

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GRM

Support person present: No

1. My name is GRM. My date of birth is 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born and brought up in the Dumbarton area. Initially I lived with my mother, father and my siblings and .
3. When I was about eighteen months old my mother was pregnant with my younger brother . My father had an accident after he was out with his pals one night. He had a fall and as a result he suffered a concussion and passed away during the night. He died on 1963 and on 1963 was born.
4. Mum continued to do her best to look after us and eventually met another man. From that relationship she had my sister . A few years later mum had another son called from a different relationship.
5. I don't have many memories of all this apart from my mother spent a lot of her time in the kitchen. I do remember some good times like being taken to the cinema. We were also taken to collect mussels and whelks in the River Clyde. Most of those times are just fleeting memories but there was nothing bad happening.
6. I was going to school at St Patrick Primary School and I think I was doing quite well at that time. I don't recall any involvement with the social work during this period. My

sisters were at a different school, St Michael's Primary. At that time it was routine that boys went to one school and girls to the other.

7. I can remember the day I was taken into care. I was sitting in the primary two class room and it was just a normal day but I remember the assistant head teacher or maybe the secretary coming into the class saying that I was to go to the Headmistress', Miss Griffin, office. When I went to her office she told me that I had to leave the school and go with two social workers who were standing in the office.
  
8. I can remember going to St Michael's school where we picked up my sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The social workers then took us to what must have been their offices. I can only remember we were sat in a long corridor for a long time. I sat and read a comic during that time, we were not conversing much. My sister [REDACTED] stayed at my gran's house. We were sitting reading comics for a long time and all I could think of was that mum would be collecting us soon. It was getting dark when a social worker, Miss Holleran, told us we were to get into her car as we were going to a new home. I can't remember much about the journey other than we were all talking together in the back of the car and Miss Holleran was telling us to be quiet.
  
9. I know from having read some of my records that the date we went into care was [REDACTED] 1968. I did not know when I arrived how long I would be in Nazareth House. Also in the records it stated that some of the reasons for us going into care were down to stealing, neglect and truancy. I don't remember any of that being the case and I never felt my mother neglected us.

#### **Nazareth House, Lasswade**

10. When we arrived at Nazareth House in Lasswade it was dark and some nuns came out of the building to take us all inside. The building was a big daunting, dark building. The layout of Nazareth House was like a large 'C' shape, with the main building being the centre and the dormitories along each side of it.

11. The nuns then separated my brother and me from our sisters and took us to different dormitories. I was separated from [REDACTED] and I later learned the girls were also separated at the girls' dormitories. I never saw the girls or [REDACTED] much during the time I spent at Nazareth House.
12. The dormitories all had their own dining rooms, so I couldn't even see them at meal times. I think there were probably about forty in the home and the oldest would have been between twelve and thirteen with a few residents who were a little younger than me.
13. I can remember when I went to my dormitory that the other boys were all sleeping. In the dormitory everybody slept in single beds. Sister LQB [REDACTED] took me to the bathrooms and I was given a cold bath. She then went away to get some pyjamas for me. I can't remember the name of the dormitory that I stayed in.
14. As well as Sister LQB [REDACTED] I can remember there was the Mother Superior. She was an older, big built woman. Another woman I can remember was LWC [REDACTED] she was a nice woman and everybody liked her. She would help out whenever the other nuns were busy. Whenever she was with us the atmosphere was great.

### **Routine at Nazareth House, Lasswade**

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

15. We were woken by the staff in the morning and then made our way to the bathrooms for a wash. It was back to our dormitory to get dressed and head for breakfast. After breakfast we headed to the local school and spent the day there, including lunch. When school finished we made our way back to the home. After our tea we had a little time to play before we headed to bed.

*Mealtimes/Food*

16. There were sometimes I did not like the food that was put down for us, especially Tapioca or Blancmange. One of things I had an issue with was the way they made the porridge. At Nazareth House they made the porridge with sugar and it tasted horrible. One of the nuns, who sat at our table, and was supervising us told me that I had to finish the food. I tried but I was sick. The boy sitting next to me tried to tell me quietly that I should eat it. I couldn't bear the thought of that. The nun at our table then came over and it was the way she spoke to me, not physically doing anything, but speaking to me in such a way I felt forced to eat it.
17. Lunch was always okay as we had that at the school and there were never any issues there. At the weekend it was usually some sort of pea soup at lunch time and the main meal was always at night.
18. I remember having a meal at the table in the home and I was not enjoying the food. I sat there for nearly two hours not eating any of it. One of the other nuns came over to me and hit me over the back of the head.

*Leisure time*

19. For some of our free time there were games like Mousetrap, which were available for us to play with. We could also go out into the grounds and play there. There were no formal activities but we did play football ourselves. There was one time we went to St Ninian's in Fife to play football against them. The weather was nice when we were there but for some reason the game never took place.
20. We all knew that St Ninian's was a tough place and Sister LQB used to threaten that if we did not learn to behave she would send us there.
21. When I sometimes played with a pal at his house in Bonnyrigg I knew there was a short cut back to the home over the local golf course. Sometimes when the nuns were away saying their prayers I would take advantage and sneak over the golf course to

visit my pal. Eventually someone told the nuns what I was doing and I was confined to my dorm whenever they went for their prayers.

### *School*

22. When we were going to school we were all transported in one of the vans the home had. I was sent to St Mary's Primary in Bonnyrigg. Each of the dormitories were transported then the van was back to take the next. When I was at the school I did see my brother [REDACTED], but he was in Primary one and I was in Primary two. His class was situated round the corner of the playground from where I lined up.
23. I can remember the first morning there was a lot of commotion coming from the playground, round the corner. There was a lot of shouting and screaming. I went to see and as I looked I saw my brother was upset and he was throwing some of the milk bottles about the ground. He was obviously traumatised at being at Nazareth House. We were all hurried into our classes. I don't remember seeing him much more than that.
24. As for the schooling itself it was very good. They were good at teaching me to read and count. I really enjoyed the weekdays there but dreaded the weekends. I think the main thing I did not like about the school was that other than the time I saw my brother throwing the bottles, I was never allowed to mix with him or my sisters there.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

25. I don't remember anybody's birthday being celebrated when I was at Nazareth House. When it came to Christmas there were many people who handed in donations for the children in the home. I know from records that my mum handed in presents, but they wrote in my records that the presents were expensive.

## *Reviews*

26. I can remember having to go to Dumbarton for hearings. On one of those occasions I had to stay overnight at Crosslet House. The only thing I can remember about that was they cooked the porridge with salt and it tasted great. When I got back from the Hearings the atmosphere at Nazareth House was different. They kept telling me that I was staying there permanently.

## *Family contact*

27. My mum did come to see us once when we were in Nazareth House. The social work brought her through from Dumbarton. I think that was in the October of 1968. I remember she gave me a new jumper. As soon as mum left the nuns took it off me and I never saw it again.
28. I remember that when my mum visited us, my siblings did not seem to be too happy. When she did visit the nuns were always nearby listening to our conversations. I know that there were two brothers at the home called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and they wanted to tell my mum what was happening to me, but they never got a chance.
29. In my reports there is mention made that when mum left I just hung around the hallway while my brother and sisters went straight back to their respective dorms.
30. Whenever it came to any school holidays we were allowed to go home to stay with my mum. But that was not until later around 1970.
31. In [REDACTED] 1969 there was a fire in my mum's house and as a result she was moved to a new house, still in Dumbarton. In 1970 I was allowed some weekend leave and was able to visit mum in her new house. I was not told about this while I was in Nazareth House.

### *Trips and holidays*

32. I remember we were taken to Dunbar for two weeks during the summer holiday period. We spent the time in an old army barracks and slept on camp beds. We had a great time there. For the rest of the six week summer holiday period the atmosphere around the dormitory was great as Sister **LQB** could not do anything without **LWC** seeing it.
33. I can also remember when I was about ten years old being taken to Edinburgh Tattoo and the panto at the Playhouse. I am sure those trips were organised by another charity, the Variety Club.

### *Personal possessions*

34. I used to like to listen to music when I was young. My mum gave me a transistor radio so I could listen to music while I was in the home. Older boys were jealous of this and were always trying to steal it from me. It got to the stage that I would even climb one of the trees in the ground to listen to it. One day I came back to the dorm and someone had managed to get hold of the radio and broke it.

### *Running away*

35. I did run away a couple of times. I think the first time was when I was about nine maybe ten and I managed to get as far as Edinburgh on the bus. I went to a shop to ask how I would get to Dumbarton. The shopkeeper phoned the police and I was taken back to Nazareth House. When I got back Sister **LQB** took me to my dorm and slapped me about the head.
36. When I was talking to my mum I was asking how she travelled to the home. I then knew that the next thing I needed to do was gather any pocket money. I later raked about the home trying to find any change lying about. I was in the civilian worker **LWC** room looking for money when she caught me. She did not realise what I was doing and just told me off for being in her room.



37. There used to be a gymkhana on a Saturday when we were in Bonnyrigg. I managed to slip away and from the information I had gleaned from my mother I got the bus to Edinburgh, train to Glasgow and another train to Dumbarton. Reports show that the nuns were confused as to how I knew how to get home. When I got to mum's house, I was not there long before she phoned the police. At that time I had ran away with [REDACTED] and he also came to mum's house.

38. Before the police arrived I did tell my mum some of what was happening. I also told her that they were threatening to send me to St Ninian's in Fife. When the police arrived I was taken to Dumbarton police station and the police contacted the social work to take me back to Nazareth House. I don't know if mum took it up with the nuns.

#### *Discipline*

39. If we were in more serious trouble then we might be sent to Mother Superior's office. She never used any physical punishment and would just speak to you in a harsh manner. If it needed further measures she might remove some of your privileges.

#### *Bed Wetting*

40. I began to have an issue with bed wetting when I first went to Nazareth House. Sister [REDACTED] LQB was particularly annoyed as this upset her routine that she had planned. Whenever I or anyone else in the dorm had wet the bed then Sister [REDACTED] LQB made us stand at the side of the bed, naked, in front of everyone else. It was really embarrassing. There were other times she would make you wrap the wet sheets around your shoulders. We were allowed to get a bath to get cleaned up before we were going to school. Some of the other people in the dorm would call me names like "pishy bed".

41. At night we were not allowed to get up for the toilet. Sister [REDACTED] LQB had her small room in the dormitory and she would make sure everybody stayed in their bed at night.



Eventually when I had settled down in Nazareth House was when the bed wetting stopped.

#### **Abuse at Nazareth House, Lasswade**

42. Sister **LQB** was in charge of our dormitory. She was about 23 or 24 years old, maybe slightly older. I can remember she was politely spoken but I can't remember anything about an accent to work out where she came from. She consistently told me that the reason I was in Nazareth House was because my mum did not love me.
43. If she found two of the boys were fighting she only ever punished one of them. She would take that boy to another room and he would get a beating from her. She kept a cane in her room and she would threaten us at night, that if we misbehaved, that was what we would get.
44. I always tried to walk behind Sister **LQB** as any time we were walking in front of her, perhaps between different parts of the building, she would forever knee you in the back to make you quicken your pace.
45. I got so used to being slapped on the back of the head that whenever I was with my friends if they came too close I would flinch and pull back thinking they were going to hit me as well. She was forever telling me that my mother did not love me and that was why I was in the home.
46. During the period when I was having the issue with bed wetting, Sister **LQB**, carried out checks on all the beds. When she checked the beds it was while we lay in them. When it came to me she was touching my privates and she would twist my penis. That was really sore and embarrassing. This affected me later in life whenever any of partners were initiating sex and I would flinch. She stopped all this touching when I stopped wetting the bed.

### **Reporting of abuse at Nazareth House, Lasswade**

47. My brother, sisters and I did eventually tell my mum about all the things that were happening to me at Nazareth House. Again I am not sure if she reported this to anyone.

### **Leaving Nazareth House, Lasswade**

48. When I last ran away, during my next home leave, I was there for about four or five weeks. When I was in the house mum had me staying in what was to be my new room. I was able to walk up the street to play with friends. I did not want to go back to Nazareth House and mum said she was trying to get us back but meantime I had to return there.
49. Through mums efforts we did manage to get home in [REDACTED] 1972. We had to attend a hearing and the social work tried to oppose it. Mum was at the hearings when the social work said they wanted us to go back to Nazareth House. When they lost the case, the social workers stormed out of the room. In my reports the social work made comments in them that they believed my mum would cover up for anything we might be doing wrong. They went as far as saying that if we committed a murder, my mother would cover it up for us.
50. I was back staying with mum until the summer of 1973. Things in the house were all good as far as I was concerned. Outside the house and away from mum I was hanging around with my friends.
51. During the holidays me and some friends were at the summer fair. We got ourselves into some trouble and were arrested by the police. We were taken to Dumbarton police station, but mum never came to the station. From the police station I was taken directly to Bellfield Remand Home.

### **Bellfield Remand Home, Dumbarton**

52. When I arrived at Bellfield I saw that this was a really big mansion type house. In the home there boys from all over Scotland there. On the way to the home my friends and I made a pact that would look after each other at Bellfield. We then spent the next two weeks at Bellfield.

### **Routine at Bellfield Remand Home, Dumbarton**

53. At Bellfield there was not much in the way of any routine. We were up in the morning and into the dining room for breakfast. After breakfast we were made to sit in one of the large rooms for the rest of the morning. We were not allowed out of the room and there was not much to keep us occupied.
54. We were allowed out of the room to go to the dining room for lunch. After lunch we might have been given an hour or so play football in the grounds, before we were back in the room for the rest of the afternoon.

### *Meals*

55. I don't remember a lot about any of the food we had at Bellfield. I do remember being in the dining room one day when one of the other boys, [REDACTED], was kicking me under the table. He would not stop and I jumped over the table and fought him. The staff who were there supervising us dragged me away.
56. Later I was in the toilet when the boy I was fighting with came in. He told me I had two options, the first was to accept one punch straight to the face. If I disagreed with this or fought back in anyway then I would be on the receiving end of a full beating. I decided that it would be better to take the one hit. He then punched me right in the jaw. I never had any more issues with him.

### *School*

57. There was a gatehouse type building in the grounds and this was the education block. There was no strict obligation to go for any education. Some of the kids went to that block and the rest of us stayed in the other room for the day.

### *Leisure*

58. The older boys who were about fourteen maybe fifteen were allowed to smoke. I was much younger and not allowed to have a cigarette. I was talking to the boy who hit me in the jaw and asked him why I was not allowed to have a cigarette. Another boy told me that Mr AIA would give me a cigarette. The first boy told me that I had to be careful of both Mr AIA and another member of staff, IBD. He told me that for a cigarette either one of them would take me out of whatever room I was in and for the price of the cigarette, they would touch me in a sexual manner. I didn't take either of them up on the offer of cigarettes.
59. Later in life I learned that during 1990-1995 both those members of staff were charged for abusing children in the home and both AIA and IBD were quoted as being the staff involved.

### **Leaving Bellfield Remand Home, Dumbarton**

60. After my two weeks in Bellfield mum was at the Children's Panel but I wasn't there this time. I was then released back into the care of my mother.
61. When I was back with my mother we still did not have much money. I managed to get hold of newspapers and would take them around the local pubs and sell them there.
62. When I was back at mum's I was attending the last year of primary and then St Patricks High School. There was a Saturday when I was told about some older boys who smashed some of the windows at the school. When I went in on the Monday the

teacher kept looking at me and no one else, when he was trying to find out who smashed the windows and believed it was me that was responsible. Once more I stayed away from the school and did not go for about four days. Up until then I was a regular attender in the school.

63. I always thought that things were going well there and my marks were good. There was a problem after one of the exams I sat. My registration teacher accused me of cheating at the exam as I had got the same mark as another boy in the class. I was really upset with that as I did not cheat in any way. The first thing the teacher would not take into account is that we were not even sitting near each other. He was sat some distance away and there was no way we could have copied anything. The other thing was why was I being blamed for having the same mark but nothing was said to the other boy? I started staying away from school as a result of the fall out with the Registration teacher.
64. I was hanging around the streets again and when I was doing this some of the other boys who were also missing school would give me some alcohol. Some boys found that in the science lab at the school there were bottles of beer. They took the bottles and I went with them when they went up to the quarry where we drank them all. I got drunk and when I got home mum was really annoyed with me. She lashed out and hit me. I fell out with my mum because of that. Once more I was staying away from the school and was hanging around the quarry. Things were spiralling out of control.
65. One night I was at a Youth Club when some older boys broke into the Co-op next door and they were telling younger boys to take things from the shop.
66. From my records I can see there are later entries showing that a warrant had been issued for my arrest, but when the social work found out about it they had it cancelled. I can't remember what that was for.
67. I was still falling out with mum and for a little time I went to stay in the loft at my pal [REDACTED] house. We were constantly getting into trouble and one day the police came to his house and took us to the police station.

68. From that incident, we were back at the Children's Hearings. Mum was there and they recommended that I should be sent to Cardross Park Assessment Centre. I was still twelve at that time. I was informed by the Panel that if I was to behave then I would not be at Cardross for long.

### **Cardross Park Assessment Centre, Dumbartonshire**

69. The routine at Cardross was very similar to that at Bellfield. We were woken in the morning, got washed and dressed and then headed for our breakfast. After breakfast we spent the day locked in a day room. We only came out of the room for any toilet breaks or for meals.

#### *School*

70. There was no education for me while I was staying at Cardross as we were all locked in the day room.

#### *Reviews*

71. I was supposed to at Cardross for an assessment but there was nothing formal completed during my time there. I never spoke with any social workers during my time there.

#### *Running away*

72. There was a woman at the home, I don't recall her name, but she knew my mother. She offered to help me with my time locked in the day room. She said that if I was willing to help her with some of the cleaning then I would be allowed out of the room.
73. One day I was doing the cleaning and there was no other members of staff around. I went to the room where the shoes were kept and grabbed mine. I ran away. I was only



away for a very short time when I realised that the woman would get into trouble with me running away. I ran back to the home as quick as I could. As I was only away for a short time I was hoping the staff might have been unaware but I was wrong. They knew I had been away.

74. When I got back I was put into the shoe room until the man in charge, I can't remember his name, spoke to me in the office. When he spoke to me he told me he was disappointed that I would break the trust of someone who was trying to help me.

#### **Abuse at Cardross Park Assessment Centre, Dumbartonshire**

75. There was a lot of bullying at the start of my stay at Cardross. There was one boy who started with name calling and graduating to pushing my head into the passage walls as he passed. Eventually I fought back and then the bullying stopped.

#### **Leaving Cardross Park Assessment Centre, Dumbartonshire**

76. As a result of me breaking the trust and running away I was referred back to the Panel where they decided that I should be transferred to St John Bosco School in Aberdour.

#### **St John's Bosco School, Aberdour**

77. I was still twelve when I was sent to St John Bosco and I found that the journey there took a long time. I had been informed by the Panel that I would be sent there for about three months and that at the end of that period they would review my stay in care.
78. The social work took me from the Panel to St John's. When we arrived I was introduced to some staff and they told me some of the things that was expected of me while I was staying there. The social work then left me in their care and I was shown to my dormitory. I was taken around the rest of the school and to the Play Barn, which was

an annexe to the main building. When I arrived there the staff showing me around just left.

79. I remember standing there and I broke down and started crying. One of the boys in there, [REDACTED], came over to check on me. I was to find out later he was one of the bullies at the school.
80. The Priests and Brothers who worked there all stayed in rooms within the old building. The dormitories where we slept were all annexes attached to the main building. The man [REDACTED] SNR was Father [REDACTED] LOB and [REDACTED] SNR was Father [REDACTED] LNB. There was another member of staff I can remember called Father O'Daly who was an older man. He was good with us and always took an interest in all the boys. He needed a stick to be able to walk around but if he was walking and talking with a boy he might lean on them to help him while they walked around the grounds. He would tell us stories about some of the old football matches.
81. I think all the boys at the school were aged between twelve and fifteen years old. There were probably somewhere in the region of a hundred boys in there and they were spread over four or five dormitories.

### **Routine at St John's Bosco School, Aberdour**

#### *First day*

82. The day to day routine was much the same as the other places I stayed in. We were woken by staff, washed and dressed and in for breakfast. After breakfast we got ourselves ready for school work within the home. We had lunch and then back to class for the afternoon. After school we had a little free time before our evening meal and afterwards, before it was into bed.
83. During the night there was only one member of staff on duty to provide cover and supervision. The beds in our dormitory were all single beds.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

84. The food was quite good there and there were plenty of choices available. As there were choices there were no real issues with anyone not eating any of the food. If there was any food left then it was just put into the bin.

### *Washing/bathing*

85. There were communal showers available for anyone and there were no real restrictions to use them, other than not too many people could be in at the same time. There were also separate baths in cubicles available if needed. There might have been staff available for supervision but there were no issues when I was there.

### *Clothing/uniform*

86. All my own clothes were taken from me when I arrived and put into a bag. I only saw them again when I was going on any home leave. They issued me with the clothes I would need while I was there. I don't remember the clothes they gave us being too much like a uniform.

### *School*

87. There was some schooling at St John's. There were four classes starting at class 'A' and as your school work improved you moved up to the next class in order. When I first arrived at Class 'A' I was asked to write an essay. When the staff saw that I was able to complete this task I was immediately moved up to Class 'B'. Once more I made improvements and was moved up to Class 'C'. When I was eventually moved up to Class 'D' there were much more subjects to be involved in. As well as the usual maths and English there were also classes involving joinery and pottery. Given the encouragement with being taught joinery and other subjects encouraged me to concentrate on things like English. The education was based more on the practical things rather than the academic side.

88. I can remember Brother <sup>LMW</sup> had two cages which he kept rabbits in. The males and females were usually kept separate but there were times he would swap them about. He told us to keep watching and it was not long before they were having sex.

#### *Leisure time*

89. There was plenty of things to do for our free time. There was the Play Barn which had a boxing gym. Also there was a lot of new equipment for keeping fit. I did not like the boxing as I was not very good at it. We did get to play football and there was a TV available for the evening. We might also have gone for walks down by the beach, but I never really enjoyed that.

#### *Trips and holidays*

90. The home used to have an old coach with was not very comfortable. Sometimes we would be taken out in the coach to go for a walk in the countryside. We also used that coach to take some of us to Aberdeenshire where we spent a week on holiday in Peterculter. During that week we slept in a school there. Other places I can remember being taken to was Aberdeen itself for swimming, Fraserburgh for some fishing.

#### *Healthcare*

91. There was someone who came into the home to make sure we all got our relevant inoculations. I had no other reason to see any nurse, doctor or dentist. I never saw anyone being given any medical help if they had been hurt in the fights. The staff were definitely aware of it as some of the boys had bruising on their faces.

#### *Religious instruction*

92. Last thing each night we had to be in chapel for services and prayers. On Sunday we all had to be there for Mass. There was a rota system in place for when it was your turn to be part of the altar boy team. If you were on the rota you had to be up at six



o'clock to have everything ready for Mass at seven. Mass was not for any of the boys, it was just for the Priests, Brothers and some of the local community.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

93. I was in St John's for my thirteenth birthday but I don't remember any sort of celebration. We were normally all home for Christmas, unless you had been in some sort of trouble and had to stay behind. I got myself into trouble while I was at home with mum during the Christmas holiday and was sent back to the home.
94. During that holiday period my gran died and I asked to go to the funeral but the home refused to allow this. Mum even tried to intervene but they still refused. I spent the whole of that holiday alone in the home with the staff. I was assigned a Priest or a Brother each day but there was nothing to do.

### *Reviews*

95. At the end of my three months in the home SNR [REDACTED], Father LNB [REDACTED] took me to an office. He started to read out some of the paperwork relating to my stay at St John's. As he was reading out the reports he read details about a fire that had taken place at my mother house in [REDACTED] 1969. He also read about a young brother who I never knew I had and had died in the fire. He just kept reading all this stuff. I had to stop him and tell him I was not aware of any of this information. I never even knew that I had another brother and that he had died. I was completely broken and could not stop crying.
96. When I was able to calm down again Father LNB [REDACTED] told me that I could not leave St John's as the staff felt they could not carry out a proper assessment as I was too quiet in the home. He told me I would not be going back to the panel at that time and would have to stay for another assessment period. Everything being said by Father LNB [REDACTED] was just a matter of fact and no emotion from him. He then took me back to my class and left me to continue the rest of the day there. When I got to the class again some of the boys heard about the news and tried to console me.

97. As I was not getting out for another three months I just decided I would have to get my head down and behave more. During my stay at St John's, other than staff there, I never saw any social workers.

*Family contact*

98. When I arrived at the home I was told that I would have to spend three or four weeks there before I would be entitled to have any home leave, and that depended on behaving myself as well.
99. Weekend leave was based on a points system. If you did well with the work being allocated then you would be given some positive points. If you did wrong then points were deducted. On a Friday the man in charge would read out what each boy had achieved. If you did not have sufficient points then you were not allowed out. This obviously hurt some of the boys. I am not sure what the exact points were.
100. After my first three or four weeks I did get some home leave and was able to visit mum at her house in Dumbarton.
101. When I was home more regularly I started going off the rails again. There was one time when I was home I got myself into trouble with the police. They took me back to the home and I was told that as a punishment I would be losing my home leave privilege for a while.
102. Mum was writing to me saying she was wanting to come and see me. I had to write back telling her that I could not see her as I had been in trouble and lost all my privileges. I also told her that it was too difficult for her as it was too far from our house. I could not telephone her as we were not allowed any access to the phone in St John's.
103. I have seen in some of my reports that the social work have made entries which were critical about mum not visiting. They never took into consideration it was me that told her not to come and nothing to do with her not wanting to. Other members of the family



were not coming as they too were expecting me at the weekend and they saw no need for them to travel during the week.

104. If there were a few of us who had had our weekend privileges cancelled then we just hung around the home.

#### *Running away*

105. I did not run away when I was at St John's Bosco as it was too far away, but I was aware of two boys who did. It was a lad called [REDACTED] and his friend, I can't remember the friend's name. Those two boys were gay and had ran away together. There were rumours that Brother <sup>LMW</sup> [REDACTED] had been involved with them while they were on the run.

#### *Discipline*

106. The usual punishments that the staff administered at the home would be given a row or if serious enough then loss of privileges. There were never any physical punishments carried out by the staff.

#### **Abuse at St John's Bosco School, Aberdour**

107. The boy [REDACTED], who I met at the gym on my first day, would give me digs in the ribs whenever he was passing me. He also kept calling me names when I was there. We were all afraid of him because he had an older brother called [REDACTED], who was an older boy in the home, and he too was one of the main bullies. I did not want to fight [REDACTED] back as I was afraid that I might lose my weekend leave.
108. One night after being given the news about the fire at mum's house I was in the Chapel. [REDACTED] was there and started kicking me and calling a little cry baby. I ended up fighting him back and we had to be separated by a member staff, Mr <sup>GRN</sup> [REDACTED]. Mr <sup>GRN</sup> [REDACTED] without any warning kneed me right in my groin. I was in complete agony with this. He did not do anything to help me and I was in pain for about a month after

this. I could not even take part in any of the activities in the home. After being hurt by Mr GRN I did not see any nurse or doctor. After that took place he must have felt guilty as he became much more friendly and he even invited me over to his house in Aberdour. I spent the day there with his wife and family as well as some other boys.

109. [REDACTED] continued to bully and threaten me but I told them if he kept it up I would give as good as I got. He tried to threaten me at night but I was able to get him to back off.
110. One day [REDACTED]'s brother [REDACTED] approached me and I assumed I was going to get a beating. He told me that [REDACTED] had used him as a protector for the things he was doing. He told me that he had no issue with me and was not going to interfere with me defending myself against [REDACTED]. After finding this out it gave me some relief, because if anyone came to beat me I would defend myself, knowing that I was not going to be beaten by any of the older boys.
111. There was one of the Brother's we called the 'GRP [REDACTED]', who was Polish. He worked in a room that was similar to a jail cell in the basement. It was full of old televisions and similar equipment. His job was to strip the old equipment of the different metals and put those metals into different boxes.
112. If you were tasked with working in his room then you had to make sure the metals were not mixed. You were given a screwdriver to strip the metals and a magnet to test if it was metal. If you put any of the metal into the wrong bucket he would use a small pin hammer and hit you on the back of the hand. It was so cold in his room that when he did it, it seemed to exaggerate the pain. He also made sure that when he hit you it never showed any bruising.
113. I can recall there was a boy called [REDACTED]. I was lying on my bed one night when one of the other boys came and said that I should go to the bathroom and see what was happening. I went along and I saw [REDACTED] was masturbating boys and there were other boy's queueing for this. One night this boy [REDACTED] came over to speak to me in the dormitory. I asked him if he was being bullied into doing these things and he said no that he enjoyed it.

### **Leaving St John's Bosco School, Aberdour**

114. From my records I can see that the staff were already making arrangements for me to move on after being allowed out at Christmas. I was not aware of this and it was not until I had to see Father <sup>LOB</sup> [REDACTED], who told me that there was a possibility that after my next appearance at the Panel I may be getting moved. The Panel date had been set for [REDACTED], just before my fourteenth birthday on the [REDACTED].
115. Prior to the Panel it was arranged for me to have a visit at St Mary's Kenmure in Bishopbriggs. I was introduced to the Governor there. When he spoke to me he informed me there was another boy from Dumbarton with them at that time. It turned out it was the bully from Bellfield, [REDACTED]. I told the Governor that I was due at the panel in two weeks' time. He told me that with me getting a visit it must mean they were fairly sure I was moving to St Mary's.
116. [REDACTED] was asked to introduce me to some of the other boys and he told them that when I arrived they should look after me.
117. I went back to St John's Bosco until my visit to the Panel. Mum was also at the hearing and they read out a list of charges to my time in care. I asked the Panel how long I was staying at St Mary's but they never gave me an answer. I was taken straight from that Panel to St Mary's.

### **St Mary's Kenmure, Bishopbriggs**

118. When I arrived at St Mary's [REDACTED] was still there. I think he was there for about two weeks before he left as he had managed to get a job.
119. I was told that I was to be placed into the hostel building and that meant I was separated from the boys that I had previously been introduced to and those that I

knew. I would have much preferred to have been placed in the main building as I knew a lot of the boys. The hostel probably had twelve boys in there and we were split into separate rooms with three beds in each.

120. When I was able to get myself moved from the hostel to the main building I found that the routine there was complete chaos.
121. In the main building I was moved into one of two dorms there. There were probably as many as fifty to sixty boys in each of those dorms. At night there was one guy who was supposed to be covering the night shift. We did not see him much as he spent most of his time in the office having a sleep. I never had any interaction with him and can't remember his name.
122. At the end of the summer holiday break and all the boys were back in home, there were often a lot of changes in the staff as well. Some of the new staff were female trainee social workers. Whenever they were on duty, things seemed to calm down.

### **Routine at St Mary's Kenmure, Bishopbriggs**

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

123. In the mornings we were woken by the staff, got washed and dressed for the day. We would have our breakfast and then went into the main building for assembly before going into the school.

#### *Mealtimes/Food*

124. The food was okay at St Mary's and all the meals were served in the dining hall in the main building. I knew it was good quality stuff as I was working in the bakery and knew what we were using.

### *Leisure time*

125. In the hostel there was a long corridor and one day we were playing football outside it and my pal kicked the ball and it smashed one of the windows. We were told that we had to do the repairs ourselves. I had never used a ladder before and when I set them up the wheels were on the ground. The obvious thing happened and when my pal went up the ladders to fix the window, they gave way and he fell and sustained an injury to his ankle.
126. There was a teacher at St Mary's called HHC, who started a football team at the home. We were playing for a while and he tried to get us into a football league. We were turned down as we were an approved school. We did play against some other care homes.
127. One of the members of staff, HXC, would organise different activities for us within the home. He also arranged for some of us to be able to go to the cinema. Another time he arranged for some of us to go to a Scotland football match.

### *School*

128. When I arrived I was shown around some of the school classes they had. They included the subjects like English, maths and art. I was also told that I would be allocated one of the workshops held at the school. They were to show us some trades like bricklaying, gardening, pottery and joinery.
129. When I was going to the classes I found they were really lax. There was one boy who was unhappy in a class and he just got up and went to another class. I went to English in the morning and then went to the joinery workshop in the afternoon.
130. During the English classes the teacher carried out spelling tests. For every answer you got right he allocated you 10p, which was the cost of a cigarette. My reading was quite good and I was able to spell many of the words he tested us with.



131. At the joinery class in the afternoon the thing I did most of the time was just sanding pieces of wood. After the incident with the broken window and the ladders, I was moved from the joinery workshop to the bakery. Mr Faulds was the teacher there and he was really good and I learned a lot from him. I can remember I was even making cakes for weddings.

*Work*

132. In the summer holidays of 1976 the bakery I was working with in the school closed for the holiday period. I was given a job with the gardening unit. The equipment was located in a building near the main entrance to the grounds. There was a petrol mower which we used to cut the grass. There were times I dipped a dry cloth into the tank and would end up sniffing the fumes. As I was in the shed I fell through the door. When I looked up I saw SNR standing there. He was showing people around the home and he was definitely not happy with me. He told me to come to his office and he was asking why I was sniffing. He told me he was putting me on to a report into my behaviour.

*Family contact*

133. I was getting regular home leave when I was in St Mary's. It was only stopped if I got into trouble with the police. The problem was a lot of time I was on home leave I was still getting into trouble with the police.
134. Mum did come to visit me at St Mary's. I did not see her as that was one of the days I had decided to run away. That was the last day that I ran away and it was soon after that I had a conversation with HXC about work.

*Running away*

135. Not getting home as much as I would have liked was affecting me while I was in St Mary's. I started running away more. Each time I ran away I was usually brought back by the police.



136. There were other times I managed to run away with some others from the home. I was selling cigarettes to get us some money while we were away. One time we did not have enough to get to Edinburgh and we had to hitch rides to get there. Three times we made it all way to Edinburgh. On one of these times we ended up at Portobello outdoor pool. Again each time we were caught by the police and taken back to the home.
137. The punishment that I was given was again a loss of home leave. During the period I was running away St Mary's were building a new secure unit. The staff would try to use that as a threat to make me behave again.
138. One of the teachers I had been speaking to was HXC I was telling him I was not bothered as I was leaving at sixteen. He told me that the social work could keep me until I was eighteen if they wanted to. I can remember one night as I was lying in my bed and I reflecting on my life as it was then. I went into a really deep depression as I did not see any hope of me getting out of that place. I realised I had to make changes in the way I was behaving.
139. HXC also told me that I needed to get a job. I would be able to leave from school and show that I could be trusted if I worked for about a month. If I did behave I would also be able to have home leave and go to work and then back to mum's. So long as I behaved this arrangement would become more regular and perhaps permanent.
140. As a result of speaking with HXC I got myself a job at a sawmill. This was only a couple of weeks before my sixteenth birthday. I was at the job for a couple of weeks returning to St Mary's each night and SNR then agreed to allow me to go to mum's and go to work from there.

#### *Discipline*

141. The staff were okay and just let you get on as you liked. So long as there was no trouble they did not bother you.

142. There was an incident one day when there were two boys fighting. I saw that one of the boys had a stiletto knife and I intervened to try and stop him using it. As a result I was moved from the hostel to the main building. Other than this incident there was other bullying taking place but very little violence.
143. The school had a minibus that they used to transport us around wherever we needed to go. That lock for the minibus had been broken into many times by different boys. There were some boys who would break into the minibus and use that while they broke into some shops.
144. There was one day I was leaning against one of the exit doors in the main building. As I leaned there the door suddenly opened and I fell flat on my back. When I looked up I saw Mr LNI standing there. He was there to stop people leaving the school. He must have thought I was trying to leave the building and sent me to the office. He told me he had to complete a report about the door alarm being activated and warned me not push it again.
145. Another punishment given by SNR was he took all the clothes away from my pal and me. He handed me a football top and shorts and told me I had to wear that top for two weeks. As I was not required to be in class he also took my shoes from me so I could not run away. About an hour after getting our clothes back we were off again.

### **Abuse at St Mary's Kenmure, Bishopbriggs**

146. There was a day I had overdone the glue sniffing and missed my tea. A member of Staff called GRS came to the attic room and he pushed me up against the wall and punched me in the stomach. He was really apologetic and was scared that he might lose his job. I told him I would not be telling the staff but I might tell my pals. I knew I had been in the wrong and decided not to tell anyone and we left it at that.

147. Sometimes GRS would take us out in the minibus for a run. There were six of us away on this day. The first place he drove us to the car park at Barlinnie Prison. When we got out he told us that if we did not improve our behaviour that this was where we would end up. We were back in the minibus and took us to another car park, this time Longriggend Remand Centre. Again he told us this was another place we might end up. He continued his tour and the next place was Polmont, Glenochil and finally Low Moss. It was the same message at each of the stops. He then drove us back to St Mary's.

### **Leaving St Mary's Kenmure, Bishopbriggs**

148. Unfortunately I got sacked from that job at the sawmill just three days before I was due at the Panel. I did not tell anyone. I was lucky no one found out about that and they decided that I would be able to leave the care system and return home to stay with mum.
149. During the period I had been working I managed to save some money. My pal was going to move down to Blackburn and be with his sister. I decided that was what I wanted to do. They were having a farewell drink and I got myself into trouble and was once more arrested by the police. The order was only lifted on the Thursday and by the Friday after having spent some time in the pub I got into trouble and I was again in custody. During the time of my arrest I sustained a cut to my head.

### **HMP Barlinnie, Glasgow**

150. It was just two weeks after my sixteenth birthday when I was convicted at a Saturday court at Dumbarton Sheriff Court for this offence. I pled guilty and was initially sent to HMP Barlinnie. Prior to going there I don't remember much about my weekend in the police cells as I was too hungover. I was sent to Barlinnie for social enquiry reports prior to any sentencing.

### **Routine at HMP Barlinnie, Glasgow**

151. I was quite apprehensive about going to Barlinnie as I had spoken to many people about it prior to getting into trouble. When I went through the prison gates I was really scared. All you heard was all the doors being slammed.
152. On arrival at the reception area I was put into a small holding room which was only big enough for two people and had a gap at the bottom of the door. We all called this the dog box. I then had to see the medical officer who carried out a medical to check on my health, although nobody treated the cut I had to my head. I was then sent back to the dog box where I spent most of the day. They gave us a meal in a plastic bowl and spoon, which was placed under a gap on the door. It was supposed to be mince but it was really bad and we could not eat it.
153. When I went to "D" Hall I was given a cell by myself and stayed in there until the Monday morning. In the cell I found I had a mattress, but it was a really old style one which was stuffed with straw, unlike the foam mattresses we are all used to now.
154. In the mornings we still had to slop out our toilet pail. We were only allowed out to go to the dining hall for our meals, which we had to take back to our cells. I then stayed in the cell for the remainder of the day.
155. There was nothing bad that happened during that weekend.

### **Leaving HMP Barlinnie, Glasgow**

156. On the Monday morning along with some others I was taken out of Barlinnie and into the prison van where I was transferred to Longriggend.

## **Longriggend YOI**

157. Longriggend like the other prison establishments had a bad reputation and I was again scared when I went there.

### **Routine at Longriggend YOI**

#### *First day*

158. When I arrived at Longriggend I was once more sent for a medical. When I saw the doctor I was still had the large cut on my head as a result of having been arrested by the police. I thought the doctor was going to do something about the cut but he just cleaned it and then shaved all my hair off. He told me that I had nits, which was strange as I did not have any when I was examined at Barlinnie. He looked at the cut but said he could not put any stitches in as the healing process had already begun and it was too late. I still have that scar from that injury.

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

159. The first night I was in Longriggend I was in a cell on my own but the next day I was put in a different wing and into a cell with another boy.
160. The normal routine in the morning was we were allowed out of the cell for our breakfast in the dining hall. We were then sent back to our cell, where we were made to spend the rest of the morning. When it came to lunch time I was again allowed out for the meal. After eating we were allowed out for exercise for an hour in the yard. We just walked around the yard as there was nothing else for us to do. I did meet some people that I had known during my time in different homes.
161. After exercise it was back into the cell until our meal at tea time. After eating we were back in the cell for a little time before we were allowed out to the recreation room. In

the recreation room we were allowed to watch television for about an hour before it was back into our cells for the night.

162. Each morning we had to take the mattress off our beds and place it to the side of the beds. We were not allowed to lie on the bed at all during the day and we only had a seat for any comfort for the day.

*Mealtimes/Food*

163. The only thing I can remember about the food at Longriggend was that it was very poor. If you did not eat the food you just went hungry.

*Washing/bathing*

164. We still had to slop out in the mornings when we were at Longriggend. Once a week we were allowed a shower which was a communal set up. So many inmates were allowed out for the shower then back into their cells and replaced by another group.

*Clothing/uniform*

165. Our own clothing was taken off us when we arrived and we were all issued with prison clothing, which was mainly black in colour.

*Leisure time*

166. We were allowed access to the library once a week where we would be issued with a book. The first book I read was "Papillion", not the best book for my time in custody. There were no issues when we were sitting watching television.

*Healthcare*

167. When I was at Longriggend there was a time when staff came round each of the cells and told us we were all to get involved in providing blood donations. Both my cell mate



and myself told the officer we did not want to be involved in donating blood at that time. The reaction by the staff was that we lost four nights' recreation privileges and were not allowed out of the cells for those four days for other exercise, other than for our meals.

#### *Visits*

168. I don't remember anyone coming to see me from the social work or anyone else who may have been involved in compiling my social enquiry reports. When my initial remand time was ended I was back at the court, but as no reports had been compiled I was remanded for another two weeks to ensure any borstal and secure accommodation reports were completed. That meant I was back to Barlinnie before back into Longriggend.
169. I was taken to the Governor's office where I was shown the report the staff had eventually compiled. It stated that I was drinking illicit alcohol every weekend in the prison. They never took into account that I had been in approved homes during some of the weekends and could not have been drinking. They were recommending in the report that I was to be sent to a borstal accommodation.

#### *Family contact*

170. None of my family were aware that I had been arrested and was now in custody at Longriggend. I let them know when I was able to write a letter to them.

#### **Abuse at Longriggend YOI**

171. I was not allowed out of the cell, other than for meals and therefore did not see any bullying or abuse taking place.

## Leaving Longriggend YOI

172. I was sent back to the court for sentencing and was expecting to be given three months or so. The Sheriff said I had been in care for three and a half years which had not stopped me getting into trouble and that sentencing me to something like three months would do me no good. He sentenced me to two years. All he saw was that I was looking like a thug with my shaved head. It probably did not help things that my pals turned up at my court appearance. I was taken back downstairs to the cells and I was gutted with the length of time I was given.

## HMP Barlinnie

173. After being at the court I was taken to Barlinnie and was due to be transferred to Polmont. As it was Friday when I was sentenced I had missed the transport from Barlinnie to Polmont and had to spend the next week at Barlinnie.
174. This time, as I was no longer a remand prisoner, but now serving a sentence, there was a difference in some of the treatment by the staff. I was no longer on the remand side of the hall but over on the convicted side.
175. During the day you were not allowed to sit at any time when you were in your cell and were made to stand all day. I was in a cell on my own and there was no seat in the cell and if you lay down at any time and were caught by the staff then they would take your book off you.
176. The only time I was allowed out of the cell, other than for meals, was when the staff wanted me to mop down the floors.
177. The following Friday morning I was transferred along with twelve to fifteen boys to YOI at Polmont. I can't remember anything about that journey. What I can remember was that the place was the third of the places from **GRS** at St Mary's tour of all the jails we had been taken on.

## **Polmont YOI, nr Brightons**

178. When I arrived at Polmont I did have a very quick health check before I was sent to the Allocation Unit. At this unit there were three places I could be sent to and it was down to the staff themselves to decide which was best for me.

## **Routine at Polmont YOI**

179. The first couple of day's I was at Polmont I was in a cell on the top floor and the next day I was moved to a cell on the landing below. It was a single cell that I was given.
180. I was assigned Mr <sup>GRQ</sup> [REDACTED] as my contact officer. He was okay. He tried to help teach me how to make sure my bed was to be ready each morning. I found there was not much trouble between the inmates as the staff were very strict.

## *Mornings and bedtime*

181. In the mornings we were woken when the bell was rung. I was not sure on that first morning what I was supposed to do. It turned out we were supposed to be standing to attention on the outside of our cells by the railings there. I went out and realised everyone else was dressed when they stood there and I was still in my pyjamas. The staff shouted and swore at me and told me to get my P.E. kit on.
182. When we went down the stairs we had to bunny hop down each floor and the same when we moved from one place to another. I had to make my way to the gym, bunny hopping all the way.
183. After having been in the gym we were allowed to go for a shower and then back into our cells. After a short time we were then allowed out for our breakfast in the dining hall. We had to make our beds in a bed block fashion when we were back from breakfast. We were even given a ruler to measure that we had the bed block in the right size and tension.

184. Staff would then come in to check you did the bed block properly. On that first morning he just pulled it apart and told me to do it all over again. Once a week the Governor would come round and we had to be dressed in our good set of clothes. The good set of clothes also included a pair of suede shoes which had to be polished to shine. This took three days but I managed it. He then inspected each of the cells to make sure the bed block was right and that the cell was clean. He even checked some of the surfaces for dust.

*Clothing/uniform*

185. We were all issued with the Polmont uniform which was a striped shirt. We were also given a set of what was classed as 'best dressed set' and was to be used whenever it was Governor's inspection.

*Leisure time*

186. In the gym we had to do circuit training. We were made to carry out this circuit three times. It was just a continual train of prisoners on one set of equipment and then moving on to the next. If you were not doing anything correctly at any of the equipment you were made to do press ups or sit ups.
187. In the evenings we were allowed out of our cells to go to the recreation area where we could watch television until about nine o'clock and then it was back to our cells for the night.
188. Once a week we were allowed to use the swimming pool at Polmont. We had to do a lap of the pool and it was timed. Each time we did it we had to make sure our time improved or we were put on a punishment. I had a friend called [REDACTED] and he was a really good swimmer and did his laps very quickly. When he got out of the pool one of the officers spoke to him and when [REDACTED] replied he did not use the word "sir" in his response. The officer was holding a heavy book and he then slapped [REDACTED] across the face with the book.

189. I am not certain which officer it was but there were two that gave us grief. One was named GRQ and the other we called GRR. I don't know his proper name. It would have been one of the two that hit [REDACTED].
190. I can remember there was one day one of the inmates came into my cell I knew he was a troublemaker. When he came into the cell he said he was looking to see if he could get some of my tobacco. He was asking questions about me. When he found out where I came from he asked if I knew a prisoner called [REDACTED]. I did know him, but not to speak to, as he stayed near my house and was much older than me. This inmate then backed off from me and told me that [REDACTED] ran the prisoners on our wing. A day later [REDACTED] visited me in my cell and he was really friendly with me.

#### *School/Visits*

191. There was no education given during my time in Polmont and I was never visited by the social work or any other organisation.

#### *Work*

192. After our bed block checks in the morning we were put on work parties. Because I had made a mess of my bed block I was put onto some cleaning duties, including scrubbing floors. I was on the cleaning party for most of my time in Polmont. We would clean the corridors and there were usually around fifteen of us involved. We were given a pail of water and a scrubbing brush. The floor surface itself was rough cast and there was never any way you could get that properly clean. Sometimes we would just use a damp cloth on the floor. It never worked and when the staff found what we did we were made to clean it all again. They were also aware how much water would be needed to complete the cleaning and if we were left with too much then they knew we had cheated. We would have to do the cleaning from about nine in the morning until lunch time.

### *Family contact*

193. My mum came to visit me when Polmont had a sports day. I was not taking part in the activities but was able to sit with her in the main building. I got to spend about two hours with her. Mr Simpson, my contact officer, even came over to speak with mum. The only thing I did not like was he was later coming into my cell and making inappropriate comments about her.

### *Personal possessions*

194. I did not have anything when I was in prison but we earned pocket money from the chores we did. I used the money for tobacco, toothpaste and soap each week.

### **Abuse at Polmont YOI**

195. I was given a sewing kit so I could carry out running repairs on my clothes. I started using the needle to scrape my name on the door near to the spy hole area. One day an officer, I don't know his name, came into the cell. Normally when they came in they kept the lock on so the door did not lock. This time he shut the door all the way. He then told me to go to the door and explain what the scratches were. I denied everything and as I was near the door he banged my head against the door.
196. I was then put on report and had to go in front of the Principal Officer. When I arrived at the office I was thrown through the door. I had to try and find my balance as I had been told that if I fell onto the desk I would be given a slap. I never saw that happening but was told about it.
197. I was told that I was on a charge of vandalism and would spend four days in the basement of another block. Down there I saw there were five or six cells. I was told that I had to remove all my clothes and given a PE bib, shorts and a pair of socks. All the furniture in the cells was also removed. I was lucky there were heating pipes



running through the cell which took the chill off a bit. When I was in the cells I tried to look out of the window but as we were so low down I could not see the sky.

198. I was only allowed out once when I was in the cell to get some stairs cleaned up a little. Any food that I was had was brought to me at the cell. At night about six o'clock a table, chair and my bed was brought into the cell and in the morning it was all removed again.

### **Leaving Polmont YOI**

199. I had been at Polmont for about seven weeks and was sent to see the Principal Officer for an update on my time in the system. He told me there were three options available to me. The first was I could be sent to a place in Forfar where I would spend the next nine months there. The second option was Castle Huntly where I would spend around ten months. The last option was to remain at Polmont where I could spend the full remaining time of my sentence without any remission. It was decided I would go to Castle Huntly.

### **HMP Castle Huntly, nr Dundee**

200. It was sometime in [REDACTED] 1977 that I was transferred to Castle Huntly in the prison van. It was a big old castle like building and that was where I thought I was going to be in. The old building was where the reception area was along with all the offices.

## **Routine at HMP Castle Huntly**

### *First day*

201. I was then issued with my uniform and taken down to the new built buildings where the accommodation units were. When I saw the corridor of the unit I was in I could see there were about ten rooms. I was allocated a room to myself. The beds had clean sheets and the bed was much more comfortable than a lot of places I had been in before. There were communal toilets in each of the corridors and we were allowed out of our rooms whenever we needed.

### *Mornings and bedtime*

202. In the mornings after being woken and we still had to make our beds into a bed block. After this it was into the dining hall for breakfast. After breakfast we were all allocated a working party.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

203. I think when I was there the food was okay, but some of the preparation methods were not how it should have been. The Governor would come down at dinner time and taste the food before the prisoners had theirs. As can be expected his was prepared a lot better than it was for the inmates. As a result he was always able to pass the food as edible.
204. I can remember there was one day most of the fish was off but it was still passed by the Governor. Old stale bread was kept and it was put on a hot plate where it was dried out and then crushed up and spread over some of the food to provide some sort of crumble to a meal. It was not all bad as there was fresh vegetables and potatoes.
205. The dining hall was separated into two separate rooms. One was for inmates who wore the red stripe shirts, where they had approximately eight months of sentence to

serve. The other hall was for the ones with blue stripes who were nearing the end of their sentence.

#### *Washing/bathing*

206. The showers that were available were open and communal. There were about ten inmates who would be allowed to shower any time before being replaced by another group.

#### *Leisure time*

207. There was a gym at Castle Huntly but no one forced you to be there or to take part in activities. We had access to a television, table tennis, all in the evening. During the day we could play football outside if the weather allowed. There was also plenty of reading material available.
208. We played football a fair bit and even played matches against the social work department in Dundee and another match against the police team from Dundee.
209. I was also taken to a football match. People who were on the garden work party were taken to the Dundee clubs to help tidy the pitches up after a match. The one I was taken to was against my team Celtic.

#### *Healthcare*

210. I had no reason to visit the nurse or suffered anything serious enough that I needed to go to the doctor or a dentist.

#### *Work*

211. When I was at Castle Huntly, along with most of the other newcomers, I was put onto the cleaning team. As you progressed through time you were allocated better work and after about three weeks of cleaning I was moved on to the kitchen detail. I can

remember when we were on kitchen duties there would be two officers supervising us. When I started on the kitchen team I had to be up earlier in the mornings as I would have to help prepare breakfast. In the beginning you started on cleaning the pots and pans and moved up to helping prepare meals.

212. We got paid for any of the chores we carried out. I spent the money on soap, shampoo, toothpaste and tobacco.
213. As people moved out of the kitchen we progressed to better jobs. As I moved up I also did some baking and when I had about two months to go on my sentence I was allocated top cook.
214. When I was top cook we got a new officer supervising us. I don't remember his name but we called him IGP [REDACTED] and he had ginger hair. He started putting me down whenever he thought I did anything wrong in his eyes. There was one weekend where I was due to be allowed to go home for the weekend on the Friday. On the Thursday we were making pies for the work parties. IGP [REDACTED] asked me to get all the meat out of the fridge, raw and cooked meat. He wanted the meats to be mixed and used to fill the pies. I was not happy with this but he was insistent. I warned my pals about the problem and with the exception of two new inmates no one ate the pies.
215. As a result IGP [REDACTED] thought the only way to deal with this was to lock everybody up in their cells for not eating the pies. Staff came round to check why the inmates had refused to eat the pies. I was due to go to main building to check my own clothes still fitted for my weekend leave. When I was taken there I was instead taken to see the Assistant Governor and told I was being put on a charge for inciting a mutiny. I was then informed that I was not being allowed to go home that weekend. I also lost three days remission as a result.
216. The next day when I was in the kitchen IGP [REDACTED] came up to me and threatened that he was going to make sure I would not be getting released on my due date and he was going to try and get me sent back to Polmont.

217. IGP found out I had been adding extra sugar to some of the boys cups of tea and sent me back to cleaning duties.

*Family contact*

218. If we had any visitors and you wore the red stripes you had your visit within the building. If you had the blue stripes you were allowed out of the grounds. The first time mum visited we were in the castle building but when I had my blue stripes we were allowed to go into Dundee. The only time I went out I went with mum to a café there but I did have to be back by a certain time. I wanted to go to the cinema but it was for eighteen year olds and she would not let me.

219. There was a weekend before I was released when I was home on leave. I had been out with friends at the pub. While I was there a couple of pals left our company to be with their girlfriends. A short time later someone came running into the pub saying they had both been stabbed and had died. When it came to their funeral I had asked Castle Huntly if I could go to their funerals and also said I would be happy to take those days off my remission. The staff refused to allow me to go.

*Running away*

220. When we had the blue stripes and were allowed to go out of the grounds to do as we wished, you never thought about running away. Apart from the environment inside the prison it was so far out of the way there was nowhere to run to.

*Discipline*

221. I got on well with everyone so I did not see any bullying or violence when I was at Castle Huntly. I don't think anyone was interested in any bullying because that might have resulted in loss of remission.

### **Leaving HMP Castle Huntly**

222. About a week before I was due for release I had a visit from a social worker. I was told that when I was released I would be on licence. I was warned that should my licence be revoked for getting into any trouble then I would be back in a YOI and not returned to Castle Huntly. She did ask how long I thought I would last this time, as the last time I was only out one day before getting into trouble. I made a bit of a flippant reply to her that I would try and make sure it was at least two days this time.
223. I was still sixteen, just before I turned seventeen when I was released from Castle Huntly.
224. When I did get released it was on the Thursday and when I was out on the Saturday night I did get into a little bit of bother, but it was not serious enough to have me recalled. I thought back to that interview with the social worker and realised I had only just managed the two days.

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

225. When I was released my pal and I managed to get some money together and made our way down to Blackburn. I ended up on my own as my pal moved in with his girlfriend. I managed to get a job and tried to stay out of trouble, but that did not last long and I was soon arrested again. This time the court in England took into account I was working and released me.
226. I was seventeen by this time and I went back to stay in Dumbarton. I managed to get a job in a sawmill, which lasted for about nine months. At the time I was working in the sawmill I got involved in the punk lifestyle. This was not seen in our area and I helped to introduce this to others in Dumbarton. Later in my life from around 1989 until about 1995 I was organising raves in different parts of the country.



227. I started a youth group when I was back in Dumbarton and that lasted for about four years. It ran its course and I ended up back in Blackburn.
228. When I was eighteen I was walking passed the school where my pals had been stabbed and through anger got myself into trouble and was sentenced to three months in custody. When I was released I went with a pal to stay in Birmingham and then shortly afterwards moved to Bradford.
229. For a brief period I was working in the bar at a Butlin's camp. Being around that much drink did not help and I soon lost that job. I then moved back to Bradford and then back home to Dumbarton. When I was back in Dumbarton and for different reasons got into trouble and was spending a lot of time in and out of the prison system.
230. I stayed but I could not get a job and was just hanging around with pals. I met my first partner when I was 22 and my first son was born when I was 25. I went on to have my second and third sons and my daughter but that relationship with their mother did not work out. I then returned to Blackburn where I met my youngest son's mother and we were together for quite a while.
231. I later managed to get a job on the oil rigs I was working offshore in England for about two years. I was later working in Aberdeen and used my time off from there to visit family. I was even offered a promotion to work on the rigs in Norway but I refused that. Eventually after having organised some extra leave, I was sacked when I tried to return to the rig. I tried to fight that but lost the appeal.
232. On [REDACTED] 1988 I lost my sister when she committed suicide. That had a huge effect on my life, then and still today. At the time of her death I tried to visit my brother when he was in prison but he found out before I got there [REDACTED]. He was not happy when I saw him as he had stayed with my sister.

## **Impact**

233. When I was finally released I felt I was institutionalised and when I was with my mum I was just doing everything she asked me to do as I was too regimented to say anything about whatever task she asked of me. I tried to not let my time in care affect me but it always has. Since I have received my records I now see some of the many efforts she was making with the social work to try and get us all back home. Mum spent so much of her free time having to visit us wherever we were homed in different parts of the country.
234. I found that when I was home from the various homes or prisons I was in I had difficulty relating to people in social situations. I put a lot of that down to being away from my family and not growing up with them and having shared experiences. Even though in some of the homes we might have been together as siblings, we were rarely allowed to be together and that impacted on how we all missed out on the bonding that should have existed. Each of my siblings that were in care have all had problems with the relationships they have had.
235. Because of the lack of or the poor standard of education I received I believe this impacted on what I could make a life for myself. I always knew I could not get any job with potential to make a good living. In my mind committing crime was easier than working for a living.
236. Even when I had to apply for some of the additional benefits I was entitled to I had to explain what abuse I had suffered and the effects it had. On one occasion I was again asked to go for a medical with them to once more check things were still affecting me and as soon as I arrived the person said they did not want to hear about the abuse I had told them about. They made me go for a medical for those benefits but were not able to listen again to my issues. The lady was so upset that she agreed that I was entitled to the money and I no longer have to keep going for medicals.

237. Although you meet a lot of people in those establishments they are always a short term relationship, as one or other of you is always on the move to some other home or prison. That affected me in so much as I could not keep any relationship going for a long time as I was always losing friends as I grew up.
238. I was going to College and studying Sociology and Psychology. I had been doing the courses for about a year when some of the topics we were discussing made me realise how my life in care had affected me and how messed up I was.
239. Through studying Psychology I began to realise how often I have been suffering from depression. The difference is now I can recognise the symptoms and try to do something about it. I did not have that skill when I was younger and no one ever tried to help me in this way.
240. I have had a few medical issues which would stop me working on a full time basis. One of the problems I have is related to my feet. I have been told by a specialist that the damage to the bones in my feet were caused in my formative years during my time in Nazareth House when I had to wear the same pair of shoes for two years, despite me outgrowing them. I have had operations on my feet to try and sort the problem but I can't be on my feet longer than about an hour and a half. When I work in the gardens I have to go in and out of the house regularly to break up the time, because of the pain. I have copies of the x-rays showing the damage caused.
241. I started having more doubts and more trust issues. I always suffered from low self-esteem and that was getting worse. I was unemployed and the only money that was coming in was what my partner was earning. I even got myself into trouble again and two of my tutors provided character references for me. I got a deferred sentence but broke that sentence and I was given thirteen months.
242. I managed to get parole from the sentence and tried to make something of my relationship with my partner. Unfortunately I again turned to drink to bury the memories and it ruined what was left of that relationship.

243. I learned that because of the problems I was having with mental health and addiction that if I stayed in any of the relationships I had then they would have turned sour and would have had a bigger effect on how my children relate to me. My children know that I was brought up in care but do not know all the abuse that I suffered. I have been able to talk about some things with my eldest son and even he has said that this makes sense for many ways in which I behaved with them. They can obviously see more than I thought they could. That same son has said to me that lots of people have a fear of failure, but that I have a fear of success.
244. When I went to rehab in Blackburn I had self-referred to help me get sober again. I have now been sober for seven years. I now spend a lot of my time doing gardening work not just for my own garden but to help out communal gardens in my area. The house I am in just now is also the longest I have stayed in. I am now settled and happy with my life.
245. I have been in touch with Future Pathways and one of the counsellors there called Nicola has helped me with some financial things and college courses. I have been given help but I also know that some of the psychological help that I need is long term. I always wanted to write a book and have been helped with getting onto courses to help with this. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

### **Reporting of Abuse**

246. In 2019 I got a letter from the police in Scotland that they were carrying out investigations into abuse that had occurred in St John's Bosco. I provided a statement to them and was shown some photographs where I was able to identify some of the people. I am not aware what the state of that investigation is at.

**Records**

247. About three years ago I had applied for and received some of my social work records. It was just before lockdown. I had gone to a solicitor for some help and they managed to get them for me.

**Lessons to be learned**

248. When I was in the approved homes and later in the prison system I knew what I had done caused me to be there. I do not know why I had to be in the earlier homes for so long and despite my mother's attempts to get us home with her. The social work just kept moving me from home to home. The social work never even took the time to tell me about the fire and the loss of a brother I had not even met.

249. No one ever showed me compassion or came to see me when I was in those places. Since coming to the Inquiry and after I split with my partner I have had many dealings with police and the social work. I have grown to appreciate some of the things they have to deal with. I do have issues with the establishments I have been in as they never did anything about the bullying and the abuse that myself and others received. They should have recognised the signs and dealt with it.

**Other information**

250. I would like to see more support given to children leaving care, both in a financial way and for advice about what you need to be aware of and what you need to be when you are back in society.

251. 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  .....  
Dated..... 21.11.2022 .....