

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HWZ

Support person present: No

1. My name is HWZ. My date of birth is 1971. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I lived in Rutherglen with my parents, and , my sister and younger brother. I have six brothers and one sister. I'm the second youngest. My sister, , is three years older than me and my brother, , is three years younger than me. My other brothers were older and lived elsewhere. They are , , , and .
3. My dad worked as a painter and decorator. I was quite frightened of my dad. He was strict and used to skelp me. Looking back, I wish I had listened to him. Before I got into trouble, I was going to St Dominic's primary school in Castlemilk. I went around with boys who were a couple of years older than me. I played football and was in the school team from a very young age. Things were looked upon differently in primary school. I loved primary school.
4. When I moved up to high school, people used to say things like 'he's the best fighter in school' about me. This happened in lots of primary schools especially ones in housing schemes like Castlemilk. I hadn't even had a fight but the teachers believed it. I think it worked against me. Due to being labelled in that way, I don't think I got a 'fair crack of the whip'.

5. Most of the teachers were nice but some of them labelled me. There were thirty to forty in each class. I think some of the teachers were really stressed trying to teach the kids. I think some of them might have been drunk. I used to feel sorry for some of the teachers. The teachers would blame me for things that I hadn't done. I didn't get into any bother at primary school but I was stigmatised at high school. It stopped me enjoying school.
6. The only thing that kept me going to school was playing football, but during the strikes they stopped doing extra curricular activities after school. I started truanting when I was in third year. I wouldn't have if I had been a bit more comfortable going to school and if there had been something I enjoyed to keep me going there.
7. The teachers gave me a 'dogger's card' at school for six weeks. I had to get it signed in every class. I would get a letter through the door if I was caught truanting. I wouldn't be allowed a day off for six weeks. I was frightened of my dad because he didn't stand for any nonsense. When I look back on it, I realise how bad it was to miss school. I hadn't been on supervision orders or anything like that. I already had a trade lined up as a tiler because some of my pals had left school so they lined it up for me. They took an apprentice on every year.
8. When I didn't go to school, I hung around in one of the streets where one of my brothers lived. It was the same street my family lived in before we moved to Rutherglen. My mum and dad wouldn't know because they were in Rutherglen and my brother wouldn't say anything. I ended up going around with boys two or three years older than me. I had always been big. I looked about two or three years older. I didn't expect to get into trouble because I wasn't a bad kid.

#### **Longriggend YOI, North Lanarkshire**

9. I used to deliver papers at the weekend in Castlemilk so I would stay with my brothers. They would let me go out all the time so I had a lot of freedom. I started drinking alcohol. I think I got away with a lot because I looked a bit older.

10. One night I was camping out with some friends. We were walking through a lane and one of my friends suddenly told us to run. He had smashed a window. I didn't even know he had done it. The next thing two men came out of the house with a hatchet and a hammer and chased us. I don't know what happened after that but I woke up the next day in one of my brother's houses. My brother asked me if I had been in a fight. He told that a man had died. The police came to get me the next morning.
11. I was taken to the police station and I was interviewed. I felt under a lot pressure from my family not to say anything about what happened. I was remanded in custody from Glasgow Sheriff Court and taken to Longriggend. I was fully committed after a week. I try my best not to think about it but I used to deliver the man's paper. It wasn't until later on that I realised who he was.

### **Routine at Longriggend**

#### *First impressions*

12. I was in Longriggend from [REDACTED] 1986 to [REDACTED] 1987. The first weekend I spent in there, one of the screws came round and said he could smell smoke, he turned the cell upside down and started battering the other boy in my cell. The boy was called [REDACTED]. The next thing he put me in the cell and was scudding me about. He was punching me. I can't remember his name but he was from Stirling and spoke with an accent. He was a big, hardy guy with dirty blond hair. I used to hear the screws talking and I heard them saying he worked at children's panels. On that first occasion, he came back after the tea had been given out, put his head into the cell and said "sorry about that boys". I had to be wary around him because he could just change quickly.
13. School boys were usually only remanded in Longriggend for a week. My lawyers tried to get me moved into a children's home because I was the youngest there but the court decided that I had to go back to Longriggend. The age range was sixteen to 21. There were also convicted adults there who were aged 21 to fifty up. I think I was kept

there because of the nature of the charge against me. Most of the other boys were used to being in and out of children's homes. It was an eye opener for me.

*Layout*

14. There were four halls. The school boys had one corridor, it was 'B' Hall. There was a corridor called 'the dog leg'. It was for anyone who had been in trouble in prison. Sometimes I would be the only school boy in the whole place. You didn't get to move around in there. You didn't get 'rec' or anything. The schoolboys had to sit two or three metres away from the other boys who were on remand. We weren't allowed to smoke.
15. There were hundreds of kids in there. They tried to keep the school boys five or ten yards away from the other boys and we weren't allowed to talk to the other boys. Everyone went to PT and the dining hall together but we had to keep a gap between us. That's just the way it was. That was the rule. It couldn't be enforced. It must have been in their rulebook but it was an impossibility, especially at PT because we had to interact.
16. They made the schoolboys collect other people's faeces. People would do it and chuck it out their cell window. After I had been sentenced, I got a skelp on the ear from a screw for refusing to do it one day. I refused because I'd done it for three months. A lot of the time, I was the only one doing it. I got fed up of it. The screw was a guy with a moustache and black hair. He was younger than the others.
17. Longriggend is high security. You wore the same clothes. The only thing you changed was your shirt once a week. If you got two shirts you washed them yourself so you got to keep them. Some of the clothes were too short or torn. They used to throw the uniforms onto the floor and you had to try to grab something. If it fitted it fitted. I had to learn how to sew because you had to have another pair of trousers that fitted you so you could leave one pair hidden for when you went back.
18. The uniform was called 'BDs'. It was like a donkey jacket. You wore your own clothes going to court.

### *Routine*

19. In the mornings, the guards came round and looked through the spy hole. We got up at six o'clock and seven o'clock at the weekends. We were locked up at 8.30 or nine at night and four o'clock on a Saturday and Sunday.
20. The lights went out at ten o'clock at night. There would be one staff during the night. They would have to go to get the keys from a desk in order to open the cell door. In Longriggend, the cell didn't even have a window, it was bars with a big sheet of plastic over the top of it. You could see through it. There was just a bed in the cell. I had books and comics. You got papers too. I actually learned how to read books while I was there. I didn't even have a radio.
21. I only had a cellmate for the first week when I first went in. After I was fully committed, I was in the cell myself. Once I was sentenced, I got one pound six a week wages. I used to ask some of the other schoolboys if I could put money into their canteen. It was because they were on remand and getting as many sweets as they wanted.
22. I was still going to school when I was in there. It was in a porta-cabin. There were two classrooms. School consisted of sitting in a room watching the same film over and over. It was the same movie the whole time I was there. We went there every day apart from Saturday and Sunday. It was like being back in primary one. There was no curriculum because boys were only in there for a week at a time. There was no TV. It was just the video.
23. The boys were hardened to it and they would talk about it. There was a bullying regime in jail. However, I think all of the school boys got on.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

24. You got used to the food. I wouldn't say there was anything bad about it. The schoolboys had to sit at a certain table. I was sitting at a table on my own a lot of the time. We had breakfast, lunch and dinner. It was adults making and serving the food.

They were prisoners who were sent up from a man's prison. The schoolboys had PE with them in the multi-gym several times a week.

25. I was playing football maybe three times a week. I loved the gym and exercise. Exercise was every day. There is one exercise yard in Longriggend. The schoolboys went out with A hall. It was 1030 to lunchtime. You had to take your turn. I loved when another schoolboy came in because it was company for me. A lot of the time, I was walking about myself. I was having to walk about myself doing exercise unless there was another pupil school boy. I felt like a bit of a freak just walking about myself.

#### *Washing/bathing*

26. You had to get washed in the sinks in the mornings. We had to slop out. We had pots in the cell. Some people did the toilet too.

#### *Religious instruction*

27. If you had to go to church or chapel or to see a priest, they knew what doors to go to. They put a card on your cell door. You had a green card if you were Roman Catholic and a cream one if you were Protestant. It also said on the card that I was charged with murder so everyone could see that.
28. I went to Mass a couple of times. An old Irish priest came to see me a couple of times. He was a nice old man. There was a Jesuit priest too but he was a bit creepy. He was about fifty or sixty. I think he had ulterior motives. I had a sense about him. I could tell by the way he spoke and came across. He gave some boys expensive rosary beads. He used to ask questions which weren't about religion.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

29. I think they gave us a selection box and the food was a bit better but there was nothing else.

### *Visitors*

30. The only visitors I had were my agents and counsel. Some staff from St Mary's secure unit came to see me and asked me stupid questions. The only psychologist I saw was to assess if I was fit to stand trial. When you were on remand, you were sitting worrying that you were never going to get out of there again. You got used to being skelped.
31. It was hard for my mum and dad. I could see the shock on their faces when they came to visit. They just wanted me out of there. I was allowed a visit for fifteen minutes a day when I was on remand and once sentenced it was twice a month. I didn't want a visit every day because it could feel too much. I felt like I had let them down for what I put them through. I could tell my dad was hurting. I think I put my guard up. The only other way to communicate was by letters. The staff checked the letters going out and coming in.

### **Abuse at Longriggend**

32. The staff skelped you openly in there. Some of them didn't hide it. When they really wanted to hit you they came, got you, and took you individually to the segregation cell. You'd also get a doing in your own cell. They would put you in 'locks' en-route to segregation. Every lock had a number. Your hair would be pulled up and your legs would be pulled behind your neck. I don't think I was put in segregation a lot in Longriggend. I got a lot more severe beatings in my cell, probably about eight or nine times. I was fifteen and I felt like a schoolboy. They were careful what they were doing. It was all planned, for example, because I was a schoolboy they didn't put me into segregation as much. So instead, they would batter me in my own cell. The beatings were for silly things. It was common for ones who were sixteen and above to be put into segregation. They only put people in segregation for one night in there. Then they were moved to the dog leg.



33. One time I had my face burst open by a prison guard. My eye and nose were cut. I didn't receive any medical treatment. He just asked how it was but that was it. There was no examination. You were frightened to say anything because you knew it would go to SNR [REDACTED]. It was intimidating. SNR [REDACTED] could be worse than the staff.
34. Everybody knew what to expect but I didn't know what jail was like before I went in there. I hadn't spoken to anyone about it so I had to learn while I was there. They would wait until everybody was locked up then they would come into your cell. You would be scared. The staff turnover was high and there would be people in and out so quickly. I was shocked by the treatment in there so it was like a blur. I didn't know if I would get back out. I can't remember the names of any staff. I was only in for four months.

*Psychological abuse*

35. The psychological abuse was bad. The staff played mind games. If anybody had a problem, the staff were horrible about it. They would let everyone know to humiliate the person. They caused a lot of trouble. I used to hear it all the time. There was a culture of trying to put people down. They would say that people were in for sex offences because they didn't like them when the person might not have been. The staff tried to get into your brain by playing mind games. They would say things like, "you won't see the light of day again". They would try to pit you against your co-accused, saying 'they're going to say you did it'. They would set up situations to try to cause fights between boys. Those things could cause more harm than the beatings. Some of them specialised in this kind of treatment. They were trying to make you introverted. When I got the chance to speak to another boy, that feeling went away a bit.
36. I lived on my nerves in there. If you were unwell, it would be the staff who came to see you. I was shocked being in there. I put a guard up to protect myself. I felt like an object because everybody knew who I was and what I was in for because of the



serious nature of the charge and because I was the youngest. There was no hiding and I felt the eyes on me.

### **Leaving Longriggend**

37. I was convicted of culpable homicide and sentenced to two years. My co-accused were convicted of culpable homicide and got three years. After I was sentenced, I went back to Longriggend because the Secretary of State had to decide where to send me. My co-accused all went to Glenochil. I was totally naïve. I didn't have friends who had been in custody or in children's homes. The other schoolboys knew the way things worked because they were in and out of custody all the time but I had no idea. I can remember that they did social work reports on me so that they could decide where to send me. I didn't have any bad intentions. It stigmatises everywhere you go. I think I ended up being quite defensive.

### **Glenochil YOI, Stirling**

38. I was taken to Glenochil by minibus by two prison guards. I had heard of it but that was about it. Glenochil is in Stirling. I went there in [REDACTED] until [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] that year. I found out that it was going to be turned into a men's prison. After that I went to Greenock.
39. I was the youngest. The age range went up to 21. There were two halls of men and two halls of young offenders

### *Routine*

40. I was in circulation with everyone but I was still only fifteen. We went down for breakfast in the dining hall. After breakfast we went up the education unit. My job was education. The schooling was primary school level. So it was things like adding up. There was no curriculum. I had missed out on a lot of the curriculum. It was already half way through. Everyone else there was doing Highers. I didn't really have an education. I went into a classroom and I was the only one there.

41. There was an aviary with birds as you went in the room. I would stand at the aviary and ask one of the teachers if I could go to PT. The teacher would just tell me to go for a walk. I would end up going to PT instead. I did weights or football. I also did long distance running. You had to be able to run a mile in under six minutes. I was up there until lunchtime. After lunchtime, I was locked up for an hour. I was locked up again when the screws had their dinner. After work was finished, I had recreation for an hour and a half.
42. The food was okay. I knew I had to eat it so I became accustomed to it. You didn't really get a choice, but if you said you were a vegetarian you might have been given something different.
43. Some people had a problem with bed-wetting. It's a problem in every jail. Some people weren't shy about telling people because they knew the staff would tell them anyway.

#### **Abuse at Glenochil**

44. While I was there, I heard a lot of screaming. One time, I heard the screws dragging one of the other boys along the corridor to the segregation area. They called the corridor 'the Russian front'. It joined all the halls together. It echoed so everyone could hear it. It was a fair distance. The boy was screaming. I heard that he had a broken wrist. They were being rough by the sounds of it.
45. I heard a lot in there. Some of the young offenders were into bullying and trying to get guys to kill themselves. I heard that one of the guys had hanged himself before I was there. The bully who made him do it ended up having one of his eyes taken out. It had happened about a year and a half before I went in but he was still there. It was common knowledge and nobody liked him. I think people wanted to give him a taste of his own medicine. I know that a couple of boys killed themselves before I was there.
46. Another boy was being bullied while I was there. He was from somewhere near the borders, I think it was Castle Douglas. People were taunting him to make him set fire

to his cell. The bullies were doing it for a laugh and the boy was going along with it. It was like a manipulation kind of thing. People started throwing sheets on top of the fire and it went up like an inferno. It was scary because the fire was raging. The fire was wild and it was going back in his window. Everybody was screaming with fear. We were shouting on the screws. They got him and he was okay. One of the boys was murdered while I was there. He was only eighteen. I didn't see any of that but I heard about it. I heard a lot of things that had gone on.

47. I preferred Glenochil as a jail because I didn't need to interact with the staff. However, there was no concern for anyone's welfare. They weren't really looking after anybody. If there was going to be any trouble, it was inmate against inmate. They didn't care about that. If you had an enemy, the staff just threw you in beside them. If you were frightened and wouldn't go into circulation you got a day off your remission. That didn't apply to me while I was there. The staff used that against the other boys.
48. I turned sixteen while I was in Glenochil. If you refused to go to work it was seen as a disciplinary matter and they took a day's remission off of you. It was as if some of the staff had a mental problem. It was as if they thought of devious ways to get to you. I was only there for about two months.

### **Greenock YOI, Greenock**

49. We were taken down on buses to Greenock and Dumfries. They split us up, some went to Greenock and the others went to Dumfries. There were hundreds of boys in there.

### *Routine*

50. The routine was similar to Glenochil. I wanted to go there because I had heard nice things about it. Although you were allowed to wear your own clothes to recreation so it was a lot more relaxed in that sense. You had to be on first name terms with the staff. Some of the staff were difficult. The older staff were better than the young ones. They would give me the benefit of the doubt if I hadn't heard them properly or

something. They used to try to threaten you with other inmates. I could be a wee bit cheeky sometimes but I was only fifteen/sixteen and the staff didn't have the mental capacity to understand that there was no malice or badness in it. I didn't even know I was being cheeky. It was as if the staff were just looking for confrontation. I don't the younger staff were qualified to deal with us. I was so young and I didn't understand a lot of it. It took a lot of getting used to being in these places. The staff automatically thought you were guilty and blamed you for stuff. Some of the staff were sick in terms of the thoughts and the badness in them. They were false.

51. I worked in the cookhouse in Greenock so I was getting a wage. There would be snide remarks from staff. They jumped to conclusions if they didn't like the way you looked or you weren't best pals with them. I tried to keep away from them as I was weary because of the way I had been treated in Longriggend. If they didn't turn on you, it was forming opinions. I could tell they'd formed opinions about me by the way they spoke to you. I didn't see any physical violence in Greenock.
52. One time, my landing screw was trying to hit on my sister during my visit. I hated him. I can't remember his name. He had blonde hair.
53. I waited until the next day and told him I didn't like the way he did that. After that, he used to be horrible to me. There was a Christian group where you got tea and biscuits and they played music. I used to like going to that but he wouldn't put my name down. I would put my name down for classes and put a request in. Those classes were often the highlight of my week because it was something different and like a bit of the outside world coming in. He would come on shift and take my name off the list for classes. I don't know if that kind of thing happens in private prisons. In those days, the Scottish Prison Service is very childish and petty.
54. I was allowed two visits per month. It was also high security so you couldn't try to run away. It was the same type of discipline as other places. I didn't see one bit of violence in Greenock but it was the snide remarks and making comments about other prisoners. The staff knew I was the youngest there.

55. One time I took another boy's shorts for PT. One of the guards told me that I'd get it from the boy so it was like a threat. I went and spoke to the boy and told him. The two of us ended up laughing about it. He didn't even mind. He had a bit of a reputation but it was probably because of the staff doing that kind of thing and manipulating us.
56. I had a meeting with a parole officer to discuss parole. He didn't listen to me and I could tell he just assumed I had always been in trouble. I felt really deflated so I didn't even fill in my own parole paperwork. I didn't have a clue. Nobody came to speak to me. I was talking to one of the staff about the parole hearing but he had already formed an opinion about me. I told them to write what they wanted on the papers. There didn't seem to be anyone on my side.
57. I can only remember the name of the governor. The Governor was a former priest. He was called Mr Coyle. He was a nice guy. He was fair and tried to be moderate. I think he was involved in trying to reform prisons. He was all for modernisation in trying to bring in human rights in for prisoners. I think he left soon after.

### **Leaving Greenock**

58. I got into a bit of trouble and I was fighting with somebody so they moved me. I was moved about five days later. No one had come to speak to me to tell me I was leaving. I was in Greenock for two months.

### **Dumfries YOI, Dumfries**

59. I can't remember arriving at Dumfries. I don't even know whereabouts in Dumfries the prison is. Nobody wanted to go to Dumfries. You knew everybody where you were and you made pals. No one wants to go somewhere where you have to integrate yourself. It was a Young Offenders Institution. There was a remand part too. I think there was a section for women too but we didn't see any of them.

### *Layout*

60. There is one hall and underneath there is the 'digger' which is the segregation. C hall has sections in it and is to the right of the main hall. When you came out of there you turned left and went down a wee hall to the gym. The dining hall was underneath C hall. D hall was like a round section.
61. There was some schooling. I did art classes and English. I think I had three classes in there. The classrooms were in between C hall and D hall.

### *Staff*

62. I can remember some of the staff. There was a man called Mr HWY. He was a prison officer. There was a Mr Campbell and a Mr Middlemass. The chief was Mr Gilfoyle. Mr Middlemass was one of the PTIs and a gardener. He was an old man. I liked him. He told me I was the fittest person in there. He got me into his work party. Some of the older staff treated us with some respect.
63. I can remember more staff by their nicknames than their actual names. The names we had for some of them were, 'the village idiot', 'the fool' and HYW. HYW had a big beard. They got their nicknames from the way they acted and the way they treated us.
64. The age range was sixteen to 21 year olds. I was the youngest. There were 150 in total. It was all single cells. There was a bed with a cabinet in the cell. I had a radio and a guitar at one point.

### *Routine*

65. After breakfast, we went to work. I did painting and decorating and worked as a joiner in there. I had a few jobs. I did the VT course as well. I was also the football captain. We played teams like the junior team from Dumfries and some of the Queen of the South players.



66. We would have a wash and slop out. There were no showers. In Dumfries, I was in B Hall. You had to eat in your cell. If you were low category, you were moved halls and were allowed to go to the dining room. I was in B category. I can remember it vividly in there. I remember another boy called [REDACTED].

### **Abuse in Dumfries**

67. One time, one of the boys told us that there was a 'sit in'. We had to sit down in the hall. We didn't know what it was about. After about an hour, about twelve of the boys got up and went upstairs. There were about fourteen or sixteen of us left. The boy who started the whole thing was serving a life sentence so he was just carrying on. He was always doing stupid things. It was for nothing.
68. At 10.30 that night the staff came in wearing riot gear. They came running in and were hitting us with batons. They put us in the digger for fourteen days. The boy who had come up with the idea was put 'on a rule' which meant he was kept downstairs indefinitely. He didn't have anything to lose. We had just gone along with it but didn't know what was happening.
69. They took us one at a time and put us into the digger. They came into my cell and smashed my guitar and radio. My face was swollen. I woke up the next day naked. SNR [REDACTED] came into my cell and hit me with my clothes. He told me that I had better get up. I can't remember his name but he had a big nose. He said "you better get fucking up". The staff were punching and punching me. One of them, HWY [REDACTED] had been a boxer [REDACTED]. HWY [REDACTED] kept hitting me on the face and I couldn't see. One of the other staff was punching me as I was being carted, he was hitting me in between my legs from behind. He had a long white beard. I was bleeding. The next day, I can remember my penis was all crispy blood and I had to pull it off to do the toilet. I can't remember anything apart from wakening up being hit with my clothes.
70. I was put down in the digger again in the September and didn't get back up until the end of February. The governor told me it was because of 'subversive activities'. I didn't



even know what it meant. They had halved the digger into two parts to try to modernise it. They could put twelve down there. There was a silent cell down there too. They refused you things like using the phone and visits. The visits were in a small cupboard like room. I didn't want my family coming to visit me while I was in there anyway. I had one visit from my younger brother and my friend. You were locked up for 23 hours down there. You got an hour's exercise. I was beaten up all the time. You had to take everything off apart from your pants and stand against the wall spread eagle. They would come in with the shields and lock you in. This treatment went on for three months.

71. You would be carted from your cell, taken to the silent cell, put in a straightjacket and put in a padded cell for 24 hours. That happened to me once. It used to happen to one of the other boys there all the time. I think his name was [REDACTED]. There were twelve steps to the toilet. You would slop out, brush your teeth and get locked back in the shields. They would slide the food into you. I think they were doing to try to teach me a lesson. I got bad doings down there. They put me down in the digger. You wouldn't believe the things that happen in jail.
72. The abuse was unbelievable and it was for absolutely nothing. It happened if you disagreed with anything they said. It was for absolutely nothing. I had to have a concrete bed because they took my blue mattress away from eight in the morning to four in the afternoon. They weren't allowed to do that. You got one hour's shot of the paper. That was your recreation. Everyone came to an agreement that the person who gets the paper first fills out the crossword, draw it, and pass it when he's given the paper in. You needed to write the questions and the crossword for the next person.
73. The main perpetrators were [HWY] and [HWX]. There were two [HWX]s, the older one was a nice placid guy but the younger one was one of the ones who battered me. [HYW] was a wee guy with a big beard. I think his name was [HYW]. There was a gang of them called the 'flattop mob'. They acted like a gang. They were called that because they all had the same haircut. Some of them took a drink in work.

74. HWY loved hitting us. He was part of the gang. They used to big him up because he used to box [REDACTED]. He was just a bully. We knew who the bullies were. They made sure you were immobilised even your arms and legs and he would be punching your face. That side of my face was always not quite right. I wasn't given any medical treatment. You would only get treatment if you had broken bones or if your face was burst right open and you needed stitches. Nothing would have happened if you complained. You were frightened to say you weren't alright because it would have been like a complaint with paperwork and you would have to watch yourself. I used to know if it was going to be a good or a bad day by the sound of the footsteps coming.
75. There were no human rights then. The abuse was beyond belief there. I was captain of the football team and I enjoyed going to work in jail. One of the teachers was an older woman and sometimes she would forget and talk about stuff. So it was like a wee bit of freedom. She used to bring bags of sweets in for us. I was only back upstairs in the main prison for eight weeks before I was released. I was in C hall for my last week. Mr Middlesmass, the gardener, gave me a job in the garden when I came out of the digger. I used to like it in the garden as it was peaceful. I'm embarrassed because it doesn't seem real to me.

### **Leaving Dumfries**

76. I left in [REDACTED] that year. I was six weeks away from my eighteenth birthday when I was released. 'Old Paddy', was an Irishman, who took me to the train station. I got a ticket back to Glasgow and went to my mum's.

### **Life after being in care**

77. I found it very hard to adapt when I got out. I was in shock for a long time. I couldn't talk to anyone. I think people had the wrong impression of me because of where I'd been. I think my family viewed me differently. Before any of this happened, I used to be very close to my cousins. We were more like brothers and sisters. We used to go on holiday together. It had all stopped when I came out. I reflect on it quite a lot. It

definitely wasn't me acting differently. I was too young, daft, and needed help. I was too young to be able to get any benefits. I didn't know what to do with myself.

78. I stayed at mum's in Rutherglen. I should have moved to London when I got out. My older brother lived there and had his own business. I am friends with my brothers. I would have found things harder without them. I used to feel like I was looking after them at first. I felt as if I was mollycoddling them.
79. Up until I was forty, I wasted my life. I was trying to blur things out. It was hard trying to find the person I was. I can't remember my life before and I feel like the stigma has followed me wherever I have gone.

### **Impact**

80. I think about it all the time. I feel like I haven't really had a chance. I feel as if I needed more time because I had no communication skills. I hear my aunties and brothers talking when they're drunk but I find it hard to relate because I have lost the person I was before I went in. I can't remember myself before I went into prison. It's a bit like I am two different people. It kills me. I don't know how they view me.
81. I feel like it's never going to leave me. People who haven't gone through what you've been through don't know how to deal with it. I have a lack of trust. I police myself and very rarely go out. I'm not good at going out and socialising with other people.
82. My GP prescribed me anti-depressant medication. I've been on different medications. I have experienced side effects such as terrible nightmares. The nightmares felt so real. The next morning I felt like what had happened in my sleep was real. I wasn't ever able to work. I could have done anything as well but it's impossible because they wanted to know if you had experience. I couldn't get a disclosure because people would make assumptions.
83. In my younger years, I ended up drinking to numb the pain and it caused me problems. I think alcohol gave me courage to go out but I was killing myself. I had a fear of getting

into certain situations. I was scared that I would make a mistake. It gave me a bit of confidence but it made everything worse. I couldn't settle down. I had two relationships. I don't have any close friends. I push everyone away. I won't associate with anybody. It's always there. I feel as though I haven't given myself a chance. I've spoken to one guy who was also in Dumfries about this and he says that no one ever believed him.

### **Treatment/support**

84. I have spoken to psychologists and I have tried to get counselling. I didn't feel comfortable going as there were drug addicts. I needed to speak to people who could help. They just wanted to talk about drugs. I hate myself sometimes. My experiences have been detrimental to everything I've ever done. The subject is always going to arise. I should have moved down to London when I was released. I felt like I couldn't even try.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

85. I haven't considered reporting anything to the police. They wouldn't take it seriously. They wouldn't believe it.

### **Records**

86. I don't have my social work records. I have a lawyer from Digby Brown looking into getting my records for me. It's been hard to get the records.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

87. I think they should make sure they know how to deal with kids that age. They should make sure when they're being released they know how to talk to people. I wanted to

Speak about what happened to me to help other people. I think about the man who passed away quite a lot.

- 88. I wasn't looked upon as being a child by the people who were meant to be caring for me. I think they should know how to deal with kids that age and make sure they are given support to manage when they are released. I would like to help people, especially young boys, who have been caught up in incidents.

**Other information**

- 89. 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.

HWZ  


Signed.....

Dated..... 05.10.2022 .....