**Statement of:**

**Name: Louise Beattie**

**Born: 12/o2/1950**

**Address: 123 Main Street**

**Airdrie**

**ML6 6UK**

**Phone Number: 07377229880**

**Statement Taken By:**

**Name: David McNeil**

**Rank: Detective Constable**

**Department: Criminal Investigations Division**

**Area: North Lanarkshire**

**Police Force: Police Scotland**

**Statement Taken on: 02/03/2023**

**At: Airdrie Police Office**

**Others Present:**

**Name: Julie Jamieson**

**Rank: Detective Constable**

**Department: Criminal Investigations Division**

**Area: North Lanarkshire**

**Police Force: Police Scotland**

My name is Liz Beattie and I am 73 years old. I live at 123 Main street, Airdrie by myself. My husband John Beattie died 12 years ago. I have one daughter, Emma Beattie, she is 45 years old and lives in Airdrie too.

About a year ago I started using a dating website. I signed up on my Apple iPhone 11. It was the first time I’d done it, my daughter persuaded me to join and she helped me sign up and put photos on it. I used my email address [lizbeattie@icloud.com](mailto:lizbeattie@icloud.com). My login code to access the device is 200033.

It was basically aimed at people over 60 and seemed friendly and fun. It took me a while to get chatting but after a few weeks a got into a conversation with man called Nigel Clark. I could see that his profile picture was the only picture he posted. His age said 70 and he struck me straight away as he listed hobbies similar to mine. I was striking looking with grey hair, clean shaven wearing a smart blue polo shirt. It looked like he was standing on a seafront. I could only see from the shoulders up. He later sent me more photos of him on WhatsApp. It was clearly the same person. He was tall and slim and was always himself in the photos. He said he lived in a flat in Kensington.

He was the first man who I felt comfortable chatting to. Very quickly we were chatting online daily. We liked the same things and shared the same sense of humour. After about 2 months he asked for my phone number and we started chatting on WhatsApp. I sent him photos of myself and he was always full of compliments about my looks. We basically just talked about everyday life and it felt nice. He was very caring and always seemed concerned about how I was doing. Not long after using WhatsApp messages we began speaking on the phone, he was a great listener. I used to tell him about my daughter and her family and how they were getting an extension built on their house and how I loved being a Grandparent. I told him about my family holidays with my daughter and how I’d love for him to join us in future.

He had an English accent, I’d say a south east twang but he was pretty well spoken. He always said he was really busy running his business which was something to do with IT or electronics I think, I never really understood what it was. He said it meant he travelled a lot, often abroad. This meant it was very difficult for us to meet. He used to ask lots about my family, my house and the area I lived it. I remember he even asked for photographs of the house as he would love to see where I lived. I sent him pictures of the house and garden and he said he’d love to be there one day.

Around March 2022 his tone seemed to change. He explained that he was under a lot of pressure with his business. He also mentioned for the first time that he had a daughter who lives in France and that she was very unwell. He was struggling financially with his business and with the costs of travelling to support his daughter. He explained he was hoping for a new contract to be signed that would ease things for him. He said the contract would be signed in August but he didn’t know if he could keep the business going until then.

I remember it was early April when he messaged me and asked if he could borrow money and would pay me back in August when his big contract came through. I really wanted to help him, it was breaking my heart thinking of how he would manage to visit his daughter while keeping a business going. I told him to leave it with me while I tried to work it out. He phoned me to give me his bank details and then he messaged me later that night to ask if I could help. He told me the contract would pay him £100,000 so paying back a loan would be no problem. He sent me bank details and I used my Santander savings account to move £15,000 to him on April 5th 2022. He’d told me the online banking might ask why I was moving so much money, he suggested saying it was to pay for my daughter’s extension. He text me that night to say the funds hand arrived and to thank me. He said that by August things would be better and he’d finally travel to Scotland to visit me.

I then didn’t hear from him for 2 weeks, I could see he was reading my messages but not responding. He wasn’t answering his phone either. Then suddenly, on April 25th I got a WhatsApp message from Nigel. He said his daughter was terminally ill and he’d been in France. He explained that he’d taken time off work and as a result, the deal he’d been hoping to sign in August had been delayed until December. I phoned him but he didn’t answer. He messaged back asking for another £15,000. I moved the money that day to the same account details he gave me previously. I then heard nothing back and couldn’t contact him. I was so worried and upset. I had told my daughter about Nigel but not about the money. I decided to tell her and could not believe her reaction. She was furious and explained that she thinks Nigel or someone calling themselves Nigel has been conning me for money. When I started to think about it it all made sense. My daughter contacted police and brought me to the station today to give a statement. I have contacted the dating website but have not heard anything back. My daughter has downloaded my WhatsApp chat with him for the last year.

I can confirm that this is a true and accurate statement of events.

Statement Signed: Liz Beattie

Date: 02/03/2023

**Chat Log Excepts**

2022-10-05T10:00:00, Nigel: Hi Liz, hoping it’ll be easier to chat on here

2022-10-05T10:02:15, Liz: You know me, I’m not great with phones, I’ll try my best though!

2022-10-05T10:05:00, Nigel: I like your photo on here, very nice!

2022-10-05T10:07:30, Liz: Aw thank you, yours is nice too

2022-10-05T10:10:00, Liz: What are you doing today?

2022-10-10T09:00:01, Nigel: Hi Liz

2022-10-10T09:02:15, Liz: Hi, where have you been?

2022-10-10T09:05:00, Nigel: Sorry I’ve been travelling with the business

2022-10-10T09:07:30, Liz: What is it you do again?

2022-10-10T09:10:00, Nigel: I run an IT company. We support IT systems for lots of different companies

2022-10-10T09:12:30, Liz: That sounds complicated!

2022-10-10T09:15:00, Nigel: It’s ok when we get good contracts. I have to travel a lot though

2022-10-10T09:17:30, Liz: What’s the name of your business?

2022-10-10T09:20:00, Nigel: It’s QuickTechIT, we are based in London

2022-10-10T09:22:30, Liz: Do you ever come to Scotland?

2022-10-10T09:25:00, Nigel: Not yet but you never know!

2022-10-10T09:27:30, Liz: If you ever do remember I’m at 123 Main St, Airdrie!

2022-10-10T09:30:00, Nigel: Bet you have a lovely big house!

2022-10-10T09:32:30, Liz: Well it’s not that big but me and John worked hard to get it.

2022-10-10T09:35:00, Nigel: I remember you said he died, how long ago

2022-10-10T09:37:30, Liz: 12 years

2022-10-10T09:40:00, Nigel: It’s hard isn’t it, my wife Barbara died 10 years ago. Before she died she told me not to rule out finding someone else

2022-10-10T09:42:30, Liz: I never thought I would

2022-10-10T09:45:00, Nigel: Speaking to you has made me think I can

2022-10-10T09:47:30, Liz: I feel the same. Where do you live?

2022-10-10T09:50:00, Nigel: Albert Road, Kensington…it’s just a little flat because I travel so much.

2023-03-01T08:00:01, Nigel: Good Morning Liz

2023-03-01T08:02:15, Liz: Good Morning, lovely to hear from you

2023-03-01T08:05:00, Nigel: Sorry I lost touch, I have been visiting my daughter in France

2023-03-01T08:07:30, Liz: I didn’t know you had a daughter!

2023-03-01T08:10:00, Nigel: I definitely told you about her. She moved to France but lives herself and hasn’t been well

2023-03-01T08:13:45, Liz: Oh no what’s wrong?

2023-03-01T08:16:00, Nigel: She has a rare blood condition. She’s been in and out of hospital. I needed to be over there with her

2023-03-01T08:18:30, Liz: Of course

2023-03-01T08:20:00, Nigel: The business is in a mess too. I’ve taken my eye of it for too long

2023-03-01T08:22:30, Liz: God Nigel, you are going through so much, I wish I could help. Can I come down to see you?

2023-03-01T08:25:00, Nigel: No Liz, I don’t know where I’m going to be from week to week

2023-03-01T08:27:30, Liz: I don’t care, maybe I can travel with you?

2023-03-01T08:30:00, Nigel: I need to concentrate on keeping the business going. We lost a couple of big deals. We have a big contract coming in August which should be worth 100k

2023-03-01T08:32:30, Liz: That’s still a few months away

2023-04-05T09:00:01, Nigel: Hi Liz, how are you. I’m so worried about Becky

2023-04-05T09:02:15, Liz: How is she?

2023-04-05T09:05:00, Nigel: I’m losing her Liz, the doctors say she might only have weeks left and I’m struggling to even afford to travel over there. It’s the south of France.

2023-04-05T09:07:30, Liz: Oh my God I’m so sorry, is there anything they can do

2023-04-05T09:10:00, Nigel: I could maybe fly her back to London and take her to a private hospital. The problem is the business is still in trouble

2023-04-05T09:12:30, Liz: What’s happening with the business?

2023-04-05T09:15:00, Nigel: If it goes under I don’t know what the hell I’ll do. Liz can I ask a big favour?

2023-04-05T09:17:30, Liz: Anything Nigel

2023-04-05T09:20:00, Nigel: I hate to ask this but I’m desperate, can I please borrow some money until the August deal comes in. I need to keep the business going and fund getting Becky home

2023-04-05T09:22:30, Liz: How much do you need?

2023-04-05T09:25:00, Nigel: I’m so sorry to ask this, do you have £15,000?

2023-04-05T09:27:30, Liz: Ok, let me go and look at my accounts and see what I can do

2023-04-05T09:30:00, Nigel: Thanks, I’ll phone you with the bank details

2023-04-05T17:00:01, Nigel: Hi Liz, I’m worried I haven’t heard anything from you since we spoke this morning.

2023-04-05T17:02:15, Liz: It’s ok Nigel, I’ve just moved the money there

2023-04-05T17:05:00, Nigel: Did you remember to say it was a gift to family?

2023-04-05T17:07:30, Liz: I did yes. Will this help you get Becky home to London?

2023-04-05T17:10:00, Nigel: Yes Liz, thanks so much. You are my guardian angel. I love you so much

2023-04-05T17:12:30, Liz: I love you too

2023-04-25T09:00:01, Liz: Nigel I am so worried, please answer your phone

2023-04-25T09:02:15, Nigel: Hi Liz, I’m sorry, I’ve been caring for Becky in France.

2023-04-25T09:05:00, Liz: Where are you exactly, I’m going to fly over

2023-04-25T09:07:30, Nigel: There’s no point, I used some of your money to pay for private care but we are flying back to London next week. I could meet you there

2023-04-25T09:10:00, Liz: Ok, give me the details

2023-04-25T09:12:30, Nigel: Another problem is the big contract has been delayed until December. That means I will lose the business. I’m going to lose the business and my daughter if I can’t come up with some cash

2023-04-25T09:15:00, Liz: Nigel, I will give you more money if that’s what you need. We can be together and come through this. Let’s get Becky the care she needs and get your business back on its feet

2023-04-25T09:17:30, Nigel: Are you sure Liz

2023-04-25T09:20:00, Liz: Of course I’m sure, I’m moving another 15 thousand now. Can you check the account and let me know you got it

2023-04-26T07:40:01, Liz: Nigel?

2023-04-26T08:42:15, Liz: Nigel?

2023-04-26T09:05:00, Liz: Nigel I need to answer the phone