

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

[redacted]

1. My name is my [redacted] and my date of birth is [redacted] 1954. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I grew up in Tollcross in Glasgow. My mother was [redacted] and my dad [redacted]. My dad passed away in 1983 and my mother in 2012. I have two brothers and two sisters, I am the eldest. [redacted] was born in 1956, she is two years younger. [redacted] 1958, he is four years younger. [redacted] was born in 1959, he is five years younger and [redacted] was born in 1966, she is twelve years younger than me.
3. The story I have been told is, I was ten months old before my dad saw me. He had been in hospital for a year apparently with TB. I think his time in hospital and his illness turned him into a bitter man. I got blamed for everything growing up. I hated my dad at times. I grew up on the street. Sometimes I resented my mum for not standing up to him and for not leaving him. It was her that brought the money into the house through her work at shops, pubs and cleaning jobs.
4. I believe he had a good job before he was ill. I think he was embarrassed because he had had TB as it was known as a dirty disease. He never worked after that. He would be out drinking a lot at the pub and I would be sent to get him.
5. I went to local schools in Tollcross while I was growing up. My primary was the Good Shepherd and then I went to St Pauls Primary School. I went to St Mungo's for

secondary. I started off well at high school but my grades got worse over the years. I can read and write but I don't have the concentration to say, read a book.

6. I left school at fifteen and worked as a tea boy and then the office of a scrap merchants.

Life before going into institutions

7. My family and I did not have any involvement with social work or anyone else before I went into the places I want to talk about. It was only when I was on reports before sentencing for my charges that social workers became involved.
8. I have been in four institutions during my life, one of them twice. The places were as follows: Longriggend in Airdrie when I was fifteen years old. I stayed there for a week and was then bailed. I then went to Larchgrove Remand centre in [REDACTED] 1971 for two or three weeks for reports. I was sixteen years old. I was then sent to Glenochil prison from [REDACTED] 1971 until [REDACTED] 1971. I then went back to Longriggend in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 1971 for about six weeks. I went to Polmont from [REDACTED] 1971 until [REDACTED] 1972.
9. The reason I went to Longriggend was because they wouldn't give us bail on that occasion. There had been an incident outside a pub in Tollcross and a couple of my mates were getting lifted. Due to all of the shouting outside, people from the pub came out to see what was happening. I think the Police got frightened and they got on their radios and got more Police. I called the Police names and ended up getting lifted. I was taken to Shettleston Police station. During the journey, my mate who was also there, was getting batoned by the driver and I was getting hit by his colleague. We ended up getting charged with mobbing and rioting and so we didn't get bail.
10. I went to trial for that incident, it was a sheriff trial, with no jury. I had previously been told by my lawyer that I was likely to get out. From the time of him saying that to me and me going into the court something must have changed. Some deal was struck

between my lawyer Smyth and the prosecution and I was told I was being sent to Polmont for borstal reports. It was [REDACTED] 1971. I left there on [REDACTED] 1972, I was eighteen years old.

Longriggend Detention Centre, Airdrie

11. I was sent to Longriggend which was a remand centre, for one week. I was fifteen years old. It was Sheriff officers who took me there from the high court.
12. My memories of the time when I arrived there were of all the shouting by the officers' saying things like 'you call me sir'.
13. I was locked up for twenty-three hours a day while I was there. All of your meals were taken in the cell. Once a week you got a thirty-minute gym session.
14. At Longriggend you couldn't sit on your bed while you were in the cell, you had to sit on the chair in your room.
15. It was the way the staff talked to you there, it was terrible. You didn't have much contact with the guards. They would do embarrassing things to people though. My mate who was in there at the time with me. They cut his hair because he had lice. They shaved it all and left him a silly fringe.
16. If prisoners were cheeky, you would hear the opening of the cell door and I believe the officers gave the occupant a slap in the cell. I saw them slap people in Longriggend. There was also verbal abuse towards prisoners with them calling prisoners names like shit and scum.
17. I was quite excited to be going to Longriggend as strange as that seems. It didn't bother me too much at the time.

18. I believe that is when social work first got involved and visited my parents. They never came to see me. There was a report read out but I cannot recall what was in it. I never had any opportunity to say how I felt.
19. After my week there, I returned home to my parents. The trial for the original incident took place, I pled guilty and was sent to Larchgrove for reports.
20. I returned to Longriggend in [REDACTED] 1971. I was on remand that time and hadn't been granted bail. I think I was there about six weeks in total. It was the same as the first time in that we were locked up twenty-three hours a day.
21. I do think someone from social work spoke to me the second time I was there but I cannot recall that.
22. I might have got slapped in Longriggend on one of the occasions when I was there but I cannot remember too well.
23. There is nothing really I want to tell the Inquiry about my time at Longriggend,

Larchgrove Remand Home, Glasgow

24. I was in Larchgrove for two weeks, this was around [REDACTED] 1971. I don't have too much of a memory of Larchgrove but there are small things I remember.
25. It was young boys in Larchgrove aged from twelve years until sixteen. I was one of the oldest.
26. During the day it was like a school, you sat in a class and were taught. It was nothing like Glenochil or Polmont.
27. The boys slept in dormitories with no single cells so everyone congregated together, this meant that there were quite a few fights that broke out.

28. One day we were playing football in the gym and a guy punched me in the eye and we started fighting. It was broken up by staff and we got sent to the guy in charge of the centre. Both of us got the belt for fighting. That was the only time I got it. The staff generally used the belt in Larchgrove for punishment.
29. Most of the trouble would break out in the gym so there were usually extra officers in there, about six of them who would be quick to respond to trouble. They would grab whoever was involved and they would be dealt with. There were a couple of cells that people might get sent to and there was the digger but I was not in either at Larchgrove.
30. Similar to Longriggend I don't remember anyone coming to speak to me in Larchgrove as part of the reports but that's not to say it didn't happen.
31. I knew I was going to Glenochil after Larchgrove, the Sheriff said that to me when I pled. After the two weeks at Larchgrove I went back to the Sheriff Court at Ingram Street and that's when I was formally sentenced to Glenochil.
32. There wasn't anything that happened in Larchgrove that I want to tell the Inquiry.

Glenochil State Young Offenders Institution, Alloa

33. I was sent to Glenochil around [REDACTED] 1971, straight after my time at Larchgrove. I was sixteen years old.
34. They called the treatment at Glenochil short, sharp, shock and believe you me, it was certainly that. All of the staff were big men and ex-army. It was run as a military boot camp. I knew about its reputation before I got there as I had heard from mates in my area.

35. I knew others who had been in there who told me if I ended up in there I should 'duck'. I knew what they meant when I got there. It was to avoid being hit or slapped that I should duck.
36. The inmates were all boys aged from sixteen to twenty years. I think there were about one hundred and fifty boys in total. They came from all over Scotland. My understanding was most of them had committed car theft, housebreaking or minor assault. There wasn't anyone who had committed anything more serious.
37. The building itself is now part of the Young Offenders Institution. I remember it was spotless because the prisoners cleaned the place. If there was one thing it did teach me, it was to be tidy.
38. There were three wings to the jail and they put the boys into houses. There was Devon, Alva and Ochil. You were basically put into whichever house there was a vacancy. The wing was just where you slept.
39. The prisoners would all say you were in there for eight weeks, five days and a break, a break being your breakfast on the last day. It was a common saying in the jail. You timed it as per the coloured epaulettes that you wore. After the first three or four weeks you would get your yellow ones. Two weeks later your red grade. You also had a card on the outside of your cell with your liberation date on it. That date could change if you misbehaved inside. Three months was the maximum you could do. You got a white card which meant you were Church of Scotland. A green one meant Catholic.

Staffing

40. The structure in the jail was that there was the Governor, Assistant Governor, senior officers and officers. Each wing was three storeys high. There were two or three officers on each floor and a couple of senior officers for each wing. They were the ones that ran the wings. They would check for cleanliness and things. They had an inspection once a week. They would always find a little bit of dust or dirt and you

would lose say some recreation time. I never saw the Governor or assistant in the wings.

41. There were PT instructors within the jail. They were prison officers who had an interest in sport.
42. There were no teachers in the jail. It didn't bother me there was no teaching as I had left school by the time I went there so I wasn't losing out.
43. I don't remember many of the staff in there but I do remember a guy with the nickname of **IOK**. He was about five foot ten with a good physique. I don't remember much more. I do remember there was another one **IOL** and I remember him because he had quite bad skin. Both of them would have been in their forties then. I imagine they will be dead now.
44. I'm not sure of the name of the Governor but I saw him on my second day. I think he saw all of the new boys. You would be taken in for a lecture and be told you had to behave yourself and do as you were told. The Governor was ex-army. I firmly believe he knew what was going on in his jail but I did not see him present when beatings or slaps were taking place.

Routine at Glenochil

First and second day

45. As soon as I got there that first day, they opened the door and there was a lot of swearing. I was grabbed and told I was scum. The floors are highly polished and I lost my footing as I was grabbed and fell to the floor and slid up the floor. I was then kicked and punched while I was down on the ground and asked what my name was. I replied **IOJ** and the guard, who was called **IOK** who usually took PT. Asked me again what my 'fucking name' was. I then replied louder and then I was told not to shout. He then proceeded to slap me all the way round to the cubicles

where they process you. He then punched me in the stomach while I was standing there. I bent over with the force. I stood back up and then he punched me again. The door was then closed and I was in the cubicle on my own. After a short time, I was brought some food but I was too scared to sit down and eat it in case any of them came in again.

46. I was then taken into a medical guy. I seem to recall the name **ZHEF** but I'm not sure, it's just that name sticks with me. He was a big guy. He told me to loosen my trousers and take down my underpants to my ankles. I was then told to lift my jumper to my chin. I was standing there practically naked. He was just staring, maybe he was writing things down, I don't know. He was asking me questions. It felt like an eternity but it may have only been two or three minutes. I was also told to cough and he felt something near my stomach. I'm not sure what he was looking for.
47. The whole thing was horrible, degrading and it was one of the most uncomfortable things ever. After he did that he was sitting down writing. He left me standing there naked. Why? I ask myself. Was it for humiliation?
48. I think he was a medic. At that time in Glenochil they were dressed in suits and jackets and not in prison officers' uniform.
49. After seeing him I was then taken by the same prison officer, **IOK** to my room. We all had separate cells. I got slapped about all the way up to my room by **IOK**. He was slapping me to the back of the head. He kneed me and gave me a dead leg. He then pushed me into my room. In the room I then got a couple of digs to the ribs. That all happened on my first day.
50. I remember on the very first morning after I had arrived we all went to this square. I was wearing my issue army boots, shorts, vest and jacket. It was **██████████** it was pitch dark. We marched around the square, I had never marched in my life. The staff were slapping me and the rest of the boys about the head, kicking us. They were screaming and shouting at us. I liken it to Full Metal Jacket the film. Like a boot camp. I do not know the names of the ones who were doing that behaviour.

51. On that second day, this didn't happen every day, it was because I was new. I was sent to visit the Governor. I was standing in a line and I saw a boy I knew, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from my area. He saw me and I knew he acknowledged me so I tried to do the same but I got caught by one of the guards and got a skelp across the back of the head. I believe the one who did that was called [REDACTED] IOL [REDACTED]

Mornings and bedtimes

52. They would get us up at 6:00 am by banging the door. We would go to the ablutions about 7:00 am and have a shave and shower. We would be marched a wing at a time. You would have to say excuse me sir, when you passed the staff. Sometimes each of them wanted you to say it. Others only wanted the first and last boy to say it. You never knew. If you got it wrong you would get a slap.
53. We then went back up the stair to our rooms and then down for breakfast. After breakfast we would clean the wings, corridor and floors and then march out to the square where we would then break off into our work parties. We would then march to our workplace. Everywhere we went we marched.
54. Work lasted from about 8:00 am until 10:00 am. At 10:00 am we got to go for a cup of tea and a bun for a ten-minute break. We weren't allowed to talk to each other. After the tea break it was straight back to work.
55. I think lunch was at 12 noon. We would go and get a wash and then go for lunch. Everyone got running after lunch. The dinners were big and immediately after it we would be expected to run sprints and then a mile. I was decent at the sprints but would sometimes get lapped on the mile and the officers would scream and shout at me for it.
56. In addition, we would be split into groups for circuit training and would have that either in the morning or afternoon, every day.

57. Each day there were seven or eight exercises on the circuit and you would have three minutes to do each of the exercises. The purpose was to see how many you could get in that time. You were supposed to beat the number each day you did it.
58. Someone who was wearing the red epaulettes, another prisoner, would go round and count it with you. He would count and shout out how many you got to the prison officers at the end. If you didn't beat the number from the previous day they would scream and shout at you and shake you about. We did this five days a week.
59. After the running we would go back to change into our work clothes, march to the square and then back to the work party. Work finished about 4.00 pm/4.30 pm, we would march to our rooms and then be shouted for dinner.
60. After dinner you went to your room till 8:00 pm and then you got one hour of recreation from 8:00 pm until 9:00 pm. If I remember rightly you never got recreation straight away when you went into the place, you had to wait about two weeks for it. After recreation at 9:00 pm you went back to your cell to sit on the chair and then lights out was at 10:00 pm.
61. When you were in your room you weren't allowed to sit on your bed. You had to sit on the chair that was there. If they caught you on the bed you got a slap. You dare not lie on your bed unless it was bedtime. I sometimes did and if you fell asleep you would get caught because the officers would lift the peep hole cover on the outside of the door and would catch you out.
62. We had pots in the cells if you needed the toilet during the night. We emptied them each morning.
63. Weekends were different as we didn't work. You were in your cell all day. You did nothing but sit on your chair.

64. There was order and routine with everything. You couldn't talk to people as you walked about. You certainly couldn't have a carry on.

Mealtimes/food

65. It was big dinners in Glenochil but everything was steamed. They would give us dumpling and things like that. It was edible. There was no choice, you either took it or not. You weren't allowed to give your food to anyone else. If you were caught you would be kept back and given a punch or a slap.
66. If you didn't finish what was on your plate you would get shouted at but not hit.
67. Dinner time was strange, you weren't allowed to talk to each other. You had to sit at your table of four with your arms folded. The prison officer would tap your table and you would all, move your arm to the back of the chair and lift the back of the chair while at the same time standing up. We would then step to the side and then put the chair back under the table. If you didn't want dinner you still had to go through with going to the hatch and saying, 'no thank you sir'. You then returned with your dinner, stand and wait until he told you to sit and you had to repeat the whole process.
68. Each wing had their meals in separate dining rooms.

Washing and bathing

69. I think you could have a shower once or twice a week. They were open showers and I think there were about six in total. The showers were supervised by staff. I never had any issues with showering. Most of our other washing took place in the ablutions where you could have a basic wash each morning. They made you shave every day as well, whether you needed to or not. It was proper razor blades we used, not like the disposable ones. It was ones that you put the blade in. You had to get the blade from the staff and hand it back once you had used it.

Clothing

70. We used to wear army tackety boots and shorts, PT vest and a battle dress jacket, like a bomber jacket. We also wore epaulettes on our top. Once you had been in the place for four weeks you got yellow ones. The aim was that you would leave having gained your red ones. Success in circuit training helped you gain your red ones.
71. PT kit was brown sand shoes, white socks, shorts and a vest.
72. I never got to wear my own clothes while I was there. They were taken off me when I arrived and returned to me when I left.

Work/chores

73. You would be allocated a work party after you had been in there for a bit. I don't think it was decided where you went other than on where there was a gap. Before you were allocated though and when you first arrived you were allocated to floors. The floors had square designs on them, they measured about two and a half feet by two and a half feet. You had to go with a bucket, scrubbing brush, bar of soap and a cloth. You would wash one square and work your way down the length of the floor and once you were finished you would need to go back to the first square and wash it again. You would do this every day until you were allocated to your work party.
74. Work party could be being attached to the fabric shop where they made things for the shirts which identified which wing you were in. There was also sewing mail bags. Another of the work parties was stripping down electric motors.

Recreation

75. Basically, recreation allowed you to talk to people. You could sit at a table and have a chat. I don't even remember if there was a dartboard or a television. I think there may have been a radio. I'm not sure about books either.

Personal possessions

76. In the rooms there was a bed, a chair and a desk, nothing else. I didn't have any of own things in the jail.

Pocket money

77. We didn't get any money in there, there was no tuck shop and nor was there any smoking allowed.

Healthcare

78. I think there were a couple of beds for sick prisoners but I wasn't ill when I was there. There was that initial examination I got but nothing else. I also didn't need a dentist while I was there.

Religious instruction

79. I seem to recall they made us go to church on Sunday. I think they had Catholic and Protestant services but I don't remember.

Visits/inspections

80. I got two visits while I was there. My mum and dad came together for both of them. The prison officers would always tell us not to talk about the place during the visits. The room we had the visits in was fairly small and there would be six visits on at a time. The prison officers would be walking up and down and amongst us listening in on all of our conversations. There was no chance you could say anything to your parents even if you wanted to. There was also no touching allowed.
81. There were no phone calls in or out of the prison. I think you could get letters and I did write once a week but I know they were read by the officers. It was to make sure

you weren't saying anything bad about the prison officers or what was happening in the jail.

82. I never received any other visits, no social work or anything while I was there. There were no social workers in the place as far as I know.
83. If there were any other visits to the place by anyone I wasn't a part of them and never heard anything.

Running away

84. I wasn't aware of anyone running away. It wasn't worth it.

Bed wetting

85. I didn't wet the bed while I was there but I do know there were bed wetters. The prison officers would take great delight in ridiculing those that wet the bed and letting everyone know what they had done. That in turn meant the boys who did, got slagged off by the others.
86. I do remember there was a rubber mat on all of the beds but I'm not sure what happened to the wet sheets.

Discipline

87. It was definitely short, sharp, shock treatment in there. I'm sure the officers were told to be strict. They seemed to think their behaviour would teach us a lesson, but in truth I don't know anyone who didn't reoffend. I don't think it worked because of the brutality. It made me loathe them. I hated the staff. I still hate them to this day.
88. Apart from the brutality the staff could stop your recreation as a punishment. They could also increase the time on your sentence. Three months was the maximum time

you could do. They had about three weeks that they could add to your sentence if you didn't get out in the 8 weeks, five days.

89. If you were going to the digger, which was a punishment place within the jail, it had to be approved by the Governor and you would go to see him before it. The digger was an empty room with a chair. Before lock up at night-time you would spend the day walking in the cell or sitting on the chair. At lock up they would take the chair out and you would be given a thin mattress a blanket and two pillows in exchange. At 6:00 am the same process happened with the mattress out and the chair in. I was never in the digger at Glencohil I am going by my time in the digger at Polmont but I believe all jails were the same.

Communication

90. No one sat down with me to tell me how I was doing in there. I dare say those in charge of the wings were doing reports on us. I think that those in charge of the work parties were also doing the same but I never spoke to anyone about these things.

Abuse at Glencohil

91. A lot happened in that place. The things that happened in the first couple of days went on throughout my time at the place. There was an officer [redacted] [redacted]. He got me in the ablutions. I had three small hairs on my chin, it was only bum fluff. He grabbed me and took a razor to my chin and shaved them off. After that I had to shave every day. To my mind there was no need. I didn't need to shave then.
92. A lot happened to me but I also saw a lot happen to others. There was a big, tall officer called [redacted] [redacted], I saw him holding a clipboard and a boy was talking. [redacted] [redacted] smacked him on the side of the head with the clipboard. I could see the boy went dizzy.

93. I saw guys coming in on their first day with long hair, being dragged by the hair along the corridors in to get their hair cut. This wasn't by any officer in particular it was just who was on duty at the time.
94. I saw guys fighting with each other, one of them was [REDACTED] who I knew from the Gorbals. The fight was broken up and I saw them both getting slapped and then they were dragged round to the digger. I heard that while in the digger they were set about in there by the officers.
95. The thing with all of the assaults was that the officers were really clever and they would not hit you in the face because the marks could be seen. It was always on the head, back of the head or on the body.
96. The verbal abuse was awful. They would make reference to my mother and her being dirty. They would refer to me and others as Glasgow scum. It was mental torture. Sometimes I couldn't help myself and couldn't take it anymore and I would say something back but then I would get a doing for that. They didn't just say those things to me either it was said to all of us. We all suffered that.
97. They would be quite sneaky in their behaviour. There was a hasp lock on the door and sometimes you would hear it getting opened on other cells and you would hear one of the other boys shouting out in pain like they were getting beaten up. It happened to me a couple of times just because I opened my mouth and spoke back to them. I don't know the names of the officers. On one of those occasions, I got rammed against the wall and they squeezed me between the legs and I got punched in the stomach.
98. I heard it happening to others from the screams and shouts I heard when I was in my cell.
99. I accepted most of what happened to me at Glenochil but it was the first day and what happened when you went in that I couldn't. I don't know anyone who has been

in Glenochil who didn't get set about on their first day in there. It was definitely an intimidation thing.

100. The staff thought they had carte blanche to do what they wanted with you. I believe it was worse the years before I even got there. I heard from other guys about the inmates having to run with a telegraph pole years ago as punishment.
101. I don't believe the abuse took place in front of the Governor or Assistant. That said, I can't for a minute believe they didn't know it went on. Officers and senior officers abused prisoners in front of each other.

Reporting of abuse whilst at Glenochil

102. I never reported anything that happened in there. If I did I would need to first ask to speak to the Governor. The officers would then likely ask me why. If I told them there is no chance I believe they would allow me to speak to him.
103. I'm not aware of anyone reporting anything that happened.

Leaving Glenochil

104. A week before I got out I ended up in a dormitory. I just got told I was going to the dorm one day and that's when I knew I was coming to the end of my time. It was a normal process to go to the dorm prior to release.
105. I found the dorm harder because you could have a carry on and a bit of fun but there was potential for there to be fights. The officers could walk in any time and then you risked a beating or longer on your sentence. For those reasons I preferred the room on my own. Luckily nothing happened.

106. On the day I left I got up and had my breakfast. I was then put into one of the cubicles they put you in on your last day, near the reception. I was handed back my clothes and I sat there for about an hour waiting on the bus to take me out. I got on the bus and they took me to Stirling train station for the train to Glasgow. The prison officers were in control of me until I was put on the train.
107. There was no preparation for me being released. Nor did I speak to anyone once I left. I went back to my parents' house and that was it. I left Glenochil in [REDACTED] 1971.
108. The next place I went to was for my second time at Longriggend, that was in [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] 1971 and that was for remand and reports.
109. In [REDACTED] 1971 I was sentenced to Polmont Young Offenders following an incident.

Polmont Young Offenders, Brightons, Polmont

110. I knew I was going to Polmont but because I had appeared on the Wednesday at the Sheriff and jury court in Ingram Street and they told me. I had to go to Barlinnie for two days until I could get to Polmont on the Friday. In Barlinnie I didn't get any exercise whatsoever that's all I want to tell the Inquiry about there.
111. I was then taken from Barlinnie to Polmont. The treatment was similar to Glenochil with the punching, slapping, screaming and shouting but maybe not quite as bad.
112. At Polmont you went to an allocation wing for eight weeks first. After allocation I was then sent to West wing. North wing was the same layout as allocation wing. South was a newer wing and east and west were exactly the same and were quite new too. There was also a wing called Carrick house.
113. There were about sixty or seventy boys in allocation as it was on three floors. In the other wings, which were on two floors, there about fifty or sixty boys. In Carrick there were about thirty boys. All of the boys were aged between sixteen and twenty years

old. My understanding is that boys were in there for similar things to Glenochil, assault, theft and burglary.

114. In allocation it was a dorm that I slept in. It had about eight beds in it. There was only one dorm in allocation. The rest of the allocation was single cells.

Staffing

Allocation wing

115. I think there were about six staff on duty per wing. In the night shift there were only about two staff on in the wing.
116. I do remember some of the names of the staff in the allocation wing. There was Spaniard, GSM and zGIL, he was the PO.
117. There was another officer, IOM who was particularly bad but his nephew came into the jail as an inmate and he changed overnight. He certainly wasn't the bully he had been, he had been one of the biggest bullies before. Screaming in your face, pushing you about.
118. The highest-ranking person you saw daily was the senior officer in charge of the wing. The only time you saw the Governor was before you were going to the digger. He was the only one who could confirm you were going to the digger.

West wing

119. Morrison was in charge of one shift. There was Parley and Redpath as well as McGroovey.

Routine

First day

120. I was taken into a small cubicle and I'm pretty sure I got a slap, I was definitely shouted and sworn at. I think it was them trying to show the new prisoners that they were the boss. I think the one that slapped me on the first day was called GSM he was blonde haired. I think there may have been one called GIP there too.

Mornings and bedtime

121. We were woken at 6:00 am. We got our breakfast then we were marched down to meet with our work party. We got our morning break then returned to work. We had lunch in the dining room and afterwards would go upstairs to our room for half an hour and then return to work in the afternoon. We got a break in the afternoon for ten minutes but then it was back to work. At the end of the working day, it was dinner, upstairs for an hour then you got two hours of recreation in the evening.
122. We didn't work at weekends so we would get two hours recreation in the afternoon and the two hours in the evening. Because there was no work you would just stay in your room.

Food

123. The food was rubbish, it was all steamed stuff like Glenochil. In the mornings we would get cornflakes. It was the kit boys who would dish it out and you hardly got anything. You might get one sausage with a roll as well. At dinner there wasn't much meat. On Saturday it might be a cheese roll with tomato but that was it.

Uniform

124. We wore heavy blue canvas trousers. You got two sets, one for work and another for other times.
125. We also wore thin red and white striped shirts when you first started on a wing. You would be three months on a wing being assessed and at the end of that time you moved to a blue shirt. Once you had a blue shirt it meant the next time you went up a month later and you had a good report then at assessment you would get a liberation date. You then got out three months after your liberation date. This was the only way in which you knew you were coming to the end of your sentence.

Fitness

126. We got swimming once a week in the pool near to the north wing. GIH was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. He was a small stocky guy with no neck. You had to have short nails and be clean before you entered the pool. He would inspect your hands and nails before you got in. He would also watch us in the shower beforehand and make comment about our private parts, about the size of our privates.

Schooling

127. They had classrooms in the allocation wing where you would do sums and things. You would spend about four weeks in the classroom and then you would be assigned a work party. I think the classroom work was more about assessing you rather than teaching you anything.

Work/chores

128. Every Sunday at 11:00 am we got our rooms inspected by the PO. If you failed an inspection you would lose recreation.
129. The initial work party job after the first four weeks was to clean the other wings.

130. A bricklayers' course came up not long after I was in so I applied for that and got on it. The course was for six weeks. Corntonvale woman's prison was getting built at the time and they used some of the Polmont workforce boys under supervision to go and help build it.
131. Once you had been working on it for about two months they then allowed some of the boys to stay up there as some of the accommodation was already built.
132. I never got to stay as I got into an altercation with a couple of boys up there. They were trying to take the mick out of me. I saw them standing beside a cement mixer and I saw that one of them put something in his waist band and started walking towards me. I assumed it would have been a knife.
133. When I returned to Polmont that day I reported it, I think it was to Baxter who was in charge of my wing. I told him I wouldn't be returning to Corntonvale because of them. He asked me if I knew who the males were, I told him I didn't, though I did. He told me I was going anyway.
134. The next day they shouted for the work parties and I sat on my chair in my room. I got sent to the digger for three or four days because of it. It was a wee brute who was in charge of the digger. ^{GIH} the same guy [REDACTED]. They would take turns about supervising the digger. He would get a dig in every now and again, I mean a slap or a punch while I was down there.
135. After I had been to the digger I was sent to the Governor. It was the first time I had seen him. He asked me why I had been sent there and I told him about being threatened. He asked me who they were and I refused to say. He then added three months on to my liberation date and I was sent back to the wing.
136. I had done six months by then and when I went up for my blue shirt I didn't get it because of the extra time given by the Governor.

137. I never did report anything after that incident. I do know that one of the guys who had been involved subsequently hit another prisoner over the head with a hammer on a separate occasion.
138. After the brick laying I was moved to the pallet party. They would get loads of wooden pallets which we would strip down and make them into decent usable pallets which they sold on.
139. In my last two weeks I was allocated to cleaning the officers mess room. I remember taking a cake from there and I got caught but the chef stood up for me and said he had given me it. It was the only time someone was nice to me in there.

Recreation

140. During recreation we could do darts, table tennis and snooker.

Christmas

141. At Christmas they would put on a show with the prisoners who could sing or play an instrument. We also got a Christmas dinner. The only Christmas I was there I was in the digger so I didn't get it. To me it didn't matter where you were locked up whether it was the cell or the digger.

Healthcare/welfare

142. There was a matron in each of the wings. I don't really know what her function was but she did look after the laundry and sheets. I don't think she was medical because there was a separate doctor. I know she read all of the letters going out and coming into the jail.
143. If you felt sick you would be taken to the doctor in the jail. Depending on if there was something wrong you may get put to the sick room which was beside his surgery. I didn't see the doctor while I was there.

144. If you needed the dentist one would be brought in. I had to see the dentist when I was there.

Religious instruction

145. You could go to church in the jail on a Sunday but I didn't go.

Visits

146. We got two visits a month in Polmont. My parents didn't come together so my dad would come on one and my mum on the other. The visits were in a private room with one officer who was also there. You could talk fairly openly. I never had any visits from anyone else.

Wages

147. I can't remember how much money we got but we did get wages. I used my wages for toothpaste and sweets. They did give us powder as toothpaste and it was disgusting so I bought my own.

Bed wetting

148. I didn't wet the bed but there were guys who did. I only knew this as they would have to change their sheets. I'm not aware of them being punished or anything for it.

Other information

149. I remember they held this 'clear the air' meeting every Wednesday between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm. It was supposed to be that you got out your grievances. It was all of the boys in your wing and whichever prison officers were on shift. It ended up no one said anything because of the reaction the boys got. They would be told to shut up or

a denial that whatever the boys spoke about had happened. You certainly wouldn't get anyone complaining of say being assaulted, that would never happen.

150. There was a picture frame in all of the rooms it measured three and a half feet by four feet. You could pin up posters or things on it. For some reason the ones in west wing were so much smaller about ten inches. I was really into music and it would have a poster in it. I would draw around the poster to make it as small as I could. I pinned the posters up but I would always tuck the excess up the back so it measured exactly. One day I came back from the work party and my room had been turned upside down. They would do this often in case you had anything you shouldn't have. My pictures were all ripped off the wall. I brought this up at the Wednesday meeting. Parly, who was the one who had done it along with Morrison told me to shut up. I didn't get recreation after that. I thought to myself what on earth was the point in having these meetings.

Abuse at Polmont

151. There was physical abuse in the allocation wing. If you answered back or didn't do as you were told you'd get a punch or the officers would come into your room. They punched me to the body a couple of times. It would happen because I would answer them back. I was fed up with the name calling and sometimes I just had to say something. There was no need for them to slag off my family saying things like 'spawning a piece of shit like you'. There was no need for them to speak about my family at all.
152. One day at the swimming pool my nails were checked and **GIH** said they were too long. It was a twenty-five metre pool with four lanes and this day I was sent to the furthest away lane. I'm not a swimmer at all but what he made me do was swim the length of the pool, get out the other end, he was at the other end and he made me run down the side of the pool and jump in again and repeat it. I had to do it for the full thirty-minute session. He was watching and I think he would have jumped in if something had happened but it was frightening for me. I was just doing the doggy paddle. I swallowed that much water during it, I ended up being sick.

153. There was an incident with another prisoner on a different day, a guy [REDACTED] in the swimming pool. GIH slapped him and the prisoner grabbed him and pushed him in the pool. He was dragged down to the digger and I believe he got a real doing from the prisoner officers.
154. If GIH caught you diving into the swimming pool you would get a slap off him as you had to jump in and not dive. GIH was an animal and no one liked him.
155. The prison officers abused prisoners in front of each other and other prisoners. The Governor nor deputy were ever about when they behaved the way they did. I saw boys being slapped in there frequently and everyone was being verbally abused.
156. I overheard one of the officers, maybe his name was Leitch, making comment to another officer about one of the prisoners whose wife had just had twin babies. He said something about how could a piece of shit like that have twins when other people couldn't. I took from that comment that maybe he couldn't or he knew someone that couldn't. It then made me realise how much those guys really hated us. I couldn't believe it.
157. There were no good officers in there. I hated them all. Their behaviour made me hate them. I did what I did and I accept that, but verbal abuse and getting beaten up made me really hate them.

Leaving Polmont

158. A month before you were due to be released you got a four-day home stay from the Monday to the Thursday. I had stashed money in the house so when I returned home I got the cash and got alcohol and got drunk. It was a struggle to return for the last month. My mate had to come down to the railway station to encourage me as I didn't want to go back. It would have been stupid if I hadn't because I would have had time added. I got out of Polmont on [REDACTED] 1972.

Life after leaving jail

159. I went to my parents' house after Polmont. Shortly after I got out I got a job in Scottish Special Housing. I got a girlfriend, she got pregnant and we married about a year after me getting out. We had one daughter and two sons, my daughter [REDACTED] sadly passed away earlier this year from breast cancer.
160. My wife passed away when I was twenty-seven years old. It was very sudden, she choked on vomit while she was sleeping. I brought up my children on my own with help from my mum.
161. During my life I've worked on buses, British steel and latterly I went into scaffolding.

Reporting of abuse

162. I never reported the abuse I suffered in any of the jails I have been in.

Impact

163. I detested my dad because of the way he treated me, my mum and the rest of my family. He was a drinker and as I've said didn't work after his illness. I definitely think my relationship with my dad had something to do with me detesting authority and probably contributed to me getting into bother. I ended up rebellious. I didn't think at the time it impacted on me that but it obviously did.
164. The impact of the brutality in Glenochil made me loathe staff. I have already said I hated Police but that stems from what I saw on the streets in my area and how I was treated by them. We used to stand at a corner. There were these two Detectives, we used to call them the 'Untouchables'. They would drive about in a van. They would screech up to us where we were standing and they were so fast that they would be out of the van and have you pinned up against the wall before you had a chance to run.

165. When I was thirteen I got sent to the chip shop and I saw two guys fighting. I didn't know who they were. As I was walking I saw a panda car pull up with two Police. I then heard a thud and one of the Police had whacked one of the guys who was fighting, right across the forehead and he went down and there was lots of blood.
166. There was another time, I was playing in the graveyard and I simulated throwing a stone at someone. A policeman saw me and he chased me. He caught me and took me into the nearby Police box and slapped me about. I was only thirteen years old. It would be fair to say I did have issue with all authority because of my dad and the Police.
167. This distrust continued once I went to Glenochil. When I had to strip that first day at Glenochil all of these scenarios were running through my head as to what was maybe going to happen to me, sexually or otherwise.
168. I do think being in jail has affected my mental health. When I get angry and start screaming and want to hurt people I think that stems from what happened in jail and the way they spoke to me and treated me in there. I did not have that type of temper when I was young so I can only assume it's what happened to me later on.
169. I love music, ACDC, Metallica and Led Zeppelin. I loved the music in the sixties it reminds me of my childhood with my sisters. I remember the first time I heard My Sweet Love by George Harrison I was in Glenochil. T Rex when I was in Glenochil. Silver Machine when I was in Polmont. Hold your head up, when I was in Polmont. I can listen to them now and I start thinking back to my time in these places. I often start crying and then I have to switch them off.
170. It definitely changes your life. You don't think about it at the time, you think you're okay but it does affect you. There isn't a year goes by that I don't think about these places.

171. I haven't spoken to anyone about any of this I know I'm my own worst enemy. I shut down and don't say a word about how I'm feeling. When my wife died people said I should speak to someone but I never have.
172. I would never ever commit suicide but I have thought about it. I then think of my kids and grandkids and what impact it would have on them. At the same time if I died in my sleep I'd be okay with that. I would miss my grandkids.
173. I was on depression tablets for about five years, that was a while ago but I came off them on the advice of my doctor.
174. I have felt great today sharing all of this. I came with the intention of sharing things but I've surprised myself how much. I haven't shared this much before not even with my partner. I've been emotional today but I am an emotional person anyway. I still think about my time and it was over fifty years ago. As I've sat here today talking about it I've realised just what impact these places had on me throughout my life and it's really sad.

Records

175. I have never tried to get records I feel they would likely be full of lies.

Lessons to be learned

176. The short, sharp, shock treatment may have worked for some but not me. I'd be interested to know what percentage it did work for, I think it would be very low.
177. I'm not sure what would have worked for me, I was quite rebellious and I sometimes think to myself my behaviour was to get back at my dad. I don't know.
178. The main thing is that each generation should learn from the last in so many aspects. Hitting and beating didn't work then.

Hopes for the Inquiry

- 179. I hope me speaking to you today will allow you to learn more about what happened with people in these places and that it gives a good understanding of what it was like and how brutal it was. I hope the stories are all similar and it shows that people are not making it up, that it actually happened.

- 180. I should think if these people were challenged about their behaviour they would deny it but if more people tell their story then there can be no debate.

- 181. 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... IOJ

Dated... 11 - 7 - 2023