

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GCJ

Support person present: No

1. My name is GCJ and my date of birth is 1958. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. The Institutions I wish to talk about are –

Larchgrove, Edinburgh Rd, Glasgow – 1971.

Cardross Remand Centre, Cardross, Dunbartonshire – 1972.

Balrossie, Kilmacolm – 1972.

Dr Guthrie's , Liberton Brae, Edinburgh – 1971/72.

Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow – 1972.

Polmont, YOI – 1972/73.

Glenochil, YOI – 1973.

Longriggend, YOI – 1973.

Background

2. I am a Health and Safety manager and am married to . I have one daughter. My parents are both deceased. I have 3 sisters and 2 brothers who are , , and .

Life before care

3. I was born in Dennistoun in Glasgow in 1958 and was the eldest of six children. We stayed in in a tenement building. The conditions were pretty poor.

We stayed there until I was nine or ten then we moved to the south side of Glasgow. That was probably where it all went wrong.

4. A few years into primary school I started skipping school. Miss McCormack was a probation officer, a lovely woman. I used to go to meetings with her but ended up in Glasgow Sheriff Court. There, they said I was out of parental control but it was basically for truancy. I was sent to Larchgrove. I don't recall if I had a solicitor but my mum was begging the sheriff not to send me away.

Larchgrove Assessment Centre, Glasgow

5. Larchgrove was a horrible place. It was a place you went to be assessed until they decided what to do with you. You wore corduroy shorts and a blue shirt. You ate in small booths and the food was awful. We were kept in a gym most of the time and the brutality was horrendous.
6. I was taken there by a police officer and a probation officer. On arrival I was taken into an office where I got asked questions then told to strip. All my stuff was put in a bag then I was measured and they brought me a uniform. I was scared but I remember that I wouldn't let them see me cry. I was then given a "bed block" which consisted of sheets, blankets and pillows and I was taken to my dorm.
7. It was a secure type unit and there would be staff on patrol with torches at night. I recall there were six dorms off our corridor, each with six to eight boys therein. The boys were aged between nine and sixteen years of age. I was one of the youngest.

Routine at Larchgrove*Mornings and bedtime*

8. You would get up in the morning at 7:30, wash and then get a breakfast of toast and cornflakes. You then went to the gym and spent most of your day playing cards or five stones. There was no football or outdoor games although there was a radio. Staff didn't wear a uniform and I can't remember their names. All I recall is that one carried a radio. I would say there would be about a hundred boys in the gym with about twelve staff overseeing us.
9. There was a morning roll call where, if you didn't feel well you went to see the matron. A member of staff took you, although I don't recall if they came into the matron's room or not. Other than that you would be in the gym all day then we would have tea. After that there was TV to watch but it was only one wee TV in a big hall.
10. Bedtime was at 8:00 pm then a buzzer would go and it would be lights out. Every day was the same. There was no P.E. and you weren't allowed outdoors unless you were a trustee who might get out to pick up the leaves. There were no chores or anything to keep you mentally stimulated.
11. On a Sunday there would be religious services when a Church of Scotland minister or a Catholic priest would come in. The services were held in the gym.

Food

12. I will eat anything but the food was awful. Beans and black pudding with bread and margarine is what I recall.

School

13. There was no schooling whatsoever. You spent the whole day in the gym.

Holidays

14. There were no holidays during the short time I was there.

Birthdays and Christmas

15. I didn't spend my birthday or Christmas there.

Visits/Inspections

16. My mum and gran came to see me once a week although I didn't worry them with what was happening. You weren't allowed to touch your visitors. A social worker also came up a few times to let me know how my assessment was going. I didn't think there was much point in telling her what was going on.
17. There were also meetings that a member of staff and a social worker would have with me during which notes were taken. This was to assess where I would be going after Larchgrove. I remember that Protestants couldn't go to certain places and that there were only certain places that Catholics could go to. One of the problems with that was that Catholics tended to wait longer to get a vacancy due to lack of places for them.

Medical care

18. The only medical care I recall was seeing the matron if you felt unwell. Other than that there was no interaction between her and the children. She didn't do rounds or anything like that.

Abuse at Larchgrove

19. There were systematic beatings and a favourite trick by the staff was to throw a heavy set of keys which would hit you in the face or head and cut you. I remember I

was walking along talking to somebody one day when I got hit on the back of my head with a set of keys. I still have the scar to this day. I didn't get any treatment for it but dealt with it myself with carbolic soap and toilet paper.

20. Getting hit with the keys was the only assault I received but I saw others being assaulted. One boy had a cup of hot tea thrown over him though I'm not sure if that was done by staff or by one of the other boys.
21. I remember seeing some boys pulled out of their dorms at night and they would return crying though I don't actually know what happened to them. This happened almost every night and they would be away for an hour or two. My recollection is that staff said they were taking the boys out to deal with nits they might have had in their hair but I don't see why that would cause them to cry.
22. As far as the abuse was concerned I can say for definite that there was physical and emotional abuse every day but I can't say that I saw any evidence of sexual abuse.
23. Children react differently to how they are being treated and some would get hysterical and take tantrums. Those who did would be subdued and be put in the cooler.
24. Sectarianism, though it was called religion in those days, was a big thing. There were a lot of gangs that were split by being either Catholic or Protestant. Being in a gang, and they were mainly from the East End of Glasgow, offered a sort of protection. However, I was from the South Side and wasn't part of a gang.
25. The tawse was used by staff in public as a form of chastisement and I got given it a few times. It was given on the hand and it was always three strokes at a time. However, they sometimes missed your hand and hit your arm. If you had sense you didn't cry because that showed you were weak and that led to bullying.

26. The downside of not crying was that the staff member using the tawse on you would get annoyed that you weren't hurting and would change their technique to cause you more pain.

Bedwetting

27. If you wet the bed you were humiliated. It was something I had a problem with but there was one guy who used to be called "pee the bed". Staff would go round and check your bed. If you had wet it then you got a slap, your bed would be stripped, your pyjamas taken off you and you would be left to stand there naked.

Reporting of abuse at Larchgrove

28. There was no process of complaint that I was aware of. I suppose I could have asked my dad to write a letter or something but I didn't want to worry him.

Leaving Larchgrove

29. After two or three weeks in Larchgrove I was sent to Cardross and was taken there by a male member of staff and my social worker Miss McCormack in a car.

Cardross Remand Centre,

30. I was in Cardross for about twenty days. It was also an assessment centre and I think I was sent there because of overcrowding at Larchgrove. It was a large sandstone building with a big drive. I don't know who decided that I had to go there. When I arrived I was taken into an office and I recall a file being handed over. I then got a medical, well, my hair got checked for nits.

31. The age range was between eight and fourteen or fifteen years of age and was boys only, maybe about twenty in total. We were in dorms of six to eight in each dorm. There was one boy there that was in simply because his parents had died. He hadn't done anything wrong. The doors in the place were locked though the windows were open.
32. There was a female member of staff who was the matron. There were also three or four day staff and at least two night staff. I don't know who was in charge. The place was spotless and the food was good.

Routine at Cardross

33. You got up at 7:30 or 8:00 am, got washed then had breakfast. If you had been good you might get out in the fresh air. Your day was spent reading comics or listening to the radio. There were no sports, not even football. There was also a record player and a black and white TV. There were no trips out to the cinema or anything like that. In the evening it was tea, TV then bed about 8:00 pm.

Visits/Inspections

34. I got a few visits from my mum and gran and gran would bring comics which were allowed. Visits were on a Sunday. I didn't see my social worker, Miss McCormack, when I was in Cardross. In fact I don't think I ever saw her again.

Abuse at Cardross

35. I must have been doing well because I was made a trustee which meant I was allowed outside. However, I decided to run away but was caught within 24 hours. I was taken into an office where there were two members of staff. One of them smacked me across the face with a big black torch which burst my nose, cut my mouth and broke my teeth. He was about 35 years old and had a moustache. He

was the night-watchman. I was taken to see the matron and she put butterfly stitches on my lip. She didn't ask me what had happened.

36. I was stripped to my underpants and put in a cell for three days. In the cell there was a blanket and a chamber pot which I had to empty. Food was brought in. The only person who came to see me was the matron to check on my stitches. I don't recall seeing others put in the cell but I'm sure it must have happened. I think I was eleven years old at the time.
37. After three days I was then put back into mainstream. Maybe a couple of days later, I saw the guy who had hit me with the torch so I hit him with a chair. I was grabbed, punched and kicked and stripped to my underpants. I was put back in the cell. After three days they came to let me out. I was taken to the dorm to get clothes and then taken to see a guy who had loads of pens. I remember he was writing things down. After I got out of the cell the second time I didn't see the guy who had originally hit me with his torch. I wasn't allowed outside again.
38. The night watchmen were probably the most brutal. They would use their fists on you if you annoyed them. If there was conflict between the boys, the staff would organise the boys in question to be stripped to the waist and fight outside. This was a common occurrence that the staff seemed to encourage.
39. There is nothing good to say about Cardross. There was no belt and no structure to discipline. You were often slapped on the head which could be for any trivial offence. The staff didn't like being challenged or spoken at. I don't recall the names of any of the staff.
40. There was nothing in the way of education.

Bedwetting

41. Bedwetting was treated better at Cardross than it was at Larchgrove. They didn't ridicule you and staff were on hand to do the laundry.

Leaving Cardross

42. I got told by a member of staff that my vacancy had come up and that I was going to a List D school in Balrossie in Kilmacolm.

Balrossie School, Kilmacolm

43. Balrossie was the worst place imaginable and was [REDACTED] Mr ^{GJF} [REDACTED] who was the P.E. teacher and Mr ^{GKF} [REDACTED] who was the ^{SNR} [REDACTED]. A member of staff from Balrossie came to Cardross and he and a member of staff from Cardross took me to Balrossie. I was there for six to eight months. I was still under the original order that had sent me to Larchgrove.
44. Balrossie was like a big old baronial castle probably run by Glasgow Corporation. It was all boys, over a hundred who were aged between eight and fourteen. I would say there were about thirty staff. I think some were there simply because there was nowhere else for them to go. When I arrived I was taken to see matron then met with Mr ^{GKF} [REDACTED] briefly before being shown my dorm and supplied with clothes.

Routine at Balrossie

45. From Monday to Friday you would get up at 7:30 am, get washed then have breakfast before going to your chosen class which would be woodwork or painting though some boys went out on the bus to agriculture class. You did get taught some vocational skills like painting and woodwork but there was no academic work.
46. There would be a break at 11:00 am then lunch would be at 12:30. It would then be back to class which finished at about 4:00 pm. You would then get washed and get ready for tea. After that you would go swimming or play football, both of which were supervised. In winter you would watch telly or listen to old records. Lights out was at 8:00 pm and you weren't allowed to talk after that.

47. Weekends were all about sports and on Sunday's church and mass were available but you only went if you wanted to. Showers were always available as were books.

Food

48. The food was alright.

Holidays

49. You did get day-trips out now and again, maybe every couple of weeks. I recall going to Largs once.

Visitors

50. Mum, gran and sometimes my dad would visit me every Sunday. I didn't see any of my brothers or sisters for years while I was in the various homes. I didn't see any social workers when I was at Balrossie. If there were any official visitors then I wasn't aware of them.

Christmas / Birthdays

51. On Christmas Day we had dinner and got a couple of wee presents. Your parents were allowed to visit you on Boxing Day. Birthdays weren't celebrated.

Abuse at Balrossie

52. There was a big problem with glue-sniffing and kids sniffing petrol in Balrossie. I never did it and I think staff turned a blind eye to it.
53. There was a guy who worked there called Archie Leitch and he was very supportive. He was a reasonable guy. There were other members of staff who were good people but there was a sprinkling of bad ones especially Mr ^{GKF} and Mr ^{GJF}.

54. The belt on the hand was their chosen sort of punishment or lying for eight hours on the floor polishing. That could simply be for cheek or answering back. Any member of staff handed out punishment and I got it once or twice a week. Staff would slap you every day.
55. I remember I ran away at Christmas but got caught. However, the only real punishment I got was losing a Christmas present and having my shoes removed. It was nothing like Cardross where they seemed to take running away personally.
56. Mr **GJF**, the P.E. teacher, especially picked on the more obese kids and when they were out running he was always kicking and slapping them. He had a reputation for touching boys under their pyjamas and was nicknamed **GJF**.
57. Another thing that happened is that boys were removed from the dorm at night. This happened all the time though what actually happened to them I can't say. All I know is that it was one of the night-watchmen who would remove them.

Bedwetting

58. If you wet the bed you would get smacked on the head or on the bare arse. You then had to strip the bed and carry the wet bedclothes and put them down the chute while naked. It was like a walk of shame. This happened most mornings. I was lucky that it wasn't a problem I ever had.

Leaving Balrossie

59. When I had done my time I left Balrossie and went home. Before leaving I picked the clothes I wanted from a catalogue and these were given to me the morning I left. My dad came to collect me and we went home on the bus. There were no goodbyes or anything like that and I don't recall any forms being signed.

60. About 4 weeks later I broke into an ice-cream van to steal sweets and got caught. I was taken back to court and sent back to Larchgrove. I was devastated to be going back though at least this time I knew what to expect. I was taken there by a prison officer but as it turned out I was only there for a week before I was sent to Dr Guthrie's in Edinburgh.

Dr Guthrie's Boys School, Liberton, Edinburgh

61. I got taken to Dr Guthrie's by a member of staff from there. It was a big old Victorian place in Lasswade Road. It was a lovely place. It had swimming pools and football pitches. **SNR** was a Mr **GFC** who was ex-military and a fantastic man. There was a heavy emphasis on sport and it was great. I was made captain of the **SNR** and was given a new strip, boots and training shoes. I thought that was brilliant.
62. There was a lot of academics and a lot of hill-walking and outdoor pursuits. It was so good it was almost a privilege to be there. The place was spotless and the food was good. Mr **GVI** was the head of our wing and was also a great guy.
63. I suppose I was there so I would stay out of trouble. In that sense, I failed the place. It didn't fail me.
64. It was all boys aged from eight to sixteen. I was thirteen or fourteen when I went there. I was there for eight to nine months. I would say there were about a hundred boys there. It was completely open and run almost militarily but there was no bullying. There was boxing but it was organised.
65. The place was open and honest and I think it was all down to Mr **GFC** who, to me, was almost a visionary. He would sit you down and explain things. There was a strong duty of care and I think, in a way, I was inspired to be like Mr **GFC**. I'm sure all the other boys were of the same opinion.

Routine at Dr Guthrie's

66. You would get up at 6:00 am then my job was to go check the cook house. Then it would be breakfast followed by assembly then classes. Tea would be at 5:00 pm. In the winter we would be shown films or play indoor 5-a-side football or go swimming. At 8:00 pm it was a slice of cake and a cup of tea then bed.
67. We slept in big Victorian like dorms with about thirty boys in each one. Everybody went to church on a Sunday or mass if you were a Catholic even though it was voluntary. You wore casual clothes unless you were going to church when you would put on a shirt and tie.
68. You cleaned your dorms which would be checked by Mr ^{GFC} [REDACTED]. I became [REDACTED] of the wing after about 2 months. That certainly helped my self-esteem. Mr ^{GFC} [REDACTED] also encouraged us to grow things. You weren't locked in and you could go to the local shops.
69. There was a Mr ^{GBD} [REDACTED] who had a big beard and wore glasses who ran a nearby home. We would sometimes go and talk to him. The staff spent a lot of time with me on reading and writing. Teaching staff came from outside and were very good to us.

Visitors

70. My family only visited me on sport's day but, even then, a bus would be sent to the train station to pick them up. As far as social workers were concerned I would say Mr ^{GBD} [REDACTED] filled that role.

Holidays / outings

71. The residential staff were also good to us and would take us out on camping trips to Dunbar, Glencoe and the like. They would also have sports days when my mum and gran would come through.

Christmas

72. At Christmas you got a pass to go home. You earned money for potato picking in autumn and the staff gave you the money you had earned before Christmas so you could buy presents for your family. They would then put you on the train in Edinburgh and you went home for Christmas.

Abuse at Dr Guthrie's

73. The only discipline I recall is that you were grounded, like told you weren't going camping. Physical punishment simply didn't happen. I have nothing but good things to say about Dr Guthrie's. I think it had a lot to do with the structure. There was always a lot of things to do. They even had the odd disco when girls from another home would come in. I went back in 1982 and a few times after that to see Mr GFC who I only have good memories of.

Bedwetting

74. I'm not aware of bedwetting being a problem with anybody at Dr Guthrie's.

Leaving Dr Guthrie's

75. When my time was up I went home. It was so different from Dr Guthrie's . I ended up back in court in front of Sheriff Irving Smith. The Children and Young Person's Act had started and I got told I was being sent under, I think Section 26 and 32, which took me out of the child care system into the adult mainstream.
76. I was only fourteen years of age and that still upsets me. The sheriff said I was moving to the mainstream prison. I was taken to Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow on remand until my trial.

'C' wing, Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow

77. When I first arrived they asked me how old I was. They refused to believe me when I said I was only fourteen. They said I shouldn't be there. There were lots of phone calls and talking about it when somebody shouted "We can't keep him here. He's only fourteen" to which somebody shouted "He's Children and Young Person's Act" It was only then I realised I was under something new. I was in Barlinnie for eight weeks.

Routine at Barlinnie Prison

78. I had to slop out every morning with all the other prisoners and I would get a shower once a week when I would have to shower with the other prisoners. This was supervised by two or three guards. There was a library but it didn't cater for fourteen year olds.
79. I had to wear a prison uniform. I think I just shut down and probably just read all the time. The cell was built for four but I was left to myself.

Food

80. The food was awful and delivered to me three times a day.

Visitors

81. My dad visited me in Barlinnie. He was very angry that I was even in that place and most of the guards agreed with him.
82. I recall seeing a solicitor but, and I want to emphasise this, I am still not clear what it was all about and why they put me in that place at that age. I actually thought a mistake had been made.

Healthcare

83. A medical officer would ask me every morning if I was OK.

Abuse at Barlinnie Prison

84. I was put in a shared cell with a forty year old who had a lot of tattoos and no teeth. After two or three days he tried to punch me but I got a punch in first. I reported it to a warden but all that happened was that he was removed from the cell.
85. The guy trying to punch me was probably the only abuse I suffered there other than being in the cell 23 out of 24 hours a day. I think some of the other prisoners and even some of the staff were protective towards me.
86. I probably just shut myself down when I was in there. I suppose I was in shock more than anything and couldn't understand why I was in such a place. I don't think anybody my age had been in there before. There didn't seem to be any structure in place to deal with somebody my age.

Leaving Barlinnie Prison

87. I went back to Glasgow Sheriff Court for my trial. I was convicted and sent to Polmont Young Offenders' for ten months. However, after the trial I was sent back to Barlinnie for, maybe, six weeks. It continued to be a horrible place and I was again locked up 23 hours a day. I spent my time reading. I probably survived by going into an almost state of hibernation.

Polmont Young Offenders' Institution

88. I was then moved to Polmont which I knew was a borstal. I was sure if I behaved myself I could be out in eight or nine months and a week. However, I recall a guy in civilian clothes took an almost sadistic delight saying I would be doing the full two years. I didn't think I could go to borstal at fourteen. I thought you had to be at least sixteen.
89. I was put into 'C' hall, which was a massive structure with cells all round it. There were also safety nets between floors to stop suicides.
90. 'C' hall was a place you went to for twelve weeks for further assessment. The wing was run with a rod of iron. I was the youngest there at 14, the rest being between 16 and 21. You were assessed as to which wing you got sent to, North, South, East or West. I think the tests were psychological and I seem to recall I was quite cheeky to them.
91. I maybe didn't understand the questions which were maybe aimed at 21 year olds rather than the likes of me who was only fourteen. I was probably a bit confused both about being there and what the tests were about.
92. The place was run in a military fashion with inspections every morning at 7:00 am. I rebelled and was taken from a two-man cell to a single cell on a higher level. I think it was for people who were higher risk because of the crimes they had committed.
93. I didn't want to be associated with them and was again rebelling. I was refusing to eat and things like that. I was in the cell 23 hours a day. For about 45 minutes a day I would walk around a cage. I went to the toilet in a pot and had to slop out every day.
94. The cell was about twelve foot by twelve foot with a small barred window up high. The light was on 24 hours a day. A warden would check on you every hour. There was a bunk-bed, a small desk, a plastic chair, a pot and a beaker that you got your food in. The only book in the cell was a bible. There was a library that you could access but it had nothing aimed at my age.

95. The place wasn't prepared for a fourteen year old. Some of the warders were alright but others were diabolical. It was a shocking place to be in.
96. Near the end of the twelve weeks I was taken down to see the nurse though I can't recall why. I got into a fracas with an older boy. He punched me and I punched him back. This was outside the medical room. I got charged and put into solitary confinement for two weeks.
97. The solitary confinement cell was down in the basement and was called "The Digger". It had a concrete bed and you were given a blanket. There was no window. The light was on 24 hours a day. The warden would come to see you every morning.
98. Being in "The Digger" was shocking. That was probably the biggest psychological effect on me until I was in my twenties. It was horrible. There was no attempt at education and you got a shower and change of clothing once a week.
99. I recall it was cold and you were sleeping on concrete. Being in "The Digger" was a punishment. Nothing more and nothing less. You could only survive it by, again, going into almost a state of hibernation.
100. The food was brought to you and it was awful. The other thing was that you didn't know what else had been done to the food before it was brought to you.
101. I didn't get visitors for the first three months.
102. The wardens wore full uniforms with keys on a big chain. A favourite thing for them to do was to hit you with these keys. For example, they would open the door in the morning, say "hello" and, as they went to go back out, they would whack you with the keys then go out the door closing it behind them. I think it was done just to wind us up.
103. After my fourteen days in "The Digger" I was taken back to 'C' hall and, after a couple of weeks, I was sent to West Wing. It was certainly more modern and I had a cell to myself. For the first few weeks I was in the cell 23 hours a day.

104. After a while they tried to give me some education. I think they had started to realise how young I was. Also, there was another boy about the same age as me.
105. You still saw all the fights and arguments and people going into psychological meltdown. I recall working in the kitchen and saw two guys who were from opposite sides of the city. One guy lifted a knife and stabbed the other guy in the stomach. That was awful for me as a fourteen year old to see.
106. You were able to write letters but they were censored. My gran used to send me books but one of the wardens used to rip pages out of them. That really annoyed me as it would have cost my gran a lot of money to buy those books.

Routine at Polmont

107. You would get up about 7:00 am and go into the communal area for breakfast which was normally porridge and a slice of toast. You wore a uniform. Each wing had different coloured dungarees.
108. You could get a shower every day and your clothes were changed once a week.
109. After breakfast you would be taken into a big room with benches where you would be given old telephones to smash and get various bits of metal out of them. You would do that from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm when you would get a lunch of soup and semolina. After that it was back to the hall and smashing the telephones.
110. You got a small allowance for smashing the telephones, about seventy pence a week, which you could spend in the canteen.
111. You would head back to your room at 4:30 pm then it would be tea at 5:30 pm. After that you went to a TV room till about 8:00 pm although the TV itself was tiny. After

that it would be lights out. After lights out you could hear people screaming and going into psychological and emotional breakdown. You just tried to blank it out.

112. I did get into the odd fight but my height meant that I wasn't seen as an easy option.
113. Prior to leaving Polmont there was a "Training for Freedom" scheme. Part of it was looking in a catalogue of clothes. The "Training for Freedom" wasn't much use to me as I was only fourteen years old and it was aimed at older boys.
114. On a Saturday afternoon you could play football maybe against other borstals or maybe even the wardens. There was also a gym and you could play basketball which I enjoyed. I liked the sports but detested smashing the telephones and all the violence.
115. My number was [REDACTED] Church of Scotland. You could go to your chosen place of worship on a Sunday. Most people went just for a change of things to do.

Christmas / Birthdays

116. There might have been a futile attempt to celebrate Christmas but, basically, Christmas and birthdays were ignored. That was tough.

Visitors

117. I got a visit once a month and my mum, gran or dad would come up.
118. I don't recall any formal visitors coming to see me though I think I did see a psychologist who would probably have assessed me. There would have been official visits done but I knew nothing of them.

Discipline

119. Discipline could be lack of visits, the digger or adding seven days to your sentence. If you were disciplined you were taken to the assistant governor who would pass sentence. If it was serious enough then the police would be called in.

Leaving Polmont

120. I had been in Polmont maybe thirteen months when I was put through "Training for Freedom". Then on a Monday I was taken into a room and given clothes, money etc. and taken to a train for Glasgow.
121. I went home to my mum and dad's house and there were eight of us in a two-bedroom house so it was crowded.
122. I never did go to secondary school. I was basically self-educated from the age of 21 onwards. When I went back home there was no attempt to send me to school. That was hard for me because every time thereafter, if somebody asked me what school I went to, I had to make it up that I had gone to Shawlands Academy because that was where I stayed.
123. I fell into something like a gang mentality and ended up getting arrested again. I went to court and ended up in Longriggend after I had been on remand in Barlinnie again. After being on remand I went back to court and got sentenced to three months.

Longriggend Young Offenders' Institution

124. I was sent to Longriggend, a young offenders' institution which was a prison near Airdrie. I was fifteen years old when I arrived there and yet again I was asked my age. I told them I had been in both Barlinnie and in borstal. There then followed discussions about how that had been possible at my age.
125. The cells were similar to Barlinnie but slightly more modern. I was given a trustee's job, I think because of my age, handing out cakes and tea. During the day, I was

kept away from the mainstream prisoners. I had a cell to myself and again the lights were on 23 hours a day.

126. The wardens there loved the boxing and arranged fights with gloves every Saturday. I enjoyed that. There was no school or academic learning.

Routine at Longriggend

127. You would get up at 7:00 am. There was no dining room, the food was brought to you. After breakfast I would go out and clean the landing. The wardens would sometimes give me papers to read or books.
128. Saturday morning was boxing then it was TV in the afternoon. After that, you were locked in till Monday morning.
129. You showered once a week. The standing joke was you got a shower once a week whether you needed it or not.

Food

130. Food was once again shocking. You ate it simply because you were hungry. Breakfast was cornflakes and a roll with margarine. Lunch was soup and dessert. Tea was bean pie with beans and potatoes.

Medical/Dental

131. I had a massive abscess on my jaw once and it took about four hours before I was seen by a warden. This was on Friday night and I wasn't seen by a medic until the Monday. I was in agony throughout the weekend. You could be seen by a medic Monday to Friday. I recall nothing in the way of dental care.

Leisure time

132. There was no leisure time as Longriggend was a lock-up place. You could go to a religious service on a Sunday if you wanted.

Visitors

133. I recall I did get visits although they were separate from everybody else. I was able to see my mum and dad in an office on my own. My dad would come to see me although it was difficult as the place was isolated and he didn't have a car. One of my uncles would give him a lift. I had no official visits.

Discipline

134. Discipline was time in the digger, loss of visitation rights or loss of privileges. Losing visitation rights was hard to take. The Governor made the decision and there was no appeal.

Leaving Longriggend

135. When I left Longriggend, I was home for about a month then was sent to Glenochil. I can't recall why.

Glenochil Detention Centre

136. Glenochil was a detention centre and was set up as a "short, sharp shock" place for 18 to 21 year olds. If a boy behaved, they could be out in eight weeks five days. It was run in a military style and was a horrible place.
137. At the booking-in I was asked if I had been in Barlinnie, Polmont and Longriggend. They thought I must have been some sort of hard man as I had been in all those places before being in Glenochil. It was usually the other way round.

Routine at Glenochil

138. You got up at 6:00 am in a modern cell with toilets and running water. You then had to be in P.E. kit and went on a four-mile run. Everything was timed.
139. After the run you would have breakfast. While there you had to sit straight up with your arms folded and your knees together. You didn't start eating until they told you to. You would then be given three minutes to finish your meal. Then it was into the gym again.
140. They were big on parades and marching. One time I stood there and was told to straighten my fingers which, because of an injury years before, I couldn't. The warden hit me with his keys which cut the back of my head and I attacked him.
141. I was taken to the warden after that and was expecting to be punished but I explained to him what had happened. All he did was send me back to my cell.
142. There were no chores but you had to do a lot of physical activity and you were medically examined every two weeks. I enjoyed the physical stuff.
143. There was a lot of religious study which I sort of got into.

Leaving Glenochil

144. When I left I went up to relatives in Aberdeen and got involved with the fishing industry. This was in 1974. I was working on trawlers and I loved it. I was on the boats until I was about 21. I stayed with an aunt and uncle who owned a hotel just outside Aberdeen.

145. While the money was poor at first I ended up making twice what my dad was earning. I also wired money home to my mum and gran. My dad then got me a job back in Glasgow and I've worked ever since.

Impact

146. My education came from reading and from experience. Later I obtained two degrees. I always regretted that I never got any proper schooling.

147. What I really want to get over to the Inquiry is the fact that boys of the age that I was were put into mainstream prisons under Children and Young Persons Act. To do that to anybody is traumatic but to do it to a child is horrendous.

148. It makes you suspicious of everything and everybody. It makes you cynical. However, I also have to add that St Guthrie's was one of the highlights of my life. But, the rest? Terrible places and I feel that if I hadn't met my wife I would be back in prison today or even in my grave. I'm sure a lot of people knew how these places were run but did nothing about it.

149. You tend to be always looking over your shoulder and I'm still bitter over the lack of education. I hated the way adults hit on children and I hate bullies.

150. I don't take people at face value but if you can make a friend of me, which isn't easy, then you have a friend for life.

151. There was no support for you when you were in these places or for when you came out and you can't help but be bitter about that.

152. The thing that really sticks with me is putting me in Barlinnie at the age of fourteen.

Reporting of Abuse

153. I have never told anybody about this and have never sought counselling. I still remember a lot of what happened and simple things like a door slamming or the smell of polish can bring it all back. Certainly, until I was about 28, I thought about it every day.

Records

154. I have never tried to get my records and wouldn't know how to.

155. 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..... GCJ [Redacted Signature]

Dated..... 16/01/18