

## **Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

**James McLAUGHLIN**

Support person present: Yes – Maureen McLaughlin (wife).

1. My name is James McLaughlin. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1946. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### **Background**

2. I started working as a discipline officer in HMP Barlinnie in 1972. Three years later, I was transferred to Cornton Vale. The job at Cornton Vale came up in what they called the governor's order book. There was one in each hall and at the gate. Anything that came through from the department relating to staff was in the order book and it was up to you to read it. There was a job advertised at Cornton Vale and I applied for it. It was a new jail and the job involved operating the new electronic system. When I was put there, it was quite a feather in my cap as I was the youngest officer to go for it.
3. I transferred to Cornton Vale when it opened as a female prison in 1975. The job at Cornton Vale wasn't as good as I thought it was going to be. I was a gate officer so I took a note of everyone coming in and out of the prison and gave out all the keys. Transport coming in and out of the prison had to report to the gate first. I was working with people who had been there when Cornton Vale was an open borstal. They didn't know what a prisoner was, never mind an angry one. It just wasn't right. At that time, maintenance work in prisons was all done by officers. After about four months of being at Cornton Vale, they were needing a plumber so I got that job. I did that for seven years. I then passed my promotion exams. The exam covered prison work and there was some English. We had to write a couple of essays.

4. I wanted to get back into work as a discipline officer. When I passed the promotion exam, it helped me and I got a job at Glenochil. Another reason for the move was that there were less quarters being given to prison officers at that time. You could get an advance of salary and buy a house if the governor agreed. Some governors might want you to be close at hand in quarters in case there was any trouble during the night. We got permission to buy a house and we're still in that house. That was the good thing about moving to Glenochil.
  
5. I worked at Glenochil from 1982 until 1987. I took ill in 1987. They thought that I'd had a heart attack. I was put back to Cornton Vale. The person who had taken my job there had moved on so I got his job. I worked there for another six years as a plumber. It was a less strenuous role than I had had at Glenochil. I then got the chance to get early retirement so I took it. I was medically retired in 1994.

#### **Recruitment to Scottish Prison Service**

6. The job at Barlinnie was advertised in the paper. I was brought up in Glasgow, right next to Barlinnie. A lot of boys I knew had fathers who worked there. Some of them had joined the Prison Service. It was just something I fancied. I was a time-served plumber, but I was sick of working in the slums of Glasgow. I applied for a job at Barlinnie and that was it. I went in at first and had my height taken. A couple of chaps didn't get any further because they weren't tall enough. I then sat an exam, which was general knowledge and a wee bit of arithmetic. It wasn't writing essays or anything like that. I passed it and they shouted my name. The training officer took me down to the reception. I then saw the doctor and was given a medical. I had to go back in the afternoon to get an interview with the governor and the training officer. They told me that I'd passed everything and that I'd hear from them in a couple of weeks.

## **Training**

7. For the first two weeks at Barlinnie, I was with the local training officer. That officer is called a staff training officer nowadays. Three of us started together. The training officer would speak to us for a couple of hours, doing things and telling us what sort of things would be expected of us. We were also put into different halls and work sheds. We would stand in the door with a discipline officer, watching everything. It was just to let you know what you were going to be doing in a fortnight's time. Two weeks later, we had to go in at 6:00 am to start a shift and that was us. We worked early shifts and back shifts. Twice a year, you did a patrol shift. You might be put in a work shed if one of the work shed officers was on holiday.
  
8. We had to wait about three months until we got to the training college at Polmont. During that time, we worked normal shifts. Barlinnie was run quite tightly and there was good discipline so I felt ready for that. After the three months, I was at the training college in Polmont for six weeks. We learned everything to do with prisons at the training college. We saw how things worked at courts right through to the work sheds. Working on the reception was quite complicated. If prisoners came in with warrants, you had to work out their dates and when they would get out. You had to work out which fines they still had to pay. We learned about all things like that. I went back to Barlinnie after the training college and that was when my year's probationary period started.

## **Glenochil Young Offenders Institution and Detention Centre**

9. I started working at Glenochil in 1982. I was a basic grade discipline officer. I worked there for five years. There was a Young Offenders Institution (YOI) and a Detention Centre (DC). It was all the one big compound. It was a massive place. You went through the same entrance gate to get into Glenochil Detention Centre and Young Offenders Institution. There was what was called a sterile area. They opened a door there and you were then in the Detention Centre. The Young Offenders (YOs) were

further down. All the inmates were aged 16 to 21. I worked in the Detention Centre for the first two years and then I moved to the Young Offenders Institution.

### **Glenochil Detention Centre (1982-84)**

10. The Detention Centre (DC) was the Short Sharp Shock treatment. Inmates were all there for three months. Detention was usually given as a first sentence. Everything was 'left right, left right'. The inmates marched everywhere and did a lot of drill. They pressed their best blues every Friday and paraded in front of the governor every Sunday. Sometimes, their mothers and fathers would visit at the weekend and say that what we'd done was terrific.

#### *Staff and management structure*

11. I think the leadership at the DC was good. The governor in the DC was called the warden. I can't remember who it was. There was a chief officer, class one. The principal officer was next to the chief officer. There were three senior officers, one in each wing. There were three basic grade staff, one to each flat on each wing. I can't really remember the names of many staff when I worked at the DC. It's so long ago. I think I worked with someone called Les Shepherd. He was basic grade, like me. I think he's dead now. The senior officers changed a couple of times while I was there.
12. I wasn't involved in the recruitment of staff. I wasn't involved in training staff, unless someone had just started and it was his first week on the shifts. He might only have done two weeks with the training officer. If he was my second man, I would just tell him what to do. I didn't supervise or manage any staff.

#### *Wings/cells*

13. There were three wings at the Detention Centre, A, B and C. I can't remember how many inmates were in each wing, but I think it was maybe thirty or forty to a wing. Each wing had separate dining halls but they all went to the same recreation area. I worked

in C Hall, but sometimes I was moved elsewhere. If you were on at the weekend, inmates were all locked up for the evening. The patrol shift would come in with a mug of tea at supper time. You could be on your own doing the three wings yourself, just walking round them all. All the cells had bells and the inmates would press the bell if they wanted something. The cells had pots in them. If an inmate needed the toilet during the night, they used the pot. They had to slop out in the morning.

#### *Regime at the Detention Centre*

14. I think I preferred working at the Detention Centre compared to the Young Offenders Institution. Time passed very quickly because you were on the go all the time. Staff never got a minute and neither did the inmates. We were always drilling them and marching them. I had never been in the armed forces so it was a job for me to learn how to march. Basic grade officers were in charge of the marching.
15. When the YOI opened up, some of the staff were put into the DC. Some of the staff didn't like working in the DC at all. They didn't like doing the marching and drill. I wasn't a bully, but I enjoyed doing it because you saw something at the end of it. Other guys didn't like it at all. The principal officer and the chief officer noticed what you were doing. They could tell when inmates were up in front of them and inspect how they were dressed.
16. In the DC, I think the inmates started off as a blue grade. They had to do everything well to move up to a yellow grade. The crème de la crème got made up to a red grade. There were very few of them. Prison officers would write a narrative and could recommend a boy go up a grade if he'd done well. It depended on what the warden and the principal officer had seen because they were watching them all the time as well. They might say that a boy needed another week before he went up a grade. If you wanted any jobs done, you would ask a red grade to do it. Red grades could be asked to march up and down so other inmates learned how to do it. I learned that way as well. Higher grades had a bit more freedom in the hall. They also didn't have to work overtime.

17. The nightshift would ring a bell, which was heard by the three wings. That would be at about 5:30 am. That was when you heard them all making their bed blocks. To get a crease in their blankets, they folded them over and bashed them off the end of the bed with a nail brush. The bed blocks had to be immaculate with sheets in between. They were taught how to do that when they came in. The flat officer would then check that it was all done properly, so that was one of my jobs. If an inmate hadn't done his bed block properly, he would be made to do it again and he wouldn't go up a grade at the end of the month.
18. The cells were opened up at 6:00 am. Inmates were in individual cells. I took them down the stairs to their ablutions. There were rows of wash handbasins. We had a tray with their razors in them. Whether they shaved or not before coming in, they all started at the Detention Centre. They all took their razor and washed and shaved. The razors were locked at the bottom so they couldn't get the blade out. They would line up to show you that they'd washed and put their razor back.
19. The whole flat would then be taken upstairs where they'd get dressed and ready for work. After they were dressed, they'd go for breakfast. When they came out, they were taken back to their wings before going out on different work parties. They worked until about 11:30 am, when they returned to their cells to get ready for dinner. After dinner, they went back to work from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. After work, the inmates went back to their cells and did what they needed to do in their cells. When they took their work clothes off, they had to be folded and put away properly as well. They had to change into their best blues, which had to be pressed. It was relentless.
20. After their evening meal, the inmates were taken back to the hall. They could get a mug of water. They would go for their ablutions and then they were locked up in their cells. Staff would go for their evening meal and come back at 6:00 pm. They would check that everyone was alright and let them use the toilets. The inmates then got ready to go for recreation at 7:00 pm. That finished at 8:15, 8:30 pm. When they got back from rec they had a mug of tea and went back to their units. They emptied their lockers out and all their PT stuff had to be folded and put away. They then made their bed and stood by it. They just had a bed and a cabinet with a couple of drawers in

their rooms. There was a mirror of some sort stuck on the wall, but I don't think it was glass in case they smashed it and cut themselves with it. I remember that happening when I worked in Barlinnie and in the YOI, but I can't remember it happening in the Detention Centre. We would go and check the beds and then tell them to shut their doors. It was very regimented, but it was really good.

21. The inmates usually conformed at the Detention Centre. When I worked at Barlinnie, I can remember going in some mornings and opening up the cells. I saw a guy standing to attention with bed blocks all made up. He'd been in the Detention Centre at Glenochil and he hadn't been in trouble since. He got caught and sent to an adult prison. I had to tell him not to do that and to calm down because the people in Barlinnie would take a loan of him.
22. On Sunday morning, inmates had to get all their best blues on after breakfast. They had to go round their room and make sure it was spotless. They then went out and lined up in three rows. They were marched round in front of the warden and the chief officers. They stood in rows of three in front of him and the warden inspected them. There was always somebody who hadn't bulled his toecap. If the shine was off it, that was tough. They would be given a couple of hours overtime at night. They had to do overtime instead of rec.
23. On Sunday morning after church parade, the principal officer would also go round every cell with the officer for that flat. He would check every cell and if he found any dirt, the inmate would be given two nights' overtime, scrubbing floors. I felt like it was worthwhile, although I don't suppose it felt worthwhile for the boy at the time. Parents often commented on the difference in their sons when they came for visits.

#### *Clothing/uniform*

24. The inmates wore denim jackets, blue and white striped shirts and denim trousers when they were working. They also wore boots. Their boots were shining at all times. You could see your face in them. They had to be shown how to bull their boots when they arrived. Each inmate also had 'best blues', which they wore at night and for the

church parade on a Sunday. They had to be pressed by the inmates. I think they made their mothers happy when they went home.

### *Work*

25. All the inmates started work in what was called the top shed. Where they worked after that was determined by the staff. They worked their way through the sheds, just like getting their grades. I think some of them made clothes pegs from kits. Some of them worked in the gardens. There were always some inmates working back in the wing. There would be one on each floor. They used a brush shaft with a big, metal weight at the bottom of it. It had a cloth with polish on it. They would push the bumper up and down and you could see your face in the floors. They worked in the morning and in the afternoon. There was plenty to do. There were a lot of toilets and wash handbasins. They all needed cleaned as well. There were no outside cleaners at the Detention Centre or the YOI.
26. They worked until 11:30 am and then went back to their cells to get changed for dinner. After dinner, they went back to work at about 1:00 pm and worked until about 4:00 pm. They did have a break in the afternoon. They all went down to the big yard during the break, which is where they did most of their drill. They all lined up in three rows, all 120 of them. They got their cup of tea. Someone then collected all the mugs and they went back to their work parties.

### *Mealtimes*

27. The cook officer prepared the meals. There were boys who worked as cooks and served up the food. Inmates lined up in their units with their trays and got their food from a hatch. They all marched round the dining hall until they came to a table of four. Where they sat depended on the order they came in, rather than them having the same allocated seat. They didn't sit down. They stood with their hand on the chair. The principal officer would say, "Sit." They would then swing their chairs out, swing it back in and they were sitting on it. It was a work of art.



28. The food was good. They were given three courses. There could have been a choice if someone had a different religion. I can remember one boy was a Hindu. His food was different from the other inmates. Staff didn't eat the same food as the inmates. I used to take a piece with me. In the morning, staff could buy a ticket in the office and get a breakfast in the DC. It was cornflakes and a fry-up. The inmates got a fry-up at times as well. They were well fed. They didn't have to finish their food. That was up to them, but after the work they put in I think most of them ate it. The cooks did all the washing up.

#### *Education*

29. A teacher came in for education. The teacher taught so many inmates at a time. I don't know what she taught them because we didn't go in to the class. There was always an officer outside the classroom to make sure nothing happened to them in the classroom.

#### *Recreation*

30. The inmates in the Detention Centre all went to the same recreation area. There were no problems with those lads. There was basically just a TV in the recreation area. There was ping-pong down at one end. I think there were papers lying about.

#### *Healthcare*

31. The Detention Centre was built right on to the hospital block at Glenochil. If the inmates needed medical treatment, they went to the same hospital block as the young offenders. It was manned by nurse officers and a senior nurse officer. I think there was a principal nurse officer as well. If someone wanted to go sick, they would say that they were sick in the morning and they'd be put on the sick report. There was a sick parade and they'd be seen by a nurse officer then. They would use their common sense, but they could be seen by a doctor if the nurse officer thought it was necessary. The nurse officers were good and they knew their jobs.

32. I can remember a boy in the DC having a broken arm. I took him up to the village hospital in Clackmannan. The doctor didn't have much time for prisoners. I offered to take the cuffs off and he told me not to bother. The doctor asked the inmate where his plaster was. He said it had been itchy so he'd taken it off. The doctor told me to take him back. He didn't examine the boy's arm. He'd taken the plaster cast off himself. I don't know how the hall hadn't noticed it. I don't know how the boy had broken his arm. He could have come into Glenochil with it broken. I thought the doctor was quite right. What was the point in treating the boy if he didn't want the treatment?

#### *Visits*

33. Inmates had recreation on a Saturday afternoon. That was also when visits took place. You would call out the names of the inmates whose visitors had arrived and take them up. There was a room for visits up by the classroom. Parents could come up and buy tea or coffee, biscuits or crisps for the inmates. Visits also took place on Sunday afternoon. The inmates went to bible class on Sunday afternoons, but if they had a visit you would go into the hall and shout them out.

#### *Inspections*

34. I can remember someone coming in to see the Detention Centre. They were thinking of shutting it down at the time. I had to take him round and he was asking questions about the DC. They did go on to shut it down, which I thought was a waste.

#### *Religion*

35. Inmates went to church on a Sunday morning. The church parade took place after that. I think people that weren't religious might have stayed in their rooms. They were probably given something to polish. A group of people came in to take bible class on a Sunday afternoon. I think it ran from about 2:00 pm to about 3:30, 4:00 pm. The same five civilians used to come in from the outside and take the bible class.

## *Discipline*

36. There were punishment cells in the Detention Centre. They were just down from the dining hall in C Hall. There were eight cells, which had been for the cooks. I only saw a punishment cell being used once while I was there. It was me who put the inmate in there. He had tried to escape. The inmates were all lined up in their three flats, ready to go to work. Someone came in and told me that someone had tried to escape and that he was round the back, climbing the fence. Myself and the senior officer, Hugh Fleming, ran round. We caught the boy climbing up and he tumbled down. That was the only time that I saw someone try to escape. He would never have got over the barbed wire, but he was having a go at it anyway. That was the only time that I had to restrain someone in the Detention Centre. I didn't see any other officers restraining inmates at the Detention Centre.
  
37. We took the inmate back to his own room. I can't remember his name. I was told to go to the gate and get the key for the punishment cells. I think the order to put him in a punishment cell came from the governor. We put him in one of the punishment cells. We had to bring a staff member in to work overtime. The officer had to sit outside his door and keep an eye on him. You didn't know what the inmate might do. The punishment cell just had a bed in it. I would imagine it also had a wee cupboard in it. He was in there for a couple of hours.
  
38. If an inmate was cracking up and smashing things about, you could put him in his cell and pull the bed out until he calmed down. You didn't need the governor's approval to do that. Overtime was often used as a punishment. For more severe things, people went in front of the Visiting Committee. For example, the boy who tried to escape went in front of them. The Visiting Committee was people from outside Glenochil, like local dignitaries and the Sheriff. They would go into the orderly room and the prison officer would tell them what had happened. They could give out different punishments, but I can't remember what they were. I don't think they lost remission because you couldn't get remission in the DC. You got three months and that was it. I don't think it was ever extended beyond three months.

### *Bullying*

39. Inmates weren't treated any differently according to age. The staff were kept busy. We had to be vigilant. You noticed if someone was being bullied. They might have bought sweeties and then you'd see that they didn't have them. You'd ask where they all went. They weren't allowed to smoke in the Detention Centre. All the young boys who came in were smokers, but they weren't allowed to smoke in the DC. If I did notice bullying, I would approach the inmate who was being bullied. He would probably tell me not to do anything. I would then go to the senior officer or the principal officer and tell them. They would see the deputy governor for the hall, who would speak to the boy.

### *Concerns about Glenochil Detention Centre*

40. There was nothing in the way that the Detention Centre ran that gave me any cause for concern. It went like clockwork. The staff were exhausted as well because we were at it all the time in the same way as the inmates. I didn't see anything that I considered to be abusive. I don't know what I would have done if I had seen something abusive. I would maybe have said to the officer afterwards that they shouldn't be doing that. Sometimes, there were officers from the Young Offenders who might be doing a bit of overtime at the Detention Centre. They thought it was a dawdle and might become a bit of a bully. They might just shout and bawl a bit. It was very seldom that happened, but I would just tell them they had to calm down and they couldn't do that in the Detention Centre. That approach seemed to work and they would apologise.

### *Reporting of complaints/concerns at Glenochil Detention Centre*

41. If I did need to report something of concern, I would have gone to the senior officer and the principal officer. If that didn't bring any joy, I would then go to the chief officer. It was just common sense. I think our training probably covered what to do if we saw any abuse, but I didn't see anything like that. We were shouting a lot at folk in the DC. We were shouting all the time, "Left, right, left, right." I don't know whether folk would call that abusive.

### **Glenochil Young Offenders Institution (1984-87)**

42. I don't know how it came to be that I was moved to the Young Offenders Institution from the Detention Centre. They did move the staff about from time to time. I was put into the top flat of C Hall, which was all long term prisoners. You had to have a bit of common sense about you to work there. Those guys had been locked up for a few years. There was one boy who had been in a home when he was fifteen. He was put straight into Glenochil when he turned sixteen. He was about seventeen when I went into the YOI. I don't know how many young offenders were in Glenochil YOI. They were more prison wise than the inmates in the Detention Centre. They were all aged 16 to 21 and younger inmates were treated no differently than older inmates. We referred to them by their surnames. They called me 'Sir', but they were usually choking about calling us that.
43. There were four halls and there were maybe 120 prisoners in each hall. There was a big long corridor and all the work sheds were on the right hand side. There were four or five sheds. Downstairs, there was another long corridor. There were gates and you went through them to D Hall, C Hall, B Hall and A Hall. At the bottom was a punishment hall. It was a cell block. If anybody was punished by the governor and it was severe enough, they'd be put down there. There were eight punishment cells and a quiet cell through the back. It was built solidly with concrete so you couldn't hear anything. The prisoner could shout and scream all they liked but they wouldn't annoy anybody. They wouldn't be able to harm themselves either.
44. I think inmates went to D Hall for about a month when they first arrived. It was for assessment. Staff would maybe be writing reports on them. They were then sent to A Hall. They would work their way up. It could take a few years to get to C Hall. That was the crème de la crème. It was more for long term prisoners who had settled down. There were very few problems in C Hall compared to A Hall, which was the worst hall.
45. The YOI was massive compared to the DC. Discipline was good in the DC, but we treated the YOs differently. They were there for a long time so we had to come and go

a wee bit. Things were more relaxed in the YOI than in the DC. The inmates didn't do all the marching and drill.

#### *Management/staffing structure*

46. In the Young Offenders Institution, the governor was in charge. He was in the admin block. There was also a deputy governor. Initially, I covered holidays and things in C Hall. C Hall contained three flats and I think there were about 42 inmates to a flat. I was put in charge of the top flat in 1986. There was myself and my second man in the top flat so two officers to a flat. My second man was called Alan Senior. The second flat had two officers. The bottom flat had two officers, but it also had the principal officer and the senior officer for the hall as well. They had their offices there. I can't remember the names of many of the staff at the YOI. I can remember an officer called Derek Eadie. I don't remember the name of the hall governor.
47. Staff were normally given one appraisal every year. If you were just starting in the job and you came back from the college, you had an appraisal every three months for a year. Appraisals were carried out by the senior officer or the principal officer. One of the principal officers who carried out my appraisals was John Goddard. They would discuss your appearance, how you worked with prisoners, discipline and your report rate. Sometimes you got praise for doing things well. Some people were given additional training as a result of discussions in appraisals, but that didn't happen to me.
48. If you went before a promotion board, your appraisal report went with you. My face didn't fit so I never got a promotion. I thought I had good reports so I went in front of the board. I must not have given them the answers they wanted to hear.

#### *Mealtimes*

49. Each hall had its own canteen. All the inmates in the hall would eat their meals together. Staff for the whole hall would be present, apart from the senior officer who would be in his office. I can remember some boys had something wrong with them

medically. They got special meals that came from the hospital block. The doctor would see them to decide what they needed to eat.

50. On a Friday, prisoners were given their pay for the work that they did. It was done by a senior officer who started at dinner time and went right through until Friday night. When they were getting their lunch, he would shout out so many names and give them their wages. They would then queue up at the canteen, which was just next to the dining hall. They could go and buy their sweets and tobacco. He would do more of them between 5 and 6:00 pm until they were all done that day. That was them getting their pay for the week.

#### *Work/training*

51. There were different work parties in the YOI than in the DC. There was a joinery shed. They made flat-pack furniture and all that kind of stuff. I don't know what the outcome of the engineering shop was meant to be, but the stuff they had for weapons was unbelievable. There was so much metal. There was a third shed, but I can't remember what it was used for.
52. The inmates could also do vocational training courses in things like painting. It was an official course and it lasted six months. There was also a vocational course in fixing radios and TVs and a third one in fixing domestic appliances. Three instructors came in to teach the vocational training courses. It was good working in those groups because the laddies loved it. They were all desperate to get on those courses, but I don't know whether they got a professional qualification. The vocational training courses were for reform. Some of them were really good at what they were doing after six months.
53. There were education classes and a couple of teachers who came in. At night time, other teachers came in and there were about three classrooms. I'm not sure what those classes were, it's so long ago. If I was on duty, I would have a look through the door now and again to see what was happening. A lot of the boys couldn't read or write. I think they felt embarrassed about it. If other boys knew they couldn't read and

write, bullying could come in. We tried to help them to learn, but I think we needed more staff.

#### *Recreation*

54. The dining area was also the rec area in each of the four halls. The YO's had a TV, darts and a big snooker table in their recreation area. There were also papers for them to read. They did go to physical training. Most of them had PT every day. Sometimes, they went outside and ran around a football field. It depended on the weather and the amount of staff there to help. If they were outside working, they could scatter and you had a job trying to catch them.

#### *Record-keeping*

55. Every prisoner had his own narrative. I would write on the narrative. I might write that someone had lost ten days' remission, which would be a severe sanction, or lost recreation for misbehaving that week. The narrative was updated once a week. I would do it one week and my opposite number would do it the following week. I normally did it when I was working on Sunday afternoon backshift. I would go through them all and top them up for all the inmates in my flat. I would write about how each inmate had been acting and whether there had been a change in his attitude. I might comment if they hadn't had any letters from home or contact from their girlfriend, which would upset them. I would pick up on that kind of thing. I had to keep an eye on their demeanour throughout the week and record it all in the narrative.
56. In the last couple of years that I was at Glenochil, they got telephones to use in the hall. The YO's could put their name in the book to ask to use the telephone. They wouldn't all get it at the one time. They might not get it that week. It depended how long they took on the phone. They usually got about five minutes. They might come and tell me afterwards that they had just fallen out with their girlfriend or this or that. They might come and say that their mother was being beaten up by their step-father, which was when I had to go to the assistant governor or the principal officer. They



would ask for outside help. They might tell the social worker, who could get someone to go and see the mother. I would tell the inmate after I'd done that.

57. When we changed shifts, we would hand over any information that the officers coming on needed to know. Sometimes, I'd leave a note on the desk. Your opposite number would come in at 1:00 pm and we didn't get off till 2:00 pm so there was an hour's overlap. We had plenty of time to talk things over.

#### *Healthcare*

58. The hospital block was the same hospital block used by the Detention Centre. I think long term prisoners did get check-ups, especially when they were being transferred. If they'd just been transferred in from another prison then they also got a medical.
59. We were trained in first aid when we went to the training college at Polmont. We had two or three days of training and sat an exam at the end of it. I think one or two young offenders tried to cut their wrists when I worked in the YOI. All we had to do was stop the blood and press the bell for help. If someone attempted to take their life, they'd be seen to medically. The young offender might then be placed in the punishment block. There was even a padded cell there. There were also concrete cells with windows up high so they couldn't do anything to themselves. They were cold. They'd be put in there for a few hours until they calmed down.
60. After a suicide attempt, the young offender would go in front of the governor to explain what was wrong. It could be personal things. They might need to see a welfare officer or social work. I do remember having concerns about one prisoner who threatened to cut his wrists. I took him to see the nurse officer. He was then put into a canvas gown and put into a punishment cell. He would have been there till the following morning. The nightshift would have kept an eye on him all the time.
61. There was a psychologist attached to Glenochil called Kevin Powers. He would come in and see young offenders. If I had concerns about someone, I could put a paper in to the senior or principal officer. He might take that to the governor or request that the

prisoner be seen by the psychologist or social worker. The psychologist could see them in their own rooms so they did have privacy.

#### *Visits/inspections*

62. I think there might have been Sheriffs who came in and were shown round the YOI on one occasion. They talked to boys in their cells and asked them how they were. They were seeing what it was like in the YOI. They didn't give me any feedback. If they did give feedback, it would have been given to the governor. There were also visits from the inspector of prisons, justices of the peace, social workers and ministers. There were people inmates could speak to if they had any concerns. How often inmates saw their social workers depended on the circumstances. If there was a case going on outside that they were involved with then they might talk to them all the time. On other occasions, they might request to see their social worker.
63. There were also Visiting Committees who came in to check on the running of the prison. They could recommend things. If someone went in front of the governor following a report, the governor might refer it on to the Visiting Committee so they could get a bigger sentence. Inmates could also speak to the members of the Visiting Committee if they had concerns, but I don't know how often they came into the YOI.

#### *Policy*

64. I wasn't involved in drafting any policies at Glenochil. Every hall had what was called a governor's order book. Everything that came through was put into the order book for officers to see. You could have a look and see what was happening in the jail or any other prison. It would also contain any posts that you could apply for and things like that. I used to check the order book every day. It was each officer's responsibility to keep up to date, although the principal officer would sometimes tell us things if all the staff had to know about something. The biggest policy change that came in when I was at Glenochil was to restraint, when they introduced what was called the three man hold.

## *Restraints*

65. I was taught about restraints at the training college in Polmont before my probation year at Barlinnie. We were taught how to wrestle with somebody and get their arm up their back. You were told to hold someone down until other staff came. The inmate could then even be lifted by their feet and arms and taken through to the punishment cell. Everything was taken out the cell so they couldn't harm themselves or an officer. However, in 1985, 1986 they brought a new restraint in. It was called the 'three man team'. Officers went down to a military camp, which I think was run by the SAS. They showed us lots of different holds. They showed us how to do arm locks when someone was on the floor. They showed us how to fold their legs over and put a foot on their shoulder. They couldn't move. It was very effective.
66. Prior to that training, I think restraints were about good luck. If inmates were fighting amongst themselves, you might be able to wrestle someone but you didn't know whether another inmate would come into the back of you and hit you with something. You just had to hope your partner would see it and hit the alarm bell. There were no rules about how many officers should carry out a restraint, but if there were too many they couldn't do anything. You only had two arms and two legs to hold. It was sometimes better to get out the road and let someone else take control. You would like to think there would always be two of you, but sometimes it didn't work out that way.
67. When I was at Glenochil, I was in charge of the top flat of C Hall. There were 42 inmates, including about ten lifers. On the backshift, my second man wasn't there. When I went for tea with the rest of the staff, he stayed behind as a patrol shift. I would open all the prisoners up at 7:00 pm by myself so they could go down to rec. There were three different groups. It was done electronically. The control opened all the doors up. The inmates would come out and stand in their group. They were buzzed from down the stairs and I would send them all on. Fortunately, I never had any bother.
68. I don't know how many times I saw restraint being used at the YOI. I can remember having to restrain inmates two or three times in the YOI. It happened when they were

fighting amongst themselves. I can remember one such occasion in the engineer shop. That was hellish. They were working with metal. Nuts and bolts were flying all over the place. I was trying to separate inmates, put the wrist locks on them and take them out. If you were by yourself at first, you could put a lock on one arm until someone came to give you a hand. They would then be taken back to their own halls. Their beds would be taken out and they'd be left with a blanket and a bible until bedtime. One of the other occasions I had to use restraint was in recreation. You had to be careful because you could be used as a decoy. Someone might start a fight so that another inmate could go and stab someone else behind you.

### *Bullying*

69. I can remember one time when I was in C Hall on the top flat. There was a person there who was a real bully, but I can't remember his name. He was taking tobacco off the other lads. I don't know how it all happened, but the police were brought in. The tobacco was treated with something. The police came in with some sort of light and shone it on their hands. The treatment showed up in the light. Some inmates were charged with that. I don't know why it was taken so seriously. I think there must have been more involved than just the tobacco for them to bring the police in. The governor must have asked the police to come in. I don't know what the outcome was for the boy involved, but he did stay at Glenochil.
  
70. There were one or two bad injuries when I worked at Glenochil. When I worked there, the boys were getting plastic Airfix kits with Stanley knives. That was just stupid as far as I was concerned. I can remember someone getting badly slashed in the face. It happened in the engineering shop. I don't know whether a Stanley knife or a piece of metal was used. One of the officers had to give the boy the kiss of life. I think he got a commendation for that. The boy did survive and I think he stayed at Glenochil after that.

### *Riot in A Hall – 1986*

71. A Hall blew up one night in 1986. There were riots. It was just badness. There were too many bad inmates in the one hall. They had been getting 'geed' up. There were other people telling them what to do all the time. Quiet inmates could get manipulated. The nightshift had to call staff in left, right and centre. The inmates smashed everything up. There wasn't a window left. They took all the legs off the beds. People living in the nearby village of Menstrie could hear the shouting and everything being smashed up. It took a while to settle down. We were all put into different teams. It was hard. I was working in C Hall at the time, but we all gave the staff in A Hall a hand because it was bad. The inmates were hurting themselves. When you went in to get them to take them to the hospital block, they would be standing there with the iron bed legs. It was quite frightening.
72. During the riots in A Hall, one of the inmates was being moved to the cell block. An officer called Jim Mooney had to take him to the health centre for some reason. It was in the sterile area. The inmate picked a brick up and smashed Jim Mooney's head in. There was always an officer in the sterile area so he saw what had happened. He radioed for assistance. The inmate was taken and put into the cell block. Jim was off for quite a while. Years passed and he still hadn't received any criminal injuries compensation. They were waiting to see if there were any long-term side effects because he had been hit in the head.
73. I'm not sure how the riot calmed down. I think the prisoners knew that they weren't getting anywhere. They'd smashed all the windows, but we didn't replace them. They were in their cells at night with a couple of blankets. They put blankets up against the windows so we took them off them. We'd had training in the three man team restraint. That was also effective in shutting up the rioters because it was very painful for them.

### *Discipline*

74. The governor would decide if a YO was to be put in the punishment block. They might be put there if they had tried to escape or assaulted someone. I can't remember how

long they were put in the punishment block, but it could have been for seven days. It might have been longer than that, but I think that would depend on the doctor. I think he would see them every 24 hours, in the morning. I worked a couple of shifts in the punishment block. I was called in to do overtime on my days off sometimes. They would be locked up there, other than exercise for an hour a day in their separate yard. They would be given their meals in their cell. They probably got a shower once a week, but it depended how many inmates were in the punishment block at the time.

75. We took everything out of the punishment cells so the inmate would be sitting in there with a blanket. They had their own clothes on. We would only remove their clothes if they were cracking up and trying to choke themselves. That was when the canvas gowns were used. If an inmate was cracking up and smashing things about, you could put him in his cell and pull the bed out until he calmed down, the same way we did in the Detention Centre. You didn't need the governor's approval to do that. You could get them to strip off and give them a canvas gown. They couldn't tear a canvas gown so there was no chance they could tear it and use it to hang themselves or choke themselves. To my knowledge, no inmate was left without any clothes on. There was a concrete cell with thick walls, so you couldn't hear any noise coming out.
76. Other punishments were loss of recreation and loss of smoking. They could be punished for insolence, such as telling an officer where to go. There were lots of different things they could be punished for, such as fighting with each other. If they fought with an officer, that would normally have to go to the Visiting Committee for a punishment to be decided. The punishment depended on the crime.
77. I didn't have the power to punish a YO with loss of privileges. The governor would do that. If someone was misbehaving, I would tell him that I was putting him on report. The assistant governor for the hall or the governor would then tell the principal officer what they wanted to be done. Either the principal officer or the assistant governor would then write it in the punishment book. I think all punishments were written in the punishment book, but I never wrote in it. The inmates were never given physical punishments to my knowledge, unless the physical trainers gave them extra PT work.

78. One of the punishments used in the YOI was loss of remission. For example, if someone was sentenced to nine years they would get a third off on remission. Remission could be taken off them so they would end up doing their full sentence. The Governor could maybe take a couple of weeks away, but any more than that would have to be taken away by the Visiting Committee. It had to be really serious before the Visiting Committee came in.

*Reporting of complaints/concerns about Glenochil Young Offenders Institution*

79. I was comfortable that I knew who to go to if I had a concern at Glenochil, but I never had any reason to make a complaint. I might tell another officer that we didn't do things a certain way and try and keep them right. They might not know the routine. Sometimes, staff in the YOI could be a bit bullish. They might shout and bawl just for the sake of it.
80. I think that young offenders knew they could tell me if they had a concern. I think they would have felt comfortable doing that, as long as there was nobody else there. They were locked up between 6:00 and 7:00 pm. They could press a button for what was called night sanitation. It would go through to the control room. They would unlock him and they could go to the toilet. They could then ask to see me for a minute and tell me any concerns they might have. The other prisoners wouldn't know they had done that. That did happen once or twice. On one occasion, somebody told me that another young offender had something he shouldn't have. When my second man came back, we searched the guy's cell. I don't know why the YO told me. They must have fallen out or something.
81. A prisoner could ask for a petition. I wasn't allowed to ask what it was for. It was given to the prisoner and he would seal it. It was then sent away. I think the petitions were sent to the Secretary of State. I would imagine that they were answered, but I don't know.

### *Leaving Glenochil*

82. I left Glenochil in 1987. They thought that I'd taken a heart attack. Apart from being a flat officer, I was expense relief. Every expense that went through the prison was issued by the expense officer. If he was on leave or off, I did that job. I was in there one night and it was right through the hospital block. The nurse came down to get something and asked if I was alright. I said that I wasn't. I had to go home. It wasn't a heart attack, but I got a fright. I had a dodgy ticker. I think I had a couple of days off. I went back to work at Cornton Vale after that because I had taken that bad turn at Glenochil. I didn't have an exit interview when I left Glenochil. I don't know whether they provided references, but each officer had an annual report from their senior officer and principal officer. They maybe just gave Cornton Vale a copy of that.

### **Abuse at Glenochil Detention Centre and Young Offenders Institution**

#### *Investigations into abuse – personal involvement*

83. I wasn't involved in any allegations of abuse when I was at the YOI or the DC. I didn't see staff doing anything in the YOI or the DC that I would have considered to be abusive. I haven't been involved in any police investigation or civil claim against Glenochil since I left my employment there. I'm not aware that anybody I worked with at Glenochil has been convicted of abuse.

#### *Specific alleged abusers*

Mr GHC

84. I don't know a Mr GHC at all.



Mr GRK

85. I remember a prison officer by the name of GRK I think he was about the same age as me. He was a good officer. He worked in the DC at the same time as me. I worked in the DC along with him, but never actually on shift with him. I did see him interact with young people, but I didn't see him doing anything that gave me cause for concern. I thought that he was good with the young people. He took time out to tell them what to do in drill and things like that. I never saw him assault anybody.
86. He was sacked because he slapped a prisoner, but I didn't see that happen because he worked in a different division than me. I heard that the inmates were all lined up in their rows of three. He walked behind a boy, banged him on the head and told him to behave himself. The boy shouted assault so they had to do something about it. He was given his books and he had to leave. I don't think he was charged with assault. I think he became a paramedic.

Mr GMV

87. GMV worked in the Detention Centre as a prison officer. He must have been in his thirties at the time. I must have worked on the wing with him at one point, but I can't remember. In the DC, we were all together so much. We weren't best buddies or anything like that. He was just a work colleague. I don't really remember much about him. He was strict but he was fair. I saw him giving out orders to inmates to carry out their duties. There was a lot of shouting in the DC. It was like the military. I think we were all quite shouty. I never saw him physically discipline an inmate or assault anybody. There was nothing about him which gave me any cause for concern. I think he was still working in the DC when I moved to the YOI.

Mr ILJ

88. I know ILJ but I don't think I ever worked with him. If he was in a line-up, I could probably pick him out but I didn't work with him as such. He worked in the YOI. I think he was in D Hall. He was about the same age as me. I think he was quite a fair

chap, but I didn't really see him interact with the inmates because we never worked in the same hall. I never heard anything concerning about him and I didn't see him discipline or assault any inmates.

Mr <sup>HNJ</sup>

89. I think I worked a couple of shifts with <sup>HNJ</sup> He was ex-military and had been in the RAF. He worked in the YOI. I think he was in D Hall. He was a discipline officer there. I think he was in charge of a flat. I think I did an overtime shift in his flat and he was working with me. I remember that he was smart and tidy and that's about it. I saw him at recreation with the inmates, but there was nothing untoward about him. I thought he was quite fair with the inmates. I never heard any complaints or concerns about him and I didn't see him discipline or assault an inmate.

Mr <sup>GHB</sup>

90. Mark Lafferty has given a statement to the Inquiry. I don't know that name at all. According to his statement, he was at Glenochil Young Offenders Institution until 1979 or 1980. I didn't start working in the Detention Centre until 1982. I was in the DC until 1984 and then the Young Offenders Institution from 1984 until 1987.
91. At paragraph 123 of his statement, he said: *"At Glenochil I was in my cell for 23 hours a day. It was rare that I was out on recreation. We didn't get exercise in the young offenders. We were out of the cell for meals and that was it for me. I didn't get much recreation because of the punishments I was on."*
92. If he was in the punishment block, they had an exercise yard to themselves. He would get recreation on his own with an officer. They did get that in the punishment blocks. If he was in the halls, each flat had three stages, each with twelve cells. They were separated by a grill-gate. We would let them out and they could walk up and down. If an inmate started talking to a passman, he would be put back in his cell again. We would tell them that they were out of their cell for exercise, not to talk. I'm pretty sure all prisoners got some exercise, even if they were in a punishment cell.

93. Mark Lafferty stated that he was one of the youngest prisoners in Glenochil and he was called a CYP, which he thought stood for 'Convicted Young Person'. Everyone in Glenochil was convicted. I don't know of the term CYP or any distinction being made between younger and older prisoners at Glenochil. He also said at paragraph 124 of his statement: *"Glenochil was bad. I didn't know what I'd let myself in for, but I'd rather go through that than be at St. Mary's Kenmure and not allowed to swear. The staff at Glenochil used to beat you on a regular basis. It was pure casual violence."*
94. That's a load of rubbish. According to his statement, Mark Lafferty was out of jail for fifteen years and then he lapsed again and went back in. He must be about sixty now. He knows every rule in the book. That's why they make all these stories up.
95. He continues at paragraph 124: *"I remember one of them. If you broke discipline you'd be on one report and if you broke discipline twice it was a double report and you had to go to segregation. It happened to me every day. I had the most reports in Glenochil and I got fourteen days without a mattress and just an extra blanket to lie on."*
96. The governor could take inmates' mattresses off them, but I don't know if it was for 24 hours. It was maybe just during the day. A situation could arise where he was in segregation for fourteen days. Someone could also be on multiple reports in the one day.
97. He goes on to say at paragraph 125 of his statement: *"I was on punishment and I got left in my cell and they take your mattress away at half-seven in the morning."* That was something that would have happened. He continues at paragraph 125: *"The staff would give you a big sack of clothes pegs with a jig thing with two spikes on it. They'd tell you they'd take ten days wages off you and ten days recreation."* I don't recall any sacks of clothes pegs, but wages were taken off people. He then says at paragraph 125: *"I asked what am I working for then? They said you'd be doing that work anyway. I used to throw all my pegs out the window."*
98. I don't remember seeing them making pegs at all. Mark Lafferty then alleges in his statement that a male member of staff came in and asked him where his work had

gone. He states at paragraph 126: *"I told him I wasn't going to work if I'm not getting paid. He slapped me. As he turned to leave my cell I hurt him with my chair. I don't know where I hurt him but he was knocked out. I pushed him under my bed and went off to recreation as he was the screw in charge of my section. I went off to watch TV."*

99. That just sounds laughable. How would he get to go and watch TV? The rest of the staff would wonder where their colleague was. If he was in the punishment block, there were no TVs in the punishment block. I don't remember there ever being any incident when an inmate hit an officer and then walked away to the rec room.
100. Mark Lafferty continues at paragraph 127 of his statement: *"Then about ten screws came to the rec room door asking for me. They got me in the corridor and it was the closest I've ever felt to going to die. They were all kicking me because of this. The governor's name at the time was Neve. He was a good guy. He was the fairest governor I ever met. He put me on report for assault on a member of staff and I argued that I got assaulted. When he asked me for proof I showed him a big boot print on my chest and bruises up my side. I asked to move as a screw stood either side of me with a stick in case you attack the governor. They don't do it now."* And he continues at paragraph 128: *"I pointed out I didn't put the boot print on myself and it was from the principal officer in charge of the hall. His name was GHB He jumped off some steps and right on my chest. He wanted me charged with assault and I wanted him charged with assault and all the other officers. They put me out the orderly room and then I got shouted back in. Governor Neve then told me all the charges against me were dropped and I was going back to the hall and I was back on recreation. I see now that was just to keep me quiet."*
101. I do remember the governor called Neve. He was very a fair person. I don't remember any such incident in my time at Glenochil. There was a principal officer at Glenochil who could have done it. His name was zGHB. I think he was a bit older than me. I wouldn't have thought he would have jumped on top of an inmate but I did hear that he was quite liberal with slaps. He might have given him a skelp around the ear and told him to behave himself. I never saw zGHB raise his hand to an inmate. He worked in a different hall from me so I just heard about it. He actually went

away to work on detached duties. He got a job with the prison service in the Turk and Caicos Islands for about a year and a half and then he came back to Glenochil. I never worked alongside zGHB [REDACTED] in the YOI. Most of the time that I was in the YOI, he was away in the Turk and Caicos Islands. I think he might have come into the DC once or twice when I worked there. He wasn't working in my flat or anything like that so I didn't have many dealings with him.

102. [REDACTED] There was a discipline officer called [REDACTED]. He was about the same age as me, but I think he's dead now. He worked in the YOI and for a while he was the chief's clerk. He might have worked in the cell block but he didn't work in my hall. There was also a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was a nurse officer. I think he was also about the same age as me.

### Helping the Inquiry

103. Abuse could have taken place at Glenochil that I wasn't aware of. The inmates were there 24 hours a day to think up everything. They were trying to bring prison officers and the system down. I think some of the allegations of abuse have been motivated by anti-system feelings.
104. I'm not sure what the Inquiry could do to make the prison system better. I've been away from it for such a long time. Nowadays, inmates all have televisions in their cells. I'm not in favour of that at all. You want to put young people off going into prison. Now, they're going in and they've got everything.
105. 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.....

30.11.23