

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IBF [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is IBF [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1959. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My dad passed away in 2012 and my mum passed away in 2016. I was born in the Anderston area of Glasgow, then my parents moved to Knightswood. My dad was a seaman in the merchant navy my mum was a housewife. You could say that my mum was a single parent because my dad was away for six months or a year at a time. She was bringing up four children herself. I was the oldest, then there was my brother [REDACTED] who is one year younger than me, my sister [REDACTED] who is three years younger, and [REDACTED] is the youngest. I can't remember how much younger than me she is.
3. We lived at [REDACTED] until I was about seven or eight years old. Life was brilliant there. We were out playing in the streets, not inside on computers. I think I was a good big brother to my siblings. I think our living conditions were good for that era.
4. Towards the end of his time in the merchant navy my dad was working on the Stranraer to Larne ferries so he was home more often. Without being disrespectful to him, my dad was very religious in a sectarian way and he brought that home with him. He would bring us presents then go down the pub singing all these religious songs and he would bring that back home with him, then he would batter my mum.

My mum was quite quiet. My dad would try and thump it into us to support his football team. My wife and I were totally different with our kids, they could support whoever they wanted. I am Church of Scotland and my wife is Roman Catholic.

5. My dad's carry on had an effect on me that I can still remember to this day. The household was quite reasonable with just my mum there but when my dad came back from sea he would be drunk and ranting and raving.
6. I started school at Washington Street School in Anderston. Then we moved to Knightswood, to a wooden pre-fab house. They were still building the schools at that time so the Church of Scotland kids and the Roman Catholic kids all went to a mixed school. After Knightswood Primary School I went to Knightswood Secondary School.
7. I would say I was an average pupil, but I was easily distracted. I enjoyed sports at school. Football was my main thing but I would have a go at anything. I played for a local team [REDACTED] run by a guy called Mr [REDACTED]. I played for the school team, for the Boys Brigade, and the Life Boys.
8. As I got older there was an altercation one night in the street with a man and his son. I had been drinking El Dorado in the park. One thing led to another and I got done with assault. Sheriff Irvine-Smith sent me to Glenochil Detention Centre. Everyone had heard of it as being a place you didn't want to end up in. Before I went to Glenochil I was remanded in Longriggend.
9. I had been done with Breach of the Peace before then. I had been at Children's Panel Hearings for truanting from school, when I was about thirteen years old. I remember my mum taking me. They just told me to do what I was told. I didn't have a social worker until I got remanded at Longriggend and they had a social worker to do a Social Enquiry Report. I think I was at the Bail court once before that but I can't remember what that was for. My mum had to pay £10 bail as assurance that I would come back.

10. When I got remanded, I didn't know that Sheriff Irvine-Smith was a High Court judge. He had left a note saying that he wanted to deal with my case. My mum had gone back to the Sheriff Court for my sentencing but my name got called at the High Court. That's when I knew it was serious, when I was looking around at all the ceremonial stuff.
11. I remember sitting in the big holding cell underneath the High Court. There were all these older men with beards talking about getting ten years. They were all ages with my dad and I thought they must be in for murder or something serious. I just sat quietly. I thought if I mentioned my three month sentence they would set about me.
12. [REDACTED] was the other boy who got sentenced with me for the fight. He died in Glenochil when he got four years for another assault on a boy.

HM Young Offenders Institution, Longriggend 1975

13. When I got remanded I understood what I had done. I was around sixteen years old. When the judge told me I was getting remanded I was scared. I was going into the unknown. I didn't get a chance to speak to my mum before I went to Longriggend, I was just able to give her a look. I didn't think at the time what I was putting my mum through.
14. To begin with, I was held in Barlinnie for a couple of days waiting on the bus to Longriggend.
15. We went by bus to Longriggend. It was a minibus that took us there. I was sixteen or seventeen years old. It was [REDACTED] when I was remanded. I had never been outside Glasgow before. There was a real attitude of keeping your mouth shut on that bus. Not just me, everybody.
16. The minibus drew up to a red building that looked brand new to me. It didn't look like a jail, it looked like a school. It was once you got inside that you realised you were in

jail. You knew who was in charge of you because of all the guards' uniform. You knew which boys were comfortable in there. I certainly wasn't comfortable in there.

17. I remember one guard in particular. He was sneaky. He was always covered in dog hair, as if he had slept in a stable. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I can't remember his name.
18. Longriggend was just in and out. I was just there to get my Social Enquiry Report done. The staff would shout and swear at us but there was no violence. Violence tended to be between the inmates. It was to do with gangs. I come from here, he comes from there, therefore there will be violence.

Routine at Longriggend

First day

19. There was no introduction to the Governor when you arrived. You would see the governor if you got put on report but at the start, you hadn't done anything wrong. The routine at Longriggend was a 23 hour lockdown and one hour for exercise.

Mornings and bedtime

20. I think the cell doors were opened up at 6.00 am. You got dressed then you knew it was breakfast time and they took you to the dining hall, then back to the cell until it was your landing's time for exercise.
21. After exercise you would be back in your cell to just read a book or a paper. Then it was down for lunch. About 8.00 pm they would open up your cell again and give you a cup of tea and a sandwich or something, but you weren't out of your cell. The pass man would come along and give you your tea. There would be a guard standing next to him. After that, it was bedtime. That was you until the next morning.

Mealtimes/Food

22. The food in Longriggend was like slops thrown on a plate. You would sometimes pass it on to the next guy rather than eat it.
23. They had one big dining hall in Longriggend with different tables. The food was rubbish. There were the usual eagle eyes watching you. There was the usual kind of talk amongst young boys,

Clothing/uniform

24. The uniform was a grey jacket, like a donkey jacket. The material was itchy. Everybody wore the same. The shirts were different for untried prisoners. That's how we were identified. Those that were convicted wore blue and white shirts. The unconvicted wore pink shirts.

Leisure time

25. You got an hour of exercise. I think it was 10.00 am and that was for the whole landing. You would go out and just walk round in circles. Those that could see out of their windows onto the exercise yard would be throwing stuff out of the windows. You could talk to your mate or anyone in your vicinity. Then you would get brought in after the hour and go back to your cell and read.
26. Some guards were alright. If you wanted a book or a paper from someone else, you could ask the guards and they would take it along for you but other guards would take it off you.

Religious instruction

27. In Longriggend you had the choice to go to church on Sunday if you wanted to.

Birthdays and Christmas

28. I wasn't in Longriggend for my birthday or Christmas.

Personal possessions

29. You weren't allowed your own clothes in Longriggend. You would be suited and booted for court, to show respect, but those clothes would be taken off you and put in storage. You could fill out a pro-forma and get them sent home and get other clothes sent in but they would be kept in storage as well until you were getting out.

Visitors

30. My mum was a good visitor to me, considering that she had three other children to bring up and my dad was at sea. You were allowed a visit every day, but my mum couldn't come up every day as she didn't drive, she had to get a train and then a taxi from the station to Longriggend which she did whatever the weather. The guards would be looking out for you trying to pass any message out about the way things were in there. My dad came up once with his neighbour [REDACTED]. They were both drunk.
31. The social worker doing my social inquiry report visited the family household to see what their impression was and they interviewed me in Longriggend. I can't remember the name of the social worker, I can't even remember if they were male or female. The social worker was basically asking what my crime was about, why it happened, how it happened, is there a reason why it happened, and that sort of thing. They were just trying to work out what kind of person you were, and to see if they could pick up whether or not your offence was a one off. If you had a good social inquiry report you would think that it meant you were going to get out. You got a copy of your report at court and we would be reading each other's reports to compare and try and work out what our sentences would be.

32. The social worker didn't ask whether I was having any problems in Longriggend. None of that staff asked about our welfare either, you were locked up and that was it. You put your emotions to one side wherever you go in these places. It wouldn't cross your mind at that age to show emotion in front of people like yourself. Maybe at night when it was all quiet you would have a cry. Some might go on request to see the doctor because they were upset and missing their mums. I just took the attitude that I had put myself there so there was no point in moaning about it.

Discipline

33. The discipline was like night and day in the sense that if you thought a guard was being cheeky or you felt threatened by him you would just take it. You knew you would just have to take it. He was the guard, they did all the shouting and bawling.
34. If you did anything wrong, you would just get a Governors report. You could get put in the digger, solitary confinement. You would get that if you were a disruptive prisoner or something like that. The solitary confinement looked like a dungeon. It was underground. It looked out into the exercise yard so those prisoners who were exercising could see you.

Abuse at Longriggend

35. I just got verbal abuse at Longriggend. I was just frightened at being in jail. I got teased by one officer when my sister wrote me a letter. At that time the guard read all our mail and my sister had put at the end of her letter, "Miaow" from our cat. The officer called me to get my mail and was saying, "Miaow miaow."

Reporting of abuse at Longriggend

36. I didn't report any of the verbal abuse at Longriggend, I was too scared.

Leaving Longriggend

37. I felt sick and sorry for myself in Longriggend like I was just a stupid wee boy. I wanted my mum and I swore I would never do anything bad again. I felt sick that I had drunk a bottle of El Dorado and committed this crime, but at the same time I was trying to be tough and not take any abuse from anyone. I generally got on with people.

38. My report said I was a good boy, pleasant to talk to. It said the house was nice and tidy. I thought I was going to be getting out but it was a shock when I went back to court and it was the High Court. Sheriff Irvine Smith just looked over his wee glasses and said, "Three months." I just thought, "It's just three months. At least I've missed borstal." Maybe I would have been better off in borstal. Someone said to me that they had another part of borstal that was like a detention centre for six weeks, before you went into the system.

HMP YOI Glenochil 1975

Routine at Glenochil

39. They had a system of grades at Glenochil, with different colours like yellow and red. It was just a cloth patch of coloured material on your shoulder. It was psychological. The better you did, the more responsibility you got.

40. If you only had a yellow grade and you did something wrong, like not putting something away properly, and you were with someone who had a red grade then the person with the red grade got into trouble, not the person with the yellow grade, because the red grade had the responsibility for the yellow grade. It meant that you could try your hardest but you could end up losing seven days remission because

someone else wasn't marching in time. If you were overweight in that place you could be in trouble.

41. I got to the red grade but no-one told me that I was responsible for someone in the yellow grade, or responsible for something they decided on. The red grade was a threat because they could keep you in there for an extra seven days. I was doing my best to do what I was told so I could get out of there faster but the threat of an extra seven days was always there. You could get seven days if the governor found a bit of dust in your room. As soon as he showed you it on his white gloves you knew what it was.
42. I didn't see the point in it all. I didn't understand why they were doing that but you didn't ever ask them. It all got stupid. The higher you got the more you lost.

First day

43. There was an older guy who got off the bus first and he got hit. I thought it was just because he was the first one off. I thought all these stories about jail were going to come true. It was an older guy standing at the front of the bus who hit him. I don't know the name of that man but he was punching the guy. He wasn't in uniform he was in civilian clothes and he was hitting the first guy who got off the bus. The officers were all shouting at us, "Move your fucking selves!" But then we all got hit, not just the first guy.
44. Glenochil was like night and day compared to Longriggend, from as soon as you stepped off the minibus. You knew that as soon as you got off the bus and a man as old as your dad was punching you on the back of the head.
45. You went into the Governor's room when you first got there but I can't remember the Governor. I would consider that every part of being at Glenochil was abusive from the minute you walked in the door where it said welcome to Glenochil. People had long hair in those days but that was shaved off right away, everyone got a number one. Then there was more shouting and bawling.

46. You were then stripped and put into the toilet. You had to pee on a blue stick. If it turned pink it meant that you didn't have any diseases. It was all bawling and shouting with a prison officer watching you. I was nervous and I couldn't pee due to fear which meant another clout to the head. My stick didn't turn pink which confused me.
47. After that, still in the reception area, there was another room with a red grade inmate with an ironing board. You were issued with your prison clothes and your civilian clothes were put to one side. The red grade was the one who was showing you how to iron, where the creases were to be, and how to fold your clothes. He never taught you how to iron your own clothes. You learned that yourself, or somebody told you. You were that frightened that you would just tell the red grade that you had got it. I remember the red grade that did me tipped me off about watching what I was doing. He told me that he said that he had said he understood when he came in as well but that I would learn. He helped me settle in.
48. Then you were taken into a big massive area from which the halls split off. I can't remember the name of my hall but the walls and floor were painted red. Another hall was painted blue. You were issued with your cell number and the hall you were going to. Then you were escorted to that cell. The cell would be set out the way they expected it to be, with the cup at a certain angle and the bed block laid out. You would have to decide whether to sleep on the floor to keep the bed block until you could get used to doing it or take it apart and get a proper sleep. I took it apart and got into my bed.
49. I was petrified my first night in Glenochil. I didn't know what it was going to be like but I knew it wasn't going to be nice. There was no cell mate, I was just there myself.
50. Then the guards would be screaming and bawling at 5.00 am when they shouted, "Stand by your doors!" You would have to stand there with your toothbrush and your razor blade that you didn't need at my age, until they told you to march. They would shout, "One step forward!" and we all had to take a step out with our left leg. Then it

was, "Right turn!" and we all had to turn the same way and walk to the ablutions. You tidied yourself up and then it was back into the cells to do our bed blocks.

Mornings and bedtime

51. You had to do your bed block in your cell and the handle of the cup you drank from had to be pointing towards the door. Your shirt had to be folded as if you had just bought it from a shop. Everything had to be square. You had to be able to do that well to be a red grade.
52. Then the prison officer in charge of your landing would come in to make sure it was up to scratch because if they got an unexpected visit from the governor or assistant governor and it wasn't up to scratch then they would get into trouble, so you would get into trouble. That surprise could be the threat of seven days loss of remission.
53. When the officer in charge of your landing came in he would praise you if you had done a good job. He opened the cells up every morning. If one boy did it wrong and upset him, everybody got it.
54. Mr GYY was SNR. Every morning he held a kind of parade. He would stand high up like a general and all the halls would have to come.
55. The Governor would come along for an inspection once a week. If he found even the simplest thing wrong, the other staff would come in and turn everything upside down. There was one time that the Governor said I was fine but then he moved on to my friend . was a yellow grade and he had only been shown how to do a bed block once at reception when he came in but the guard would have been showing that to ten boys at once. asked me to show him again how to do it. I made his bed block for him, even though I could have got into trouble for it. ended up sleeping on his floor so he could keep his bed block intact for inspection. He was too frightened to ask any of the staff to show him again how to make a bed block.

56. I had to say to ██████ that I couldn't come in every morning to do his bed block for him. I had to tell him off about that. I showed him and told him to watch carefully but I heard the guards shouting one morning telling ██████ to get up off the floor. He was sitting with the bed block that I had made.

Mealtimes/Food

57. At mealtimes you had to go into the dining room, grab a chair, swing it around a certain way, put it under you, and sit down with your heels together. Then they would say, "Right, eat." You couldn't talk at the dinner table, like I was used to doing at my mum's dinner table. Instead, I had a guard shouting and bawling behind me.
58. The food in Glenochil was brilliant. The reason for that was simple, it was because of the amount of exercise that you were doing. The food had to be good for you to keep up.
59. Glenochil is the only prison I have heard of where red grades would get the first option of extras if there was anything left because they were good boys.
60. If you didn't eat your dinner quick enough they would end up taking it off you with half of it still on the plate. There was no point moaning that you were hungry if you hadn't eaten it quickly enough.

Washing/bathing

61. You didn't get a shower every day in Glenochil. You would have a wash but you only got a shower when the guards said. They called the toilets the ablutions. They would send six of us at a time to the showers once or twice a week. You couldn't shower quick enough in there. You would only just be in the shower and then you would get a clout and you were getting shouted at to get out by the staff. You could end up sliding along the floor from being hit. They would have been as well putting a bowl of water down for us.

62. They gave us these jail razors to shave with. I was just sixteen or seventeen years old, I didn't have a heavy enough growth to shave but they wanted everyone neat, just like they wanted the floors shiny enough to see their faces in. It was a great opportunity for them to have a dig at you without any witnesses because the only witnesses were other prisoners like you. They could do anything.

Clothing/uniform

63. When you went in you took your nice fancy clothes off and then you had your best blues suit and working clothes. On a normal day, you would put your best blues on in the morning to go on parade before Mr G V Y , SNR . He would be making sure that his officers had got us up to scratch. You might have a hair on your clothes but you had just had your hair cut. We would then come in from parade, take our best blues off, and get into our work clothes.
64. You were issued with a shirt, trousers, and a jacket the same colour as the trousers. They were your everyday clothes but they still had to be up to scratch. When Mr G V Y came down to do his inspections he would walk up and down the line and inspect you. You might get overalls if you were working on a garden party.
65. We wore our best blues for visits, for the morning inspection by Mr G V Y , and on Sundays.
66. It was a feeling of being trapped when you were in Glenochil. When we had to march I thought I was doing alright but then there was the cry of, 'IBF', you call that marching?" and I got a crack on the back of the head by the staff. You were in fear, it felt like you were trapped. You didn't do anything unless they told you to and there was no point in going to the governor about the staff. If you were angry or upset you had nobody to turn to.

Leisure time

67. We did exercise every day, as well as the work party. You had to run a mile and beat your time from the day before. If you didn't beat your time, you would get hit by KFL KFL. Who hits young boys like that? We were all trying our hardest to get out of that place.
68. We had circuit training in the gymnasium as well. I think the circuit training was done before we went to work. It would be a different hall doing circuits each day.
69. After tea, and after the guards had their tea, they would call us out for recreation. That was just sitting in a room watching TV or reading the paper, if you were lucky enough to have one, or if the guards had left one. Red grade inmates got the paper first, just like they got the extras at dinner first. We had recreation for about an hour, then it was back to the cell by about 8.00 pm I think. It was definitely earlier than in Longriggend. Then that was you until the morning.
70. We played football on Saturday. The guards would have their wee bets on which hall they thought was going to win. That was their entertainment. Mr IBG thought he was it, that he could play football well. He used it as an excuse to pull you about.

Healthcare

71. You wouldn't dare ask for medical attention. If you did, you would get hit because you were talking back to the guards.
72. I had a headache one time and I had a sore backside for eight weeks from being kicked. They wouldn't hit you in the face, they didn't want to leave a mark. These guys were all ex-army so if you got a belt on the back of the head, you felt it. You couldn't start greeting like a bairn or you would get hit again. You just wouldn't ask for the doctor, you wouldn't dare. You would get your arm put up your back.

73. There was one time when a boy called [REDACTED]. He came from the next housing scheme to me in Knightswood. He lifted his bed up, put his leg underneath it and broke it. He was the only boy I remember going to hospital. It was only after I got out that I found out he had done it deliberately. I can understand what he was thinking.

Religious instruction

74. On Sunday you went to church, I think you had to in Glenochil, rather than having a choice like you did in Longriggend. There was a hall which was used for the different services. If you were Roman Catholic you had a green card with your name and your sentence, if you were Church of Scotland you had a white card. The card was kept on the outside of your cell door. It was so the guards would know who was going to which service, but we would swap our cards so that we could meet up with our pals from different religions. The guards tipped to that though.

Work

75. The laundry party would get marched off to the laundry, the garden party would get marched off to the garden, and so on. I worked in the laundry room which was quite relaxed. There was a lot of peace and quiet, you could get a chance to talk to the other boys.
76. Because I was a trustee, in the last few weeks, I was put into a garden party to work on gardens outside the jail. We had a wee tractor. There were houses along the wall from the prison. This woman came out and asked us if we would like a cup of tea. We had tea and biscuits. It turned out she was [REDACTED]^{KFL}'s wife but you couldn't have met a nicer woman. I don't know what [REDACTED]^{KFL} would have done if he had come round the corner and saw his wife giving us tea. He probably wouldn't have said anything in front of her but he would have got us later on.
77. You would do a bit of gardening work in the morning and then go in for lunch under the escort of a guard. Mr Brown would have his lunch in his shed. After lunch a guard would escort you back out for work. It was good working outside and you

didn't get hit because Mr Brown was there as a witness. Although you were there to be punished, Mr Brown didn't treat you the way the guards did. But you knew you were going back into that after your tea.

78. You weren't allowed to smoke in Glenochil but KFL found cigarettes on someone and accused the garden party them of bringing them in, even though he had no proof. Mr Brown was in charge of the garden party. He was a civilian worker who went home at night, he was a nice man. Mr Brown jumped in and told KFL that his boys wouldn't do that. I think that because Mr Brown was a civilian he wasn't pals with the guards and he didn't like the way that KFL was talking to us and accusing us.
79. When you were in your cell you would work on polishing your boots or the floor so you didn't get into trouble. You would get punished if they couldn't see their face in your floor, or if they saw a mark. My floor was gleaming. Red was easy to shine up but it would also show up marks easily. You would use buffers from the hall to polish the floor or lie down and polish it with your backside if you had to. As long as it was shiny.

Visitors

80. My mother was the only one who visited me in Glenochil. You wore your best blues for visits so you would look smart, so your visitor would think you were in good hands. I think I only had two visits in there because I was only in there for eight weeks.

Review of care / detention

81. I can't remember the name of the prison officer on my landing but he was alright, he would speak to you. If he opened up your cell and everything was in order then the governor was happy so he was happy. If anything was wrong, it fell back on him.

External Inspections

82. I didn't get any visits from social work or anyone in Glenochil. There was no-one checking on our welfare.

Discipline

83. You could lose remission if you did something wrong. The guards could immediately tell if you were a red grade or a yellow grade by the patch on your shoulder. There were certain offences that if the guards thought you had committed, then you would lose seven days remission if you were a red grade, three days if you were a yellow grade. If you got put in segregation it was frightening but at least you still had your seven days.
84. If you didn't get your red grade by a certain time and you were still a yellow grade, then you lost three days remission for failing that.

Abuse at Glenochil

85. It was eight weeks of horror at Glenochil but it felt like eight years. You didn't have to do anything wrong to get hit, you didn't have to do something to spark it off, you could just be standing there. Most days you were getting hit or getting kicked up the backside. You had to say, "Yes, thank you sir." when the guards walked past you and I got hit a few times for not saying it. You couldn't report it, you were too scared. I guarantee if you went back you would find no boys who did report any officer.
86. If they stopped all the punching and the kicking then I think it would have been good for you. The fitness, the bit of football, and things you might not do in school or in the street passed the time in there.
87. For all the punching that went on over the eight weeks I was in Glenochil, I never saw anyone with a sore face. Nobody was marked, you were just left angry. These

guards were booting you for not moving quickly enough or for nothing. You soon learned not to answer them back.

88. I have never forgotten the two main people who belted me. The two names I remember clearly are ^{KFL} and Mr ^{IBG}.
89. ^{KFL} had ginger hair and a beard covering his features. I am not good with ages but he looked like an old man to me. He was probably in his forties. I don't know if he was Irish or Welsh, he had a different accent. He always wore brown overalls. Other staff wore their civilian clothes. He was nasty for no reason. If you saw him coming towards you, you could expect a clout on the back of the head or a boot up your behind. It was as if he was wanting you to break the rules.
90. I think if you asked most people in Glenochil at that time who the worst was, they would say it was ^{KFL}. When I think about him now I still get angry. He had no right to do what he did.
91. The other one was Mr ^{IBG}, one of the PT teachers. He did the circuit training. He always wore a black tracksuit. He was skinny and probably in his forties. He was a nasty piece of work. He would beat you across the backside with a cricket bat if you weren't beating your time on the laps round the field. I played a lot of football so I could manage to do these things, I enjoyed them, but Mr ^{IBG} couldn't help himself, he wouldn't let me play football because he knew I liked football. There was a psychological thing about the way he was.
92. Mr ^{IBG} did the circuit training every day. I did the mile at a reasonable rate for a boy of my age. Nobody said you had to beat your time from the day before. You would run round the staff would be shouting and bawling at you, especially ^{IBG}. As you ran past him he would hit you with the cricket bat. I couldn't comprehend it. You would try to beat your time from the day before but even at that age, you knew what you were capable of. He was just a horrible wee man, he just liked swinging a bat around. It wasn't just me who got that, everybody got that.

93. I got into trouble one day. I went past Mr ^{IBG} and he hit me on the back of the head. I fell down and as I got back up I started swearing under my breath, just as a reaction. He asked me what I had said, and I said, "Nothing, sir." I didn't want to get punched about for eight weeks so I did my damndest to do what they told me.
94. They were bullies and they should be in court for what they did. I know it is shut down now but they should be punished. They wouldn't get away with it now. It was horrendous.
95. The guards wouldn't say anything nasty about your family but they would make abusive comments about you. They would say you were thick if you didn't progress from yellow grade to red grade. I wouldn't say I was living in fear but you were fearful of ^{KFL} or any of the other nasty guards.

Reporting of abuse at Glenochil

96. You soon learned not to report to the Governor what the guards had done to you because you were frightened to. That's assuming the governor would even listen to you. That was what it was like when I was there.

Leaving Glenochil

97. I did eight weeks and four days in Glenochil. They didn't do anything to prepare us for leaving. They took us back down to reception and we got our civilian clothes on, then they put us on the minibus and brought us to Stirling train station. They would stand there until we got on the train for Glasgow or wherever we were going. There were all sorts or rumours that there would be guards on the train watching us.
98. I remember getting off the train and smelling the diesel and then the fresh air of the soot burning in the city. It was different from the smell at Glenochil, out in the

countryside. I have been on holiday since then but I didn't notice the smell of Glasgow when I came back the way I did returning from Glenochil.

Life after being in care

99. I went home to my mum after I got out of Glenochil. I started folding dishcloths and things the way we had to fold everything in prison, until my mum asked me what I was doing. I think I was just trying to keep everything tidy.
100. I had a couple of breaches of the peace after that and because I didn't pay the fines I would have to go to Lowmoss for seven days. I have never been sentenced to any jail sentence for any offences after being in Glenochil.
101. I was married at seventeen years of age but I was acting like I wasn't married. I was still going out with my pals on a Saturday night. I was brought up with dad bringing home the wages and mum bringing up the children. I thought that attitude was for everybody, including me when I got married. I worked for the council cleaning the drains. I liked to go out and work and bring home money for my wife and baby. As I got older I stopped going out on a Saturday night and started staying at home with my wife and had a drink with her.
102. We stayed with my wife's mum when we first had our son. We had our name down for a house on the council list and we got a house in [REDACTED]. We were quite happy in each other's company with a wee carry out in the house. I would have a few cans of beer and my wife drank vodka. We were always together.
103. After the council closed down the place where I was working I went chapping doors as a window cleaner. I built up my customers. Then I worked for my pal on an ice cream van for a few years but he scammed me and left me in debt for £10,000. I have had a shop, a wedding business, and I had fifteen taxis on the road for years.

104. I stopped drinking for fifteen years. I was working for myself without committing a crime. I have had four children. My eldest has a drug issues although he is now on a methadone programme. My next eldest is now in charge of MOT tests in a garage. My third son got twelve years for a crime when he was sixteen years old. I am not embarrassed to say that, I love my children no matter what they do. My daughter invests money working for a private bank. She just got married and owns her own house.

Impact

105. If the intention was to send me to Glenochil for a short sharp shock and to stop me from committing crime then it didn't work. I don't know about anyone else but I have mental health problems.

106. I don't know if it has had any impact on my health. I was diagnosed with diabetes when I was sixty years old but I was told that I had had it all my life. I don't know if my dad's behaviour had an impact on me. I have mental health problems but I don't know if that was because of my dad or Glenochil or something else.

107. I came out angry from Glenochil. As I got older, I got angrier. None of us should have been put through what I went through. I learned a lot of bad things in Glenochil but I also learned how to make sure my clothes were presentable. I wouldn't say I was institutionalised but maybe I was trying to show off to my mother.

108. I have been dependent on alcohol but I don't like drugs. I maybe didn't get into a lot of trouble after I left Glenochil but if one of my mates was drinking one bottle of El Dorado, I would have two. I moved on to cans of beer. I couldn't go for a pint of milk without buying a couple of cans of lager. I would say that was to do with Glenochil. I wanted to blank out what had happened. I didn't think I was an alcoholic at that time, although I was going up to the canal to drink with my friends.

109. My wife told me she was going to leave me if I didn't deal with the drinking. I was at Gartnavel Hospital as an outpatient for a year. I got a prescription for Antabuse and eventually I was trusted by the doctor to take it myself. I didn't drink for fourteen years. That's when I had all my different businesses. I owned two houses, I thought I had done well. I don't know how I drifted back into drinking.
110. I can't remember any of my kids' dates of birth but I can remember Glenochil even though I am 63 years old.

Treatment/support

111. I haven't sought any treatment or support from groups about what I experienced in Glenochil. I have seen pictures of Glenochil after I left but I have never gone back to see it.

Reporting of Abuse

112. I have never made a report of what happened to me in Glenochil. If one of us had been brave and reported it and not worried about seven days loss of remission maybe it would have made a difference. You wouldn't have put up with someone treating you like that outside of Glenochil.

Records

113. I have never tried to get my records but they should still have them.

Lessons to be learned

- 114. Based on my experience, I think they should vet staff better for these places and look into their backgrounds. There should be more people like Mr Brown, the gardener. You need people who will talk to young people and educate them, not treat them like the guards treated me. There should be more education. I don't think Glenochil would have been a bad thing if they had the right people. They have to check if the staff would be good with teenagers, calming them down if they get upset and showing them some humanity, not slamming doors in their faces. My son who is in prison has told me that in Shotts prison they can open and close their doors themselves during the day but they will get the shout for lock up at night.

- 115. There should be a meeting with people like yourselves sitting round the table with the Governor. There should be opportunities for inmates to speak to their personal officer and for them to be heard.

Other information

- 116. 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... IBF

Dated... 13.12.2022