

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GCN
[REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is GCN [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1957. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My mum and dad were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were both in a relationship before they married each other, as a result I have a few half brothers and sisters. My father had two children to another woman. Their names are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has passed away. He would be sixty-eight or sixty-nine if he was alive. [REDACTED] was about ten years older than me.
3. My mum had two sons and two daughters in her first marriage. Their surname is [REDACTED]. Their names are [REDACTED], [REDACTED] who is in Aberdeen, [REDACTED] who has passed away, she was gassed in her friend's house, and [REDACTED] I never met them. They are all older than me.
4. I was brought up in [REDACTED], a small village near Dunfermline. My mother now stays in Kelty. My dad died about eight years ago. My father was an ex-gunner in the navy. He fought against the Germans during the war. He was a heavy drinker and pretty violent. He was very strict. I wasn't allowed to do what other kids did, like go out and play football, go to the park, things like that.

5. I stayed in a prefabricated house for ten years. I didn't stay in a real house until I was eleven or twelve. I have a little brother [REDACTED] who is four years younger than me and an older sister [REDACTED], who is two years older. My sister had polio when she was young. [REDACTED]
6. One day, when I was five or six years old I was sitting outside digging in some earth with a [REDACTED]. This older guy tried to pull it from me and I pulled it back and fell on it. It went through my cheek and behind my eye. I had to walk about a hundred yards to my house with this [REDACTED] in my cheek. It penetrated my nerve endings and I became blind in my right eye. I was told it would cause me to have learning difficulties. I haven't told many people about it, but I psychologists and a psychiatrist in Edinburgh.
7. My trouble started when we moved from [REDACTED] to Kelty. The children there called [REDACTED] names and I got into fights for sticking up for her. I had left all my friends and landed in this mining village because my father wanted to move to be near his friends and pubs. He was a member of the ex-serviceman's club and was never out of it. I had to move school too.
8. My first school was Halbeath primary school. Mrs Donaldson was my teacher. She was really good. She gave me special teaching. Halbeath closed when I was about nine and I then went to Townhill primary school. Queen Anne was my first high school. I went there for about a year then we moved to Kelty and I went to New Beath high school. I had to get a bus there. I couldn't adapt. Kids were picking on my sister and I was getting into fights. I didn't get any help and I was struggling with some of the subjects. I was getting bullied. I was constantly attacked. I couldn't see out of my right eye, I couldn't concentrate and there was no help. All I was getting was the belt. I was jumping about the class because I couldn't do the work so I wasn't concentrating.
9. I got help from my first primary school teacher, Mrs Donaldson, who had a cottage in Kelty. I helped in her garden and she taught me sums, but I was skiving school and getting into fights with people.

10. I couldn't get a game of football at the front of the school so I ended up hanging about with a group at the back of the school, smoking. I hadn't smoked in my life. They were going into town and getting into trouble, stealing from shops. After about a year and a half I was expelled. I was doing things like breaking into the school and diving into the pool. I had a social worker when I was fifteen who was Indian and I was called a racist because I didn't understand what he was saying. I only saw him once I think.
11. Since I had the accident my life changed but I was too young to understand. I didn't get any help from anybody. My mother was too busy helping my sister [REDACTED] [REDACTED] My dad was going out drinking. I had a younger brother, amazingly he turned out alright. So I was looking after my sister and brother and just getting into trouble.
12. I remember going to a children's panel when I was fifteen and was sent to Stratheden Hospital in Cupar for assessment. I was there for two weeks.
13. After I left school, I remember someone got me the answers for questions, which got me into Technical college. I can't remember who this was. I went to Lauder Technical College in Dunfermline. I was there for about six months then left. I was meant to be there for a year. I got a job but it lasted about a week. I was working a big loom and I was going to get killed by the webbing. I couldn't see properly. I was getting into trouble with the police and with big bullies. I would have fought Mike Tyson then. I didn't know where I was going.
14. I left my parent's house when I was fifteen or sixteen as I was always falling out with my dad. He told me to leave. I stayed with older guys who were up to no good. I stayed with this boy who broke into places. There were housebreaking charges. I just kept getting into trouble all the time. I never planned anything, I just went along with others.
15. When I was sixteen I went to Leith Nautical College to join the navy but I was told I couldn't get in as I was disabled. I couldn't see. This was when the penny dropped.

HMP Glenochil, Tullibody

16. After getting into trouble, I went to court for stealing. They said I tried to steal a Zippo lighter from a girl. I had a German solicitor called Mark Steiner. The judge sentenced me to three months in a detention centre. I ended up being there for ten weeks. I think the judge's name was Sheoch or something. I was handcuffed as I came out of court, for a minor thing. The police officer said to me, "Do what you're told in there and you'll be alright". I was sent to Glenochil detention centre.

Routine at HMP Glenochil, Tullibody

First day

17. I was taken to Glenochil detention centre. It had a big barbed wire, electric fence, around it. I walked into the reception area and there were two prison officers there. I can't remember their names. They would have been in their forties. They slapped me and told me to call them sir. I fell to the ground when I was slapped and when I got up I was asked my name. I said it was GCN and I was smacked again. I got up again and I was asked my name again and I said, "GCN sir", and that was ok. I said, "For fuck's sake, what are you's doing to me?". I was pulled up by the ears and they were twisted round. I didn't see the slaps coming because I'm blind in my right eye. I then had my pockets searched. I had twenty cigarettes and they took them from me and put them in the bucket. I was told that I was nothing, that I was scum.
18. I had to take my clothes off and have a cold shower. I was given blankets, pyjamas and a uniform. When I was carrying the clothes I was given a tin of this pink stuff to clean my teeth with. They also gave me a razor. I hadn't shaved before in my life. I had to march up the corridor naked, they were saying, "Left, right, left, right". I heard a noise, it was really loud, I thought it was a train then I saw about a hundred guys marching with segs in their boots.

19. I was put in a dorm at first with about eight others. One guy teased me about my accident and drew a sketch of someone with a needle through his face. I cracked up and started fighting. I pushed the buzzer for help and officers came and took me out and I was put in a cell. There was a bed, a desk and chair, a bible and a rule book.

Mornings and bedtime

20. Two guys came in and showed me how to fold my bed clothes. This was the next morning. You were wakened with this alarm bell at six thirty in the morning. You had to stand to attention and two prison officers inspected your bed block. You had to hurry up and make it up. Everything had to be perfect.
21. They gave you stuff to write a letter and I wrote one to my mum and dad telling them to help me, that it was horrible and to get me out of the place. I gave it to the prison officers but two minutes later two prison officers came around and slapped me about saying, "What is this, 'get me out of here'?"
22. I think I wrote one other letter but someone stood over me and told me what to write, things like, it wasn't bad there and I was getting fit. I can't remember getting a letter back, I can't remember reading anything.
23. After the morning alarm and making up your bed block, you marched to breakfast. You got things like corn flakes and milk. You weren't allowed to speak to anyone. I never spoke for ten weeks except for saying 'sir'. I can't remember the name of the wing I was on. There must have been about forty or fifty in my wing.
24. The boys in Glenochil were between sixteen and twenty-one years old. Some of them had sideburns and were shaving them off. We got our hair cut short. It was military style. This was on the second morning I was there. That was when I got my second beating for writing my letter.
25. We just sat and read a bible at night. You weren't allowed to lie in your bed until a certain time, you just had to sit in your chair in your cell. You were knackered at night

so when it was lights out you fell asleep unless you were traumatised. This was maybe after you had been beaten up during the day and you were upset, then you wouldn't sleep.

26. I think you had to be in bed for nine o'clock. The lights went out from them. I think it was on a switchboard. They would check on you by looking through the spyhole to make sure you were in your bed.

Mealtimes / Food

27. At lunch time you marched into the dining room, picked up a tray, got soup or something then took it to your cell and ate it there. I remember soup for lunch, and potatoes with various things. At tea time you would march into the dining room and you got a bit of bread and butter and a wee drop tea. We ate that in the dining room.

Washing / bathing

28. There was an open row of showers. You would have soap in your hair but you couldn't get it off sometimes because the water stopped. The prison officers had control of the water. You just had to dry yourself with the soap in your hair. I think we had a shower every two days or something. The showers were open plan and they were supervised by prison officers.

Clothing / uniform

29. We wore a uniform, which was overalls and a blue and white striped shirt. You had to bull your boots, spit and polish. We would do a parade every Sunday and be inspected by the governor. We had to stand to attention then stand at ease. This lasted for about three hours.
30. Your parade suit was hung up on this frame thing at the end of your bed. Thick cotton, navy blue trousers and a jacket, like a donkey jacket. Normal clothes were overalls. You had to get changed three times a day. The PT kit was shorts, running

shoes with spikes, training shoes for the gym and a t-shirt. We all wore the same. This was for running outside. Everyone wore the same unless they had a yellow or red tag, which was for an achievement at running. I don't know if they were treated differently. I think they were given a privilege, but I'm not too sure because I didn't really speak to anyone.

31. There was a bed, chair, desk and hanger in your cell. You marched to the toilets. You would go over with your towel and wash before breakfast. You wore your overalls during the day, your shirt with the sleeves rolled up and segs in your boots. Every time you shaved you left your razor at the sink. You couldn't take it to your cell with you.

School

32. I can't remember getting any education like English and maths. Maybe there was, I can't remember. All we got was bible classes on a Sunday.

Leisure time

33. We didn't have much social time. There was a pool table but I wasn't allowed to play. I never noticed any books or magazines.
34. On Sunday I went to bible classes because I asked God for help. This was after the parade. I went just to get out my cell because you were locked up most of the day, except for the parade. Saturday was like any other day, scrubbing and polishing.

Work

35. After you marched to breakfast and ate it, you were given a rubber mat, put it on the floor of the main hall and scrubbed the floor. You were given a big bar of soap, a scrubbing brush and a bucket of water. You weren't allowed to speak or turn around. I turned around once to see something and got my head pushed into the bucket of water. I saw it done to others too. I can't remember who did it. I also had to polish a

bin with Brasso or something. It was only me that polished the bin. Others would maybe serve the food. I never done this.

36. After scrubbing the floor you had to go to the gym every day, then you got dinner or something. We then went outside and I got into trouble again. We ran relays and I dropped the baton, because I couldn't see. I had to do bunny hops from the field to the building. You got five bars of toffee a week for doing your work. I lost two bars because I dropped the baton.
37. In the afternoon we trained and marched. We weren't in our cell much. Tea time would be about seven o'clock.

Visits

38. I got one visit from my mother and father. My father didn't like one of the officers and I think he said something to him like, "You better not be bullying my son". I think that made it worse. This particular officer just picked on me after that. I can't remember his name. You got about forty-five minutes to an hour and sat at a desk. The officers stood and watched. You weren't allowed to talk about the place or mention the officers. They would be standing close enough that they would hear you. You could get a visit about once a month. There were about twenty tables in the room.

Healthcare

39. I can't remember seeing a doctor or a dentist.

Running away

40. You would think about escaping but there was no way you could do it. You were locked up and there were these officers, I think they were ex-army or something, You looked at the size of the fences and knew you couldn't escape.

Abuse at HMP Glenochil, Tullibody

41. I wasn't ever told the rules, I was just shown the rule book in my cell. They got two other inmates to come in and show me how to lay out the room. They were watched by the guards while they did this. They showed me how to do a bed block and fold everything. I had to do it myself the second morning but I couldn't do it in time. I got a bollocking because I didn't do it right. I did it again and thought it was perfect. I went to breakfast, came back and two officers were standing at my cell. They said, "What is this?". They had my letter that I had wrote. They threw all my stuff in the air and kicked my bed up, trashed the whole room. They said they would be back and gave me a time to put it how it should be, perfect. I had to start again. They normally did inspections in the morning.
42. I was hit almost every second day. It was quite a lot. I got dead legs often. This would happen if you just turned around. It was from one of the officers. He would knee you on the side of the leg. Then he would tell you to stand still but you couldn't because it was so sore and if you moved he would do it again.
43. A few times I got my ear pulled so hard that it nearly burst my ear socket. If an officer walked passed you or you passed them you would have to say, "Excuse me sir". You had to keep saying. "Excuse me sir", any time they passed, but I didn't see them if they came up on my right side. I had to say that all the time to this certain guy. They would punch you in the guts and punch you in the privates. It was either in the cell on your own, or when you were yourself elsewhere. Not so much in the playing fields because there were other officers there.
44. Parades were the worst because you'd have to wait for three hours waiting on the governor. It was like the Queen arriving in this big car and this man would walk up and down and look at your boots. He would stare at your boots and your clothes and if you had to take a step forward you got bars of toffee taken off you, or you had to go and run round the track. It would be for things like finding a piece of fluff on you.

45. The other boys in there were from gangs in Glasgow and Edinburgh. I was called a "teuchter." There was one time I went off my head. An officer, called Mr [REDACTED] whispered into my cell, telling me I'd never get out of there. It was mental torture. I wanted to kill myself in there. I was going out of my mind. Another prison officer told me not to worry about it, that I would get out.
46. I got a punch in the guts, I can't remember the name of the prison officer who did this. I think it was Mr [REDACTED]. He did it a few times. Once in the shower he punched me, and on other occasions when I was scrubbing the floor. Once I spoke to someone and he must have heard. He grabbed me and started laying into me, kneeling me and punching me. He made sure he never hit your face. I can't remember how many times he did this. He was in his thirties maybe and red headed. Out of all of the prison officers there were maybe four of them that were really bad. The two at reception on the first day were just like [REDACTED]. He is the only one whose name I remember. I have also seen others getting slapped or their heads put in a bucket of water for minor things.

Reporting of abuse at HMP Glenochil, Tullibody

47. I saw a minister once, when I was going to bible classes. He was a Church of Scotland minister. I told him I was getting beaten up and couldn't stand it anymore and that I was going to kill myself. I can't remember his response. He would come from outside on a Sunday. I can't remember his name.
48. I told the lawyer, Mark Steiner, when I came out but he said no-one would believe me. I told him I wanted to report them but he told me to forget about it, nobody would believe me.

Leaving HMP Glenochil, Tullibody

49. I don't know why I only did ten weeks. I turned seventeen after I came out. I'm not sure when that was. Before I went to Glenochil I was told I couldn't join the navy.

They said I was disabled, but at court I was able to go to Glenochil for the short, sharp shock.

50. When I got out I went back to my parents for about four months but I didn't get on with my father. I then stayed with a friend who was divorced. He was older than me. I was getting into his habits of drinking all the time. There were a few who were going out and stealing things and I was going with them. I was getting charged for things that they had done, I hadn't done them, and the police were telling me what to say. I was vulnerable. I went to court and then I was locked up. I'd never planned a robbery and I'd never assaulted and robbed anyone. I just took the rap. I don't know why, maybe I done it for the attention. They were doing things and I was there and getting the blame. The only thing I did was steal cigarettes and whisky, big bottles of it and sell it to the publicans. That's how stupid I was, stealing it and selling it in the village.
51. I was getting into more trouble. I was charged with stealing cars. I've never driven a car in my life. I think I went to see a doctor. I told him about everything. I told him I was getting into trouble and drinking because these people were giving me attention and they are the only people that had given me attention. A psychiatrist spoke to me and I was telling him what had happened to me in the past and I was referred to Stratheden Hospital. I don't know how I got there, I think my parents took me. I had a room. I think I went out of a window one day to escape but returned about a day or two later. I was there for about four weeks. All I was doing was talking to psychiatrists every day. I was telling them I was fine, but I wasn't fine. It was calm there. There was a piano there and I'd never played music in my life. I felt a bit safe. After four weeks I think the hospital said I was ok.

Polmont Young Offenders Institute, Brightons, Falkirk

52. When I left Stratheden I went back to getting into the wrong company. I was seventeen years old. I got into trouble and was sent to Polmont. This was about nine months to a year after Glenochil. I was sentenced to about a year to eighteen months but I think on good behaviour you could get out early and I think I did.

53. I did not have any social work assistance or support between Glenochil and Polmont. I was in trouble all the time. Other people were stealing cars and I was in the cars they stole. I was part of the gang. I went to Dunfermline sheriff court and sentenced to a year to eighteen months detention.
54. I was taken by prison van to Polmont. I thought I was going home for my tea. I was in Polmont for three months then sent to Castle Huntly, which was a new place that had opened up. It was an open borstal near Dundee. It was locked up at night, but there wasn't a big fence with barbed wire around it.
55. I did ok in Polmont. It was similar to Glenochil but not quite as bad. It was still training, running and working. You could smoke in Polmont, not Glenochil. You got half an ounce of Golden Virginia for your work. It was like, 'here we go again', going through the same routine again. It was bad but not as bad as Glenochil.
56. The first few weeks I saw horrific things. I saw a guy harm himself [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I saw a lot of bad things in there, people screaming for help.

Routine at Polmont Young Offenders Institute, Brightons, Falkirk

First day

57. Going into Polmont was similar to going in to Glenochil, number, name, kit and marched upstairs. I was in a second floor cell and it was similar. You had to keep your bed nice and tidy. I was given blankets, clothes, uniform, soap, toothpaste and a razor. I had a cold bath then had to march up to my cell with four other guys that came in that day. I had put the uniform on after the bath. There was a rule book in the cell again. Nobody went through it with you, you just had to read it. There was a single bed in the cell, same sort of lay out as the last place.

Mornings and bedtime

58. I can't remember if it was an alarm bell that got you up in the morning. It was about six thirty to seven o'clock. You had to jump out of your bed, make it, stand to attention, overalls on and down for breakfast. After breakfast it was dusting the hall, then you got gym, bunny hops and jumping over things, climbing bars. It was the same routine. It was harsh, but not as bad. Glenochil was a lot worse.

Mealtimes

59. I can't remember what the food was like. It was ok I suppose. You ate in the dining hall. I ate the food to stay alive.

Work

60. I was on the second landing. I can't remember the name of the wing. There were about fifty on the first landing and fifty on my landing, all aged between sixteen and twenty-one. You wore a similar uniform to Glenochil, overalls and striped shirt. You were locked up in your cells quite a lot, mostly at weekends. If you were out you would run or scrub the place. I got a half ounce of tobacco and a packet of cigarette papers for working. In Polmont the parades weren't as long. There were bible classes there too, I think there was. On Sunday you were locked up for most of the day and only let out for your meals. I didn't get any schooling in Polmont.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

61. I can't remember any visits. I think I got one from my mother and father. You sat at a table, similar to Glenochil, for an hour or so. I think I wrote the odd letter, but I wasn't very good at writing. I got a couple of letters from them.

Abuse at Polmont Young Offenders Institute, Brightons, Falkirk

62. In Polmont, when you were going to the gym hall, people would hit you when the prison officers turned their back. There were more fights in Castle Huntly, more assaults. There's always fights. There were a couple of bad experiences with prison officers in Polmont. They spoke to you like you were rubbish, pulling your hair, kicking you, a fly punch for no reason. They would call you names. I don't know their names. I think I was assaulted about half a dozen times. Two or three from prison officers and two or three from inmates.
63. Similar to Glenochil, the other inmates were all from areas of Glasgow or Edinburgh and I was just from a wee village. They would call me lots of names as well as my mother. They would just bring you down, try to break your spirit. They were evil. The words were evil, the people were evil. I've never said things like that to people. I was assaulted a few times. They would slag me and I would swear back at them then they would hit me. I was head butted a few times and punched. They were violent, horrible people. I had to learn to defend myself against other inmates. I was getting attacked by so many people.
64. After three months I got moved to Castle Huntly from Polmont. When I was told, I was happy to be getting away from Polmont. I think I got moved because it was easier for my parents to visit. I got taken to Castle Huntly in the Polmont prison van.

HMP Castle Huntly, Longforan, Dundee

65. I was in Castle Huntly for about eight months. I think I told them I was disabled after about four months. I was cleaning at first, then there was an incident. I was in a fight or something and we got questioned about it by officers and I said I didn't see the person I was fighting with. He hit me but I didn't see him. They got the doctor who checked my eyesight and he told them I was blind in one eye.

66. Castle Huntly wasn't as bad, wasn't as rough, but there wasn't enough prison officers to keep an eye on everyone. There were a couple of officers that were ok in Castle Huntly.
67. I felt a lot better at Castle Huntly because it was open, although it was still bad. I didn't expect it to be as bad as it was. There were no electric or barbed wire fences round the building, but you still had your cell. It was open during the day, you could escape if you wanted to. I didn't, others did. I felt like it but I didn't. I was seventeen when I was there.
68. There were a couple of hundred boys in the place, all between sixteen and twenty-one. We wore a navy blue uniform and a shirt. I think it was a red shirt at first, then a blue one when you were nearing your time to get out, about three quarters of the way through your sentence.

Routine at HMP Castle Huntly, Longforgan, Dundee

First day

69. I was given my stuff, uniform and blankets and things and shown to my cell. It wasn't as strict, no marching, no gym every day.

Mornings and bedtime

70. A bell woke you up in the morning. We washed in a washroom then I went into the cookhouse. I'd put on blue and white striped trousers, white t-shirt and a white hat because I was in the kitchen every day. That was the first time I'd told them I was disabled and they couldn't put me in the machine shop or anything that was dangerous. I felt safer there because the officer in the kitchen wasn't too bad.
71. After supper I wasn't finished until about nine o'clock at night, from six in the morning, seven days a week. I got two half ounces of tobacco as wages. There was

a guy from Dunfermline who didn't smoke but he liked food, he liked cakes. I gave him more food and he gave me his tobacco.

72. Lights were out about nine or nine thirty. This was done centrally, the same as everywhere else.

Leisure time

73. Sometimes I'd watch the television. It was really just the same routine every day. I didn't really notice books when I was there apart from maybe a newspaper to see what was on the television.

Work

74. I got a job washing the trays in the kitchen seven days a week. I was glad. You would clear off the rubbish from the trays, stack them up and then put them in this massive sink. You would then wash them, then put them in another sink with boiling hot water to sterilize the metal trays. You couldn't put your hand in it. You would then dry them and get them ready for the next meal. It was a constant thing.
75. I used to serve breakfast too. I worked my way up and I got a better job. The food was ok. We used to make our own bread and grow vegetables in the garden.
76. I saved a pound a week from my wages. Your wages went into a book and you bought things from the shop with them. I got two half ounces of tobacco with mine and it would leave some in the book. So I saved some most weeks during my last few months.

Education

77. We didn't get any educational classes. I went to night classes and was taught how to bake, just to pass the time. Mr Noble taught us, he was a prison officer. He was human. There was a prison officer called Mr McCumsky. He was good. He moved

me from one wing to another because there was too much fighting in the one I was in. He knew I was blind in one eye. Nobody knew in there until I had about three or four months to go.

Christmas and birthdays

78. There was nothing special at Christmas. It wasn't celebrated. We would get a bit of Christmas pudding. There were no birthday celebrations.

Visits

79. My mum and dad visited once or twice and my sister came once. It was sports day so they could walk about the fields with me. The other time they came they couldn't see me because I was in solitary. No social worker came to see me there.

Running away

80. I felt like running away but people who did abscond were brought back then went back into a secure unit somewhere. I was watching this and I thought, if I run away from here where am I going to go?

Abuse at Castle Huntly, Longforgan, Dundee

81. The people I was in there with were doing life sentences. They were murderers. A lot of them were the worst of the worst. There was one guy from Paisley, his name was [REDACTED] I can't remember his first name. He was a big guy, with buck teeth. He hit me a few times and kicked me in my private area. One time he came up behind me when I was watching TV and tried to strangle me. He strangled me so hard that I passed out. He was put on report for it and he lost remission. I think he got sent to another place. He was just assaulting people regularly.
82. There was another guy called [REDACTED] from Aberdeen. There was this thing for mixing potatoes, a big metal thing with a hook. He hit me on the back with this hook

and another time he crushed my neck against the wall with this big metal bar. I hit him back. He was put on report too. One time I was lying in bed in my cell and the door was open and [REDACTED] ran in and punched me between the legs. He was just a psychopath. Eventually the prison officers found out. It had been going on for quite a while, until I retaliated and they were wondering what had happened and I told them. I think [REDACTED] got sent to another place too. There were a lot of psychopaths in there.

83. If an officer asked me, "What happened to your face?", I'd tell them I fell. You couldn't say anything. You would be tagged as being a grass by other people.
84. Even in the kitchen I got into confrontations with other inmates. These people weren't just normal guys, they were cruel, wicked and violent. I got a hard time there. They were from different areas of Glasgow. I was assaulted regularly by inmates. I then got in trouble because I started hitting them back. There was no other way out for me. I couldn't just stand there and be a target, I had to defend myself and then when I did I was put into solitary confinement for two weeks. There was no window, just a wee skylight, the door was shut all the time, apart from when you were handed your meals. I rang a bell if I needed the toilet.
85. My mum and dad came to visit when I was in solitary, so they weren't allowed to see me. I just kept doing press-ups and sit-ups, trying to keep my sanity. This happened just the once because this [REDACTED] guy was just at me all the time and I cracked and hit him back. That's why I went into solitary confinement. He just wouldn't stop it. They had to do something with him. They put him in solitary.
86. To be honest, there weren't any incidents with prison officers in Castle Huntly. There were one or two of them concerned for me and asked me if I was alright regularly.

Leaving HMP Castle Huntly, Longforgan, Dundee

87. I wasn't given any advice when I was about to leave Castle Huntly. They bought me clothes when I was leaving because the clothes I had come in with didn't fit me and they gave me my bus fares.
88. I went into Glenochil detention centre on [REDACTED] 1974, where I was brutalised and battered. I went into Polmont borstal on [REDACTED] 1975. I left Castle Huntly about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] 1976. I was eighteen when I came out.

Life after being in care

89. I started hanging around with a guy called [REDACTED] and a friend of mine called [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was a folk artist from Fife, he wrote [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was my life-long friend. He was never in trouble. I stayed with [REDACTED] sometimes, I then moved into a cottage in Perthshire for a few months. I then got a flat in Dunfermline and started drinking. I left that and got back in with the boys that I'd known that were drinking all the time.
90. I was working when I stayed at [REDACTED], in coal mines, saw mills, jobs I shouldn't have been doing. I'm blind in one eye and I was working with big zip saws at the side of me. I worked in a bakery. I wanted to work, I didn't want to sign on. I'd work in farms. I didn't have any education to get a decent job and I wasn't well. I had problems with alcohol and stuff. I went from job to job and I wasn't lasting with any. The jobs I've had have been pretty bad. I ended up with lung disease, with coal dust in my lungs.
91. I started going to folk festivals with [REDACTED] and I started learning to play instruments, fiddles and boxes and guitars, and I started practising with stuff. We played in places, we were getting gigs everywhere, all over the country. We made a CD. I became ill, I was just getting drunk and gambling. I started playing in ceilidh bands all over. Because of the drink I fell out with people.

92. I got in with the old pals I knew. One of them broke into a house. I was with him. He told me it was his uncles house. It wasn't. It wasn't planned, it just happened. He stole jewellery from the house. We went back home, I was staying with him, and he fell asleep. I took the bag of jewellery back to the house, knocked on the door and left the bag on the doorstep. I left and someone saw me. They called the police and I got caught. The police knew who I was with and were telling me to tell them but I couldn't grass on my mate. I got charged and sentenced to twelve months in HMP Saughton. I done ten months. I was in my twenties, it was in 1983 or 1984.
93. That was the last time I got into trouble. I left the village because I wanted away from the drink and the crowd I was hanging around with. I went up to Inverness with [REDACTED]. I stayed in a bed and breakfast. I met a boy who worked in the oil rigs. He had a house, a big bungalow and he was divorced. He let us stay there and pay rent while he stayed with his girlfriend. [REDACTED] left because he wasn't wanting to work. I got a job in a bake house, but it didn't last long. I couldn't do the job, it was too much for me so I left. I got a second hand guitar and amplifier and went to this club in Inverness and sang a couple of songs and they asked me to play there on a Saturday night. I went back, it was the [REDACTED] or something.
94. I did this for about three months and met [REDACTED]. We got married in Inverness then moved back to Fife. I got a ceilidh band together but I started forgetting all the words to songs. I was doing shows in Edinburgh and other places and I'd repeat the chorus because I couldn't remember the second verse. I couldn't function anymore. I stopped about ten years ago.
95. I married [REDACTED] in 1985. We separated twelve years ago. [REDACTED] is staying in my house just now caring for me. I had a heart attack three years ago.
96. I've done toy shows since then. I've raised money for Cancer Research and for the Sue Ryder fund to keep myself busy. I wasn't making any money. I advertised for toys before computers came in. I was getting phone calls and I was getting toys. I was taking them to shows, selling them and with the money I got, I bought more toys. I never had any money in my pocket.

97. I was always wanting to work, but it never lasted. I signed on but I'd look for jobs. I joined all the job clubs.
98. I have one son, well it's [REDACTED]'s son. I've brought him up since he was a wee laddie. I had a daughter while I was in the detention centre. This girl I was seeing had a baby. The baby was fostered or adopted by a police officer. [REDACTED] and I saw her a couple of years ago for the first time. She didn't want to see me because I wasn't well.
99. I've had girlfriends in the past but I'd say to them, there's no point in going out with me, I'm not well, it's best you go. I was about nineteen to twenty. I couldn't cope with relationships. I'd push them away, not wanting them to have a life with me.
100. I've lived all my life with a brain injury and I've never been normal. There's a bit of my brain knows what's right and wrong but it took me years to know what was wrong. I'm not a bad person, When I was in [REDACTED] I was ok. When I moved to Kelty it was smoking and drinking, cheap wine and sherry, getting wasted on it.
101. I've had support all my life. I've seen different doctors all my life. I've spoken to psychologists in Edinburgh, Inverness, Perth and Fife. I've been on medication all my life, sleeping tablets, heart tablets. I'm on about thirty different tablets a day.

Impact

102. One day the doctor asked to see me. I can't remember his name. I'd ran into a door and was hit with a van. I didn't see it coming. I wasn't well, I was getting nightmares. I was having a bad time. I finished with the ceilidh band and started drinking more and became unwell. I was becoming a recluse and getting help from doctors. Psychiatrists started talking to me. I wasn't sleeping or eating. I think my time in the detention centre stigmatised me. The ringing of the bell in the morning has never left my brain. Especially when I was sixteen and in Glenochil. It's never left me.

103. I went to the doctor when I was in my twenties, when I came out of HMP Saughton. Doctors have said it was my brain injury that's caused all of this, that I was vulnerable and easily led. I was accepting blame for things that I didn't do. It's had a major impact on my life. When I was going for jobs I had to tell them about my past and my disability and then they didn't want to know me. I'd do any jobs, hopeless jobs.
104. I think about my time at Glenochil every day. It's never really left me. It's mostly in the morning that I think about it. It's horrible.

Reporting of Abuse

105. I was talking to my MP, Anne Somerville, she spoke to John Swinney, the head of Education, and he wrote to me. We saw stories on the computer that the government weren't just saying they were sorry, they were giving compensation for what happened. I've got lots of forms for redress but I haven't filled them in. I don't know how to complete them.
106. I reported my abuse to the police last year. Future Pathways or some other agency told me to report it to the police. I went to Dunfermline Police Station and spoke to a sergeant or something. I gave a statement. I haven't heard any more about it. I've got the police officers information on a bit of paper in the house.

Records

107. Birthlink were helping me with my records through the children's panel but got nothing. They are getting in touch with Dunfermline Council for an update. They couldn't get records from Glenochil or Polmont, they couldn't get proof I was in any of them originally. Eventually we got in touch with the police and they gave me the dates I was in from my previous convictions.

108. I went to Birthlink because I was wanting information. They're doing that just now. I had behavioural problems due to my injuries. I couldn't think, I couldn't concentrate, I wasn't well, but people looking at me thought I was normal.

Lessons to be Learned

109. I think there should have been more grownups that specialised in a person's background, knew more about that persons illness. They should help you instead of punishing you, help people that were unwell. I got no help from anyone. It's left me that I don't trust anyone anymore. I think people are out to get me all the time. There should be special treatment for people that aren't right. Some sort of social work help from the children's panel would have been better for me. I think what happened made life hell for me. I get panic attacks all the time.

Other information

110. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... GCN [Redacted Signature]

Dated..... 23/1/20