

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LTR

Support person present: No

1. My full name is LTR. This was my name at birth and throughout life. My date of birth is 1956. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before care

2. I was born in Glasgow. My father was and my mother was.
3. I had seven brothers and three sisters. I was the baby of the family. My brothers from oldest to youngest were and then me. died at birth. My sisters were and. There were quite a few years between my oldest brother and me.
4. I lived on with my family. A few of my brothers had moved out by the time I was born, but it was still a busy house.
5. My parents never worked as far as I can remember. My father suffered with arthritis in the spine for many years.
6. I remember life quite explicitly as a child. My family life was amazing and cheerful. There was a lot of love and a lot of music. We had a grand piano in the living room.
7. My mother was Protestant and my father was Catholic. I started St Peter's Primary School, which was a Catholic school when I was five years old. It was run by nuns

from Nazareth House called Sister **zLKC** and Sister **zLQM**. They were really evil towards me.

8. I went to St Peter's Chapel through the school, and did my confirmation and Holy Communion.
9. Sister **zLKC** force fed me cabbage at school, which I hated and she knew this. She would stand behind me and force feed me the cabbage. I would physically vomit and then she would make me eat my own sick. She would also take away the dessert that I did like and not let me have it.
10. This treatment at school went on for years. I think Sister **zLKC** picked on the children who came from poor families. She used to take me to her office and leather me with the school strap on the back of my legs. I became a nervous wreck of a child because of this. I started wetting the bed.
11. Looking back there was some sort of lunacy about her actions towards me. She wore glasses, the nun's habit and was very strict.
12. I think I tried to tell my mum but nobody listened in those days. I started playing truant to get away from Sister **zLKC**. This made me fall behind in my schoolwork.
13. I went to St Peter's Secondary School when I was older. It was a lot better because there was no nuns there.
14. I still carried on playing truant because I was behind on my education and that was embarrassing. I used to get the belt on my hand for playing truant and then I would leave the school again.
15. The older guys in my area would take me with them when they broke in to factories and shops to rob them. They would take me to crawl in small holes to help them. My mother learned about this and shouted them off when they came to get me.

16. I appeared before a children's panel a few times and they were quite lenient with me and I got to stay at home. That changed when I turned thirteen.
17. On [REDACTED] 1969, I was put on three year probation through the social work, which I think was for playing truant. I was being monitored and had to go to the probation officer's office to check in every week. I had social work involvement and my parents were aware of what was going on.
18. Three months later, I broke the law. I took the casing off a chewing gum machine outside a newsagent door, and stole the pennies and chewing gum inside.
19. I was charged and taken to the Justice of the Peace Court on [REDACTED] 1969. It used to be in the police station at Partick Marine Police Office back then. My parents and social work were there. I was sentenced to fourteen days in Larchgrove Remand Home for that.
20. My mother was sat behind me and I turned around to see her crying, and I tried to tell her it would be ok. It was breaking my heart.
21. When I got out, I committed another offence and appeared before the same court, on [REDACTED] 1969, only two months later. I was put back in Larchgrove for 28 days.
22. I got both sentences when I was thirteen years old. The second, 28 day one, was the worst.

### **Larchgrove Remand Home**

23. I first went into Larchgrove when I was thirteen years old. I knew I was going to be in for fourteen days because that was my sentence. I was taken there by a police man straight from court. I was terrified of the unexpected.

24. It was an enormous place with long corridors. There was an old, main building with a couple of newish buildings attached to it. One was called the new wing.
25. There were about four or five wings, and they held a number of dormitories in each. The dorms had about eight beds in each. There was a mix of ages in each dorm so older boys would be with younger boys.
26. It was a secure unit so the doors were always locked, even the inside doors were locked behind us. I think there was metal grating over the glass of the windows. It was a dimly lit place with lino floors.
27. It was a remand home for just boys and there were about two hundred boys in there. The ages ranged from about seven or eight years old to fifteen.
28. I didn't know anybody in there. I got the mickey taken out of me for being a rookie, by the staff and other boys. An older boy asked me if I got my cocoa ticket and told me to go and ask a man called Mr Robertson for it, so I did. He told me to go away with a smirk on his face. All the other boys were laughing because I had been set up.

*Staff*

29. There were about thirty members of staff who wore civilian clothes. That makes me think it was ran by the local authority rather than the Scottish Prison Service who would have worn uniforms.
30. Mr LQT was the SNR. The staff names I remember are Mr GIA, Mr MKI and Mr Docherty. There were a couple of female staff there as well, including a matron type woman. They were quite bossy.
31. The staff were the same both times I was in there.

### **Routine at Larchgrove**

32. I ended up in a dormitory with other bed wetters because I wet the bed. It was in the new wing.
33. We got up in the morning, got washed and dressed. We wore brown corduroy shorts and a brown jumper. We went for breakfast. The food was ok as far as I can remember, and we weren't forced to eat it.
34. We then went to a big gymnasium where the staff did a head count then split us into groups to either go to school or a work party.
35. The older kids went to work parties, which meant they were put into groups to do work. There was a cleaning party to clean the whole place, which was enormous. The lino was polished with heavy, weighted buffers. There was also a garden party because the place produced its own veg. That had to be earned and was considered a privilege.
36. I wasn't in a work party and went to school. All the younger kids in the place went to school. We stopped for lunch, and then went back to class for the afternoon.
37. There were also night classes where you would do practical things. There were things like learning to weave mats and rugs, or art classes.
38. You could also play table tennis or games. We used to play five stones, where you had five cubes of wood, like dice. You would throw them up in air, then turn your hand round and try and catch as many as you could on the back of your hand. It was a good game. Me and a big guy from Springburn were the five stone champions. It was amazing how we kept ourselves occupied with simple things.
39. Bed time was around 8 pm. You would be told to get to your bed. The night shift would be up all night to deal with any disturbances. There would sometimes be fights between gangs of boys.

*Washing / bathing*

40. There were shower rooms. I showered most mornings because I was a bed wetter. I can't remember if the showers were open or were cubicles.

*School*

41. Mr MKI and Mr Docherty were teachers in different classrooms. It was always the same children that went to either of their class. I went to Mr MKI's class.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

42. I was in Larchgrove for a birthday. They didn't do anything to mark birthdays.

*Visits / Inspections*

43. No social worker every visited me. I don't remember anybody official ever coming in to speak to me.
44. I was allowed visits from my parents, but I wasn't allowed out. My mother was quite protective of me so she came to visit me.

*Healthcare*

45. There was a matron. When you first went in, they did a medical check and checked your hair. They put what the boys called "jungle juice" in your hair to get rid of any nits, whether you had them or not. Everybody got it.

*Bed Wetting*

46. It was embarrassing being in a dorm for bed wetters, which was called the "wet the bed dormitory."

47. I changed my sheets every day. I think someone came to take the wet bedding away. The staff didn't help you to try and stop bed wetting. I would also get showered every morning after wetting the bed.

*Discipline*

48. I think the staff in there tried to be preventative. They would smack you if you were out of line. That happened to me a few times. Mr LQT would give boys the belt as well. I got the belt from him but I can't remember what for. I probably deserved it.

**Abuse at Larchgrove**

49. Mr MKI was a bad man. He took advantage of children, sexually, including myself. After class, Mr MKI kept me back. He waited until everyone else had gone, and made me touch him sexually. That happened the second time I was in, for the 28 day sentence, when I was thirteen years old.
50. I saw him keep other children back in class too. It was always one child at a time. It was well known what Mr MKI was doing. I remember it being talked about amongst the boys.
51. An older boy in my dormitory tried to sexually assault me but I managed to avoid it by fighting him off. The boy would punch me when he wasn't getting his own way. I don't remember the names of boys in Larchgrove.
52. There were a lot of gangs in there. That was a big thing back then. They were very violent with each other.
53. I even remember one boy fighting with a member of staff. The boy was stocky and was overpowering the member of staff who had to call for assistance. That looked quite horrendous and violent. The staff in there could be quite violent with the boys as well.

54. There was a locked, secure, cell in Larchgrove. If the older inmates got out of hand with the gang culture, the staff would separate the main culprit by putting them in the cell. They would also disperse some of the other inmates by sending them to Longriggend Remand Home, out Airdrie way, which was a more secure unit. It was run by the Scottish Prison Service.
55. I was never violent so I kept myself separate because I didn't want to be involved with any of that.

### **Going back into care**

56. I wasn't out of Larchgrove for long when I decided to jump on a train and went through to Edinburgh, without a ticket. I don't know why. I was a bit of a nomad and would travel everywhere by myself. I always have been.
57. When I got into Edinburgh, I was hungry so I smashed the window of a fruit shop and stole some fruit. I then found a derelict car with smashed windows, so I got into it as it was getting dark.
58. The police came by and saw me with the fruit. They charged me with smashing the window of the fruit shop and stealing the fruit. I appeared at Edinburgh juvenile summary court the next morning. This was in late 1969. I had a duty solicitor who spoke about my background and history.
59. I was remanded and sent to Howdenhall Assessment Centre until they got social work reports and decided what to do with me. I was taken straight to Howdenhall from court, in a van. My parents were informed of what was happening.
60. I ended up being in Howdenhall for seventeen weeks in total.



## Howdenhall Assessment Centre

61. I went to Howdenhall in [REDACTED] 1969, when I was still thirteen years old.
62. It was known as an intermediate approved school, for the age group of thirteen and fourteen year old detainees, both boys and girls. It was also an assessment centre so you were assessed by staff when you first went in to determine where you went next. That all happened in the first two weeks I went in.
63. I appeared in court again after two weeks, after court had my social work reports. I was sentenced to go to St Joseph's Approved School when a place became available. I think it was standard back then to be sent to an approved school to be taught a lesson.
64. I was taken back to Howdenhall for another fifteen weeks until a space became available at St Joseph's. I wasn't assessed during that time.
65. The building itself was modern in comparison to Larchgrove. There were three different sections in there. There were older boys in one section, boys my age in the other, and girls in the other. They were all kept separate.
66. It was a secure unit so doors were locked behind you. We were locked in our dormitories at night. There were three beds to a dorm with good mattresses. The windows were reinforced glass with wire through it, and a metal grating on the outside.
67. I think there were about twenty to thirty boys in total, including the seniors. I don't know how many girls. I only saw very few girls and only on a couple of occasions.
68. I was the only person from Glasgow in there. Everybody else was from Edinburgh or the outskirts of Edinburgh. Some of the detainees were there on care and protection, which meant they didn't have parents. I met two brothers who had been in Quarriers. I remember being attached to them. They were really good boys.

*Staff*

69. The staff were all employed by Edinburgh local authority. They wore civilian clothes. Mr HCK was SNR, and Mr Larson I also remember Mr LWI and Mr MTM. There was a Mr Moyes, who was the teacher. I remember other faces but I can't put names to them.
70. We called the staff "sir" and they called us "boy," "child" or by our surname. Members of staff would walk around and patrol the place, including the common rooms.

*Daily Routine*

71. We were woken in the morning about 7 am and that was when the doors were unlocked. We were allowed to go to the toilet and go for a shower.
72. I was still wetting the bed now and then. I wasn't humiliated for it. I would go for a shower in the morning and somebody would collect my sheets.
73. After getting ready, we went for breakfast.
74. I had class for a few hours here and there. School wasn't a regular activity. When you weren't in class, you were allowed to sit in the common room for the rest of the day.
75. There were two common rooms. In ours, we sat and played draughts and chess. The older boys had a snooker table in their common room and they could smoke in there, but we weren't allowed in it. The atmosphere was quite relaxed in Howdenhall to start with.
76. Bed time was about 8 pm and you weren't allowed to make any noise after lights out.

*Food/ treats*

77. The food was good in there, but you never really got treats unless someone brought you them during a visit. My mother would bring me some treats and sweets when she visited. That was the only time you got anything like that.
78. I was there over Christmas and we probably got a treat and a selection box, but I can't really remember.

*Clothing*

79. I only had the clothes I stood in when I went in there. I was given clothes to wear. The uniform was shorts, soft plimsoll shoes with a shirt or jumper. All the boys wore the same. We were issued with thin, washed out, striped cotton pyjamas to wear at night.

*Schooling*

80. You were given a test to do when you went in, and that determined how much schooling you would get every day.
81. There was a classroom in the place. Boys would be in class about ten at a time so we didn't have classes all day. I had a few hours of school here and there, and it wasn't every day.
82. The teacher was an older man called Mr Moyes. He was a really nice man and I was quite attached to him. I took in as much education as I could considering I had missed so much of school.

*Trips/visits*

83. It was a secure unit so you never got out for trips or anything.

84. My mother used to come through from Glasgow every Saturday to see me. Unbeknown to me, my mother was suffering from stomach cancer at the time, but she never let me down. Even though we were a poor family, she still came to see me every Saturday.
85. I couldn't tell my mother what was happening, because I always remembered her crying when I was first taken away. I didn't want to upset her by telling her what was happening to me.
86. I didn't have any social work visits at all. Nobody official visited me or told me what was happening.
87. I don't think my parents were even updated by social work about what was happening to me, because it was me who told my mother during one of the visits that I was going to St Joseph's Approved School. She didn't know that.

#### *Medical treatment*

88. I had a medical check when I first went in. You only got that once and it wasn't as intense as in other places.
89. I got out to go to the dentist, which was at Dr Guthrie's. That place had dental treatment going on. That was the only time I was taken out of Howdenhall in the seventeen weeks I was there.

#### **Abuse in Howdenhall**

90. Things were ok to begin with, then they started to go wrong. I felt as if a few liberties were taken by staff with me, because I was the only boy from Glasgow.
91. Mr LWI was very heavy handed. When you were sitting in the common room, he would come from nowhere and smack you across the face so hard that you fell of your

chair. It was really hard, and unexpected because you wouldn't see him coming. You would be on the floor from the force of it and he would be standing, towering over you. You would feel your jaw being out of place after it. It was severe.

92. Mr <sup>LWI</sup> did that to me about four or five times in the first few weeks I was in there. He would do it for small things, like if you were having a disagreement or argument with another boy. He did it to other boys too. He was verbally threatening as well, which made you not complain to anybody about it.
93. Mr <sup>LWI</sup> was a member of staff but I don't know how high up he was. You couldn't tell because they all wore civilian clothing. He was bald and had spaces in his teeth. He wore a pinstriped suit all the time. He looked very strict in his appearance.
94. I had thoughts about running away in there, but I never did it.
95. After a few weeks of being in Howdenhall, me and two boys were singing in the dorm, late one night, after lights out. One of the boys was [REDACTED] who had dark hair, and the other was nicknamed "[REDACTED]" and he had ginger hair. They were both small boys, like myself.
96. We heard the key turning in the door as we were signing, and it was Mr <sup>HCK</sup>. He ordered the three of us out of the room and into the hallway, which was really dark with one very dim light on.
97. He told us to stand in a line and bend over and touch our toes, which we did. He then leathered our bum with a leather school belt.
98. He hit each of us about four times each. He brought it down from a great height and really skelped us. We were all screaming and crying with the pain. It must have woken the other boys up.

99. I couldn't sit on my behind for days after it. I had black and blue welts across the cheeks of my bum. You can imagine how sensitive that part of a child's body would be. We weren't offered any treatment.
100. Mr HCK was very strict, immaculately dressed, stood very straight and tall, and towered over you. He looked very regimental, like he had an army background.

### **Reporting of abuse in Howdenhall**

101. A couple of days after being belted by Mr HCK, the police came and took me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to a police station and took statements from us.
102. I don't know who had reported that incident to the police. I hadn't made the complaint or told anyone. Maybe it was another member of staff, or maybe one of the other boys had told their parents who made a complaint.
103. The police took us into a studio type place and told us to take our trousers down, and took professional photographs of the injuries on our behinds. They took us back to the secure unit afterwards.
104. The next day, I was taken into SNR [REDACTED] office. [REDACTED] Mr HCK [REDACTED] Mr Larson, who was SNR [REDACTED]. Mr HCK had been relieved of his duties because of what he had done to the three of us.
105. Mr Larson apologised for what Mr HCK had done. He said that I must feel strange being in a strange place. He must have seen my records and saw that I was the only person there from Glasgow. He said that he could guarantee that nothing like that would happen to me again and that he would be looking out for me.
106. Every day I sat in the common room after that, for the next fourteen weeks or so, Mr Larson would come in and ask me if I was ok. I appreciated his concern. I always think

of him and how grateful I was for him to take notice of how I must have been feeling. He was the perfect kind of person to be working in a care institution because he cared for the children.

107. I never told anybody about Mr [LWI] slapping me really hard for minor things. I didn't even tell Mr Larson and I think that was out of fear because Mr [LWI] had a threatening manner.
108. Mr [LWI] never hit me again once Mr Larson [REDACTED] anyway. I think the regime changed in a way because I never saw anything bad happen after that. Mr Larson made his mark on that place in a good way.

### **Leaving Howdenhall**

109. A lot of boys came and went while I was in Howdenhall. They didn't hold people for long. At one stage, I had been in there the longest out of all the boys there.
110. Mr Larson came and told me when it was time for me to leave so I knew I was going. I was taken from Howdenhall by a social worker to St Joseph's in Tranent on [REDACTED] 1970.

### **St Joseph's Approved School, Tranent**

111. I arrived at St Joseph's on [REDACTED] 1970, when I was still thirteen years old. It was a religious order ran by the De La Salle Brothers.
112. It had a big, dirty grey, sandstone main building which had big pillars outside it. It had a daunting look when you first arrived there as a child. It instilled a sense of fear in you, and you felt in your bones that something wasn't right about the place and that bad things would happen in there.

113. Inside the main building, there was a big dining hall and an assembly hall, which was where the table tennis table, pool table and tuck shop was. It also led to the gymnasium.
114. There were winding corridors all over the place. The dormitories were also in the main building. There were north and south cottages in the grounds, that you could progress to if you were a good boy when you were older and nearing the end of your time there. There were massive, beautiful gardens. The establishment had everything going for it.
115. It was a school for boys and there was a mixture of boys in there from all over Scotland. We were all divided into four houses, called De La Salle, St Ninian's, St Andrew's and St Columba's. I was in De La Salle.
116. There were about 25 boys in each house and you would line up in your houses for assembly. There would be about four lines of boys for each house. You were given a number, which was what your position was in the line-up. I was number [REDACTED] in De La Salle House so I was [REDACTED]. You always sat in your own spot during line ups.
117. The dormitories all had names. I was in the wet the bed dorm, which was called the Killiecrankie, after the Killiecrankie river, as some sort of joke. It had ten beds in it and three massive windows. I was in that dorm for the entire time I was there. I can't remember the names of the other dormitories.
118. The mattresses in my dorm had some sort of plastic on them to protect from the bed wetting. The other dorms had different beds from us.
119. You were in dormitories with boys about the same age as you. There would just be a few months between us.
120. When I first arrived, I was taken aback by the fact that it was an open establishment with no doors being locked like in a secure unit. You were free to run around. It was like being in primary school again, but there were rules.



### *Staff*

121. The **SNR** was Brother **MDC**, who was a very strict but fair man. He demanded his authority.
122. Each house had a housemaster. De La Salle had Mr **GVV**, who was a tailor to trade. St Ninian's had Brother **MJF**. St Andrew's had Mr **MJL** and St Columba's had Mr **GVV**.
123. The other Brothers were Brothers **HED**, **zMBZ**, **MJF**, **MJJ**, **LUU**. There was a Brother **zGTQ** who was much older and was looked after by the brotherhood. He was kept away in a hidden chamber in one of the towers and you never saw him.
124. The school teachers were lay staff. Mrs Reynolds was a class teacher and also taught music. There was also a Mr **MJN**. Mr **MJK** took the metal work class and Mr **GVX** took woodwork.
125. Brother **GVV**, the housemaster of St Columba's, also took some classes as well as teaching sport. There was a matron whose name I can't remember and she dealt with all the laundry. There was also a dental matron. There was a male gardener called Mr **MJM** who taught badminton.

### *Daily Routine*

126. You got up in morning, got washed and dressed. We wore a uniform which included different coloured tops for different houses. De la Salle was yellow, St Columba's was green, St Andrew's was blue and St Ninian's was red. We wore corduroy shorts, with soft shoes and socks, and my house wore yellow t-shirts.
127. Every morning, Brother **MDC** would come into the yard and clap his hands. When he did that, all the boys assembled into their assembly lines in accordance with their house and house number.

128. There were about three or four of these line ups every day. I suppose it was to do a headcount and make sure nobody was missing.
129. We had school and three meals a day. The food was good in there. We also got some money from the school for the tuck shop.
130. You would get about an hour or so to play outside before going back to classes in the evening. Some evenings we could just play table tennis, and boys would gamble their tuck money playing table tennis. It was just for fun, and wasn't a serious thing.
131. It was the De La Salle Brothers who looked after us at night. There were never any lay staff looking after us at night. Brother HED, who we called Brother HED, was night staff constantly.

#### *Schooling*

132. You had educational classes where you learned English, maths, history, geography and normal school stuff. Miss Reynolds was a great class teacher. She taught educational classes, as well as music. She helped me in St Joseph's. She took me under her wing because she saw me making a big effort with my singing in music class and also in my educational classes. She made recommendations to the brothers on my behalf and helped me get home leave.
133. We also had practical classes where we learned woodwork and metalwork.

#### *Religious instruction*

134. There was a chapel in the grounds and it had its own priest. We had to go every Sunday, and also whenever there was a festive occasion like Easter and Christmas.

*Trips and visits*

135. The school had an old coach, which they took boys out in. It was an old, antique, single decker. It released the fumes in the bus so I would be sick every single time I was in it.
136. The school used that bus to take us to Port Seton. I remember doing a charity walk from Port Seton, around North Berwick and back. It was about fourteen miles. It was quite good.
137. There was an outdoor pool at Port Seton that we were taken to. It was full of beetles and cockroaches. It was manky but we still all swam in it. Port Seton Swimming Pool shut down and then we were taken to Commonwealth Swimming Pool, which was brand new then.
138. They also took us to Berwick upon Tweed for days out and we could go out in the sea and have a swim about. That was memorable.
139. I never got any visits at all while I was at St Joseph's. Not from any social workers or family. I got home leave on a few occasions. I would get to go home for the weekend, every month or so.
140. The school bus used to drop off boys who were from the west. We would get driven to Buchanan Bus Station in Glasgow and we would make our own ways home from there. Then we got picked up from the same place and taken back to St Joseph's at the end of the weekend.

**Abuse in St Joseph's**

141. Brother Benedict used to run an electronics class. He would play tricks on boys in class. He had a machine that had crocodile clips, which he would connect to boys and electrocute them. He did it to me and other boys. It made him laugh. He took it as a

joke. He had a nickname, which was "Bootsie." It may have been because of the boots he wore. He was a very violent man in the way he manhandled and punched boys. There were a few members of staff who were quite violent. It was a tough regime.

142. Mr **MJN** nearly burst my ear drum one day. I was on the bus with other boys ready to go to a day trip to Port Seton and we were all excited and making noise. Mr **MJN** couldn't handle it so he went down the bus smacking all the boys over the head. He caught me on the ear, and my ear was sore for months afterwards. He must have perforated my ear drum or something.
143. Brother **ZMBZ** punched me a few times. Brother **LUU** was a fruitcake. If he saw you doing anything minor, like jostling or being a nuisance, he would grab you by the hair at the side of your head and lift you off the ground. You would be screaming. He would let you go and smack you on your ears with his open hands. You would be on the floor crying in agony afterwards. He did that to me several times, and also to other boys. It was one of his favourite things to do.
144. You could tell there was insanity ripping out of Brother **LUU**. He had these massive, false white teeth. There was talk that he had been transferred from St Ninian's for serious assault on a juvenile there, where he had smashed the boys head with a snooker ball and inflicted serious injury on him.
145. If any fights broke out between the boys, you would end up in Brother **MDC**'s office and he would leather you with the strap on your hands or over your legs. That happened to me a few times. He never sat you down or talked to you.

#### *Sexual abuse*

146. We wore the 'Willie Winkie' night gowns in the Killiecrankie dormitory.
147. Brother **HED** who always took the night shift, would come round at night and touch you under the covers to see if you were wet. He would touch my private parts when

he did this. It was the same every night, as if he was using the bed wetting as an excuse to touch me.

148. If my bed was wet, he would get me up and change the sheets. He would take me to have a shower in the middle of the night. He would watch me as I showered, naked.
149. He would then walk me back from the shower and would touch me then as well. I don't know if he did this to other boys. If he did, it was probably when I was asleep.
150. Brother MJJ was in charge of all the records and worked in an office on the ground level. His office door opened up into the playground. He was a touchy feely type of brother.
151. He would sometimes appear at the door with a file under his arm and shout on a boy to come into his office. He did that to me a few times. Once I was in his office, Brother MJJ would sit me on his knee and sexually touch me, and he made me do the same to him. He would have an erection as he made me do this.
152. Looking back, it is easy to see what he was up to. He would make out like he wanted to ask boys questions for the records. There were filing cabinets full of records in his office. I saw him take other boys into his office too.
153. Brothers zMBZ, MJF and Benedict also had reputations for being touchy feely with the boys, but they never did anything to me.

#### *Running away*

154. If a boy ran away, and was only just out of the boundaries, the brothers would send the prefects to go and find him. If he had been away longer or prefects couldn't find him, they would call the police.
155. I escaped two or three times but I was only every away for a few hours before I would be caught by the police and taken back.

156. One time I got away from the Killiecrankie dorm by climbing out the window and down the drainpipe. I got as far as Edinburgh before I was caught by police at Edinburgh Bus Station trying to get on a bus to Glasgow. They took me back to St Joseph's.
157. The police never asked why I was running away and so you never said. There was a fear instilled in you that if you spoke out, worse things could happen to you. The punishment for running away was getting the strap by Brother MDC when you got back to school. That happened to me.
158. There were painted circles in the playground that you were made to stand in if you were deemed an escapologist, as I was. The brothers would make you stand in the circle the whole time all the other boys were outside, playing. That would go on for days, every time you were outside.

*Peer abuse*

159. There was a big basket in the playground that had about eight footballs in it. The prefect for St Columba's house, who was quite a big boy, was in charge of the basket of footballs.
160. All the boys ran to get a football when it was time to play. The older prefects would grab the hands of the younger boys and rub it on their private parts. All the prefects did this. It would cause fights and arguments.
161. One of the prefects was called [REDACTED], who was the prefect for De La Salle house. Other ones I remember had the surnames [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
162. The staff knew about it because I looked up once and saw Brother MDC watching from a window as the prefects were doing this to the younger boys, but he did nothing. Other brothers would see it happening too because they would be in the yard watching this going on.

163. Prefects were nominated by the housemasters and they were chosen for their height, physique and bullying tactics. The prefects were bullying animals. They would bully the younger boys and make them perform sexual acts on them. They would do this on days out, when they were out of sight of the brothers and teachers.
164. Two prefect boys threatened me with violence and made me perform sexual acts on them. Sometimes they would be violent before making me perform sexual acts on them. They did this separately and not in front of each other. [REDACTED], the prefect for De La Salle house, was one of my abusers. He did this to me nearly every day of my term at St Joseph's. He is dead now.
165. This was happening to lots of other boys too and it was common knowledge. The only time I would be free from these predators was when they were chasing and threatening another boy, or if I ran away.
166. A few of the younger boys who were being abused ran away from the home to escape the abuse. The brothers would give prefects the authority to go and look for the younger boys and bring them back. When the prefects found any runaway, they would bully them and make them do sexual things before bringing them back. This happened to me and I heard about this from other boys too.
167. I think the brothers knew what was happening and what the prefects were doing. They let it go on and used the prefects as a way of policing the place. It was as if they knew the prefects would break the spirit of the boys so that the brothers could also do what they wanted to with them as well.
168. The brothers there were bad people, except Brother [MDC] who didn't do anything sexual and was strict but fair. I think he married a woman in [REDACTED] and left the brotherhood.
169. I was in St Joseph's for about a year. I was released in [REDACTED] 1971, just before I was fourteen years old.

### **Larchgrove Remand Home – third time**

170. I was out of care and free for a few months before I got caught by the police for doing something again. The next morning, I appeared before Glasgow Sheriff Summary Juvenile Court. That was in [REDACTED] of 1971. The court sent me to Larchgrove again, until social work reports were ordered.
171. The social work department on Hyndland Street were involved in preparing social work reports for me. I can't remember the name of the male social worker, but he recommended to the court that I go to residential training for one to two years.
172. I appeared at court again on [REDACTED] 1971. I was sentenced to go to St John's Residential Training School. It was known by everybody as an approved school but the authorities had just newly renamed it to a residential school.
173. I was sent back to Larchgrove until a place became available at St John's, which was just next door. This was the third time I was in Larchgrove. The staff were all the same as the first two times I was in there.
174. I was older than the last two times, so I was put in the work parties instead of being in class. I managed to get myself onto the garden party with the sole purpose of being outside so I could run away.
175. I was in a place now where I knew what to expect and so being in custody didn't bother me. I had developed that sense of false bravado that a lot of boys in care had.

### **Abuse at Larchgrove**

176. Mr [REDACTED] tried to sexually touch me again during my time there. I ended up running away because of it. I was caught by the police and brought back the next day. The police didn't ask me why I had ran away.



177. I was given the strap by Mr LQT when I was returned, as a punishment for running away. He never asked me why I had ran away either.
178. I was in Larchgrove for about eight to ten weeks before I went to St John's.

### **St John's Residential School, Glasgow**

179. I went into St John's, which was on Edinburgh Road in Glasgow, in 1971, when I was fourteen years old.
180. It was a place that had been run by De La Salle in the past, and Brother MDC from St Joseph's had worked there in the past, before I got there.
181. It was ran by civilians when I was there, but it was the same staff who had worked there when the religious brothers had ran the place, so it still had the same feel about it, and felt the same as St Joseph's had.
182. It was the same kind of big building as St Joseph's and boys were divided up into houses. I was in Ogilvie House. The routine was exactly the same as well. I knew some faces in there from St Joseph's including one of the prefects. It just felt like everything was happening on repeat.
183. I wasn't ill-treated in St John's but I think seeing the prefect from St Joseph's had a psychological impact on me because of how bad the prefects had been. He didn't bother me in St John's though.

### *Visits and family contact*

184. I had no visits from social workers or anybody official. The only visit I had was when my brothers visited me to tell me that my mother had died.

185. My mother died on [REDACTED] 1972. That news tore me apart. I went totally off the rails and started to run away a lot.

*Running away*

186. One of the times I ran away was in about April 1972, when I was fifteen, with a boy called [REDACTED] who was of Polish origin. He and I were good pals in St John's. We got as far as Dundee. [REDACTED] was caught before me but I was on the run for a few weeks and staying with a girl I knew, at her house.
187. The police caught me in Dundee in [REDACTED]. I was taken to Dundee Sheriff Court and appeared before Sheriff Graham Cox. He ordered social work and borstal reports for me, and remanded me in Perth Prison for a few weeks until the reports were ready. He knew that by the time I reappeared in court again, I would have turned sixteen and he could send me to a borstal.

**Perth Prison, Perth**

188. Perth Prison was a very new experience for me because I was locked up with all these adult prisoners who were in there for all kinds of things. I felt like a kid amongst all these adults. It was a real eye opener. You would think if bad things were to happen to me as a child, it would be there, but nothing bad happened to me in Perth Prison.
189. I appeared at Dundee Sheriff Court six days after my sixteenth birthday. The court had a report from St John's saying they didn't want me back because I was unruly and kept running away. The social work report tried to fight my corner, and said that my mum had just died and that was why I was a bit off the rails, but Sheriff Cox still sent me to borstal. I was never officially released from St John's. It was just a continued sentence.

### **Polmont Young Offenders Unit, Polmont**

190. Polmont was called a young offenders unit, but it was really a borstal. It was an eye opener. I did a full year in there. It was ran like a military operation with short, sharp treatment by the prison officers who were Scottish Prison Service staff in civilian clothing.
191. You were put into an allocation centre for the first eight weeks in there, which was strict. Then you were put into one of the three wings for the rest of your time, which was more relaxed.
192. There was a principal officer and a senior officer. There were gallery officers who looked after the boys in the wings.
193. The principal officer was a man called Mr <sup>GIL</sup> [REDACTED]. He was very regimental and was dressed immaculately in a different suit every day. He was tall with a moustache and called everybody "child." He laid down the laws in there and demanded your attention.

#### *First day*

194. On my first day in reception, one of the prison officers lined me and several other sixteen year old boys in a line. He walked up and down the line, shouting the rules and regulations of the place to us. He was the sergeant major and wanted your complete attention.
195. He walked up and down the line and just punched boys at will and knocked them to the deck. He did that to me and to others while shouting at us that this was how we would be treated if we didn't do as we were told. I don't remember his name because I never saw him again after that.
196. We were then escorted into the allocation centre, where you spent the first eight weeks. After that I went to the south wing for ten months.

*The allocation centre*

197. We were taught how to march on parade and stand to attention. They gave us a black battle dress suits to wear, which were called "BDs" in short, and also black shoes to wear. We had to keep them immaculately clean by ironing our clothes and polishing our shoes until you could see your face in them.
198. We had to make our beds in the morning as a bed block, with all the sheets taken off and folded as perfect squares. Our pyjamas had to be folded as squares too. Everything in our cell had to be immaculate. We had to keep it clean and dust it.
199. There would be a governor's inspection every Saturday. He would run his finger on any ledge or surface he wanted to make sure it was dust free. If he found any dust, he would leave it to the gallery officer, who was in charge of the cells, to do whatever he wanted to you.
200. The gallery officer could punish you by making you stay locked up in your cell and not letting you have any recreation time, or making you scrub toilets as punishment. It was a very highly secured unit so there was no running away from there.

*South wing*

201. There was an assistant governor in the south wing who took a shine to me and took me under his wing a little bit. He would speak to me and try to get me to behave properly.
202. I started smoking around that time. We were given tobacco to make up our roll ups, and that was the currency in there. There were boys who used to sell cigarettes on the black market and they were nicknamed the "tobacco [REDACTED]." When Mr GIL [REDACTED], the principal officer, had everyone's attention at assembly in the morning, he would say that there was only one GIL [REDACTED] in there and it was him.

203. There were no drugs in Polmont when I was there in 1972. There wasn't a demand for it at that time.

*Work in Polmont*

204. I got a job as a pass man, which meant I helped out the prison officers in their offices by cleaning or making them coffee, like a trustee job. I also got free coffee so that was good.
205. I was also in a joiner's shop in Polmont ran by a proper joiner. They used to take on contracts from outside companies, like Carrick Furniture, who sold wardrobes and cupboards.
206. Polmont would take the contract and the joiner would set up a production line for the boys to work on to help make these things. It wasn't like an apprenticeship, but more like an assembly line that we worked on. It still gave us some kind of training.

**Abuse in Polmont**

207. You were beaten up for the smallest little thing during the first eight weeks in the allocation centre.
208. I took my BDs down to iron one day and one of the officers, Mr HDP [REDACTED], knew it wasn't my turn to iron my clothes so he started to beat me up saying it wasn't my turn to do that.
209. I was unaware that there were specific times for you to iron your BDs. He didn't even give me a chance to explain myself. He just did what he wanted to me and was totally violent towards me and I couldn't do anything about it.

210. When you left the allocation centre and went to a more relaxed parts in the wings, you could appreciate what was happening in the allocation centre. They were teaching you discipline that they thought you maybe needed.
211. I could see that I needed the discipline that the allocation centre taught, but not the abuse. There were punishments that the gallery officer could impose in the wings, like making you scrub toilets or keeping you locked up. They would also hit you for little things.
212. I left Polmont in [REDACTED] 1973, just before I was seventeen years old.

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

213. I went home after I left Polmont and lived with my dad who was brilliant.
214. I was chasing girls and trying to establish myself as a poser. I also got a job with [REDACTED], in their creamery, as a fork lift driver. I was trying to stay out of trouble and prove to my family that I was trying.
215. My dad died not long after, in 1974, when I was about 18 years old.
216. I got caught for road traffic offences, and was then tried as a young offender. I was put in Barlinnie Young Offenders Institution for three months at a time.
217. The guy at [REDACTED] creamery always took me back on my job. He was good to me because one of my older sister worked for them, and would put a good word in for me.
218. I was staying with family, staying a few months with one relative or another. I was having a difficult time with my identity and where I belonged. I was also blaming myself for my parents dying because of everything I put them through. I carried this guilt about with me for years.

219. My life was a bit haywire. I started breaking into places, always commercial premises. I appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court after breaking into a sports shop when I was about eighteen years old. My solicitor asked for bail for me and Sheriff Irvine Smith laughed at him and me. He remanded me for five weeks, until my sentence.
220. I went back down to the court cells waiting to be taken away. I spoke to another accused down there who was getting let out because someone had paid his bail. I asked him to let me go out using his name, because the turn key on duty was a trainee and didn't know who was who, and they'd still let him out when they realised they'd made a mistake. He agreed.
221. I used the other guy's details to get out and was free. It was all over the [REDACTED] the next day that I had escaped from Glasgow Sheriff Court. It was crazy. I was on the run for three months before I was caught. I was then charged with defeating the ends of justice and contempt of court and appeared in Edinburgh High Court on [REDACTED] 1976, when I was twenty years old.
222. I appeared before Lord Graves, who my solicitor had said was so lenient that people called him Santa Claus. He looked at my charges, which also included a lot of charges for breaking in to places, as well as the contempt of court and defeating ends of justice charge, and sentenced me to three years in prison.
223. I spent part of that sentence in Barlinnie Young Offenders Institute, and then in Glenochil. When I turned 21 during that sentence, I was put into the adult prison system. I was sent back to Barlinnie before being taken to Perth Prison to finish my sentence.
224. Perth Prison was where I first saw the drug scene and was first introduced to cannabis.
225. After I got out of prison, I committed another offence and ended up inside again. My family paid the £100 bail to get me out. I jumped bail that time and went to London.

226. I got involved with a unique squad of Scottish guys and girls who had put together a really high end shoplifting firm in London. That was also when I was introduced to and started using heroin.
227. I was living that life until my pal, [REDACTED] told me that I needed to get my head together. He took me to a clinic on Edgware Road and I was then referred on to a hospital.
228. I ended up in Bethlem Hospital in Beckenham, which was a psychiatric hospital that had a rehab facility attached to it. They had big tennis courts and pottery classes you could do to help you come off the drugs. It was great. They put me on a reducing programme for methadone for a month in 1982. They wanted to keep me on for six months but I left after a month.
229. I felt like I had achieved something after coming off this drug that was ruining my life.
230. I came back to Scotland. I was always in and out of adult prisons. I have no previous convictions for violence, though. I just don't have it in me to be violent.
231. I never had any proper schooling or sat exams in care, but I did when I was in prisons as an adult. I went to Angus College and done a horticultural course, and also a catering course. I got a few certificates in different things. I only took on the courses because I got out on day release from an open prison to attend them.
232. I met my partner, [REDACTED], when I was 31 years old. We had two daughters and a son. I split up with my partner because I got involved with drugs. I was taking heroin.
233. I stopped getting involved in crime about twenty years ago, and I have been off drugs for about eighteen years.
234. Around 2011 and 2012, I worked for the U.S. army in Kuwait. I drove large heavy equipment transporter trucks for them to and from the Iraqi border. They were huge, armour plated vehicles with about fifty wheels on them. We drove in large convoys. It was a great experience and I made good money.



235. I still see my kids and I now have seven grandchildren as well who I spend time with.

### **Impact**

236. I think about the abuse I suffered in care nearly every day of my life.

237. The abuse and what happened to me in care tore away my identity completely. I lost any idea of who I was and what my life was all about. I didn't know if I was coming or going, or what was right or wrong.

238. I developed a false sense of bravado with people because I was trying to hide the weakness in me.

239. I lost trust in authority and that stayed with me. I still find it difficult to trust people.

240. I never spoke about the abuse and it built up over the years. The effect of this made me soft in the heart and weak. It destroyed me and left me wide open for the life of crime and addiction to drugs because I was trying to deal with what happened.

241. I am not as confident as I could have been. I felt stronger in myself after working with the U.S. army in Kuwait because that was a big thing that I took on.

242. I never reported anything to the police or anyone. I only started speaking about the abuse in the last year. I have never had any counselling or anything about what happened to me.

243. If you could survive the strict regimes like the ones I survived in care, and still come out with a little bit of sanity then you have done well.

**Records**

- 244. I have my police records and previous convictions, which tell me the dates I was in care. I asked the police for the photographs that were taken of my injuries when I was in Howdenhall Assessment Centre, but they say they don't have them.
  
- 245. I have never seen any social work records or any paperwork from the institutions I was in. I have been in touch with Glasgow Council to get my records but they are saying they can't give me any paperwork at the moment because of Covid.

**Final thoughts**

- 246. The supervision of people who look after children should be very detailed. Their records and history should be looked at in detail so that there is no room for paedophiles to work with children and escape justice.
  
- 247. I would hate to see what happened to me happen to any other child because it is soul destroying.
  
- 248. 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..... LTR .....

Dated..... 06 May 2021 .....