

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GCU

Support person present: No.

1. My name is GCU. My date of birth is 1955. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I lived at Clydebank. My dad's name was and my mum's name was. There were also my brother who was two years younger than me, my brother who was four or five years younger, and my sister who was thirteen years younger.
3. I was sexually abused as a child, from the age of two until I was six, by my uncle. He abused about ten kids in our family. He got two years for it. He is dead now. He was caught because he had taken some photographs and sent them to be developed. Someone noticed what the photographs were showing. My brother is an alcoholic, and I put that down to what happened to him with Uncle. He started drinking from about ten or eleven years of age and never stopped.
4. I had a social worker, she had a blue Volkswagen Beetle. My mother had to take me to Notre Dame Child Guidance Centre in Athol Gardens, Hillhead, Glasgow. They thought I had ADHD, in fact, I think I still have it. Nuns ran that place, The Sisters of Notre Dame. The head nun was very severe, she had her hair scraped back in a bun, but the nuns were all lovely. It was almost like a nursery. I have happy memories of going up there. You got to make plaster of Paris models and paint them.

5. I was car daft from a very young age. We would play on building sites and in abandoned cars. When I was about seven or eight, I helped with doing a milk round and I would get a shot driving the milk float. I loved anything with an engine and I started skiving off school and helping out in a garage. I ended up doing work on cars that were getting MOT tests. I was doing that by the time I was ten. Then I learned how to open cars and started taking them for a drive, and then putting them back. I would open a few cars in the Singer sewing machine factory car park, and take the one with the most petrol. Me and my mates would go for a run down the coast. That progressed to starting trains, and taking them along the track and back. I even had my own car later on, a Jaguar, when I was at secondary school.
6. I would always be the one that was arrested, because I was the one driving the car when the police caught us. I would get battered from my dad for getting into trouble with cars. Thinking back, I feel bad about all the hassle and stress I caused my parents. My dad would have to come and get me from the police station late at night, and he would have work in the morning. You don't think about the consequences when you are young.
7. The reason I went into care was because I was caught driving a car by the police. That was when I was twelve, in 1967. There is a typing error in my previous convictions suggesting that it was in 1970. I think the first time I went up to court was for taking a car. I got remanded before I was sentenced, they usually remanded me. I remember that my dad wrote a letter to the court, saying if they would just let me get my driving license, they would never see me again. I think he was probably right.
8. I can also remember that when you got arrested by the police, they would put a list of unsolved crimes in front of you, and get you to admit to them, to get them off their books. That was in Hall Street police station and the CID had a burgundy Austin 1000, registration CSM 560C. They could be quite intimidating and I didn't get access to a solicitor.

St Ninian's List D School, Gartmore, Stirlingshire 1967 to 1970

9. I went in to St Ninian's for car offences, got released home, and then went back in for more car offences.
10. It was all boys at St Ninian's. There were about 120 and about thirty boys to each house. I was definitely there in 1967 because I remember watching the moon landing on television at St Ninian's.

Routine at St Ninian's

First day

11. St Ninian's was away out in the country, it was run by the De La Salle brothers. My social worker took me out to St Ninian's. I can remember a big long driveway, which went round in kind of a circle in front of the main building. There was a kind of sundial in the middle. I think one of the housemasters showed me around.
12. SNR [REDACTED] was Brother GSY [REDACTED]. He had the top of one of his fingers missing. I remember that because I suffered an injury in later life, and I am missing the top of the same finger.
13. You were allocated a house. There was De La Salle, which had the colour yellow, St Andrews, which was blue, St George's, which was red, and St Patrick's, which was green. For the avoidance of doubt, the whole place was run by the De La Salle Brothers, not just the house with that name. I was in De La Salle house both times I went to St Ninian's.
14. Mr IAV [REDACTED] was my housemaster, in De La Salle house. He was an ex policeman, he was a lovely big guy. He came from Aberdeenshire and he played the accordion. St Andrew's housemaster was Brother GYP [REDACTED]. St Patrick's had a civilian guy, I can't remember his name, he was a big tall guy with glasses. Mr IAU [REDACTED] was in charge of St George's house.

15. I remember the Matron, Miss Hurl or Hurley, she was a great big Irish woman. She wore a black outfit, like a raincoat but it was an overall. Like a shopkeeper would wear. She gave me a physical examination. She had a Morris 1000. I can't really remember anything else about arriving at St Ninian's.

Mornings and bedtime

16. There were dormitories in the two towers at either side of the building, which looked like turrets, and then there were other dormitories on the other side of the building. There were the big dormitories that held six to ten beds, and smaller dormitories that had approximately four beds. We were woken up in the morning by someone ringing a big bell. We were up quite early in the morning, about 7.30 or 7.45 am. There was a toilet and basin at the end of the dormitory, but the shower room was downstairs.
17. I was in St Ninian's two times in close succession. One time I was given the number [REDACTED] the other time it was [REDACTED] Your number was on your locker, on your clothes, everything you had. The staff didn't call you by your number, they called you by your name. Both times I was there, I was in the same bed, just at the bay window on the first floor.
18. Brother ^{GSU} [REDACTED] had his room on the first floor, above the main door. There was another Brother above his room, the next floor up but I can't remember who that was.
19. After activities in the evening, we got supper down the stairs. Then, we would come back to the dormitory and bedtime must have been about 8.30 pm. You had to brush your teeth, with tooth powder. I can't remember the arrangements for changing or washing our bedding.

Mealtimes/Food

20. I don't really remember mealtimes ever being that bad. The dining room was on the ground floor, the kitchens too. I can't remember if there was a specific seating arrangement. We had breakfast, lunch, dinner, and supper in there. They had plates of bread and butter on the tables, they called them Dunchies, which is a term I had never heard before, or since.
21. In the morning, there was porridge. I like porridge, but I didn't like the porridge they had there. It would make you feel sick. If you didn't eat it, you sometimes got punished, but I was always hungry. I can't remember seeing anyone else getting punished for not eating. There is nothing else that comes to mind about mealtimes.

Washing/bathing

22. I can't remember if we got a shower every day. The washroom was downstairs, but there was a toilet at the end of each dormitory. The washroom was downstairs towards the back of the building. There were loads of showerheads that they operated from outside the showers. There were no curtains or cubicles for the showers, it was all just open.
23. I can't remember what the routine was for getting a shower, but it would make sense that we went for a shower one house at a time. You would get a shower according to your class, if your class had been out in the forest or doing some activity where you got dirty.
24. When we did get a shower, Brother MCN was in charge of the shower. He had this bottle of brown stuff that he used to pour all over you, and it would sting. I don't know what that was for. If you tried to hang back from going in the shower, you got hit. He had a wee stick, like a wee cane. If you got hit with that, it was sore.

Clothing/uniform

25. Everybody wore the same, you weren't allowed to wear your own clothes. The clothes were provided by the school. It wasn't a different colour according to your house. We all wore corded trousers, kind of green or brown. You had a shirt and a jumper, slippers and boots. You had a nightshirt that you kept under your pillow.

Schooling

26. There was a separate school building, it was behind the main building. You had school every day, nine o'clock until lunchtime, and then in the afternoon until four o'clock, then you had activities. You stayed in the same classroom according to your age, boys from all the houses. You would have the same teacher all day, teaching you different things. You got a new classroom and a new teacher each year.
27. There were a lot of staff, there was Brother **GSU** the **SNR**, Brother Anthony, Brother **GYP**, Brother **MCN**, Brother Benedict, Brother **MCT** and Brother **MBZ**. I can't remember the names of all the other brothers. There were some foreign Brothers who came and visited for a month or so, but they just went away again. The civilian staff were Mr **IAV**, Mr **MCK**, Mr **GZM**, Mr McKenna, Mr Hutchison, Mr Reynolds, and Mr **IAU**.
28. Mr **MCK** took art classes, I think he was gay but he wasn't effeminate. He started the theatre. If you did anything wrong, he would lift your shorts up and smack you on the back of your thighs, and leave a handprint.
29. Mr **GZM** was the P.E. teacher and there was a proper gymnasium. Mr **GZM** had a class of his own, so I don't know how it worked that he was also the P.E. teacher.
30. Brother **MBZ** was another one, he was quite handy with his fists. He would hit you with the back of his hand, he really seemed to enjoy that. He was big and tall. He used to take us into the forest to play commandos.

31. Brother MCT was a nice guy, I don't ever remember him lifting his hands. He had red hair and a freckly forehead. Mr McKenna was a really nice guy, he was ex-army. He ran the machine shop, and he was always very safety conscious. He would smack your backside, like Mr MCK, if you were mucking about.
32. There was a place for keeping tack for horses, I can still remember the names of all the ponies. I can remember seeing their foals being born. They had a theatre, The Hayloft Theatre and we put on shows. There was a walled garden, there were plenty of educational resources at St Ninian's.
33. It wasn't all bad. I would go so far as to say, I got a pretty good education in there. It wasn't one-to-one but it was more attention than you seem to hear about in classes nowadays. Sometimes there were only ten boys in the class, so you got a lot of individual attention.
34. I wouldn't say there was a lot of badness in the teachers, they would shout at you to behave, or they would send you to the headmaster. There wasn't much capering, I can't remember any punishment in the classroom.
35. I'm not sure about the age range at St Ninian's. I don't think there were kids as young as five, but there were some younger than me and they seemed very young. There were some boys who were older than me. I can remember some of their names. There was [REDACTED] from Drumchapel, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from Clydebank, and a boy called [REDACTED] he had the locker next to mine.

Chores

36. You did have to work, we had to clean the place. I had to clean the floors with a big bumper, a heavy weight with a cloth under it. We had to clean the toilets with Vim powder. We had to feed hay to the horses, but I can't remember having to muck-out.

Leisure time

37. There was a common room for each of the four houses. I was only in the De La Salle one and the St Andrew's rooms, the other two were at the back of the building. My mum used to send me a parcel every couple of weeks with comics and stuff in it. There was a tuck shop and we got pocket money. There was a list of after school activity classes that you could put your name down for.
38. Brother Benedict ran a workshop. His real name was Brian Murphy. He repaired radios and TV's, he was great. We would bring radios from home, and he would repair them. He ran one of the activity classes after school, and I always tried to get in to his class.
39. I am aware that Brother Benedict was convicted for abusing boys, but I never saw that. He had little electric generator that came from a World War One wind up phone generator, it produced enough current to ring a bell. You would get a little tingle from it, it was just a laugh.
40. There are boys out there saying that they got burned by electric shocks from this thing, but that's not true, there's just no way. It wasn't strong enough to force your muscles to contract. I had an electric shock like that, later in life, so I know the difference. As far as I am concerned, it was never done with malice.
41. I never had any cause for concern with Brother Benedict, and you did get to learn the signs to watch out for when you were in care. He just wasn't that type of guy. If there was any carry on, he would give you a slap on the back of the head. It happened to me a couple of times, but if you've got young guys where there's electricity, you can't have any mucking about.
42. I used to help Brother GYP. He kept bees at the side of the building. He was a crabbit old bastard, he was really handy with his fists. He would sometimes hit you for no reason. He would have been in his seventies when I was there.

43. Brother Anthony was a lovely man, he had a garden at the side of the building. He must have been in his nineties when I was there. He had two hearing aids, but he would always speak to you if you went round. I used to help him in the garden. Some of the staff were really lovely.
44. Mr Reynolds was a nice young guy. He had a beard like Catweasel. I remember going up to his house when I was near to getting out. He had a wee daughter. He took me out to the Barras in Glasgow.
45. I used to love reading. I read all the Billy Bunter books in St Ninian's. They had football, proper organised games, not a mass kick-about. They had ponies that we had to look after. Mr MCK did horse riding. They took us out on trips, there wasn't much time when you were sitting twiddling your thumbs.

Religious instruction

46. It was a Catholic school, all the boys were Catholic as far as I know. There might have been some who weren't, but there were other List D Schools for non-Catholics. We did have religious study classes at school as well as going to Mass.
47. The priest would come in from outside to conduct Mass. I can't remember the name of the priest. We had our own church in the grounds of St Ninian's. We had to go to Mass every Sunday. I can't remember what other particular days we had to go as well. There is nothing that makes it stand out in my mind, no particular incidents or difficulties.
48. After Sunday Mass, they put us all out in this big exercise yard. We would muck about, and they could keep an eye on us.
49. We said Grace at every meal but I don't remember having prayers at night. I don't remember having to go to confession.

50. I can't remember ever being given any religious medal or token as a gift. I can't recall seeing any other boys with things like that either.

Trips/Holidays

51. They used to take us out to the swimming baths at Balfron, I think it was at another school. We went to Loch Katrine, where there was a paddle steamer.
52. I remember we went out to a place called Kirkoswald. We went there for a couple of weeks, we stayed in an old school. Mr IAV fell when he was playing football and broke his finger. He couldn't drive the bus back, so someone else had to come down and drive it back. We went to another place as well, out past Portobello, near Edinburgh.

Birthdays and Christmas

53. I think I was always home at Christmas. I don't remember anything about Christmas decorations or that at St Ninian's. Your birthday wasn't celebrated there. It would just be your parents who would send something for you.

Visits/Inspections/Review of Detention

54. I can't remember there being any inspections at St Ninian's. I didn't see my social worker there. I did get to see my family. My uncle would drive up at weekends with my brothers. My uncle was the only one in the family with a car. Visits with your family were unsupervised.

Healthcare

55. They did provide health care for you. If you got up in the morning and didn't feel well, you would report to Matron. She had a kind of surgery or sickbay in one of the turrets in the towers of the main building. She would give you cough medicine or whatever. I think she kept records of our treatment. I never went to her about any of the welts or

marks I got from being beaten. They didn't bring a doctor in unless you really weren't well. I don't remember going to the dentist.

Running away

56. I ran away in 1967, it was when there was a big storm. There were four of us that ran away that night, and we had to climb over fallen trees. I can't remember the names of the other boys I ran away with. My mate's mum took me in. We were always talking about running away, planning to run away to London or wherever. When I ran away, I just went back to Clydebank. I got caught but I can't remember how. I just got taken back and got belted by Brother **GSU**

Bed Wetting

57. I had a terrible problem with bed wetting until I was at least twelve or thirteen. I think it seemed to stem from the abuse by my Uncle **█**. When the staff found out, they weren't happy at all. They would tell everyone about it. When you went to brush your teeth, the staff would check the beds and if you had wet the bed, they made you carry your sheets down. All the other boys would be going down for breakfast anyway. They would call you, "pishy" and other general abuse like that.

Abuse at St Ninian's

58. There was a bit of bullying went on amongst the boys, but nothing too serious. It wasn't like gang rivalry between the houses. The son of **█** the woman who campaigned against paedophiles, was in there with me. He used to enjoy picking on me and other boys. He would punch and kick younger boys.
59. I would say it was more or less a daily occurrence that you would get verbally abused or picked on. Brother **GYP** would ridicule you all the time. He would call you a stupid boy. They would pick on somebody if they had a speech impediment or something and make a joke out of it. There was a wee guy with big ears who all the staff called Topo Gigio, which was a wee mouse cartoon character. I don't know if it was meant

to be derogatory. It was all just run of the mill, I can't remember anything nastier than that.

60. I would say that kind of verbal abuse was separate from physical abuse. One of the Brothers had a leather shoelace that he would whip you with. Brother **MCN** had a cane, like a garden cane. He would hit you on the back of the legs or the buttocks, it was sore. I think Brother Benedict had a lace too. Some of them had tawse belts, a short leather strap with a cut up the middle at one end.
61. You were always supervised wherever you were, in the showers, in the classroom, in the yard, everywhere. If there was any messing about, the staff would usually deal with it there and then by beating you. There would be no warning, no discussion.
62. If you got hit like that, you would probably have a welt on your legs or your backside. I never saw anyone with black eyes, but people like Brother **MBZ** would hit you where it wouldn't show a bruise or swelling. I didn't have to go to Matron for any such injury, I would only go to see her if I had fallen and scuffed my leg or something. I never saw any other boys having to report to Matron for any injury from being beaten.
63. I was sexually abused when I was at St Ninian's. It was someone at night. The name **GYL** sticks in my mind, but I don't know why. There were no other adults around to speak his name so you didn't get to hear it. He was quite thin-faced, with sharp features, and a prominent nose. He was going bald on top, with grey hair swept back at the sides, possibly with Brylcreem. It wasn't one of the Brothers or the teachers. I remember he wore slippers, so you couldn't really hear him approaching.
64. I remember when I gave a statement to the police, they showed me pictures of a guy, but it didn't look like the guy I remembered. The guy in the picture was heavy set, and I remember a guy with thin features. I realise I was looking at pictures of someone forty years later, but it didn't seem like the same guy. They then realised that the guy in the picture wasn't at St Ninian's when I was there.

65. This guy who abused me was on at night. He would get you up to go to the toilet, hold your nightshirt up and hold your penis. He would say, "I'll help you." He may have picked me because I had a problem with wetting the bed, but I don't think I was still doing that by the time he started this with me.
66. He picked me and some of the other smaller boys, he wouldn't pick on any of the bigger ones. He seemed to know who to pick. It was as if he knew when he could get away with it. It didn't happen every night, but this guy wasn't on every night. Sometimes it was one of the Brothers who was on at night and they would just shout for you to get up to go to the toilet.
67. At first, the guy would wake you up to go to the toilet and take you back. I was terrified. Then he would start to get into bed with you. He would lie behind you masturbating against your back. He ejaculated. Then he moved on to penetrating me with his penis. I felt something wet on my bum cheeks before he did it. I don't know if he had ejaculated or if it was some cream or something. He did that about six times. The first time I was in St Ninian's. I felt physically sick, I wanted to vomit. It was absolutely horrible. I would lie in bed, pretending to be asleep and hoping he wouldn't pick me.
68. When he came in to the room, I would pretend to be asleep. I would hear him taking other boys away, and I would hear them crying. I don't know if the other boys were asleep or just pretending when I got taken away. This was boys in other dormitories I could hear, I was the only one in my dormitory that he abused.
69. None of us spoke to one another about this abuse. It mainly happened at weekends, when some of the boys were away home. Every week, the staff kept a note of your marks in school, and if your marks were good enough, you got home leave. There were some weekends when I didn't get home because my marks weren't good enough or if I had done something wrong. I remember one time I was the only boy left in the dormitory and he came in and raped me. I can't remember the exact time scale of when this happened, I think I have tried to blank it out. I think it may just have been the first time I was in St Ninian's because I reported it to Brother **GSU** before I left the first time.

Reporting of abuse at St Ninian's

70. I worked up the courage to tell Brother **GSU** what had happened. They brought in the guy for me to apologise to him for telling lies about him. Then I was put over a chair and leathered from top to bottom with a big belt until I was bleeding. My backside was raw.
71. It made me feel terrible, having to apologise to him. After I reported it, I don't think it happened again. I don't know if that was because I had reported the matter, or if it was because I had reached puberty and he wasn't interested anymore.

Leaving St Ninian's

72. I don't have any particular memories about leaving St Ninian's, on either occasion. It's mainly one big memory I have of the place, not two separate times. I think they must have told my parents I was getting out, but I don't know for certain. I had been getting home leave anyway, so the journey home wasn't anything special either.

St Andrew's List D School, Shandon, Dunbartonshire 1971

73. I went to St Andrew's when I was fifteen or sixteen, because of more car offences. I was there for about one year. I didn't break into garages to get cars, I would just take them off the street. I don't remember anyone saying why I was going to a different List D school, rather than just back to St Ninian's. It was a real culture shock, it was a different regime there, such a stark contrast to St Ninian's. It was not run by the De La Salle Brothers. I think it was run by the council. The staff were all friendly, it was lovely. I didn't suffer any form of abuse at St Andrews.

Routine at St Andrew's

First day

74. The Faslane peace-camp was right outside the front gates of the school. St Andrew's was a big massive house. It was a listed building, although it is all dilapidated now. They took you round and showed you things. There were various other buildings beside or behind the main building. There were a lot of outbuildings.
75. St Andrew's was separated into different units, different buildings. Shandon house was the main house. It had the offices and things in it, it was like a wee castle. Douglas House was the one I was in, and Fruin House was the third one. There were about fifteen to twenty boys in each house.
76. Mr McDermott was the headmaster, Mr Farrell was the assistant headmaster. Mr McKellar was third in charge, he was a really nice guy. He used to be a teacher at a private school in Helensburgh. Mr McKellar was into cars, so I was straight in there.
77. Mr Collins was my housemaster, he was a lovely wee guy with dark hair. His nickname was Bounce, for some reason. He had a child who died of Leukaemia when I was there.
78. The staff were all great, they would welcome you into their houses. They were quite happy for you to mix with their families. It gave you a totally different outlook on life.

Mornings and bedtime

79. Douglas House was its own separate building. The rooms had about four beds in them, it was like a house. Mr Collins had his own house at the end of the building, all of his family stayed there.

Mealtimes/Food

80. Everything was really good.

Washing/bathing

81. There was a bathroom up the stairs in Douglas House. You went for an individual bath or a shower. It wasn't supervised.

Clothing/uniform

82. I think there was a uniform of some sorts, but just denim jeans and normal clothes. It didn't mark you out as a convict.

School

83. The education was really good in there. You were in classes of about ten boys, so you got a lot of individual attention.

Religious instruction

84. We went down to Gairlochhead for Mass on Sunday. We said Grace at every meal. I think all the boys in St Andrew's were Catholic, but not all the staff were. I remember that Mr McKellar wasn't Catholic. I wasn't given any religious medals or tokens at St Andrew's.

Chores

85. You still had to keep the place clean. I think they had big bumpers up in Shandon House but not where I was. I can't remember what the floors were like in Douglas House.

Leisure time

86. We used to go swimming up at the navy base. We would walk in the front gate with our towels, just wave at the sentry, and use their swimming pool. It is totally different now, with the razor wire and everything.
87. There was always stuff going on. We did triathlons in there, stuff like that. I got a medal for swimming. We put on shows, we did South Pacific. I had a portable record player that I took up there, it was massive.
88. They brought folk in from the youth club in Clydebank and had a disco in the main building. It was good, it seemed age-appropriate for us, as I was getting a bit older.

Trips/Holidays

89. They had two minibuses, and would take us out on trips. They had a boat with a petrol-paraffin motor. You would start it on petrol, and then transfer over to the cheaper paraffin fuel. We would go hikes up Glen Douglas, all sorts of things. It gave you an insight into things that you probably wouldn't get anywhere else.
90. The headmaster would take us in to Helensburgh for fish and chips. We went to Gairlochhead. We went all over the place, they were really good like that.

Birthdays and Christmas

91. Christmas was great, they had a big massive Christmas tree in the front hall. I can't remember anything about birthdays.

Visits

92. They had a social worker on site at St Andrew's, wee Joe Brown. He would do all the family liaison. My family did come to see me at St Andrew's, completely unrestricted,

you could go wherever you wanted. You could write letters home. I didn't phone home much. I remember phoning my mum from the phone box and reversing the charges.

Healthcare

93. There was never a problem with healthcare. If you weren't well, they would bring somebody in and get you checked over. You got regular check-ups. I don't remember anything about a dentist.

Running away

94. I did run away from St Andrew's. I went along the railway track that leads up to Oban, in the dark. I walked all the way back to Clydebank, about 25 miles. I don't know why I did it. Then I went away down to London, I hitch-hiked. I stayed with my gran. I also stayed with my aunty, the younger sister of my uncle [REDACTED]. I got a job down there working in a market, helping a guy on a stall. I was there for a couple of months. I think my mum ended up telling the police where I was, and they came and got me, then took me to the airport. Joe Brown had to fly down, to take me back up on a plane. I did get in to trouble for that, but I wasn't belted or anything.

Bed Wetting

95. I was no longer wetting the bed at St Andrew's. I can't remember when I stopped, or how. I don't know how they dealt with that but there wasn't any walk of shame or anything.

Abuse at St Andrew's

96. I didn't suffer any form of abuse at St Andrew's. There was no animosity with anyone. I never saw anyone else being abused in any way. For discipline, I think you just lost privileges. I was better behaved in there. You learned that it was easier to live by the rules, and plus the staff were really nice. Compared to St Ninian's, it was like a holiday camp.

Polmont Borstal 1971

97. I went to Polmont on [REDACTED] 1971. It was for more car offences. It was an absolute nightmare, in the sense that it was a strict regime. There wasn't any abuse though. I was only there about a month, then I got shifted from Polmont to Corntonvale.

Routine at Polmont Borstal*First day*

98. They brought you in to the main building, they put you in these wee cells until you were allocated where you were going to. I remember Slade was playing on the radio. I ended up going to E Hall. A member of staff told you the rules and regulations.

Mornings and bedtime

99. The morning routine was horrendous. We got up about five o'clock, with someone banging on the metal door of your cell, and shouting at you to get up. Then we were straight out of our beds and went out for a five mile run, first thing. It was strenuous. We got back and went for our breakfast, but you couldn't really face the porridge after that run.

Clothing/uniform

100. It was a striped shirt you had to wear. You got a red and white striped shirt, and then after a while it changed to blue and white. I don't know why it changed.

Chores

101. We did have to clean up. We had to clean our cells, make our beds.

Inspections

102. There were inspections of your cell by the staff. They would check your bed, and if it wasn't made right, they would chuck it all on the floor and make you do it again.

Healthcare

103. They were quite good in Polmont, there was no problem if you had to report sick.

Abuse at Polmont

104. I didn't suffer any abuse at Polmont, and I didn't see anyone else suffer any abuse. You didn't misbehave, you wouldn't dream of telling them you weren't going for your morning run, you would have just got the look, the staff staring at you. The thought wouldn't enter your head to say no.

Corntonvale Borstal

105. They asked for volunteers to go to Corntonvale, to work. They wanted labourers to help build the women's prison, so I volunteered.

Routine at Corntonvale*First day*

106. There isn't much I remember about arriving at Corntonvale. It was an old building, next to where they were building the women's prison.

Mornings and bedtime

107. We had a big dormitory at Corntonvale, rather than individual cells. We didn't go out for a run first thing, they wanted you out grafting on the site. You had breakfast, and then you got your gear on and went out to work.

Mealtimes/Food

108. The food was really good in there, there was plenty of grub. I can remember the first time I had a sandwich with grated cheese and jam on it was in Corntonvale. It was great.

Washing/bathing

109. You could get a shower every day, you just decided when you wanted to go.

Chores

110. When I was transferred to Corntonvale, it was because they were building the women's prison there. I had the best job in the place, I was in charge of the tractors, cement mixers and dumper trucks. I was in my element but then my dad said to the staff, when he was visiting, that it seemed daft that I was in for driving offences and they had me driving diggers. He thought they were encouraging me. After that I got moved to a job sewing underwear.
111. I had to do cleaning too, but I got to clean the TV room during the day so I could watch it while I was cleaning.

Leisure time

112. There was the TV room, but I spent my spare time helping a guy to restore classic motor bikes, it was great. He stayed just a stone's throw from Corntonvale. I was doing things like chrome-plating petrol tanks for his bikes. I was trusted just to go over to his garage and come back on my own.

Inspections

113. There were inspections. You would see people coming in and having a look about. They would ask you how things were. I can remember seeing more of that type of inspection at Corntonvale, compared with the places I had been in previously.

Running away

114. I didn't try to escape from Corntonvale. You were out on a building site all day, you could have walked away at any time, if you had wanted.

Abuse at Corntonvale

115. You got fights all the time at Corntonvale. I don't know how they reprimanded folk for that. They probably stopped their visits, or stopped them going to the TV room.

Life after being in care

116. I can't remember how long I was at Corntonvale, but after I got home, I just started with car offences again. I ended up on remand in Barlinnie prison. I swore I would never end up in the convicted hall. It was a real eye-opener, seeing people getting thrown over the railing on the top floor. That's why they put nets up across the open space, to catch people. I saw people having boiling water thrown over them. I never went back to jail again after that.
117. After I was in jail, I was still driving without a license or while banned. I did get caught a couple of times, but I got involved with a couple of mates who had garages and started working on cars. I started doing MOT's again. I got my driving license and all the other types of license categories, such as HGV, diggers, and crane lift grabs.
118. I got a friend of mine who owned a garage to give me a reference to help me get work. I worked for various car manufacturers, both in the UK and abroad. Working in one place helped me get the job in the next place, and so on. I worked for Honda, Peugeot,

Bentley, Jaguar, and Landrover. When I worked for Peugeot in France, they changed the rules for the job, so I left and spent three weeks in Monte Carlo before coming home. I've had a good life.

119. I still work as a driver, driving buses and taxis. I started a classic car club, and I have a number of old cars, which I am in the process of restoring.

Reporting of abuse

120. I never told my parents about the abuse I suffered in care. After what happened to me with my uncle [REDACTED] abusing me at home, I couldn't burden them with that. That's why I waited until they had died before I made any report.
121. I made a report to the police in 2001 or 2002. Other than that, I had never reported it at all, apart from mentioning it to Brother [REDACTED] GSU
122. I contacted solicitors about seeking compensation. Initially, it was Cameron Fyffe, but then he got struck off and it got passed to another firm. They said that because I couldn't name the night watchman at St Ninian's who raped me, I couldn't get compensation, so I just left it.

Impact

123. I would say my time at St Ninian's in particular has had a big impact on my life. Apart from St Ninian's, my time in custody wasn't too bad. Fair enough, you lost your liberty, but apart from that, it wasn't too bad. I would say I got a better education in custody than I would have got at liberty.
124. Not all of the staff were bad, I really want to get that point across.
125. The sexual abuse I suffered at St Ninian's did affect my relationships. I think it was a lot to do with the breakdown of both my marriages. I felt uncomfortable about sex. I have a lot of hang-ups. My third long term relationship ended recently.

Records

126. I did previously try to obtain my records, through Cameron Fyffe, the solicitor, when I was trying to claim compensation. However I was told they were lost or just couldn't be found.

Hopes for the Inquiry

127. I hope that this Inquiry will change things, but I don't think you can completely eradicate these problems.
128. I hope that what happened to me doesn't happen to anyone else. I was in List D schools for committing offences, but I have often thought about young children who were in care because their parents couldn't look after them. It is even worse to think about children in that situation being abused. At least the types of school run by the De La Salle Brothers are closed now.
129. I don't know if more vetting procedures would help, but people committing abuse are already getting past current vetting procedures. I think that's something that needs to be looked at.
130. I think there should be some kind of opportunity for kids in care to speak to someone, the way I am speaking to Inquiry staff. I think it would make them feel better, if there was anything they wanted to discuss.
131. I think it's wrong that paedophiles that are caught getting involved with children just seem to be getting let off with it at court. They are still in the community, there doesn't seem to be enough punishment. I don't think the police are getting the proper back-up to monitor them.

WIT.001.002.4956

Other information

132. 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.

GCU


Signed.....

Dated 29/3/2019.....

WIT.001.002.4956