has described feeling “other”, and not feeling loved, valued or accepted.

He has also spoken about a tense atmosphere in the home, and harsh punishment for small mistakes, which left him with ongoing feelings of fear and anxiety.

Eddie has also shared that he and his brother were not always properly cared for, and that some of their most basic emotional and safeguarding needs were not met. He has described feeling that their foster parents were more concerned with money than with his and his brother’s wellbeing.

### **Impact on the Survivor I have observed**

Eddie's experiences in care seem to have left him with deep-rooted insecurity, and which has carried into adult life, and I think has played a big part in the difficulties he has faced since then.

Something I can say, that has been really encouraging to see, is the effort Eddie has made to turn his life around and move forward from the difficulties of his past. He has found good support and friendship through his local church - Inverness Baptist Church, where I work, where he is valued, cared for and appreciated. I have personally found Eddie to be extremely genuine, caring, and good company.

However, I believe that does not mean he is no longer affected by the things he experienced in childhood. He still struggles deeply with insecurity, and his self-belief is often very low. Eddie has a lot to offer, but these mental health struggles can make it very difficult for him to take practical steps forward, even when he really wants to.

He wants to work and build a better life, but a lack of confidence and fear often hold him back. Fear of failure and abandonment are still present, and I think it can be difficult for him to know who he can trust, or whether people will abandon, reject or punish him if things do not go well. The medication he takes to help with anxiety and depression can also have side effects, which at times make it harder for him to move forward and reach his full potential.

### **Closing Statement**

I offer this statement to support the survivor's application. Everything I have written reflects what they shared with me and what I have personally observed during the time I have known them.

**Name:** Mr. Simeon N Ewing

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026