

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IRJ [REDACTED]

Support person present: No.

1. My name is IRJ [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Haddington, but we were brought up in Tranent and I went to Tranent Primary School. My dad was called [REDACTED] the same as me. He was a singer in a band called '[REDACTED]', it was famous. He used to drink a lot and take all my mum's money off her to go drinking. He would beat her up and left her for another woman. He was a wicked man. My mum's name was [REDACTED] but she was called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was her maiden name. My mum and dad are both dead now.
3. One time my dad chucked me down the stairs and injured my bowels. He was meant to be my family and he did that to me. He used to kick me up and down the place and lock me in a cupboard with the dog. I used to hide behind the dog. Another time he held an electric fire to my mum's neck and tried to stab her. The police were called, and they got divorced after that. I was about five years old when all this happened.
4. I used to toilet myself because of what happened to my bowels, and I got slagged for that. My sister was the one that used to call me names believe it or not. Her name was

█████, and she was the youngest. I had two older brothers as well, █████ and █████. When they came of age █████ went off to the army and █████ moved in with his girlfriend. They clearly didn't want to be at home either. There was just a year or two between us all.

5. My dad still kept coming back to the house after my parents divorced, trying to worm his way back in. None of the neighbours liked him and one guy said he was going to beat him up if he came back again. My mum started to separate us all when I was about eight or nine years old to stop my dad trying to take us away. We went to live with my gran and one of my Uncle █████'s pals who was a friend of the family. He used to help my mum with shopping, as she had no money. My gran couldn't cope with us all.
6. There was no social work involvement with me as a child. My mum didn't even take us to the doctors as my dad battered us black and blue. He wouldn't let her. He was so religious, and she was so controlled. The minister would come around but back then they didn't say anything, and you just had to live with what was going on. There were people that came to my mum's house and my uncle █████'s who lived two doors down. I think they were like care workers or something, but I don't know. They used to help look after us.
7. My Uncle █████'s friend sexually abused me, but I do not want to go into details. I can't remember his name. He used to tell me he would buy me a kitten as I loved cats. I would sit in his house and play with his stamp collection. The first time I went to his house nothing happened but the second time I remember I was sleeping in his double bed, and he was tickling me, and I said leave me alone. Another time I went, something happened with him. This happened on five occasions and I didn't want to go back. I was ten years old.
8. I never told my mum as I thought I'd be taken off her. I told her I didn't want to go back but she said I had to. My brothers and sister never stayed with him. The next time I went to his he apologised and gave me money to go to the shops. That was the last time I went there. My mum did try to take me another once, but I ran away up Calton

Hill. I think she started to realise there was something wrong as I had been black and blue. I think she knew and she became really protective of me after that. I never saw him at my Uncle [REDACTED]'s again after that. He lived on [REDACTED] in Edinburgh above a [REDACTED].

9. After that I went to live with my gran in [REDACTED] at weekends as my mum used to work in a pub. I went to Ross High School in Tranent. I got friendly with some people that my mum knew from the pub. She had some boyfriends after that too and they were alright. I was bullied at school because I was toileting myself and it was just easier to have older friends. They were about three or four years older than me. They took advantage of me and that's why I ended up in Glenochil but the way I saw it at the time was that I had friends.
10. I was a 'watchy' for the older folk when they were breaking into shops and things. I never had anyone, so I just looked up to them. One of them was called [REDACTED] and he always used to stick up for me, but the way the police saw it was if you were there, you did it. One time they saw me jumping off the top of a building site and caught me in some corn fields. I was locked up in the police cells for the weekend and then I went to court and was remanded for two weeks in HMP Edinburgh. I was only about fifteen, sixteen years old. I think it was just after my birthday as it was coming up to [REDACTED].

HMP Saughton, Edinburgh

11. I just kept myself to myself in Saughton as I was only there for two weeks. It wasn't military style or anything like Glenochil when I went there later. You got to watch the television and use the tuck shop whenever you wanted. I would just sit and read books all day in my cell. There were three of us in a cell and we were all remanded. If you were remanded, you weren't allowed out or to get a job or anything like that. I did get one hour exercise a day and out to the canteen for food. You did get a choice of food, but it wasn't that nice.

12. I was just waiting to be sentenced so it was straight forward. Nothing bad happened to me in there. I was locked up most of the time and just glad when I got out. I went back to court and was given bail.
13. When I got out it was only a month before I got lifted again and I was back in Saughton. It was only for about three or four days that time, and I just pled guilty and psychiatric reports were requested.
14. I got out for two weeks for that and it was just a doctor that I saw to do the assessment I spoke to the doctor about school and stuff with my lawyer there. I think they were trying to get me off but when I went back to court there was a report and I was given a three-month sentence.
15. I panicked as I was going to be away from my mum. I think it was [REDACTED] 1977 and I was sixteen years old. I think I spent my seventeenth birthday in jail.
16. All of my court appearances were at Haddington Sheriff Court.

Glenochil Detention Centre, Alloa

17. The building I was in had three floors with long corridors and rooms all the way along. There were bars on the windows, and it was quite big. There were two or three buildings in total at Glenochil. One building was for young offenders, like under eighteens and another was for like the short, sharp treatment, that's where I was. It was called Glenochil Detention Centre. The last building was just a normal jail where you went if you were over eighteen. I can't remember if any of the other buildings had names.

Routine at Glenochil

First day

18. I was taken to Glenochil straight from court in a van with ■■■ who was also sentenced. I thought I was going back to Saughton and when we got to there, ■■■ got out and I tried to get out too, but the officer said I was too young. I wasn't too young to be remanded there before so I was confused. I didn't know what was happening, no one told me anything. I was then in the van on my own and was just looking out of the window.
19. When I arrived, I just knew I was in Stirling, but I didn't know it was Glenochil. I was taken into a cubicle and there was another prisoner there. I said I needed the toilet, and I was taken by a prison officer. Before I went to Glenochil I had never had a relationship or been with a girl, but when I got there, I realised I had crabs on my genitals and nits. My mum had been away with her friend, and I was looking after her house, so I slept in her bed and must have caught all this from her bed.
20. When I went to the toilet, I noticed the crabs and I told the officer. He took me back to the cubicle and said get all your clothes off you are going for a shower. A guy came with a white jacket on and was shaking his head. He said I had brought beasts into the jail. He made me walk naked from the holding cell, along a corridor into another room. I had to cover my private parts with my hands. He told me to sit on a table naked.
21. He then got a bowl and a razor and started shaving my genital area. I kept moving so he was cutting me. He was using scissors too. He also shaved all my head and under my arms. He was not gentle and was slapping me telling me to sit still. I also had spots on my body and he was cutting through them with his razor. Afterwards he told me to go for a shower and I counted over thirty cuts, but they weren't deep.
22. After the shower he gave me some lotion to put on and it was stinging all the cuts. I was crying as I did not know what was going on and he was shouting at me. There

was no need. He slapped me quite a few times on the arms and legs. I was told to sit back on the table and not to move. I was left there for a few hours, naked.

23. The guy who shaved me was a doctor and about thirty-five years old with a beard. I think he was a duty doctor as it was at night, and I never saw him again. There was no remorse from the guy at all. I just felt like an animal getting shaved. It was just cruel. I had the feeling that I had spoilt his night. I felt I had pissed him off. He had attitude and was crabbit.
24. A sergeant major guy came back with jammies for me and said you are not walking about here with your bugs you can go to your cell. I was put in a room with no mattress and when I asked for a bed, he said I was not getting one as they didn't have any plastic mattresses. There was just a wee ledge in it, and I sat there all night, I couldn't sleep. I was really upset and emotional and they woke me up every hour by knocking on the door and telling me to stand up to make sure I was okay. They must have been worried I was suicidal.
25. The governor came into see me the next day and asked how I was feeling. I started crying and said not very good. I was frightened and was worried about the bugs. I didn't even know what I had. I got a plastic mattress that night but it was really thin.
26. I was in this isolation room beside the office for about a week or two because of what I had. I think I was put there so they could keep an eye on me and check I wasn't suicidal or until all the eggs had cleared up. I wasn't allowed out or near anyone. I don't think they used this room much as it had some bags in it when I got there, and they had to take them out. It was like a holding cell they were using as a storage room.
27. The sergeant major guy that took me to the isolation room was just calling me a dirty thieving little bastard for bringing bugs into the jail and saying he would sort me out. There was three of them that sat in the office beside the room I was in, and they would all call me names. I don't know their names, but I can picture their faces. I can still see their faces. The sergeant major had a stick and was old and grey with a red face. He had a big nose with a big lump or spot on his nose. He was definitely taller than me

and a big man, about six foot something. He must have been in his late forties or fifties. He was always there during the day as he would wake us all up in the morning.

Mornings and bedtime

28. After I was in quarantine, I was put onto a wing which was three levels, and I was on the top level. It was a long corridor with all single rooms along it. There was a single bed in the room and about twelve of us on that level. I didn't see much beyond that, and it was all young people like me.
29. We were woken up at 6:00 am with someone banging on our door and we were told to get our pots ready for slopping out. We had to stand outside our room with the pot until they told us to go and empty it into the toilet. After that we went to get washed and brushed our teeth and then to the dining hall for breakfast.
30. Before I was working, I would maybe go back to my room after breakfast and clean my room or polish my boots. We sometimes had to mop the floors or clean the toilets. We had to fold our bedding into wee squares. Some others maybe went to the gym or marching, but others went to work, if they had a job.
31. Bedtime was about 9:00 pm. There was still light coming in the window because it was summer, but the staff would turn off the lights to your room.

Washing/ Bathing

32. In the mornings after slopping out they gave us a cup with a brush and a shaver and would watch us all shaving. We got a shower once a week but a wash every night. In big big wash basins. They got the whole wing out at a time and the rest would have to stand as they sent a floor at a time to get washed.

Clothing/ Uniform

33. Our uniform was a grey jacket with trousers and a blue shirt with stripes. If you were on remand, you had red stripes. The jacket didn't feel very nice. We got a change of clothes once a week.

Mealtimes/ Food

34. We went to the dining hall at about 8:00 am. for breakfast. We had lunch there too after marching, which was three courses and then dinner.

Schooling

35. You could read a book if you wanted to, but there was not any schooling. I think you got schooling if you were on remand. I stayed in my room and read a lot as I didn't want to speak to anyone. I would also just stare out the window.

Work

36. For the first four weeks I never had a job and just marched all day. Some people never got a job, there were only so many that did. The day I was moved to another floor, after the gym teacher spoke with me, I was told I was working in the cook house. Everything changed after that, and I got left alone. It was good because no one would shout at you in the cookhouse. There was a big cook with a moustache who was good to the boys. He would give us fags and tell us to have a rest. Some of the staff were good.

Leisure time

37. There was a lockdown after teatime for about an hour and then you could go and watch television or just stay in you room. There was a lot of marching, like military style. I can still hear the tone of the officers shouting. A lot of them had Irish accents and it was like a military camp. We just marched all day and did parades. We also had

time in the gym during the day and were kept busy. We could play football outside and our days would pass fast.

Personal possessions

38. There was just a chair and a bedside cabinet in our rooms. I went in with clothes on, but my mum had to come and collect them as they were infected.

Healthcare

39. I remember there was another boy who had his head shaved and I wasn't allowed to talk to him or look at him. He must have had nits as well. When I had nits, the staff let everyone know it and told them all to stay away from me as well.
40. When I was in Glenochil I did not want to tell any of them about the injury to my bowels as I did not want any of them touching me. I still had the problems with my bowels and could go three weeks without a bowel movement, but I just kept it to myself. I think I was affected more in there because I was stressed and not eating very much. You were also scared to go to the toilet as the officers would stand at the door and if you took too long they would get angry at you. The couple of times I did go, it was just diarrhoea.

Religious instruction

41. You could go to church if you wanted to. The church was for the whole place and not just the detention centre. No one told us about it we just saw it and knew it was there. It just depended on your religion, if you were Catholic or Protestant. You could see the clergyman if you wanted but I never did. He was a prison officer so nobody trusted him.

Visitors

42. My mum was the only person that visited me in Glenochil. I think she came twice. The first time was because she was worried about me, and the second time was with a set of clothes as she had taken my other clothes away. I was just crying at the visits.
43. When the screw came to take you for your visit you were told you weren't allowed to talk about what went on in the prison.
44. We were across the table from each other but there were prison officers wandering around. It was hard because you couldn't speak to each other when they were all watching. There were about four or five of us in the visit at the one time. We were able to go up and get a cup of tea. It was alright but my mum knew I wasn't alright.

Family Contact

45. When I first went to write a letter home, I was told by the warden not to write anything about what was happening in Glenochil. He said they would read it and to be careful. They told you if you did say something about what was happening then they wouldn't send the letter and then the visiting pass that went with it wouldn't get sent. We were not allowed to call home.
46. I did write a letter to my mum about how I was feeling, and I think that is when I was put on watch and after speaking to the gym teacher. I didn't write about any specific incident I just wrote about how down I was. I was moved back into that isolation room for a few days. That meant I was checked on a lot and searched to make sure I didn't have anything on me that I could harm myself with.

Discipline

47. The officers used to come to our rooms and just shout outside and we would have to stand outside while they inspected our rooms. They used to shout in folks faces and say keep your eyes to the front. They would say our floors were dirty and to get them

cleaned. We had to scrub the floor and they would come back and check it. Sometimes they would just leave us standing outside our rooms for hours.

48. We weren't allowed to sit on the chair in our rooms during the day, we had to just stand there. We had to fold our clothes a certain way and at night the officers would come and check they were folded right. Sometimes they would just chuck it all on the floor and say get it folded. It wasn't just to me it was to everyone. Sometimes I would sit on my chair after lights out and just stare at the wall all night. We were allowed to sit on our chairs then.
49. The sergeant major officer who was on during the day, wasn't nice to anyone. You could always hear him shouting and I saw him shouting in people's faces all the time. He would stick his chest out and be in your face. He carried a stick all the time and would poke you with it if you weren't doing what he wanted fast enough. He didn't like me for some reason. I felt like I just annoyed him, and he picked on me. I don't know if it was because of the bugs.

Abuse at Glenochil

50. I now think I was abused by an Asian doctor in Glenochil and the sergeant major guy. I can still picture them both.
51. After I had been in Glenochil three or four weeks I was sent to see an Asian doctor with black glasses. He was a psychiatrist I thought I was just for a check-up. He never said much but he looked into my eyes with a light but never really spoke much.
52. He told me to take my clothes off and lie on this table. He checked my balls by holding them and telling me to cough. He made me sit there naked and went and sat down. He was looking at paperwork and then after about ten minutes he came over, did the same thing again touching my balls and asking me to cough. He did this a few times then told me to get up and put my clothes back on.

53. I thought it was just to check I had no more eggs after I had gone in with the bugs. Afterwards I thought, was touching me once, not enough. This doctor was about forty, fifty years old and skinny with a pointy nose and black hair.
54. We had to polish our boots sitting on our chair outside our cells in the landing. The sergeant-major guy used to make me do the spit and polish. I could never do it right and always got it wrong. I had only been there a few weeks at when the sergeant-major guy told me to stand up because I hadn't done them right and slapped me right off my feet. I was all sore the next day and my face was swollen and one eye blood shot. I had a mark on my face for about a week. He just threw my boots down and told me to get up and get them cleaned properly. He then made me polish his boots. He wouldn't let me spit on his boots though.
55. Just after that I was in the gym, and everyone was playing basketball. I was just sitting on the bench, and the gym teacher asked me why I wasn't playing and what happened to my face as it was all swollen from the sergeant major slapping me. I just started crying and he told me to stay behind and help him clear up all the balls. I told him I was suicidal and I didn't want to be there anymore. He said listen you've not got long to go and I opened up to him and told him about the sergeant-major slapping me for not cleaning my boots properly. I also told him about what had happened with the Asian doctor and was really upset.
56. I had been trying to work out how to steal a razor blade to harm myself. It was because of everything that had happened to me even before I went in to Glenochil.
57. I started to trust him and the next again day I was told to empty my room and taken to another floor in the jail and got detailed to the cooks.

Reporting of abuse at Glenochil

58. I did tell the gym teacher about the abuse I suffered in Glenochil but no one spoke to me about it afterwards. I was just put on watch then moved to the cookhouse and a new floor.
59. It was the gym teacher who saved me because I told him what happened with them and then it never happened again. I remember the gym teacher arguing with the sergeant major guy and telling him something like there is no need. The sergeant major stopped picking on me after that. I saw the gym teacher years later at Ingliston market and wanted to thank him, but I couldn't catch up with him.

Leaving Glenochil

60. In total I did eight weeks in Glenochil. If you weren't of good behaviour, you could do longer, but I just did what I was told as I wanted out of there. There was a board next to the toilets with all our names on it, who had days added to their sentence and your day of release.
61. On your day of release, you just got up at 6:00 am with all the rest of the prisoners and got your breakfast. You got taken to cubicles to get changed into your own clothes and then you had to sign some forms and get your property back that you had when you arrived. You were allowed to phone someone if you wanted to get picked up. If not you got a bus pass and I was given one and I had to get three buses to get home.
62. After leaving I was back to live with my mum. I got drunk on rum on the bus home and fell asleep, but the bus driver knew where I was going and woke me up.

Life after being in Glenochil

63. I was always with my mum so I could look after her. She had a lot of strokes and lost [REDACTED] I had no friends and was always just on my own with my mum. I felt suicidal for months after I left Glenochil. I didn't really feel like that before I went in there. I started going about with older people again.
64. My sister took over helping with my mum and I joined the shows or funfair and travelled a lot. I just wanted to go where no one knew me and get away from it all. When I was working with the shows, I just got stronger and stronger and then I moved back to Tranent and started my own business. I was away for about four years but sent a lot of money back to my mum. Whenever I started a job, I would learn it and then think I can do that and go off and do it by myself. I have always been like that.
65. I met someone and we got married and had two sons. Even after we got married and bought a house I still stayed with my mum. I didn't want to be with anyone else. My mum's home was always somewhere I was safe.
66. I also have an older daughter that I had when I was travelling with the shows. I didn't have a relationship with her as she stayed with her gran who would not let me see her because I had moved back home. Her mum had mental health difficulties and was sectioned. I did try with the social work to see her, but they didn't care in those days.
67. I never got in trouble again after Glenochil. I could not have gone through all that again. I did not want to go back there. I didn't know if another prison would just be the same.

Impact

68. Glenochil did change me. I always sleep on the couch now as I do not like people touching me. If my partner tries to give me a cuddle, I tell her to get her hands off me. I scream in my sleep as well. I have done it that long I just sleep through it. My partner says I shout things like 'they are coming to get me'. She says I have been shouting

out the name 'Bert' but I don't know who that is. It is something to do with my past but I don't know what.

69. If I had managed to get a razor blade in Glenochil I would have attempted suicide with the way I was feeling.
70. I have always been shy with my body and I don't like people looking at me. I would never wear shorts or anything like that. My partner comments that I look like an Eskimo in the summer as I am always covered up. I don't even like wearing t-shirts.
71. I can still sit and stare at the wall for hours in my kitchen like I did when I was in Glenochil. I do that a lot. I could not sleep when I was in Glenochil and just stared at the walls. Sometimes I still can't sleep as I am so anxious, and I just pace the house all night.
72. I had difficulties with authority after Glenochil. I have walked out of a lot of jobs and cannot get references because of it. I can't handle people shouting at me. The police came to my door a few times wanting to question my sons and I would get aggressive with them. I know they were only doing their job but after what happened to me, I just didn't trust them.
73. I don't think I will ever get on with authority. I am still really angry about what happened to me, and I take that out on other people. I just always feel cornered, like I am trapped.
74. My son got involved in drugs and became very aggressive. He would smash things up if me and his mum didn't give him money. He inherited that from me, and I inherited that from Glenochil. My son saw that was how I dealt with things, and he did the same. He saw I got my own way hitting things when I was angry. It made people listen.
75. Sometimes I see things on the television that reminds me of what happened, and I see my abusers faces. I can't get them out of my head. I can get so angry I hit things and harm myself. I can't control it. I get so angry when I think or hear of people who have sexually abused children too.

76. I am very protective over vulnerable people. I don't like people being cheated or bullied by people who think they can do what they like. I just think if they aren't doing it to me, they are doing it to someone else, and I know how those people will be feeling. I would step in to protect them now as I can handle myself but before Glenochil I would have been too scared.

Treatment/ Support

77. I was previously seeing a psychologist. My son started being abusive towards his mum because of the drugs and all I saw was what my dad did to my mum. I nearly lost it with him but was stopped by a friend and that is when I decided to get help. My son's aggression brought all my past back.
78. I am now in group therapy, and I think there is another thing they are trying to get me on, like an activity that helps change your behaviour. I am also on medication.

Reporting of Abuse

79. The police came to see me about four or five years after I left Glenochil. I thought it might have been to do with the Asian doctor, but I still don't know why they came. I told lies and said I didn't know anything. My mum and my girlfriend were sitting there at the time, and it was embarrassing to admit that you had been sexually assaulted so I never said anything.

Records

80. I have never tried to get any records. I just want to forget all about it.

Lessons to be Learned

81. I don't know how things can change as the prison populations are getting bigger and that's a problem. Just treat people fairly. Yes, they are in there to be punished for what they have done but not abused.
82. I get that they had to shave me because of what I had but they didn't then have to mock me in front of everyone and tell them my medical history. They were just showing their authority and it was wrong.
83. It made me worse when I came out and they made an animal out of me.
84. I also think if there were ten paedophiles fifty years ago there must be ten thousand of them now.

Hopes for the Inquiry

85. Prison should be a place where you go to learn and talk about what you did wrong. It should not be a place to be slapped about and called names.
86. I also hope that somebody from the prison service apologises about what happened to me and others and acknowledges what happened to me and others should never have happened.
87. I went in there down and feeling low. They just abused and humiliated me, made me feel suicidal and it was only the gym teacher who gained my trust and stuck up for me who saved me.

Other information

88. 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..... IRJ [REDACTED]

Dated..... 19/1/2023