

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HWF

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is HWF. I get called HWF but I'm known as HWF. I was born on 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. My mother's name was and my dad was. They have both passed away. I was born in Aberdeen but I was separated from my parents when I was about one year old and went to live with my paternal grandmother and grandfather. I was brought up by them in Aberdeen.
3. I have a full brother, who is a year younger than me, a half-brother and half-sister on my father's side. I haven't talked to either of them in over thirty-five years and I haven't talked to in about twenty-five years.
4. I don't know exactly why I went to live with them but I think it was because my father was battering my mother. There was a story going around saying my mother was the bad person but I found out years later that it was actually my father. I was the first born and my father looked after me for a while but then my grandparents looked after me when my dad was doing a couple of prison sentences down in England. He didn't appear back in my life until I was about eleven or twelve years old.

5. My father was a gangster, he was involved in organised crime and he was a very violent man. He would hit me and my mother. It wasn't until years later that I would turn on him, which he didn't like.
6. My grandmother was deeply religious, I'd say over religious. I remember getting taken to church every Sunday and having to give confession. I used to run away out the church because I was so scared of going into confession boxes. I was brought up believing that when you went into them you had to tell the truth. Sometimes when you're a little kid you don't want to be telling the truth, so I would run away. I didn't like being forced into doing something that I didn't want to do. I look back and think that was a wee pointer towards me being a bit rebellious.
7. I remember Father Conti was involved in the church I went to. It was St. Peter's Church just off the Castlegate in Aberdeen. He could be kind of sharp with his words and a bit abusive as well. He would give kids a smack on the head or a pat on the backside which wasn't needed, stuff like that.
8. My grandmother was pals with Father Conti and I think he had something to do with the first school I was put into. That was St. Peter's R.C. school in Nelson Street, Aberdeen. I was about seven or eight then.
9. I was a bit hyper at school and I remember I used to get taken into the SNR's office, he was a Mr LFA, Mr LFA and the SNR who was called would lock me in a cupboard. The light was switched off and I was terrified of the dark so I would start screaming and shouting. I was locked in that cupboard until school was finished and it happened quite a few times. I did tell my grandmother but she said schools wouldn't do that.
10. I think that had a big impact on my life because as the years went on and I started to go to places, they were all places where I was confined.
11. I was eventually removed from St. Peter's R.C. for being disruptive and put to King Street school. That happened again at King Street and I was put to Frederick Street

Secondary School. I was only there for about a year before going to Powis Academy. I attended Frederick Street and Powis when I was in care, I went to them from Brimmond.

12. When I was still young, I was told by my grandmother that my mother had died in a car crash. That wasn't true because I got into a fight when I was at Frederick Street Secondary School when I was about eleven or twelve and the boy I was fighting was actually my brother [REDACTED], which I didn't know at the time. The parents had to get summoned up to the school and his parent was obviously my mother.
13. That's when I first found out my mother was alive and my grandmother had told me lies. I took my mother down to my grandmother's house and the truth came out. I found out that my mother had been sending me Christmas and birthday presents and cards and my grandmother had been sending them all back. I told my grandmother then that I'd never trust her again.
14. If I hadn't seen some of my records, I would have said that the first time I had any dealings with social work would have been when I was a Young Offender. I have no memory of any contact with social work when I was younger, at primary school for example. I know now, having seen those records that I was seen by the social work when I was at King Street school but I don't remember any of that.
15. I always thought the reason I went into care was because I was being disruptive in the schools I was in. Having now read some of the files, I see that the build up to me going into care was that my grandmother couldn't cope with me and she arranged through social workers to get me put into care.
16. I just wasn't going to school. They actually got to the point they got me a tutor who came to the house. I used to nip out the back door, I wouldn't see them either.
17. I remember being at a Children's Panel at Golden Square in Aberdeen and my grandmother being there with me. I always thought I was about nine then but I have

seen from the records I would have been about ten or even eleven. There was also a social worker, I can't remember her name, and three other people.

18. I don't remember having very much explained to me, I was just told by the panel that I was being taken from my parents and placed into the care system, or something like that. I do remember my reaction when I was told, I picked up the table I was sitting at, threw it in the air and barricaded the door. I remember telling them I wasn't going to Brimmond, I was adamant I wasn't going and it wasn't until my grandmother calmed me down that they got me to go.
19. I went straight to Brimmond from that Children's Panel. I was in a car with my grandmother, a social worker and someone else who was driving the car.

### **Brimmond Assessment Centre, Aberdeen**

#### *General*

20. I went to Brimmond three times. The first time was for about a year in 1971, the second time for about six or seven months in 1974 and the third time for about three months in 1975.
21. I remember getting to Brimmond the first time, it was up in Bucksburn at the top of Brimmond Hill. I had never heard of the place before. I remember seeing the glass doors and the building which was on two floors. Being a kid, I didn't know what I was going in to or what it meant, I was just snatched away from home.
22. As soon as you came into the drive there was a stone-built dyke and an arch on the right-hand side which led to an area to park cars. ERL-ERM had their own house there.
23. The home was about as long as a football pitch, it had an arched roof and two floors. There was a row of windows along the top which I remember was the bedrooms and



Bucksburn Police Station. [REDACTED] died in a prison fire. Many of the boys and girls I have mentioned have died.

29. The staff I remember are Mrs [ERL] who was in charge of the whole of Brimmond and her husband Mr [ERM], but it was Mrs [ERL] that was hands on, she was the boss. Mr [ERM] would come in for special meetings and events but it was basically left to his wife.
30. There was a Mr [GJQ] who was a carer, he smoked a pipe and wore a wig and I found out during my time there that he was having an affair with Mrs [ERL]. There was a Mr [HQS] who came from Glasgow, he taught the boys boxing and stuff like that. He used to arrange fights for kids that were having a tiff with one another. He would say the best way to deal with it was to put the boxing gloves on.
31. There was also a [GJO-GJP]. They were second in charge and also had a house at Brimmond, it was in the same area as [ERL-ERM]. No other staff stayed on the premises.
32. I also remember Bunty who was the cook, she was alright. There was a big guy called Mr [GJR]. He had dark coloured skin and wore dark glasses, he was about 6' 4" and was really well built. Whenever anyone was getting a bit uppity or more difficult than some staff could handle, they would get [GJR] and he would come and bear hug you and take you away. That happened to me often enough and I ended up in that cell up the stair. You just couldn't get out of his grasp, he had these massive hands, I remember that.

### **Routine at Brimmond**

#### *First day*

33. When I got to Brimmond everything was nicey-nicey. I wasn't taking in what I was going to be left with because I was a kid. My grandmother was there one minute and

the next minute she disappeared and I remember trying to get out the door to get to her but the doors were locked and I couldn't get out. I remember screaming then that I was wanting out to see my grandmother. That was the point the staff got me interested in other things so I wouldn't think about her.

34. After that things were alright but I was always wondering where my grandmother was. It was at night-time that everything totally changed. Up until that point there hadn't been a problem.
35. I was brought up by my grandmother not to strip off clothes in front of anybody, so that was seen by me as being wrong. The wifey **ERL** and Mr **GJQ** took me into this changing area where the showers were, on that first night. They told me to take off my clothes and I told them to leave as I wasn't stripping off in front of anyone.
36. **GJQ** and **ERL** took a hold of me and ripped every bit of clothing I had on off of me. I started to panic and I went off my head and went for the two of them. They left me where I was and chucked me some pyjamas. They could have just given me the pyjamas in the first place and then left me. The two of them were a problem for me from then on.

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

37. We were woken up in the morning about 7:00 am and told to get up. We went for a wash and then went down for breakfast. Everybody went to wash together, in the shower washroom area. There was a changing room as well, so you could get yourself dressed in the morning.
38. They didn't let you have your clothes with you in the bedroom to stop you running away, they knew there was a better chance of you running away if your clothes were there beside you.
39. The bedroom doors were open but the main doors of the building were all locked. You had a bed and that was it but some of the rooms did have lockers. I think it was just

the case that if someone was getting out and they had a locker you just grabbed it. There wasn't enough to go round.

40. After breakfast everyone was allocated work that they needed to do. We then did our cleaning jobs for the rest of the morning.
41. In the evening all the smokers would gather in the toilet area for the last cigarette before bed. We all went to our rooms about eight o'clock and it was lights out the minute you got into your bed.

#### *Mealtimes/Food*

42. All the boys and girls usually had their meals together in the dining room. Sometimes the girls had their breakfast brought up to them, I think that was just easier for the home to do.
43. I couldn't fault the food, it was alright, we had a good choice and there was always plenty for us to eat. A staff member like Mrs ERL or Mr GJQ would stand against the wall and supervise us in case anything happened in the dining hall. I never really saw a problem in the dining hall ever.

#### *Clothing/uniform*

44. The staff all wore their own clothes but we did have a uniform. We had green and black jerseys with skyscrapers on them. We wore Jesus sandals which had a criss-cross pattern on them. We never got to wear our own clothes, they were all locked away in a room up the stairs.

#### *Leisure time*

45. During the day we had some organised sports, football and things like that. I had no interest at all in football so I didn't play that. There was a big field next to Brimmond so I would run round that when they were playing football.



46. In the evening we had sitting rooms where we could sit about and do jigsaw puzzles or play games and stuff. We could also watch television in the TV room.
47. When I was older, I joined the cadets when I was at Brimmond, that was my second time there. It was at the army barracks in Fonthill, which used to be a hospital, it was actually the hospital where I was born. I was driven to my grannies in [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Aberdeen where I had my cadet uniform then I would walk to cadets at Fonthill.

#### *Trips and holidays*

48. I never went on any trips. The most I got was hiking up and down Brimmond Hill. If anyone wanted to go, we would be taken to the top of the hill which was about two miles away. That could be anytime it just depended on when a member of staff wanted to go.

#### *Schooling*

49. You could apply for schooling and some people did put down for it but nobody ever got any. I don't think they had a classroom and the one teacher they had didn't come in and start at Brimmond until about 1974 or 1975.
50. No one was getting any education. I did do a woodwork class with a teacher that came in and did modelling with us. I quite liked that and I remember making a lot of clay models and putting them in the kiln. They were sold on to people who visited the school by the wifey [ERL] [REDACTED].
51. Looking back, I think that was all about giving the staff at Brimmond less kids to look after because one teacher would have about seven kids all in the one room. I don't remember the name of that teacher.

*Healthcare / medication*

52. I never once saw a doctor or a nurse at Brimmond. Mrs ERL was the matron and she dealt with everything like that. She gave us medication like headache tablets because you don't need to be a doctor to hand them out and she was the one who applied lotions and things like that.
53. I was never taken out to the doctor but I suppose you would have been if you needed it. That was the same with the dentist and you would be taken by the wifey ERL or Mr GJO in their cars.

*Religious instruction*

54. There was a bit of a religious thing at Brimmond but it wasn't priests, I think it was evangelists or something like that. It was every Wednesday in the dining hall and we all called it 'Wednesday Nights'. A guy or a woman would come in and we would sing songs and get a reading from the bible, things like that.
55. I don't think anyone wanted to go but we did because it meant the boys and girls could all meet each other.

*Work*

56. We did have cleaning jobs to do at Brimmond. I would do the stairs and the top floor corridor. I used a wooden hand scrubber and did it all on my hands and knees, no knee pads or anything like that. I did cleaning every day, usually the stairs but I also cleaned the TV room and set the chairs up. I would clean the tables and shelves, stuff like that. Sometimes I cleaned the shower room or the toilets so it wasn't the one job all the time, they moved you about. I don't know what the girls did.
57. There was a couple of times, when I'd been arguing with staff, that GJQ or Mr ERM would give me a toothbrush and a bucket of water and tell me to clean all the stairs with it that day. I think cleaning the stairs was seen as a punishment anyway,

and it meant they could always tell you to do it with the toothbrush. I would clean from the bottom of the stairs on the ground floor to the top of the stairs on the second floor. It would take all morning and I would be doing it on my own.

58. GJQ was the type of guy who would go outside, get his boots all muddy then come back in and walk up the stairs telling you they needed cleaned again. He would do that when I was doing the cleaning with the toothbrush. That punishment did happen quite a bit, not every day, but quite a bit.
59. If you had cleaning jobs they were usually in the morning and you had to have them finished maybe twenty minutes before dinner time. Then everything could be put away and you could get prepared for your dinner.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

60. We maybe had a Christmas meal that Bunty would cook up and a wee Christmas tree in the TV room but we are talking about something that was very small. We didn't have multiple decorations to say Christmas was there and I don't remember getting any presents either.
61. It got to the point that I didn't care about things like Christmas and birthdays. My birthday is on [REDACTED] so I have Christmas and then my birthday just after it. Over all the years with me being in institutions I've woken up on Christmas morning and it's just been another morning and I've woken up on my birthday and it's just been another day. We maybe got a wee selection box and a tangerine at Christmas but that was it.

#### *Personal possessions*

62. I had nothing with me when I went into Brimmond, and they even took my clothes off me. My gran wasn't allowed to bring anything in either, so I had nothing.

63. We didn't get any pocket money but when I went home to stay on weekend or home leave, I got a wee wage packet to give to my gran to help keeping me for that period of time. There was no monthly allowance or anything like that.

#### *Bed Wetting*

64. I wet the bed right up until I was about twelve. I would steal clean sheets the night before and hide them under the bed. I would get up early in the morning and wash down my bed, take off the dirty sheets and put on the clean sheets. I would just toss the dirty sheets into someone else's room. I don't think they ever knew at Brimmond.
65. I did hear kids getting smacked for wetting the bed, I remember hearing a couple getting smacked one morning. That just made it worse though.

#### *Culture*

66. We were allowed a limit of four fags a day at Brimmond. It didn't matter what age you were you could smoke up to four a day. So that was from age nine to age fifteen. They were locked away and you got one in the morning, one in the afternoon, one at teatime and one at night before you went to your bed.
67. No one needed permission from parents to smoke, it was much the same everywhere I went, you got to smoke four a day. It was because if they didn't give you four a day then the whole place was going to be full of people smoking cigarettes all day.

#### *Family Contact*

68. I didn't get out to visit family or stay away overnight the first time I was at Brimmond but my grandmother and grandfather could come and visit me there. Then I would get what was called a 'field day' when I could go out with them for the day. I suppose that was the first bit of trust the staff were showing. My grandparents visited me all the time, every week.

69. The second time I was at Brimmond I got to go and stay overnight at my grandparents. I'd go to Cadet training on a Tuesday night and then go to their house afterwards. I'd stay the night with them and then go back to Brimmond on the Wednesday. After that I started to get home leave so I did see my grandparents quite a bit when I was at Brimmond. I eventually got weekend leave as well.
70. It just got to the stage where they were getting too old and I was getting too much for them. I was a young kid full of energy and they struggled to control me.

### *Running away*

71. I ran away from Brimmond more than thirty times. I was a very small boy and I could fit through some tiny spaces. I was the only boy that could squeeze through some of the smallest windows and that's what I did to run away.
72. The first time I ran away was about two or three weeks after I arrived. It was because of me being stripped naked on that first night. I was sussing out what was going on round about me and working out what I could do and what I couldn't do. I realised I could squeeze through the windows so that's what I did. I remember the staff couldn't understand how I'd managed to run away.
73. I ran away because I had realised that something was wrong. I was a wee boy so I didn't see it as an element of abuse but I knew something was wrong. I ran down the road and continued into Bucksburn. I then got onto the railway as I knew when I was on that, I could get to my grandmother's house [REDACTED] because the railway runs past her back door. It was about three or four miles though and I went right along that railway track in my bare feet to get to my grannies.
74. My granny was worried I'd done something wrong and I did tell her the things that were happening at Brimmond. She looked after me and let me stay the night but put me back to Brimmond. I ran away to hers a few times after that. I once ran away to my gran and she put me on a train to Newcastle to go to my dad's. I was staying with him and on the run in Newcastle for about three months.

75. They kept on harassing my gran, looking for me, so I decided I needed to give her a break and I stopped running away from Brimmond. I wasn't in care because I was a crook or anything, I first got involved with the police because I was running away and they had to come and look for me.
76. I remember Brimmond once had some big tractor tyres delivered to make up an assault course. I got inside one and got another boy to roll it down towards the fence around the field next to Brimmond. It rolled down the hill and over the fence which had barbed wire on it and finished about 200 yards away. Mrs <sup>ERL</sup> had seen it and was shouting at me to come back but I was away.
77. Another time I was running away I was chased by Mr <sup>ERM</sup> in his car. He was trying to knock me down but I got into an area where he couldn't take the car. Eventually he just got into his car and drove away.
78. I remember when I was at Brimmond for the second time, after Oakbank, I was put in the cell up the stairs for something I'd done and I thought I'd just had enough. I burst a hole through the roof of the cell, went along the roof and got into the cupboard where they kept all our home clothes. I put on my own clothes, smashed a window and ran away. It was after that, they put me to Craiginches.
79. Whenever I ran away from Brimmond I was always punished and put in the cell they had on the top floor. No one there ever asked me why I was running away, it was always about confinement.
80. One of the last times I ran away from Brimmond, my granny phoned the wifey <sup>ERL</sup>. I had said to her that I would go back to Brimmond on the condition I wasn't getting lifted by the police. Mrs <sup>ERL</sup> came to my grannies and got me.
81. I hadn't been in trouble with the police before Brimmond but once I was there and running away every time I was in a police station I would be bullied by the police or placed in a corner. I was in the polis station heaps of times, I had to be arrested by them or seen by them every time I ran away. In all the times I was caught by the police

I was never sat down and asked why I was running away from Brimmond. I did say to certain police that I couldn't handle what was happening there, and that I was being touched up but nothing was ever done about that. The police basically said that they heard that all the time.

82. It did come to a point that I did get involved in criminal behaviour because some of the boys I was running away with were stealing cars. I was getting caught sitting in the car with them or the bigger guys were getting away and I was getting caught because I was so wee. I ended up getting done with car theft and to this day I can't drive.
83. I went on to get involved in snow-dropping, which is stealing clothes off a line, as we were all running away in our pyjamas.
84. I went into Brimmond as a normal person, but because of what was happening to me I was running away to escape from that, with other people who were doing the same. The difference is that the other people were put in there as a punishment and they were involved in criminal activity. I then became a part of that.

#### *Review of detention/social work/external inspections*

85. I don't remember any social work visits at all for any of the times I was in Brimmond.
86. There were people in suits that came round a couple of times at Brimmond. I remember that because whenever anyone official comes to visit, whether it's in prison a home, an approved school or a borstal, you are all told to clean the place up and have it spotless. You knew when someone was visiting but you very rarely saw them. They would maybe ask how you were on the way past but that would be it.

#### *Discipline*

87. The only discipline was confinement. I mentioned the cell block on the second floor and getting put in it quite a few times when I was at Brimmond. It was an actual prison cell and that's where you were put if the staff couldn't control you or they would use it

as a punishment. There was nothing in that cell, no bed, just a mattress on the floor. There was a square window you could look out into the yard from but it was on the second floor so you couldn't see much.

### **Abuse at Brimmond**

88. I mentioned Mr <sup>HQS</sup> making boys fight with boxing gloves on, well that happened to me. He got me and another boy to fight and I wasn't wanting to fight. The boy's name was . He got us to put the boxing gloves on and I actually ended up beating the boy but then I stopped as I seen the boy was beaten, <sup>HQS</sup> told me not to stop and to keep going until they were down. He was shouting at me that I was in a fight and I cannae stop, I had to go back and keep hitting the boy until he went down. I was apologising to the boy. I had to do that and I didn't feel it was right. That was in the gym hall and it was just me, the boy and Mr <sup>HQS</sup>.
89. I had been getting in fights with boys but that was far more vicious. I wasn't wanting to fight the boy, he was bigger than me and I was feart of him but <sup>HQS</sup> pushed it and pushed it. That way of fighting did become a part of me, it became part of my life later on.
90. That boxing happened regularly, <sup>HQS</sup> was bad, he was more hands on with the boys in gym and with stuff like that. When he was nightshift, he would come into my room at about four in the morning, wake me up and take me into the office. He'd tell me not to tell anybody then give me a fag and a nip of whisky. I'm sure that was because I was good at the boxing and I was probably one of his favourites. I was thinking I was alright but I wasn't because later on alcohol became a problem for me and my offending.
91. Mrs <sup>ERL</sup> who we called , also came into the bedrooms every night. She would start touching your fore brow and telling you to be good and all that and then she would kiss you on the lips. She kissed every boy on the lips and she did that when she was by herself.



92. Another thing she did was to come into the showers when the boys were showering, she would be with Mr **GJQ**. She would tell boys that they needed to wash themselves properly then she would get the soap and start washing you. She would wash your backside and your front and tell you it was important to wash all over that area. She did that all the time, when we only really needed to be told once but she would always wash us in that same area. We all got used to it and let her do that but you're a bairn you don't realise that what's being done is wrong.
93. Another thing she did quite often was to get all the boys to line up in the front corridor outside the surgery. The wifey **ERL** would be inside the surgery and she would get all the boys to go in one by one. Sometimes Mr **ERM** would be there but Mr **GJQ** was always there. She would tell us there was an infest of beasties and they needed to medicate us all to stop it spreading.
94. Mrs **ERL** would then take us into the surgery one by one, tell us to strip off and rub this cream all over our private parts and the rest of the body then tell you to put your clothes back on. It was always her that did that, never **GJQ** but he would always be there watching. There was no need for that and I didn't like it, even as a bairn I didn't strip off not even in front of my grandmother. I was a shy kid so that really stuck with me.
95. I think Mr **GJO** was a watcher. I don't think he was a hands-on person, he got his kicks from watching the kids but Mrs **GJP** had nothing to do with anything like that.
96. It was the same staff at Brimmond every time I was there and the behaviour I've described happened every time I was there. I was there the three times and it happened up until I was about thirteen, so every time I was there.
97. I think that between the wifey **ERL**, the man **ERM**, **GJQ** and **GJO** they were a ring of people that all knew what each other were doing. I don't think **GJR** was like that, there was nothing sexual with him, he was just there as a blocker and he

could control the boys. HQS's thing was the violence, I think he just liked to be violent or see violent behaviour between the boys.

98. I know a boy, [REDACTED] was his nickname, who's about my age and was here in Peterhead who was also at Brimmond the same time I was and went through the same treatment I did. When he was older, he told me he had a relationship with the wifey ERL [REDACTED] when he was a man. What I don't know is if they were having any kind of relationship when he was at Brimmond as a boy, or if it was just after he was released when he became a man.

### **Reporting of abuse at Brimmond**

99. I've said I told my grandmother everything that was happening when I went back home when I was running away. I think she believed me, especially with her being the Christian way that she was, but she never did anything about it, she would always rather put me back to Brimmond. Looking back though, I don't think she would have put me down to Newcastle that time, I think she was trying to help me, to hide me. She covered for me for about three months and I think that was because she knew something was wrong.
100. I didn't say anything to my dad and I didn't ever say anything to anyone at Brimmond but I've told you I told the police I was being touched up and they did nothing. I said the same to social workers and psychologists. Some of that would have been a bit later on, it might not have been at Brimmond, I can't remember but it was when I was still young, maybe twelve or thirteen, it's in the social work records I have.
101. My records also say that at the age of eleven I've spoken about the police and being assaulted and bullied by them.

## Leaving Brimmond

102. I was at Brimmond three times and I was put to Oakbank then Craiginches and finally Geilsland when I left each time.
103. When I was at Brimmond the first time I think it got to a point where I was getting older and I was turning against them more and more. They were getting worried they couldn't manipulate me the same way they could manipulate me when I was a kid. To get rid of me they sent me to an approved school.
104. It was actually meant to be Barnardo's that I went to but when I told the person from Barnardo's that I liked things like karate, boxing and judo they decided they didn't want me. They didn't want a person who liked that kind of violence in Barnardo's because of the type of children they had there so I escaped going there.
105. The only place that was prepared to take me was Oakbank. I did go there for a visit one day to see it, so I wasn't walking into a strange place and then I was taken there for good. That was all arranged through the social work and Brimmond. I wasn't at any panel or anything like that.
106. When I was at Brimmond the second time I managed to bolt from the place again. When they caught me, it wasn't a point of me going back to Brimmond it was a point of me going to a panel or court where they suggested I should go to Craiginches. That was a decision that was made because I was put down as being too unruly and needed to be detained in a safe place. That safe place was Craiginches.
107. Before going to Geilsland and in Brimmond for the last time, I remember I was going out to the car and the wifey <sup>ERL</sup> told me that Mr <sup>ERM</sup> wanted to see me. She said he was in the house and to go and see him. I went in their house and I heard him say "I'm in here" from up the stairs. I went up and he was in the bathroom standing there shaving and he didn't have a stitch on. He turned to me and I said he was out of order or something like that and I went back down the stairs. It was like he was getting his last kick or something and I was beginning to see what was happening.

## Oakbank Residential School, Aberdeen

### *General*

108. I was about twelve when I went to Oakbank and I was there for about six or seven months. It was an Approved School.
109. Oakbank was in Midstocket Road in Aberdeen. As you came up to it there were big fields on the left and the school was further up to the right. As you went into the grounds the Governors house was on the right and further up there was the big Oakbank building and a big play yard or school yard. I think the main building had three floors.
110. The bottom floor was the play hall, a TV room, shower rooms and a dining hall further down at the back. The second floor and third floor were all for bedroom sets. It was a pretty old building and there were things added on to it. Like a woodwork shop at the very top of the road and there were other buildings in the grounds for gardening and joinery and things like that.
111. I'm pretty sure **SNR** name was **EJU**. He was a tall guy with a baldy head. The only other staff I remember are a Mr **HQT** who I think might have been a housemaster but was definitely a teacher as well. He went on to become **SNR** at Geilsland. There were a few houses and each had a housemaster. I forget the names of the houses.
112. It was all boys, maybe about fifty, when I was there, mostly from Dundee and Edinburgh. The boys were all from about twelve to fifteen. Once the boys turned sixteen, they could go to borstal or young offenders.
113. The bedrooms were in big halls that had partitions to separate the beds. There were two boys in each partition.

## **Routine at Oakbank**

### *First day*

114. I was taken there by the woman **ERL** and a social worker, I'm not sure. Every place you go to, it doesn't matter if you're a kid a juvenile or a man, you're always concerned. I met **SNR** **EJU** and I was shown around. I think I would have met someone I knew from out on the street, you always knew someone and everyone fell into these little cliques.
115. I remember I had a fight on the first day.

### *Mornings and bedtime*

116. We were wakened up about 6:30 am. We had to get up, wash and brush our teeth. We got dressed, had something to eat quick and went to our work parties. I had a work party which was in the garden, some boys did cleaning and other jobs. We would work until dinner time and then again in the afternoon until about 4:30 pm, when we had our tea. That was our day.
117. After breakfast, dinner and tea, one of the housemasters would come out with this box and in the box, there was tobacco tins with numbers on them. One, two, three etc. and in those tins was your daily ration of roll ups, it wasn't fags. You got four a day, the same as Brimmond. All the tobacco tins were kept in that box in the governor's office. We got out last roll up before we went to bed.
118. Oakbank was secured at night. The whole place was locked up and there was nightshift staff so you would need to sneak out if you were running away like I did.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

119. I couldn't complain about the food at Oakbank, it was alright. There was staff in the dining hall but I can't remember there ever being any issues.

### *Washing/bathing*

120. What worried me most when I went to any institution was going for a shower. At Oakbank there was a big square shower area with maybe eight showers going up the left, four or five along the back and then eight on the right again. When you're taking a shower, everyone sees everyone and I just never did that, I wasn't used to that, I was a shy kid. I would wait until everybody had showered before I went in. I would even argue with kids if they came in when I was having a shower. The staff decided when you had a shower, they would just pick a time, it could be morning or afternoon, just a time when they had time to do it.

### *Clothing/uniform*

121. We did have all the right attire at Oakbank. We got shoes or boots for in the gardens, rather than sandals. We got long trousers and a t-shirt for running about during rec time and things like that.

### *Leisure time*

122. There was no leisure time really, and I think that's what created most of the fights between the kids. The play hall was just a gymnasium that wasn't used as that and there was a TV room, that was it. There might have been books for kids that were into reading but that wasn't me.
123. We did play a bit of football and there were some sports, I think we played cricket a few times.
124. I did go to karate classes when I was at Oakbank. I would go with another boy, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] we were allowed to go into Aberdeen for that and we came back afterwards.

### *Trips and holidays*

125. They had minibuses at Oakbank and they would take the kids out on day trips to riverbanks and stuff like that. I can't mind going to anything like that though, because I would just have run away.

### *Schooling*

126. Oakbank was actually a school but the classrooms we used were on the first floor up at the top on the right-hand side, they were a kind of add on to the main building.
127. There were classes like English but I can't really remember being in any. I couldn't sit still and relax in school because of Mr HQT one of the teachers. He would be lifting his hand all the time and hitting or threatening to hit kids. He hit quite a few kids. I couldn't accept that and he wasn't happy with that and I couldn't concentrate. We all had to go to school classes but I just didn't take any of it in, I didn't want to know about it.
128. We only had education in the school the one day a week, the rest of the week we were in our work parties.

### *Healthcare / medication*

129. I broke my collar bone at Oakbank when I was doing karate. I did a kick, landed on my side and my collar bone cracked. I was taken to hospital and they put me in a figure of eight bandage.
130. I think there was a nurse or somebody like that at Oakbank but I didn't see anyone when I broke my collar bone. I woke up the next morning and knew something was wrong with it so I went and told somebody and they took me to hospital.
131. If you needed a doctor or a dentist the staff would just take you to see them.

### *Work*

132. I got to work in the gardens at Oakbank and I enjoyed that. I could go to the bottom of the fields and wander about. I did runners from there as well. I worked in the gardens most of the time, I would go down about 8:00 am after breakfast, work until dinner time and after dinner and another smoke I'd go back to the gardens until teatime, about 4:30 pm - 4:45 pm.
133. We did have to clean our bed area, make our beds and take care of all that. We would also have to clean the whole place if we were asked to do that. That could be scrubbing the tables and floors in the dining hall and polishing the floor. We also did dishes, cleaning the showers and changing areas, cleaning the yard and sweeping and cleaning out your workplaces.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

134. I think I was at Oakbank over Christmas but it's just not the same. You got Christmas food but it wasn't the same. My Christmas's and birthdays were really only celebrated between the period of time I was about one-year-old until I was about eight-year-old. After that they were all when I was in institutions.

### *Personal possessions*

135. I didn't have any possessions. There was two beds and two lockers in our partitioned room and there was nothing in the lockers, maybe a book and your own clothes. I think we got a pound or so in wages and we could buy sweeties with that. We would buy a half ounce of tobacco with that as well and that would last the week as we only got four fags a day.

### *Bed Wetting*

136. I didn't wet the bed at Oakbank. After the experiences at Brimmond I wasn't sleeping well and once I was at Oakbank, I hardly slept at all.



137. That's still the case to this day. When I was lying in my bed at Oakbank I can remember other boys getting screamed and shouted at because they were wetting the bed. To me that only makes them worse.

#### *Culture*

138. There were little cliques at Oakbank. I was with the Aberdeen guys and there were the Edinburgh guys, the Dundee guys and the Glasgow guys. There would always be fights between the different groups.

#### *Family Contact*

139. I wasn't visited by my gran or any of my family when I was in Oakbank. I did get one home leave but no visits at Oakbank. If she did come to see me it was maybe only the once to introduce herself, something like that.

#### *Running away*

140. I ran away about six or seven times from Oakbank, it was secure but not secure enough. You could get out at night. They didn't ever know how I got out but I learned how to pick locks and make keys for the doors so I would always open the doors then relock them when I left. They didn't know how I was getting out. I ran away so much that I was put back to Brimmond.
141. When I ran away, I was usually on my own and I'd usually head back to my grandmothers. Once I was back at my grandmother's, I could head all over Aberdeen because she had different houses all over Aberdeen. If the police came to the front door, I could nip out the back door and away.
142. The longest I was away would be about a fortnight, after that amount of time you would be taking chances heading into the city centre because that's where the police would catch you.

143. I would sometimes meet other Aberdeen guys, who had run away from Brimmond and other approved schools. Guys used to run away from all the different places. A lot of the other kids were shoplifting when we ran away, but I didn't like stealing. The other kids would steal clothes and things and sell them for money.
144. It was always the police that would catch me and bring me back. Any place you ran away from had to tell the police you'd run away, they had to make a report and the police would be out searching for you. I was found at my grannies twice and out in the street the rest of the times.
145. Some of the police were alright but some could be quite nasty. I did end up fighting with some police when I was a bairn, I'm not sure exactly where that was but I did go fighting with them, after what they'd been doing to me. I did get threatened by the police sometimes when I had been running away.

#### *Social work contact*

146. I can't remember ever getting any visits from social workers at Oakbank but I think I was maybe taken out to see one. I only say that because that's in my files, I don't actually remember seeing anyone.

#### *Discipline*

147. There were no cells or anything like that at Oakbank. Kids were just contained within the whole building as it was all locked up.
148. The punishments you would get would be to not let you go on home leave. If you became an absconder, they didn't want you to go on home leave because they saw that as actually helping you to abscond because you could then abscond from the place you were going to.

149. You could also get locked up within the building and put off all privileges, like your smokes and getting to go to the canteen. You wouldn't get to work either, as you might run away from the gardens, so you would lose all that. That would be for about a week.

### **Abuse at Oakbank**

150. There was an old guy who worked in the gardens, I can't remember his name, who was always touching guys. He was always touching boys on the backside or on your face. He tried to do it with me but I always pulled away. If somebody starts that sort of thing with me, especially after Brimmond, I would get defensive. Whenever he tried anything like that with me, I just told him to 'F-off'.
151. He was kind of sleekit and friendly with the boys he was touching, I think some of them thought he was alright and he would give boys smokes as well. That was the kind of thing that they done. They ken you're young kids and have no smokes so they become all pally and give you something that you wouldn't normally get. It's not until years later that you see that the fags you got weren't for nothing. The gardener was a wee bit taller than me but I was small, he was stocky, red-faced and always wore a skip hat. He'll be well dead now, he would have been in his sixties back then. I think he came from the country.
152. EJU would give boys the belt but I would always refuse the belt from him, I wouldn't take it, I refused it. Then I would just not get home leave or something like that.
153. Mr HQT also tried to give you the belt, he did that all the time with me in his class but I would tell him where to go as well. I remember he would actually try and lift his hands to me as well. He would go to give you a belt across the head then he would stop but he was going to do it, he stopped because he knew I would hit him back. I did see him hit some of the boys though, he hit quite a few of them. It was usually a slap across the head.

154. Sometimes boys would need to be restrained, they would retaliate when they were hit or maybe they were fighting and HQT and sometimes SNR EJU would have to overpower them and hold them down on the ground. That's taking it to another level, adults restraining and overpowering a kid. That was just nasty.
155. I got threatened with the belt for not taking showers with the other lads, like I told you, and it was the same in the bedrooms, I wouldn't get dressed in the room with another kid there.

#### *Reporting of abuse at Oakbank*

156. At the time I didn't tell anyone about anything that happened at Oakbank.

#### *Leaving Oakbank*

157. I was running away from Oakbank and I wasn't accepting the way HQT was treating the kids in class. I think that was why I was sent back to Brimmond.
158. I don't remember a Children's Panel or anything like that I think it was just a case of some social workers and the wifey ERL from Brimmond getting together and agreeing I was to go back to Brimmond.

### **Craiginches Prison, Aberdeen**

#### *General*

159. I've been in Craiginches a few times now. I was thirteen when I went the first time and I was there for about three months. The second time I was about fifteen.
160. I did know what Craiginches was when I went there for the first time. I knew it was an adult prison because my father had been in there and I remember being terrified

having to go there. I had no idea how long I was going for either, no one told me a thing about that.

161. The first time I was at Craiginches I was taken on a '*black Maria*', a police van, from Brimmond. I remember it, there were two policemen in the front of the van and two in the back and I was cuffed. I had been on the run from Brimmond, after going there for a second time, and the police had caught me. I was taken straight to Craiginches because Brimmond weren't wanting me back.
162. As soon as you go in the gate at Craiginches there was a reception area on the left-hand side. The prison was on the right but everyone who went in went to the reception area first for a bath.
163. I was stripped naked again, which I wasn't wanting to do, but they forcibly stripped me and put me into a shallow freezing cold bath and made sure I was washed.
164. I was then told to dress and I was given these scratchy blankets, some sheets, a pillow, a piss pot, toothpaste and a toothbrush and a bar of white soap. I was then taken along this hall and I remember looking around and getting feart because that was me in an adult jail.
165. I then got taken into a main hall and I heard all the noises. I remember a guy coming over to me and asking if I was HWF. I said I was and he told me he was my dad's pal and that I'd be alright. He was a lifer.
166. That was me aged thirteen in an all adult jail. There were licensed prisoners, rapists and life sentence prisoners in there and I was mixing with them all. I was put in a single cell in the remand hall but I was in all the same areas as all those people, it was just that they hadn't been convicted of whatever it was they were in there for at the time.
167. The second time I was at Craiginches was after I'd been on the run from Brimmond and got caught in a stolen car. I was sent there from court and I was told I was going

there until I turned sixteen when I would be sent to borstal at Polmont. You had to be sixteen to go to borstal.

168. That second time I was dubbed up with [REDACTED] who was pals with my father. They did that on purpose, their way of thinking was he could look after me.
169. There was nothing really happened to me that second time because I became a force no one would want to come near, whereas as a kid people could take their chance. I was becoming more violent and nobody bothered me.
170. I remember spending time in the recreation area and playing snooker and pool. I remember going out the cell to eat meals or taking my food back to the cell to eat. We could eat in the dining hall where there would be about eighty guys all eating together.
171. I remember getting visits from my granny, she used to come and see me but that second time there was nothing of any concern.
172. I did have a bit of a tangle with one of the prison officers in the yard once. I ended up putting him to the ground so I spent a week in the digger for that but there's nothing else I can think of.
173. Craiginches was the only place they got you up in the morning by ringing a bell. It was like an old school bell and they would walk round the landings at 06:30 am ringing that bell.

### **Abuse at Craiginches**

174. After I had been in Craiginches for about a week, this old lifer came up to me and tried to get a bit touchy feely with me. I ended up hitting him and kicking into him. I was actually pulled off him. I ended up getting locked up in a cell for that.
175. I managed to climb up onto the roof of the prison hall from the cell I was put in and once I got up there, I wouldn't come down again. I was up on the roof all night and the

- staff ended up getting my grandmother down to the prison to tell me to get off the roof, which I did. I got to talk to her and she did tell me to behave and keep myself right.
176. After that I wasn't spoken to by any social workers or anyone like that, the prison just got a doctor in to check I was alright and that was that.
177. For the next two months or so I was put into a silent cell. That's a cell which is surrounded by another cell so when you go in you can bang, shout and scream and no one is going to hear it. After the two months in that silent cell, I was returned to Brimmond for the third time.
178. I was only allowed out that cell for an hours exercise a day and I did that about twice then never went out again after that. When I did go out, I was taken outside by two prison officers, I was separated from everyone else and all I got to do was walk between the two of them.
179. There was no bed in that cell, no nothing, I was on a stone floor with a mattress. The mattress was taken off you in the morning and you didn't get it back until about 8:00 pm.
180. You could get a book to read but all I did to pass the time was train and exercise all the time. Food was brought to me and I had a piss pot so I had to poo and piss in there.
181. When I think about it now, I think there was a huge mistake putting me in Craiginches and they only realised that after I'd attacked another prisoner. I think they realised I was vulnerable and then decided to put me on my own in the silent cell to protect me.

### **Leaving Craiginches for Brimmond**

182. I wasn't taken from Craiginches back to Brimmond by social work, I was taken by the police. It was the same old routine when I arrived. All the kids wanted to know what a

prison was like. The staff didn't say anything to me about what had happened in Craiginches but I think they had already planned to have me moved to Geilsland School.

183. I wasn't told I was moving until the night before. The worry sets in again. You realise you're getting further away from home. Before it was Oakbank in Aberdeen, Craiginches, still in Aberdeen but here I was moving hundreds of miles down the road. I had never heard of Geilsland before and didn't like the sound of it because it was called Geilsland. None of the kids in Brimmond had heard of it and the staff told me nothing about it other than it was an Approved School.
184. On the morning I was leaving, the wifey **ERL** told me to go and see Mr **ERM**. That was the time I told you about him standing shaving naked in the toilet. I was met outside Brimmond by two social workers, a male and female. I didn't say goodbye, I just got in the car without saying anything and that was me away to Geilsland.
185. I stayed quiet all the way down the road to Geilsland.

### **Geilsland School, Beith, Ayrshire**

#### *General*

186. I was about fourteen when I went to Geilsland and was there for about eight months. There were around forty to fifty boys aged between twelve and fifteen.
187. I remember coming along a country road and Geilsland was on the righthand side. It looked a wee bit like Oakbank. There was a big house with a hall and bedrooms. There was a yard outside. There was another house behind the main building. When my grandmother came down to see me, we actually got to stay in this house for three days on our own. Food was delivered to the house. That was to allow my gran to visit because I wasn't on home leave at the time.



188. There was a table tennis table and a pool table inside the main building. There was a room full of boots and shoes for working. There was a laundry room, a dining room and the governor had an office.
189. The bedrooms were upstairs and had balconies. It was like a wee castle. They weren't really bedrooms, they were living rooms made to look like bedrooms. They had circular balconies and we could go out and stand on them. I think there was six of us in each room, three beds on one side and three on the other.
190. SNR ██████████ of Geilsland was Mr EZD ██████████. He was an ex-navy commander. He had a Tannoy system and speakers positioned all over Geilsland, up in the fields, right up to the workshops, all over the place.
191. I couldn't say anything about the other staff that were there. I don't really remember them, just Mr EZD ██████████. I think he controlled his staff as much as he did the boys.

### **Routine at Geilsland**

#### *First day*

192. We went straight to SNR ██████████ office when we arrived. EZD ██████████ had this big chesterfield suite, a massive desk like you would see on an old-fashioned ship for a navy commander. He had it spotlessly clean and he just sat there like lord of the manor. He came across as nice and I was thinking to myself that he seemed alright. It wasn't until you actually settled in that you realised it was wrong and that there was nothing right about the place.
193. I was in a room with five other guys of similar age. I didn't know any of them but they were alright. There were no lockers in the room. We did have a wee cupboard with an open top and a wee bit at the bottom with a door. Most places you went into had those, I think they were standard. I think there was two or three chairs in the room but nothing else. It had to be spotlessly clean. There were no pictures on the wall.

*Mornings and bedtime*

194. EZD would get us up every morning. He would come round about 05:00 am to waken us at first and tell us we had half an hour to get out our beds. We had to get washed and ready for 06:00 am to go down for breakfast. He made us turn our mattresses round every morning to air them. I can see that would be a good thing if you were on a ship but not for kids in an approved school. We had to fold all our bedding and put it on the bed
195. We then had to prepare ourselves for going to work. We had to line up for him before we went to work. The first person would have to shout "one" then the next would shout "two" and so on. EZD knew how many people were supposed to be there so when it got to the last number, he knew the correct number of people were in line.
196. We had to say a prayer before we went to bed. We had to memorise it. If you didn't memorise it and said it wrong you didn't get to your bed. I remember a part of it was, "We thank you Lord for the food we eat". On my first night I couldn't memorise it. He kept repeating it to me then asked me to try it myself, over and over. You soon learned it. He would be there every night and go round everybody to make sure they all said it before bed.
197. It was all whispers in the bedrooms. You couldn't talk. If the nightshift heard you talking you were going down and doing that assault course. There was an atmosphere of fear.
198. He also had that Tannoy all over the place. He didn't have to get off his seat. He just sat in his office. You could be away at the other end of the place or even in a field, he could press a button and his voice would come through all the speakers. He could say, "HWF, to the office now" and it would be heard all over the school and grounds.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

199. Other than prison where the food is disgusting, all the places I went into, the food was alright. The portions were alright, the taste of it was alright, it was all edible. The only thing with [EZD] was if you put it on your plate you had to eat it. He didn't like waste. If you took the carrots and there was none left then someone had to do without. I didn't like carrots but I was hungry, I had been working all day and was going to try them. I tried one but didn't like it. I took it out my mouth and put it back on the plate. I ate the rest of the food but left the carrots. [EZD] made me sit there from teatime until the following morning because I wouldn't eat those carrots.

### *Washing/bathing*

200. Every morning we had a cold shower. [EZD] would watch us and make us sing a song all the way through to the end before we could get out and go and get dressed. That was every morning.

### *Clothing/uniform*

201. We were given all our clothes when we arrived. We got a vest, a jersey, a shirt, pair of trousers, shoes, socks and before you got any recreation at all you had to sew your name onto every item. If you didn't sew it on you didn't get recreation. They would iron a white strip onto every piece of clothing including your socks and underpants and you had to sew your name onto it. That was so if it got lost, they would know who it belonged to. I think we were given two of everything so when one set was being washed you had the other one to put on.
202. We were also given work jeans and overalls. We did all our own clothes washing at that time. The bedding was laundered.

### *Leisure time*

203. There was a room with a TV in it and you could sit in there if you wanted. There was also a gymnasium, they called it the rec hall. You could play games, scrabble and stuff like that. There was also a table tennis table and a pool table inside the main building

### *Trips and holidays*

204. Geilsland did have transport but **EZD** would only use that to take us to pals of his. We would have to clean up their gardens. Basically **EZD** was for his community so he took us out in the area and we would have to tidy up gardens. I would say the gardens belonged to friends of his. There were never any staff members there, just **EZD**. He would be immaculate wearing a blue jacket with shirt and tie with his wee badges from the navy and other groups he was involved in.
205. We didn't get paid for any of that work, never. We maybe got a cup of tea and a biscuit but that would be it.
206. In every home they had to give you an amount of money for cleaning and doing the work you did there. But that wasn't him giving you that, that was off whoever was paying for the kids to be at the home and not him. That would drive you on to get that money. It was only pennies at the time.
207. He was willing to give out far more, £100 to get you caught if you had done a runner. He wasn't wanting any blemish on his premises.

### *Healthcare / medication*

208. There was maybe a nurse who would be called in but it wasn't a permanent thing. I think at most approved schools if you fell ill, you were taken out to see a doctor. That would be the same with the dentist.

### *Religious instruction*

209. We didn't attend church every day. It was a choice so you could go if you wanted. If it was a special occasion like Christmas or New Year you had to go.
210. I remember there was a church built within the estate at Geilsland and we were shown round. They had used old wooden desktops to make a floor for the church. There was a plaque which was a memorial for a boy called ██████ who had helped lay the floor while he was at Geilsland. The plaque also mentioned the old cut desktops which had been used to make the church floor. I don't know any more about it but ██████ had died whilst he was in care at Geilsland.
211. It was more like a show church with all the marquetry on the floor so we didn't really use it. On Sundays we would walk into Beith to go to the church. Again, that was our choice if we wanted to go. Geilsland was on a country road but it was only a ten- or fifteen-minute walk to get into Beith itself. I think we were given a pair of dress trousers to wear. I think as long as we were presentable it was okay.
212. Mr ██████ would take us to the church. He was involved with the community and wanted to be seen to be out front. He was smartly dressed all the time. He had white hair and he wanted to be noticed.

### *Work*

213. There was no schooling at Geilsland, it was all work placements. There was brick laying, joinery, gardening and basic navy routine training. I worked in the gardens and the brickies. I didn't last long in the brickies, I didn't like it and didn't like being out in the cold either. I worked in the joinery shop and helped clean up areas of the grounds.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

214. ██████ put on pantos every Christmas. He would get the young kids together and get them all singing. He would see who could hit the high notes and sing best and those

kids would be picked for the choir for Christmas. EZD would get people he knew in to Geilsland and the choir would entertain them.

215. He would put up decorations and the place looked alright. When I look back at it, the decorations weren't for us, they were for him and for him to show off.

216. He wasn't concerned about our birthdays.

*Personal possessions*

217. The only thing I took to Geilsland was the clothes on my back.

*Visitors/inspections*

218. I didn't have any visits from the social work during the time I was at Geilsland. I think the only time the social work became involved was when I spoke to my granny and told her she needed to get me out of there. I don't remember any visits or inspections during the time I was there.

*Family Contact*

219. I did get home leave. My first one was cancelled because I'd rolled up my kit bag the wrong way. It had to be rolled up into a perfect spiral and fitted into this circular bag. He could open up the bag and see all your clothing rolled perfectly in there. If that wasn't perfect you had to empty it out and start again. I did it again and there was still something wrong. He told me to do it again but I said I wasn't doing it so he didn't let me go home.

220. When I did get home leave, I would be driven down to the train station and make my way home from there.

221. It was over Christmas time my grandmother came down to see me and we stayed in the self-contained flat at the back of Geilsland. EZD took us over there when my

granny arrived but that was the only time I saw him over the three days. My granny had brought down lots of food, cakes and biscuits because she didn't know if we would get fed or not. I did tell her on the phone that she would get fed but she wanted to bring down her own and we cooked things in the flat.

### *Running away*

222. Geilsland was the only place I never ran away from. **EZD** had a Tannoy system and speakers positioned all over Geilsland. If someone tried to run away, he would shout over the Tannoy that the first person to catch the person running away would get £100 and two weeks home leave. £100 was a lot of money back in the seventies. The whole school would be after you. It didn't matter if it was your pal, the whole school wanted to catch you. **EZD** kept his word and would hand over the money. There wasn't much running away because of this. You just couldn't.
223. I only remember one person running away. That's when I heard **EZD** on the Tannoy shouting there was a runner and to catch him. At the time some of the approved schools were getting it right left and centre from the government who were asking why kids were always absconding. He wasn't getting that.

### *Discipline/Chores*

224. When you folded your clothes for home leave, you had to fold it to navy standard. You had to lay your trousers out and put the creases together. You then put your shirt on the same line as the seam of the trousers. You put your t-shirt along the same line, then your jersey and continued until you got to your socks which would be in the middle. You would then roll it up so it would fit into this bag. When Mr **EZD** opened the bag, he could see everything that you were supposed to have in a circle. If it wasn't correctly done, he would tell you to unpack and you didn't go on your home leave.
225. We had to wash and iron all our own clothes. If anything got ripped, we had to fix them by sewing them back together. If your sock had a hole in it you would have to darn it

yourself. If your clothes became too worn, they would change them. The bedsheets would be laundered.

226. If you went to work in your boots there was a nail tied to your box where your boots were kept. When you came back you had to take the nail and scrape all the dirt out the bottom of your boots. You then had to polish the bottom of the boots so there was no marks or dirt. You also had to polish the top of the boots, take the laces out, make them into a spiral and lay them on top of your boots for inspection. You had to do that when you came back from work or you didn't get your food.

### **Abuse at Geilsland**

227. Mr **EZD** had built a full assault course on the grounds of Geilsland. There were underground tunnels which were full of water. At 03:00 am he would shout through his Tannoy system and get the lot of us up and make us put on our boots and clothes and he would have us on that assault course going through the tunnels and everything. It took us about twenty minutes to finish it. It didn't matter if it was raining or snowing. The tunnels would be full of water and were dangerous. There were climbing frames and nets you had to climb over. It was just like an army assault course.
228. I don't remember anyone ever getting injured on the assault course during the time I was there but it was dangerous. When those tunnels filled up with water you only had a small space above the water to breathe. All the kids out there and **EZD** would be the only adult there.
229. When we came out of there all our clothes were manky with mud. Our shoes were covered. He wanted all that cleaned. He wanted our boots polished up and all the dirt out the soles. We used the nail to pull all the dirt out the sole, then we had to polish the soles of the boots for the next morning. After our shower you maybe had an hour and a half or two hours sleep at the most and then you were back up and into that cold shower.



230. In the morning it was cold showers. You had to go in and sing a song. It didn't matter if it was humpty dumpty or anything else, you had to sing the full song under a freezing shower. EZD would stand there on his own and watch you until you finished. He wouldn't touch anyone, he would just stand there and watch. Then you could get out, get dressed and go down for your breakfast. This was every morning even if we had been out on the assault course during the night.
231. EZD had leather school belts and each had a hole at the top so you could hang them up. The belts had designs of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck or whatever was carved into the part of the belt he would hit you with.
232. He would take you into his office to give you the belt. He had a big chesterfield leather chair in there. You had to lean over the back of it with your trousers down and he would hit your bare buttocks with one of the belts. I took it once from him when he hit me twice but after that I refused. It was sore and once was enough for me.
233. If you got the belt the rest of the guys wanted to know what belt you got because the imprint of Donald Duck or whatever would be on your backside. It was to prove you weren't a grass and did get the belt. They did want to see the mark on my backside the first time he hit me and I showed them it.
234. After the first time I refused it and was handcuffed to a radiator for a full night. I didn't get to go to my bed. EZD said if I bent over, I would get to go to my bed but I said I wasn't doing it. I told him that I would attack him if he tried to force me to do it. So, I was left handcuffed to the radiator overnight. He eventually went out and locked the door leaving me in there. He left the light on. He came back in the following morning and asked me if I would accept the belt. I told him I wouldn't and that he could keep me there another night if he wanted. He just laughed and said that I had been punished enough and let me go.
235. EZD's motto was if you took anything to eat and it was on your plate then it had to be eaten. I like carrots now but back then I hated them and just wouldn't eat them. They were on my plate, I ate everything else and left the carrots. EZD would come

round and check the plates. He said that I had taken carrots so would eat them. He made me sit there the entire night. At one point he turned his back and I managed to put the carrots down my sock. I think he knew I had but he had had enough himself. He told me to go to bed. He was vicious.

236. I think he was a pervert the way he watched the boys in the showers. There was no reason for that. I know he had done lots of hard things in the navy but to stand there watching a kid suffering in the shower, singing under freezing cold water just wasn't right.

237. [EZD] also used to humiliate kids. There was a table tennis table and [EZD] would punish the kids in front of everyone. He would have all the kids standing round the table. He would tell the kid being punished to stand at the other end of the table then to run round to him and stop while he hit them on the backside with the table tennis bat. If the kid was late getting round to him the next time he would add another hit on. It was a whack, not just a tap, it was a punishment.

238. I wouldn't take it from him. I think I became a challenge to him, not a nuisance. These punishments would be for fighting or being caught smoking which he didn't allow. It could be for stealing from another boy. Everything he gave a punishment for was a punishable offence, it was just the way he punished that was wrong.

#### *Reporting of abuse at Geilsland*

239. I did tell my granny about the abuse. Even she said that she needed to get me out of there. I told her about the time [EZD] had handcuffed me to the radiator and I think she phoned and made a complaint. My granny wouldn't have just left it. I think [EZD] said that I had falsified it. I think that by her making that complaint my move out of there was even quicker. He wanted rid of me. I was refusing the belt and wasn't doing what I was told and he wanted people who did what they were told. I was rebellious and he didn't want that on his ship.

### *Leaving Geilsland*

240. It got to the stage I had to get myself out of there. I felt I was getting to the point that to get out of there I was going to do something drastic. Instead of going down that road I tried to use religion which did work. I realised it was a protestant school. During the three days my granny came to see me I told her I couldn't handle it anymore and was going to end up doing something severely wrong. I told her what had been happening. I told her to notify **EZD** and the social workers that I was a catholic and needed to be moved to a Catholic school. That was my only way out of there. They ended up agreeing through religion that I should be moved to a Catholic school. The Catholic school was St John's on the Edinburgh Road in Glasgow. I think I was transferred there three or four weeks after my granny approached them about it.
241. That was my only interaction with the social work because they would have had to agree with the change. I didn't have to go to a panel or to any meeting about it.
242. I wasn't told I was going to St John's until the night before. The reason most places did that, especially if you were involved in organised crime, was so you couldn't notify anyone and tell them you were being moved on a particular day. They also did it so you didn't sit and think about it and decide to abscond.
243. It would have been one of the staff members who took me to St John's. **EZD** wouldn't have left the place. **EZD** did say cheerio and take care of yourself. I couldn't get out of there quick enough.

### **St. John's Boys Approved School,**

#### *General*

244. St John's was on the Edinburgh Road in Glasgow, not far from Easterhouse. I couldn't really see that it had anything wrong with it. I was fourteen coming on fifteen at St. John's and I was there for about a year.

245. There was no abuse. There was no belting or any kind of abuse at all. I'd say there was about forty to fifty boys and all aged between twelve and fifteen. You couldn't be in an approved school at sixteen.
246. St John's was like most approved schools. I think they were all big buildings for posh people who had actually lived there. They were houses before they were turned into approved schools. It's the same as open estate, Castle Huntly. It's a castle. Now the land has been leased out to be used by the prison service. Approved schools were the same at that time.
247. They would add additions to the grounds that were already there. St John's was a big house and all the rooms were turned into bedrooms with partitions. There was a dining hall just exactly the same as other approved schools. They were all based on the same type of buildings.
248. I think there were three houses but you really didn't see the boys from the other houses. The houses were kept separate and once you were in the house, that was you, you were locked in. I forget the name of the house I was in. There must have been about twenty-five boys in there.
249. There was no uniform, we just wore jeans and a jersey.
250. I remember when you walked in, there was a pantry and a door leading to an area where everybody kept their clothes including 'civi' clothes you would put on to go on home leave.
251. Further along to the right there was a big room with a table tennis table and a pool table. There was a set of stairs down to an area where there was another pool table, seats and a record player. There was a TV room off that. I would say in its time it would all have been a living area.
252. There wasn't a school at St John's, the only approved school I remember having a school was Oakbank in Aberdeen.

253. I don't really remember any of the staff at St John's.
254. The difference to St John's was that there was a small swimming pool. The PTI used to say it had been built as therapy for someone but St John's used it for the boys. When I say small it was only about fifteen feet long and wasn't deep. The PTI would take us in and make sure we could swim and were safe in the water then he would leave us to it.
255. I went to judo at St John's. The PTI was into judo himself and he would teach the kids in the approved school. I don't remember his name. He would pick out the kids he thought would learn quicker and take them to outside judo clubs where we could compete for belts. I got to brown belt at Karate, one off black and to green belt at judo.
256. I remember one day I was partnered up with a lassie. In judo you take a hold of the wrists and the collar and use someone else's weight against them. In my mind I didn't like it because I was scared in case I hurt her. I said to her I didn't want to hurt her. By that time the boy had said take cloth and I was on my back on the floor. I got up and I was raging. I lost my belt because of that. I was thinking I would be gentle towards her before she threw me onto the ground. I never made that mistake again.

#### *Routine*

257. It wasn't religious in St John's. I thought it would be when I got there but it just wasn't that sort of place.
258. I remember having to clean and do the hoovering and polishing. There was no work as such, no trade or anything like that. We used to go out hill walking and fishing. I can't remember where we did that. They would take us out in a minibus to a loch somewhere. I remember going to someplace and there was about ten of us. This member of staff took us up this big hill. It took us about an hour and a half to get to the top of it. There was nothing to see at the top, it was just a hike. The staff member had forgotten something in the minibus and I said I would run and get it. I wanted

something to do so I ran all the way down and all the way back and it took me half an hour. I was really fit back then.

### *Leaving St. John's*

259. I ended up getting thrown out. I was planning on running away but I did have a few home leaves so rather than running away I decided to just stay away.
260. I was on home leave and decided that I wasn't going back. I did think that when I got caught, I would be taken back but, in the end, they didn't want me back.
261. They threw me out because of manipulation they said. I was manipulating the other boys, telling them they better not bide there, that it wasn't good for them. After that they were bolting. I was seeing if they could get away and how long it was taking before they got caught. The ones that were coming back were telling me where they had been caught. They were all from Glasgow, I would have had to get all the way to Aberdeen.
262. I had been away from St John's for about a month when I was caught in a stolen car with my mate [REDACTED] and another bloke. I can't remember his name. [REDACTED] was the car thief, I was only the passenger. The police did a check and I was still marked as missing from St John's.
263. We were lifted and all ended up getting remanded in Craiginches. We were in there for six weeks or three months waiting to go to trial, I can't remember how long it was. There were social work reports to be done. I had been fifteen and a half but by the time it was all sorted I was nearing the sixteen mark.
264. I remember the three of us going up to court. That's when I argued my case about going to the detention centre in Glenochil for three months. I had heard all the stories about the place, that it was severe, that they had you scrubbing floors with a toothbrush, carrying telegraph poles and running miles. If you ran a mile in a certain

time you had to do it quicker the next time. If you done ten press-ups one day the next day you had to do twelve.

265. I wasn't going to that and told my granny and the social work that I wasn't doing it. I told them that I would want a doctor up there every fortnight to check me for bruising because I heard people were getting beaten up in there. I said I wouldn't be scrubbing any floors with a toothbrush and wouldn't be doing any PT. I said I would sit in a cell for the three months.
266. The report that went back to the judge said that the detention centre was refusing to take me because they thought it would upset the routine of the place. I remember smiling to myself thinking it was good I wouldn't be going there.
267. My pal sitting next to me said I was off my nut. He said they were away to do three months and that I would get two years. He was right, I got two years in borstal at Polmont.
268. I was convicted so they could keep me in Craiginches for as long as they wanted to. I was sixteen and a half by the time I was sent to Polmont and my two years only started when I arrived there.

### **Polmont Young Offenders Institute (YOI), Polmont**

#### *General*

269. I was taken from Craiginches in the prison van and I remember arriving at Polmont. There was fourteen of us arrived that day. The van stopped at various prisons to pick up prisoners on our way to Polmont.
270. I remember a place called 'ally cally' in Polmont. That was the integration hall and was a two-tier place. The bottom floor was the dining hall. You could look down from

the second floor where the cells were on to the dining hall. That was your play area as well.

271. 'Ally cally' and the north wing were a duplicate of each other. The only difference was that there was a set of stairs in north wing that took you down to the digger which was what we called solitary confinement. East and west wings were different.
272. Once you had been in 'ally cally' for a period of time you were moved to another hall and I was moved to east wing. In east wing there were kids from all over the country, different cities. It was gang warfare between the young kids. We were fighting with our hands and maybe now and then there would be a weapon used.
273. There was an old staff member called Catto. Mr <sup>HQR</sup> [REDACTED] was in charge of the cook house and there was an officer whose nickname was <sup>GRR</sup> [REDACTED]. None of the staff wore uniforms at that time, just their own clothes.

### **Routine at Polmont YOI**

#### *First day*

274. As soon as we arrived, we were told who the boss was and that we would do what we were told. The fourteen of us were marched to a kit room and given BDs which at that time was a BD jacket and bottoms.
275. BD meant battle dress because that was what they gave you in the army. They were hairy as hell and scratched you. You still had your own clothes on and were taken to the shower room. You had to take your own clothes off, have a shower and put on the BDs. The showers did have separate cubicles but the water was freezing. I told the officer I wasn't going in because the water was freezing. He went out and came back in with a fire hose and hosed me down.



276. We dressed in our BDs then lined up outside the governor's office. We were told to run in and give our name and number. I remember there was a rug on top of a polished floor so when you ran over to the governor you went flying. You had to get yourself up and give your name and number. You were then given a cell.
277. The rest of my kit was in the cell waiting for me. I was in a single cell. We had to do bed blocks like in the army. We had to fold all our kit and lay it out on the bed for an inspection every morning. They gave us a small folder they called a housewife. In there was a sewing needle and thread. If a button came off your shirt you had to sew it back on. If you tore your shirt you had to sew it together.
278. If there was a button missing from your shirt you didn't get recreation, you were locked up until that button was sewn back on.
279. During the day you could not sleep on your bed. You could sleep under it but you couldn't ever sit on it. Your kit stayed there from morning till night when you could take it off and go to your bed. Some guys didn't even take their bed blocks apart. There wasn't time to get it perfect in the morning so a lot of the guys would sleep under one cover and not touch their kit.
280. During the day you were locked up for a few hours while the staff went for their lunch. Guys would sleep on the floor under their beds.
281. I was over sixteen when I went to Polmont, maybe even seventeen and I was there until I was nineteen or nineteen and a half.

*Mornings and bedtime*

282. Catto would wake you in the morning. It was a bit crude, but he used to shout into your cell in the morning, "hand off cocks, on with socks." That just wasn't right.

283. The cells were locked all night but open during the day. You were out your cell during the day, you were on the move. Your cell doors would be locked around 8:45 pm – 9:00 pm and that was you in for the night.

*Mealtimes/Food*

284. We would get our breakfast, lunch and dinner. At breakfast there would be four at a table and we would sit and eat our breakfast. Once finished everybody would stand up at the same time and we would all file out in our different work parties. Food was alright, I couldn't complain about it. We were young guys going to the gym, training, they had to feed us right, we needed the fuel to do it.

*Washing/bathing*

285. You had to clean yourself every morning.

*Clothing/uniform*

286. When you arrived at borstal you were given a red and white striped shirt and eventually you worked your way up to a blue and white shirt, so you were promoted by colour of shirt. When you were coming to the end of your time in a red shirt you would get three days home leave and some extra privileges to walk about the grounds. You would get more privileges in a blue shirt but I never made it there.
287. The first time I went for my panel they told me that they wouldn't be authorising my blue shirt because I was associating with the wrong people. The next time I went in they said they weren't authorising my blue shirt because I wasn't associating with anyone. The third time they said they were thinking about giving me a blue shirt and I told them just to keep it. I had my red shirt until I left the place.

### *Physical Training*

288. We had a lot of PT at Polmont. They had three benches in the gym and on each bench there were medicine balls. Each medicine ball had a number on it. We had to run round the gym ten times and do bunny hops over the benches. You would try and jump over the balls with the lowest numbers on them. If you knocked a ball down the number on the ball would be the number of press-ups you were going to be doing. It wasn't just you though, if you knocked a ball down everybody had to do press-ups and you were in trouble from the rest of the guys.
289. We also had to play a game called murder ball. There would be thirty guys at one end of the hall and another thirty at the other end and a medicine ball in the middle. The point of the game was to get that ball into the goal at the other side to where your team were. There were no rules so thirty guys were punching, kicking, biting and scratching. You were best to stay away from the ball or if you did get it thrown to you, throw it away as quick as possible. Guys soon realised it was a way to get at your enemies. Keep throwing the ball to them and all the guys would go for them. I've seen guys lying unconscious during that game. There was no supervision, the PTI would be there but he wouldn't get involved.

### *Healthcare / medication*

290. There was a doctor and a nurse at Polmont. Borstal was different in that there was a doctor and a nurse permanently based there.

### *Work*

291. I started off cleaning floors on east wing. The floor was massive, twice the size of a gymnasium. You had to move all the tables to one end then mop and polish the floor until it was spotless. Once it had dried you got a buffer and you had to go back and forward with that until the floor was shining. Then you had to move the tables to the other end and do it all again on the other side. That was my job every morning for a while. I liked it because the buffer was giving me exercise.

292. I ended up working in the kitchens. I started on the sinks, scrubbing and cleaning all the dishes. Then I moved onto what they called the grubber. That was used to grind up all the food and disposed of it. I moved on to the vegetables, peeled all the veg and put them in the machine. From there I moved onto the bakers table where you would make the bread and things like that. I had a few fights in there and ended up in the digger a few times.
293. I remember two Glasgow boys coming to the door of the food store I was working in. I had already heard they were coming for me. I had a boning knife hidden in the rice in the store. I took it out and told them to come right in. They wouldn't and that was them, they went away.
294. Other jobs the guys were doing was brick laying, gardening, governors pass, gymnasium pass, kit pass. The kit pass was looking after the store in the hall where all the clothes were kept. If a prisoner wanted some clothes, they would ask the kit man. If I was the kit man and you wanted a pair of jeans, I would give you them but I would be needing your dirty ones back.
295. All these institutions are run exactly the same way, doesn't matter if you are a kid or an adult, they're all run the same.

#### *Visitors/inspections*

296. I think social work came to visit me a couple of times in Polmont. I can't remember who that was though. It was just to see how I was getting on.

#### *Family Contact*

297. My granny came to visit me in Polmont a few times and I was given some home leave after I had been there a while.

### *Running away*

298. There was no running away, the place was secure.

### *Discipline*

299. Our cells had to be spotless. They would actually come in and run a finger over the edges. Your floor had to be spotless, polished. If there was dust you got a report. Most guys cut a piece of cloth and put it on their cell floor and slid across the floor on the cloth. They didn't want to make a mess of their cell floor. They would do that in the morning and again at night. The only time you walked properly was when you were out of your cell.

### **Abuse at Polmont YOI**

300. I was put into the digger for fighting. About 7:00 am they would take your mattress off you. They didn't want you sleeping on your mattress during the day. It was a bare hard floor. You were in there all day and night. At 8:00 pm your mattress would be returned to you.
301. I used to wait until I heard them coming towards my cell. I would strip off and sit in the middle of the cell floor. They would come in and I would just stare at them. I wouldn't talk and I knew it was freaking them out. Eventually they got a doctor down to see me. I told the doctor it was nothing to do with me and all to do with them.
302. You were normally sent to the digger for three days. That gave them time to contact the department and decide whether it would just be a three-day rule or a month rule. But it was usually three days you were in for and that could be for fighting, being abusive to staff or just having an untidy cell or dirty clothes. Each report would last for three months and they would add up if you had more than one during the three months.

303. One report would maybe get you a warning, two reports could be one or two days in the digger and three reports would be three days or more, that's how it worked. The staff would put you on report but it was the governor who decided on the punishment.
304. I don't remember any of the staff down in the digger. We would be restrained before being taken down there. Your arms would be put up your back by two officers so you were leaning forward and you would be taken down like that. It was pointless resisting. We were locked in the digger cells all day and night but were allowed out for exercise. I wouldn't go out.
305. The staff in Polmont would punch you. If you weren't doing the right thing, staff would belt you. If you were in a fight with someone, staff would come up and punch you about the body.
306. The guy in charge of the cook house was called **HQR**. He would stand at the bottom of the kitchen when you were at the top. If he saw you doing something wrong, he would throw a rolling pin at you and he was accurate with it. He would throw it in a certain way that it would bounce off the floor and maybe hit you on the legs. He was dangerous with that. Sometimes he would get it wrong and it would hit you on the head.
307. He would just apologise and say he would get it right next time. If anyone was injured the guys wouldn't say how it happened. They didn't want to lose their job in the kitchen which was generally a good place to work. **HQR** would give them a couple of extra cakes to take back to the halls as a treat for not saying anything.
308. I remember sitting at a dining table one day when another member of staff, one of the house masters said to a boy sitting next to me, "what's that over there?" When the boy looked round the housemaster took out his false teeth and put them in the boy's tatties. That's the type of thing they would do. The boy didn't have to eat the food after that, he was given some more. That was just a silly joke. I don't remember that housemaster's name.

309. There was another staff member whose nickname was GRR I can't remember his name. He would come running down the corridor, grab you, throw you to the ground and start punching you because you had done something wrong. He was a big, tall guy with dark skin. He had long hair and a crooked nose, I think he was an Arab or something.
310. They were clever though. They would punch you on the body, on your side or back so you didn't have any visible marks. If you did have a bruise or mark on you face and went to the doctor nothing would happen.
311. There was a matron in the east wing. I can't remember her name. She would take you into her office. I think she was part of the psychology unit. She would sit at a table and she had an electric fire underneath it. She would wear short skirts and have a mirror underneath the table.
312. When you went into her office you were told to stand in a certain position and from that position you could see into that mirror and could see everything of her. I have been in the office and seen that. When you were looking round the room it was impossible not to see the mirror. She would turn round and just smile.
313. Two guys on separate occasions were accused of trying to rape her. She was flashing at guys. The story was that she had had an affair with one of the guys and when the door was opened she shouted rape.
314. She had blonde curly hair, thin face with a long chin and a hooked nose. I think every borstal boy had to go and see her and if you had a problem you could ask to see her. The whole place would talk about her and her mirror and that's where the story about her blaming the two guys came from.

#### *Leaving Polmont YOI*

315. I remember leaving Polmont when I was nineteen and a half years old. I had been told I was leaving beforehand by the governor and social workers.

316. Before you got released from Polmont there is a grant made which is a wage packet. That's your first social money because your now at an age where you're going on the social and that was your first payment.
317. There was a place called the boutique which I thought was good for guys being released. You could go in and pick a suit, jeans and t-shirts so you went out the door looking presentable. Like a fool I picked a white suit and a tie. It wasn't until I got on the train and saw everyone looking at me that I realised I had made a fool of myself.
318. There was no training for leaving. You took out what you wanted to take out with you and that was it. There were courses for mechanics and courses for welding in borstal but I was never involved in any of them. Some boys might have benefited from that.
319. The morning I was being released they were looking all over the place for me. I had gone down to the kitchen where I worked. Eventually they found me there. They told me I was to be out that morning to catch a train. I had to go up and get dressed and was out. They drove me and maybe nine or ten others who were being released down to the train station in a minibus.
320. My mate picked me up in Aberdeen and drove me over to my granny's house which was only five or ten minutes from the train station. I got in the door, got a cup of tea in my hands before the CID were at the door. They wanted to question me about a matter that had happened that morning.
321. When a prisoner is released from prison, social work and police have to be notified. Grampian Police would have been aware I was getting out that day. I had no knowledge or involvement in the matter they came to speak about.

### **Life after secure care**

322. My life after coming out of borstal involved crime. Over the years I associated with Charlie Kray. I used to go down and stay in Bethnal Green. I'd commit crimes for him.



- Charlie got a twelve-year sentence and died during that sentence. I was involved with well-known people in Glasgow. They were all head people at that time. I was involved with people in London, Sheffield and Manchester. All these people were gangsters. I met most of these people through my father and his association with them.
323. I kept these contacts and would direct them to people if they ever needed anything up here in Aberdeen. I was also involved with a crime family in Aberdeen and worked for them.
324. I was actually back in Craiginches around a fortnight after I was released from Polmont. I was remanded for a fortnight and during that time I was involved in an incident in Craiginches. I was charged and I was fully committed until court.
325. The charge against me was dropped. I think I got one year or eighteen months for another matter however.
326. I ended up with a fractured skull and a broken rib from fighting with the officers. I lay in the digger for three months after that. They had actually tried to throw me over the landing and that was the reason I was fighting with them. It was about forty feet up. They got hold of me and threw me down the stairs. I got up to carry on and felt the pain in my head and ribs. For three months I wasn't allowed to see a doctor.
327. Eventually I got to see one who came in along with my solicitor. They were asked in court why they hadn't reported that I had an injury. I think they just didn't want it shown that they had assaulted me. They wanted the bones to heal before I was allowed to see a doctor and then the doctor could say that he couldn't see anything wrong.
328. After court I went to Glenochil Young Offenders where I served my time.
329. I remember at Glenochil officers would have bets. They would have a kitty for £100 and maybe a bottle of booze between two officers. It was to see how many reports they could get by the end of the year. That meant putting young offenders on a report. So their purpose was to go out and get as many reports as they could. So, the young

offenders were getting bad reports and losing privileges all for their amusement. It was common knowledge and they would tell us about it.

330. I don't think I was out of Glenochil for any length of time before I was back at Craiginches, then off to Friarton Young Offenders or back to Glenochil.
331. I remember being in Friarton Young Offenders and fighting with someone on my first day. I chased the boy round the sheds with a pair of shears. He was a French boy. I had been sitting at a table and felt an elastic band ping off my face. I didn't move, I just waited because I knew who had done it, so didn't show any reaction. The second time he did it I chased after him. The officers jumped up and I was put in the digger for that. The French boy was in the cell next to me and he ended up apologising to me.
332. I was moved to another digger and every time they opened the door I attacked the staff. I remember one day the door opened and I was getting ready to attack them again and my mother was standing there. She said that the staff had told her I was going off my head and that she was there to stop me.
333. Once released from there I'm not sure what I did. I probably started working for that crime family again.
334. I once went down to Sheffield with a lassie but she started taking drugs. I wasn't wanting that so I moved back to my mothers in Aberdeen. A few months later my mother got a phone call and was told the lassie from Sheffield was pregnant. I told my mother to change her phone number. I didn't want that attachment.
335. I once received a letter in prison saying that my son thought I was dead and that I was not to bother looking for him. The letter had no name on it so I had no idea who it was from.
336. I had lived a life of crime so didn't want the responsibility of having a son. I wasn't father material and had never built any attachments. I maybe had a girlfriend or two

- who I would see and maybe go out to nightclubs with but I would never build attachments with them.
337. I'd say maybe two and a half years ago I found out through one of my pals that I did have a son. I asked him to check it out on Facebook for me. His mother was the woman I had been with in Sheffield. My pal got photos of the boy and he was the double of me.
338. I wrote to the lassie just to let her know I knew I had a son. I wrote to my son as well. I told him that I had put his name on my visitors list if he ever wanted to come up and talk to me. I said I wouldn't be writing to him again or trying to pressurise him into doing it, just that the door was open if he wanted to. It's just that I'm now at that time in my life and am not the person I was before.
339. My son was actually a prisoner in here at one time and I spoke to him without knowing who he was. I only realised long after he had left who I had been talking to.
340. Another time a life serving prisoner came up to me. This was about four years ago. He asked me if I knew a lassie called [REDACTED]. I remembered her from when I was eighteen to twenty years old. He said the boy was a PTI in the gym and had been asking where I was. He got involved in a fight outside the prison and lost his job. I just wonder why he was asking about me and telling the lifer who his mother was. I think maybe he is my son but I'm only surmising.
341. Around twenty-three years ago I was convicted of an offence and sentenced to life imprisonment.
342. Around thirteen years into my sentence I was sent to an open prison.
343. I've been married twice. My first wife was called [REDACTED]. I married her not long after I had been sentenced to life in 1999. I divorced her.

344. By 2015 I had married again. My second wife was a drug addict and an alcoholic. She lived with her seventy-four year old mother who was also a drug addict and an alcoholic. I was seeking a divorce when I heard that she'd taken her own life.
345. I didn't marry for love, I never had love in my heart for either of my wives. Maybe I had care but not love. The second time I got married I was in an open prison and just needed an address for my home leave because they were going to put me in a hostel.
346. A few years later I was back in open prison and had a work placement in a charity shop in [REDACTED] Dundee. A female security guard who worked in the centre befriended me. We would go out the back of the charity shop during tea breaks and for a smoke. That continued for months. She used to ask me for clothes from the shop and I would get them for her.
347. Open estate got to know about it through police who had been notified by the staff. The police went to the female's house and found her to be a married woman. To cover herself from her husband she told a story of me stalking her. I was removed from open prison and return to closed conditions. I waited two years to go to court for that. The case lasted all of five minutes before being thrown out by the judge as the woman was found to be a liar.
348. Psychologist Alison Campbell uses this case in reports she puts before the parole board. She states I have a problem with woman and had broken the rules not reporting my relationship with the woman. I feel Alison Campbell has prevented me from being released or from moving forward by using her position of power to do so.
349. I've been in prison ever since and am waiting for my next parole hearing which is in [REDACTED]. I am engaged to [REDACTED].
350. None of my previous convictions have had any impact on woman, yet they use them to hold me in prison. I've only had about seven reports within my last twenty-four years in prison. There are no reports for violence, it's either I've refused a drugs test or I've been cheeky to a member of staff. Not for lifting my hands to anybody.

351. I've never been medicated in my life despite all the different diagnoses from psychologists over the years. In 1976 a psychologist diagnosed me as having psychotic tendencies, a personality disorder and anxiety. In the same year another psychologist reported that I had no paranoia, was not psychotic or psychopathic and required no treatment. On one hand they were saying one thing and then on the other hand saying there was nothing wrong with me.
352. When I went to Perth Prison in 2000 there was a riot which caused millions of pounds worth of damage and officers were stabbed. I wasn't involved. I was one of ten guys in a special unit. It was for guys that didn't fit in to the system. The unit was to be there for a period of time to let you relax, get your head together and come round to accepting your sentence. They eventually took us out of there at 3:00 am and put us all to different jails. I was put to the digger in Barlinnie and stayed there overnight.
353. I was then returned to Perth Prison and spent the next seven years in the digger there. A few times they told me I could go up to the halls but they kept changing their mind and delaying it. I eventually told them I was staying where I was, I wasn't playing their games anymore.
354. My files state that I stayed in solitary confinement for seven years due to my own doing. It doesn't explain that they played with my mind by repeatedly delaying my move.
355. Other times I was in the digger I would throw out all my toiletries, my mattress, books and would have nothing in my cell that they could take from me. The only power they then had over me was those four walls. They couldn't come in and say they were taking this or that. They didn't like that because I was taking that element of power away from them. I went on like that for years.

## Impact

356. In total I've served about fifty-two years in institutions and over twenty years of that in solitary confinement.
357. I think about my time in care quite a lot. I can actually revisit it and go through Brimmond in my mind and take you through exactly the way it was. Because I'm still in containment, I think about one institution or another at some point every day.
358. I never had a chance to do anything with my life. There were wrong decisions made.
359. I think about being locked in the cupboard at St. Peter's R.C. primary school had a big impact on my life. That was the first time I was locked in and confined and I was only about eight years old.
360. I wasn't a criminal before I went into care and never had any involvement with the police. The first time the police noticed me was when I run away from abuse. They arrested me and took me back to the abuse I was running away from. That's an impact.
361. Also being taken to confined spaces. I used to go mad when I was locked up in a police cell. Just because I was being confined. It was just a bigger cupboard.
362. Being stripped searched had an impact. I told the psychologist that sometimes when the officers were strip searching me, they were seeing me as abusive but it was bringing back what was done to me when I was younger. They didn't realise that.
363. My education never lasted any length of time because I was in the care system. I didn't get the opportunity to attend school properly. I learned to read and write for myself, it wasn't through any school. Teachers would just leave me alone so I would get a book and copy them word for word until I got to know words, how to write them and what they meant.

364. I did sit an army test. Through the cadets I could take a gun apart and put it back together, I could do it blindfolded. I could drive a tank, do orienteering, I could read a map and get from point A to point B. I did rock climbing and different things. But when it came to history and geography I was lacking in knowledge and because of that I fail the test for the regular army. My lack of schooling affected me that way.
365. I was hit in the eye with a dart when I was nine and have been blind in that eye ever since. That also affected my chances of getting into the army.
366. When I failed the test, I remember thinking I should try and get some education but in the care homes we weren't really able to get an education.
367. I did get certificates and pass some exams, I've got my boat licence, my radio operators' licence and computer certificates but if I was to go back and go through the processes again, I would have to relearn because once I've learned something and achieved it, I dinnae want to ken about it. As long as I can read what I'm writing and somebody else can understand what I'm saying.
368. Even now, in prison, we get asked if we want to take part in education. They're asking a 63-year-old man if he wants to go back into education and I tell them that I think I've got enough education behind me to keep me going. I would be sitting in a class learning about something I didn't want to do. I feel they are trying to force me into something I don't want to do so they can say to a parole board that I've been through education. They just want a tick in their box, it's not ticking my box.
369. I now do a bit of writing, I've written poetry that's been published and I'm now writing a book about the system and how it fails long term prisoners. I was in solitary confinement from 2000 to 2007, so seven years and I wrote a poem to show how the mind can go when you're in solitary confinement and how you can look back. It's called [REDACTED] and I can give you a copy if you want, it lets you see into the mind of somebody who's been through that.

370. When I was twenty or twenty-one or maybe even younger, I wrote to Geilsland and asked if [EZD] was still [SNR]. I received a reply from Mr [HQT], who I think was a staff member at Oakbank when I was there, saying he was now [SNR] and that Mr [EZD] had retired.
371. When I was about twenty-four, I was driving about on a motorbike and I actually went up to Brimmond. I parked in the carpark and walked up to the two same glass doors. I chapped the door and someone answered. It looked exactly the same but it wasn't a care home anymore, it was an old people's home.
372. I felt weird. I think I was expecting someone I knew to answer the door. I don't know how I would have felt. I think I would have got angry and probably have come out with something like, "Do you realise what you have done." When someone else answered the door, I explained that it used to be a children's home and that I lived there. They asked me if I would like to come in. I did go in and I had a look about. The dining hall was the same. It did feel weird.
373. In 2006 in solitary confinement I sat down and wrote out a list of guys I knew and had been through institutions with, had ran about with. All kids, not men. I wrote down everyone who had died. I could remember how everyone had died and the list came to 284 kids. That was in 2006, there's more now. That was without naming any of the girls that had died by that time. I numbered my list from 1 to 284 and can remember looking at it and wondering when my number was going to be on it.
374. I've had trouble sleeping since I first went into care at Brimmond. Nowadays I don't get to sleep until about half two or three in the morning. I lie in my bed and watch TV and feel sleepy but I don't go to sleep. If I don't get to sleep until 4:00 in the morning, I still wake up at 5:30 am. I'm just not a good sleeper but I've just had to get used to that. I think it all goes back to the experiences I had as a kid. I don't want anyone creeping around me when I'm in my bed. I even have that when I'm locked up in my cell. I get into a frame of mind that I think the door could open. It gets to the point where I'm so mentally knackered that I do end up getting a good sleep, but then it all starts over again.



375. I've never really been able to trust anybody. I think that distrust started with my grandmother lying about my mother. She was someone I had called mother for so many years until I asked her why she looked older than my pals' mothers. She said she hadn't wanted to tell me but that my mother had died in a car crash. I believed that until I eventually found out that my mother was alive. I never trusted her ever again.
376. When I got into the care system I wouldn't trust anyone. My records talk about my mistrust of professionals. Maybe at first, I did have a wee bit of trust because they came across as caring but when you wanted help it wasn't help you were getting.
377. That mistrust has lasted until today. Until I can sit and really talk to someone and see they are a genuine person and they do something positive rather than turning things against me, I can't trust them. There's only really two people I have opened my heart up to and that is my mother and [REDACTED]
378. I did drink alcohol over the years but I don't think it was connected to my time in care. I don't think I took alcohol because of the abuse I suffered.
379. If I hadn't been in care, I believe I would have gone down an entirely different road. If I had got into the regular army, I would have been an army life. It says in my records that I couldn't cope at school. How could I go on a three-week army camp away from home and not get into trouble once. Yet that was authority and I had to take the orders I was given. I thought that army training would have got me into the regular army but none of it mattered. I could do all these things but it seems history and geography were what mattered to them.
380. My grandmother scared me with religion. I remember going into her house one night and sitting in the living room. I remember she had her rosary beads on the wall and the cross on it was moving back and forward. My granny said that was God telling me I wasn't doing things right and that I would end up being punished. I didn't realise until years later that she had put a thread on it and was pulling the thread. That had scared me. As a child I was being hauled up to the church and told to go in the confession box. I would run away and the police would be called out.

381. I would say going into showers with up to fourteen guys with no partitions affected my mental health. I hated it. I remember in Glenochil there were four of us in a shower. One of the guys asked me to smell his soap and I completely lost it. That was four naked teenagers fighting in the shower. My time in care really had affected me and as I said officers strip searching you don't realise what you've been through.
382. If I was to blame anyone for what happened to me it would firstly be my granny for taking the decision to put me in a care home. Secondly, I would blame the social workers for putting me into an adult prison at the age I was. I've got to blame the social workers and authorities for what they done because I wasn't a criminal, I wasn't a bad person. I was just an energetic person and that energy needed to be released somehow.
383. My records say I was anxious and that this caused my anger. It says I liked my anger because it was my protection. I would say that up until ten years ago, all the way through the system, from being a youth right through until ten years ago my anger was a protective factor for me. It allowed me to survive through the system. It was something I used to fight and if I didn't have that anger in me, I don't think I would have survived it.
384. Going out and doing what I was doing, being violent, I couldn't be soft, I couldn't care about people. It was all about hurting people and if I had that emotion to care I couldn't have done it. I've said to the psychologist, the system created me, I didn't create myself. When I was in Brimmond I had to fight as a young boy. When I went to the next home, I had to fight as a young boy. When I went to an adult prison, I had to fight as a young boy. It became normalised to me.

### **Treatment/support**

385. I remember I was around thirteen when I was first sent to a psychologist. I was referred to another two psychologists in 1976. I've seen psychologists over the years, when I was in Craiginches and other prisons. I've been speaking to a psychologist for nearly

two years in here. I've had one psychologist saying I had psychopathic tendencies, a personality disorder and another saying something else, then another one saying there is nothing wrong with me.

386. Linda Todd is a psychologist here at HMP Grampian. She was put on to me through Alison Campbell who is her boss. I was to see Linda Todd for a year. For half of that year I wouldn't really talk, I couldn't and got frustrated. What I would do was write out things then come up and read it. That was my way of talking rather than stumbling through it. After the first six months, I got comfortable and was able to talk. I saw she would help and she would listen. Before people would listen but that was as far as it would go. I decided myself to give Linda Todd a chance.
387. About six or seven months ago Linda Todd said that my time period was up. She asked if I would like to continue with her and I said that I would. That's been about a year and a half, two years now.
388. I've continued on my own back and have said to Linda that I could understand that she was asking questions that she was needing to ask. I asked her if Alison Campbell had asked her to speak to me and she said yes definitely.
389. I've spoken to Linda Todd about my time in care and the abuse in care. I think she's written it down in her files, I'm not too sure.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

390. As the years went on, and while I was still in institutions, I did speak to people about what happened to me. That would have been from about the age of fourteen or fifteen, certainly before I was in an adult prison.
391. I told social workers about it and I told psychologists about it but I feel they weren't wanting to hear what I had to say, they were just wanting to hear answers to what they

were asking. It would reach a point where they would say they had heard what I had to say but didn't want to talk about it anymore.

392. I told social workers in Greenock, Glenochil and Perth Prisons. I couldn't tell you who they were. They would write it down in their files but it never went any further in their systems.
393. When you're mentioning things and nothing is being done, you eventually think it's a lost cause. I didn't always feel comfortable giving them information and used to go back to my cell thinking 'why did I tell them?' Then they'll put in a report that Mr <sup>HWF</sup> isn't communicative. I've sat and talked to that psychologist off my own back for nearly two years. I've sat and talked to her for hours. It's the same as coming here today, I can be communicative.

### **Records**

394. I have some of my records. The blue files are the ones the council have made up on behalf of the prison. Lots of these reports are court background reports and prison psychology reports. Most of it is psychologist Alison Campbell's input and it's repetitive. There are other records from Cornhill Psychiatric Hospital. I wrote to them and asked for my records. I believe I was in Cornhill Hospital as a patient but to this day I have no memory of it.
395. My records show I was attending Cornhill Hospital when I was eleven years old. I was seeing a psychologist on my own and speaking about not being able to bond with my mother. The psychologist has made it clear in her reports that this information was confidential and that she would not share it with my granny.
396. I was visiting my mother by that stage but my granny didn't want me to see her. She told the social workers my mother was hitting my father when that clearly wasn't the case, it was my father who was bad to my mother.

397. I'm still waiting on my social work records to arrive.

**Lessons to be Learned**

398. How do you explain human nature. If you have a group of people in a care home who are supposed to be looking after the individuals in that home, how can you define one bad apple who creates a rottenness to the next person and then the next person? You're not going to see that rottenness until it comes out or someone exposes it. The human nature of a paedophile or someone who is grooming someone is to be devious. I just don't know how you could sort that because you don't know what you are facing.

399. I definitely shouldn't have been going to Craiginches adult prison when I was only thirteen years old. That should never have happened, me being put in with adult prisoners where I was confronted by a life sentencer.

400. I just hope the Inquiry can continue to expose the wrongness done to people and to show why people react in a certain way. I'm coming to you now but maybe if I had come at an earlier age, it would have been different. For the Inquiry to push through and get people help they need would be an achievement and a right breakthrough. It will frighten the people that did this to young kids. They should be landing in a court of law.

**Other information**

401. 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.

HWF

Signed

Dated

14/2/2023