

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GTY

Support person present: No

1. My name is GTY but a lot of people called me GTY, GTY or GTY. My date of birth is 1948. I was born just outside Glasgow. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I never got on great with my mum but was there with her in the house when she died. My dad was a mad drinker which was common in these days. It was set in stone, where I come from, that your father's a drunkard. He was a great worker who built fireplaces, in fact a bricklayer who was a fireplace specialist. I had brothers and sisters who all ended up in approved school except one. was a year younger than me, and and it was like a domino effect one year after the other.
3. I lived in the East End of Glasgow in Dalmarnock and Bridgeton where all the factories were and where the Commonwealth Village is now. I used to play on the railway that was adjacent to Celtic Park. I lived near there and there used to be air raid shelters, lines of deactivated bombs and that was my playground. That's my jungle and the school I went to was on that area. Around there it was all paramilitary activities and has been since the 1920's. That was the kind of environment I was growing up in.

4. When I look back on it I only remember the good times because they're the times that make you happy. I think we tend to black out the sad times as you don't want to remember them. It was factories all around us and it was the ghetto but we were quite proud of it.

Larchgrove Detention Centre, Glasgow

5. In about 1958 I went to Larchgrove, everybody did. I think I got fourteen days at that time. I'd be ten or coming on eleven years old when I went in because it was always near the end of the year that got put in these places. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
6. I got sent there for some skulduggery. I was only young and can't remember exactly what it was. It was only fourteen days so it couldn't have been something bad unless it was age that stopped a bigger sentence. It would be something stupid with my best pal [REDACTED]. He was my best friend all my life until he died two years ago.
7. I don't remember all the teachers but I do remember [REDACTED] SNR Mr [REDACTED] LRL, he used to stay next door to my Granny in Springboig. Another one was [REDACTED] GVB [REDACTED] GVB who was gay at the time but I don't and never heard any scandal about him. He later went to The Kibble which is in Paisley.
8. There were boys from age ten to eighteen. I remember we slept in dormitories. I guess there was about sixty boys spread over three dormitories. We weren't divided into dormitories by age or anything it was all mixed aged boys. There were also girls there, who were separated from us and had their own dormitory. You could talk to them out the window but at that time you didn't want to talk to girls, you weren't interested.
9. You were only interested in fags. I smoked then, it was a status thing, you saw all the cowboys doing it. You think then that it is a manly thing but you know now that it's not and I'm suffering through it. It was my own abuse so it's my own fault. They used to

give out fags in Larchgrove but they wouldn't give them to us. I think it was to those over a certain age.

10. Larchgrove wasn't like the approved schools. In my opinion, I thought the staff were a bit sterner. Maybe it was because there were boys coming in and out all the time. Maybe the approved schools got to know you better but the turnover there was always fast and furious with all different people coming in every day for various things. It would be token sentences of fourteen or twenty eight days or maybe three months.
11. What I remember particularly about Larchgrove is that they used to sit you down in a little square and they used to give you little tins of Gibbs toothpaste. It was solid.
12. I have no recollection of there being a gym but I do remember we used to go out and exercise and over the wall was Edinburgh Road. I remember the art classes making plaster things like windmills and Noddy and things like that.
13. Social work wasn't really big at that time, it was more probation officers but I don't remember any visits from them.
14. Larchgrove was quite a tough place at the time. It was bigger boys there, big lumps from different areas and you didn't know them. If you know them, then you have an affinity but if you don't know him he's danger and that's what he represents. That is what is in your mind set at the time. I think I was only four foot ten inches in height and weighed about five and a half stone so felt small. The small dog is more aggressive though. I think it is more instinctive if you are small that you have to be more aggressive in your manner.
15. The boys you met in Larchgrove would be the same boys you would meet in Longriggend several years later. The same boys you would meet in borstal, Peterhead, Barlinnie and Saughton later on.
16. I never suffered abuse at Larchgrove.

Leaving Larchgrove

17. I was only there for about fourteen days and it was more like a holiday and a status thing when you went back to school. I mean that was the way you were. That was when you developed your swagger.
18. After I left Larchgrove I went to Riverside Secondary School. I was not bad at school and I quite liked it, especially subjects that I liked. If I didn't like them I wasn't interested. I liked military history, I was always into that sort of thing and I suppose that's why I liked the regimentation in the approved school.
19. There was a period of time of about a year or so before I got sentenced to Balrossie. I mentioned before about it was always the later months when I got sent away but I figured out later when I thought about it that that was the darker months and the dark was better for criminality.

Balrossie Approved School, Kilmalcolm, Renfrewshire

20. In 1960 when I was twelve I ended up at Glasgow Sheriff Court which became like a second home. I remember you got taken up in the lift, through where all the admin people were and then into the cells. They were made of solid steel and they were terrible, horrible.
21. I can't remember exactly what I had done but I got sentenced for doing something stupid with my friend [REDACTED]. He got sentenced to Mossbank and I got sentenced to Balrossie. I was sentenced to one to three years or until I was fifteen and four months as that was the oldest you could be in there.
22. I would say it wasn't just through my behaviour but I think it was down to my dad's drinking.. The domestic situation in the house, my mum's got five kids so it must have been hard for her with my dad spending all the money on drink at the time. I was always fond of my dad though and took his side for some reason.

23. I can't remember how or who took me to Balrossie but I assume it was the Probation Department.
24. Balrossie was a big lovely yellow house in Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire and to me it was like a big Princesses Castle. It was beautiful with red and yellow bricks in the corners.
25. The boys in Balrossie were up to sixteen or seventeen years old. There were juniors, intermediates and seniors, some of them were big lumps and I felt like a dwarf. That was the way the system was. Balrossie was geared towards the juniors.
26. I was the [REDACTED] boy in Balrossie and a large proportion of the ones before me came from Mossbank Approved School on Edinburgh Road, Glasgow. There was a big scandal about abuse at Mossbank by SNR [REDACTED] MTT [REDACTED] MTT [REDACTED] but he died. My best friend was in that place and he used to tell me about it.
27. When these boys then went to Balrossie they were by then all hardened criminals. When you were young and naïve you looked up to them. Some of them from Edinburgh and Dundee were big lumps where all of them from Glasgow were deprived, small and aggressive. That was the environment you were in and you learned to stand up for yourself, you had to.
28. I associated boys with their numbers. I was always [REDACTED]. You were known by your name and your number like they do in the army. It was like conditioning, conditioned responses like ringing bells and you come to attention. Looking back you wouldn't have that knowledge at the time but on reflection fifty odd years later I think there was conditioning. Whether it was intentional or it was just the way it was and evolved, I don't know.
29. Some staff would call you by your name. You would get students coming to work in the summer whilst teachers were on holiday and they would be more friendly.

Routine at Balrossie

First day

30. I remember the first day clearly and concisely. I went to Mr **GKF** in the **SNR**. He was alright. In his office on the table that you had to lean over to get the belt he had a little skeleton that showed you all the muscles, the arteries and the veins for medical things. The other week I saw one the same and it sparked off the memories and I said to myself I wanted it so I bought it for my grand-daughter.
31. I'll never forget that when you went into Balrossie, they gave you a hairbrush, a comb, a toothbrush, wellingtons, black gym shoes, Clarke's sandals, all these things I never had. You had one of them to share with the family but then you felt sort of affluent with a suit and a coat. I'd never had that.

Mornings and bedtime

32. I think I was in dormitory 8 or 10. In the morning you would get up, get washed and showered then breakfast before going to school.
33. Every morning the bell went and you would all go and line up into your houses, Moray, Tayforth and Solway. I was in Moray and they all had colours and mine was maroon. I was the house captain at one time and I was quite proud of that. It gave you a bit of responsibility but it can go to people's heads but I liked it.

Mealtimes / Food

34. They were really good with the food. I got teacakes at night and I'm not going to complain about the food as the meals that I got were meals that I never got in Glasgow. I did hate semolina pudding with prunes though. They used to give it to you all the time and you got it every week. I used to say to them no am not eating it. I could eat the prunes but was revolted by the thought of the semolina.

35. When I didn't eat it they wouldn't give me my tea and maybe not breakfast the next morning to smarten you up but I still couldn't eat it the following week. It was the decision of whatever teacher that was on duty at meals to hold back your next meals. It was standard procedure and it was horrible for me. It ended up I became rebellious and just wouldn't have it. It was revolting and I've still never eaten it. It must be in my psyche.

School

36. We got a general education and I think the standard was better than in the public schools because they probably had more time and more attention.
37. We got PT (physical training) two or three times a week with the teacher [GJF]. I read about him two or three years ago and I was very upset about it. People called him [GJF] and he used to play golf. [REDACTED] I read that boys had complained that he used to fire golf balls at them and I knew that wasn't true.
38. When I read that I said to myself that ain't right. He was fair, he was a gymnast, he was a teacher, he was in charge and I didn't think that it was right that people could make spurious accusations about you and you can't defend yourself. He was always fair with me and I knew where I stood with him. I never remember him doing that. He wasn't the type and although I've got sympathy with him I've not got that Stockholm Syndrome.
39. I did see him practicing in the grounds but never hitting balls at the boys. I never saw any cruelty from him, maybe fair, maybe firm but never cruelty. I am a bit sorry that I couldn't help him.

Leisure time

40. They used to take us out walks. I came from Glasgow and had never seen a cow or a sheep until I was twelve. I chased and caught a pony in an adjacent field one day

thinking I was a cowboy. Mr ^{GKF} caught me red handed as he had been watching out a window. I think he had complaints from the farmer, Mr Black and I got six of the belt.

41. We used to play football, they used to take us swimming in Port Glasgow every week and I became quite proficient at it.

Trips / Holidays

42. They used to take us places to show us a different world and I saw things that I would never have seen in Glasgow. In a way I was unfortunate for being there but in another way I was fortunate for being there, depending on your outlook.
43. They took us to the India Tyre Factory in Inchinnan. We got taken around it to see how people worked and it was great. You would get your dinner and ice cream in the canteen. They would all look at you as deprived children which we were but we didn't know that. We were happy in our ignorance.
44. They took us to the Gryffe Tannery which was a horrible place. The smell was terrible and I can still smell it now. They were good to us and they used to smile and laugh at you.
45. They took us on holiday to Aberdeen and stayed in a school near Bucksburn. We went up for three or four weeks and they used to take us swimming every day at Bon Accord Baths. They took us to Twin Spires Creamery in Aberdeen again to see how it worked. I had a girlfriend up there and she used to give me gooseberries for some reason.
46. They would take you out to the town and then collect you in the grey minibus. Another one of the gardeners ^{HHK} used to drive it and he would collect us in Kilmalcolm, one of the richest towns in Scotland.

Birthdays and Christmas

47. I was in Balrossie at Christmas and they had plays and all that sort of carry on. It was a special occasion for you.
48. I don't think they celebrated anybody's birthday. I wanted things but never got them but that was just the way it was.

Visits / Inspections

49. My Probation Officer at the time was called Mr Reid but I never saw him. That never really happened then but I think it does now. I have an interest in how it has evolved and I have seen programmes on the TV about places like the MacDonald Wing (Rossie Farm) where it is more social work orientated.
50. The period I was in, it was all about keeping us under control. It was the same everywhere, even in an ordinary school.

Family Contact / Siblings

51. They would start allowing you home visits after about three months. If you were getting a home visit it would be on a Saturday and they would drop you for the bus in Clyde Street. Travelling on my own was not an issue as I was used to getting on transport and travelling myself around my area on the cars (electric trams).
52. When I went home that was when I realised what poverty was because in Balrossie it would be affluent. You had a nice wee gabardine coat, a tweed suit, nice Clarke's shoes and my mum only used these words if you were getting a real big treat. You were affluent if you had these because everybody else at that time had the black gym shoes.

53. When I went home you had to wear your Balrossie clothes but the first thing I did was take their clothes off and put denims on. If you didn't you stuck out like an Eton boy because people could tell by your affluence.
54. I suppose I felt a bit different from my brothers and sisters because I was in another world, a more affluent world. I suppose looking back you might think you were luckier than them because you got your three meals a day, your cake at night time and you never got that at home.
55. On the way back ^{HHK} would collect us in the grey van in Kilmalcolm and take you back up to Balrossie.
56. On the way back up you would pass the orphanage behind the Gryffe Tannery and I remember at the time trying to understand about orphans and them kids in there. I always used to think they were worse off than us for some reason, I don't know why. Maybe it was because they never had any parents and I always used to think there's kids who have done nothing and they are in an institution like me who had done something. I remember seeing a programme about the orphanage and how there was a graveyard there for all the people that died there. I don't remember anyone dying in the approved schools.

Healthcare

57. I don't recall seeing a doctor or a dentist at Balrossie.

Bed Wetting

58. I only ever wet the bed once and I was ever so embarrassed. Others did regularly and what you used to see in the morning was them down washing their own sheets in the sinks and then they had to take them to the drying room.

59. They never got punished for this but they got some cruel ribbing from the other boys. The boys were crueller than the staff and I include myself in that but that was the world we lived in, it was fight or flight.

Running away

60. I ran away to Port Glasgow two or three times. It would be for the adventure and it was only about an hour away but to us walking it seemed like thousands of miles. One time was near Christmas. I got caught by the police from Greenock and taken back. You would get the belt, six of the best automatically as a punishment but I think they were more just glad to see you back because you had put yourself at risk.

Discipline

61. As a punishment you would get the belt for being cheeky and I was very cheeky and bold that way. I think on reflection I was playing roles and I was being what they wanted me to be. I would be what the staff wanted me to be. If they wanted abuse they'd get it and that is the way you were brought up with the family situation. If they wanted me to be [REDACTED], I would be, or if they wanted me to be [REDACTED] I would be [REDACTED]. If they wanted me to be [REDACTED], I would be [REDACTED]. I have thought about it before and rebuked myself on it.
62. Other than the belt the other punishments would be that they would also stop your visits home. I got stopped going home at times for being very cheeky which was usually true but not always. It depended on how cheeky you were and how bad your language was. I've never changed in that respect, it just comes out.
63. I was always glad to get home and sad to go back. It's a bit dog on the chain, be good and you're getting out, be bad and you're staying in. On average I was two thirds out and one third in.
64. They would also punish you by stopping your canteen. If you didn't get your MacCowan's toffee there would be something wrong.

Abuse at Balrossie

65. In Balrossie I always felt guilty about leaning over the table to get the belt, that it was like conceding, whereas even today there would be a fight and I'd probably lose but there would still be a fight or an incident. I always thought and I used to rebuke myself saying why did I go willingly because if it was someone else going to hit me or hurt me well it would be eaksy-peaksy with you or me but then I would just go.
66. Mr ^{GKF} would give me the belt but it wouldn't be him all the time. I think it would be him as ^{SNR} and ^{SNR} who had the authority to hit you unless they relinquished the authority to somebody else. ^{SNR} was Mr ^{GKS}. I always called them Mr and I now look back thinking why did we give them credence. I think it is in the Scottish curriculum that you always have respect for doctors and teachers. I don't know if it is today but it was then.
67. I would say I got the belt in Balrossie several times. When you got the belt, you had your trousers on. They hit you with the belt or the tawse as they called it. It was usually six times but if it had three bits on it and they landed independently that would be like eighteen times.
68. I do recall not crying as you are not supposed to cry but you are dying to cry. The tears are in your eyes and the lump is in your throat but this was the way I was, you just wouldnae greet. You wouldn't cry or give in and I never did.
69. The worst incident I saw was what happened to [REDACTED] He was a family friend and my father was mates with his dad. They were both brickies together so I had an affinity with [REDACTED] and it was terrible what they did to him.
70. One day in the arts and crafts class, the teacher Mr ^{GPN} who was also a gardener gave [REDACTED] a fucking terrible beating with the belt. It wasn't your normal six of the best. He was hitting him all over the place, all over his body. It was all over his legs and what a mess he was in.

71. He was my pal but I particularly liked Mr ^{GPN} and I said to myself, he's done his nut, that was the phraseology. I wouldn't have said he was a bad person but he lost it that day. So there is confusion in there and I was thinking how could he do that. Well you were young and you were in the jail. I remember it clearly and thought he must have a fucking temper and I did resent him for a while but because I kind of liked him I forgave him.
72. I remember what the belt looked like. I remember what all the belts looked like. Some of them had two bits on the end and some three. I remember a teacher, I can't remember who or where holding one of them up and saying this is my fine Lochgelly belt and I was thinking what has Lochgelly got to do with it. There must have been a factory there that made them. I remember he held it up, it was about thirty inches and it was as if to say, that's for you, which it invariably was, indeed it was for most of the boys. I think you were young, you were immature and you were led by your peers. You are in the jungle and you just follow on which was the norm for us was, we were tough young guys.

Leaving Balrossie

73. In about 1963 or 1964 I got sent to Thornly Park from Balrossie because of an incident I was involved in.
74. Three boys, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] who they called [REDACTED] after the name [REDACTED] and another one were trying to bully me. They were going to beat me up.
75. It was like a social ladder and once you'd been in there a while you go up a grade whether it be psychologically or in your mind. So, in their minds they thought they were going to beat me up but it wasnae happening. I wasn't having it. I knew I wasn't going to win but I knew I was going to hurt them. It was if you are going to hurt me but I'm going to hurt you first. That was the way it happened and I got transferred to Thornly Park.

Thornly Park Approved School, Paisley

76. I think I would be about fourteen because I think I did about two years in Balrossie. You are quite proud of the time you have done so you remember. It is like a badge of office, that's the mentality. So, I think the maximum I could have been in Thornly Park would have been fourteen months with the age thing but I think I was actually in about a year.
77. Looking back to Thornly Park when I went to it, I am reminded of the book Anne of Green Gables. The house with all the ivy, that's what I think of. It was only about ten miles away from Balrossie and was in Paisley.
78. The teachers stayed in houses that had been built in the grounds for the staff whilst I was in there.
79. When I reflect on it most of the staff were ex-servicemen. I remember one of them, John and we called him 'Buck' after the character Buck Jones, who was a character from a TV programme. John used to wear a military RAF grey coat all the time.
80. I would say there was about eighty boys there when I was there. There were no girls. In Thornly Park it was more numbers they called you. That was the system, that's who you are just like in the services. That's who you identify with. Whether you were consciously aware of it or not I don't know but I wasn't at the time.

Routine at Thornly Park

First Day

81. On the first day in Thornly Park the matron who was called Nan Cooper examined your head and all that carry on. I never liked that as I associated that with dirt and depravation although it isn't necessarily that. She made you have a bath in a big deep

industrial bath and it was although I was still young it was quite embarrassing with her standing there until she went out.

82. There was a boy [REDACTED] in there and I met him that first day but I already knew him as he lived in the same area as me.

Washing / bathing

83. There was a room about four hundred square feet in the basement with about three of these industrial baths in it and that was where we got bathed the first day but not where we normally went for washing or bathing. They had a communal shower area where there was a whole load of showers, ten, ten and ten and to tell you the truth it was a bit embarrassing because people don't like to show all their goods do they. You were in there naked or with just a towel round you.
84. They never had toilet doors in Thornly Park, I'll always remember that and wondered why. I didn't like that, it was imposition they put on me.

Clothing / uniform

85. We got given clothes and the top was like a military blouse, an RAF grey blouson from the second world war but we all wore them. You were quite proud of them actually because it was quite macho. You got short tweedy trousers but if you worked in the gardens they were greyish with a kind of stripe but you also got overalls. You felt ten years older wearing them and you got to frown down on those wearing the shorts still.

School

86. Education wise, Thornly Park was second to none. I remember it clearly because they had good teachers and the education was good. I was getting a bit older and rationalising it a bit better. You learned about people. I remember on the walls right round there was paintings of people on the wall. They had Edmund Hilary so you learned about him and you learned the other people on the wall's biographies.

87. It was like one of these American military schools where the attitude was you were going to learn something and you invariably did. You got pushed along the way to do things in time, like with the cadets, do this do that.

Activities / leisure time / clubs

88. Thornly Park was excellent and they sent you on all these schemes, lifesaving and Duke of Edinburgh. I got the bronze medallion and bronze cross when I was in Thornly Park. It had the second most amount of Duke of Edinburgh awards in this country. There they would take you to Loch Lomond, hill climbing and did all sorts of things I had never seen before. I missed out on the Duke of Edinburgh Award as I never read six books but ironically I read about ten thousand years later.
89. My proudest moment was doing the gymnastics and the swimming. Cycling and going to Loch Lomond and other places was another world and that was all great to me.
90. They also had army cadets but they refused to take me in.

Chores

91. After you were fifteen and left school you would go on to gardens and they grew most of their own food there.
92. I went to work with John Burgoyne. I'll never forget my first meeting with him and this showed you the man's character. He asked me what my name was and when I said [REDACTED], he said 'what?' I repeated [REDACTED] and he said 'what?' again. I then said [REDACTED] Sir' and he told me he'd heard me the first time. This was the type of people that you would learn you had to box round about them.

Healthcare / welfare

93. The matron would be the one you would go to for any health care and she used to do the sewing and darning as well.

94. I never had to see a doctor whilst I was there as the worst things I had were pimples and a sore throat.
95. I don't remember there being a dentist there. Of course you wouldn't have much toothache as you never got many sweeties. If you need anything they would take you there.

Holidays and Trips

96. As part of the Duke of Edinburgh they took us on expeditions, to Loch Lomond, I loved rock climbing up Ben Lomond. You never did that at my place other than on the railway and the air raid shelters.

Christmas and birthdays

97. I think we got home leave at Christmas time, I'm fairly sure of that. I think you would get a bit of MacCowan's toffee for your birthday.

Personal possessions

98. I never had anything that actually belonged to me, everything was the institution's. I look at problems on television in these places today and I think what they do is give them more material things. I don't think that is conducive to learning things. I think rewarding them before they have done anything doesn't make them inclined to do it to be rewarded. Nowadays it is more appeasement and in my opinion, I think it is wrong.

Visits / welfare / inspections

99. There was no probation officer or any welfare like that. I remember one day the headmaster came up to me. He was a minister and he sat down on my bed at about nine o'clock one night. I wondered what I had done and what he was going to say to me but he then said that he knew all the boys in the school and if they were a timid boy he would think of them as a deer. He then asked me what I thought, he thought of

me and then said he thought of me as a lion. I wondered why he thought of me as the king of the jungle when I was amongst one of the smallest and I sort of took a pride in that.

Family contact / home leave

100. You didn't need visits from family because you were home on a visit every other weekend. When you had been there for a while you got your first home leave. They got somebody from your area to take you and bring you back the first time. [REDACTED] did that with me and he has been my friend ever since until he died two or three years ago.
101. It would be the same situation as before with my brothers and sister although when I was on home leave I wouldn't be in the house much because I was out with the local ruffians. That was the norm, that's the lifestyle, that's the mode that you were in.

Running away

102. I never ran away when I was at Thornly Park.

Discipline

103. You wore your RAF blouson twenty-four hours, seven days a week which put you in that mind set. It was like that Scottish Presbyterian thing and it was like firm but fair and dour.
104. They used the belt there to discipline you. Every teacher had a belt. By the time you've had that a few times you know what to expect and there is more fear waiting to go in than the actual thing. It was over in two minutes and was sore for ten minutes after then you were over it and could flash your war wounds.

Abuse at Thornly Park

105. I remember ^{SNR} [REDACTED] at Thornly Park, Mr ^{GTX} [REDACTED], who I liked and respected, was one of the best at hitting you. In Thornly Park they would make you put your gym shorts on to get the belt as they were thinner.
106. You had to lie face down on a refectory table and get your six. If you were leaning over the table you could runaway but lying down it was more like on mutiny on the bounty getting strapped to the main mast. You would be holding on to the end of the table rather tightly with your hands. It was always six of the belt. You were dying to cry but never did so. I remember ^{GTX} [REDACTED] once saying to me "Get behind me Satan, this hurts me more than it hurts you". I believed him.
107. The injuries from this would be length wise, eight to ten inches, across the way would be the width of the belt which was about two inches and the welt it left would be about a quarter inch. The sorest ones that I recollect were the ones that landed on top of each other because it had already soften up the skin and there would be an extra squeal for that one.
108. After it I remember when you came out, you had the swagger even although you were holding back the tears but you had to keep up the image. You would go and look at the injuries and sometimes there would be a sort of pride in them and that you didn't cry, even although you wanted to. You were playing a role. The term I would use is that you were method acting.
109. I think that between Balrossie and Thornly Park this happened to me about ten times over the period. I remember getting it twice in the one week but sometimes you would get it for being stubborn and getting that bit more courage when you think you are right. It was standard procedure for me. It was maybe more at Balrossie because I was there for a longer period. It wasn't unusual for me to get it. Other boys got it as well and some were worse than others.

110. The man who took the cadets was called IBE [REDACTED] and he slapped me on the ear one day. I don't know what he did it for but he went over the top that day. He burst my eardrum and I could hear the hissing sound for months. I always resented that. I remember threatening him that I would tell my old man and he would come and kick him up and down. I didn't get any medical attention for this as that would be like a sign of weakness to get treatment. I wouldn't but others might.

Leaving Thornly Park

111. I never finished the full term of my sentence but they let me out to stay with my ma'. I went back to school at Riverside. I was only there a short period and I fell out with my ma' for some reason. I didn't like the way she was doing things. I would be cramping her style and she would resent that and I would resent her and that was the way of it.
112. She phoned Thornly Park and told them to come and take me back because she couldn't control me. They could do this because I hadn't completed my full sentence. They came to get me so I jumped through the window and I nearly broke my neck as it was nearly a seven feet drop. Luckily I had done gymnastics and I did a forward roll to break my fall.
113. I was deeply aggrieved that she had done that at the time and looking back I think she did me a disservice. It was interfering with her life not mine and I tried to be fair. I did all the tears bit in private as you do because you can't show that weakness. At that time my dad was in the house and then he wasn't, he was away and he was back. That went on for twenty years. The rest of the family were all there but they all ended up bar one in approved school. [REDACTED] was the only one that didn't and ended up in the merchant navy. So, you can see the problem emanated from the house.
114. When I went back into Thornly Park, things weren't any different than before. I never went back to my ma' after that. They asked if I wanted to go for a home visit. I said no but I will go and stay at my pal [REDACTED]'s so I went and stayed with his ma' [REDACTED].

115. I finished my sentence at Thornly Park and when got out I went to stay at [REDACTED]'s and my pal [REDACTED]'s house in [REDACTED].
116. I was nearly fifteen and then started work with [REDACTED]. We were van boys delivering lemonade to all the Italian cafes and did that for a wee while until I fell by the wayside again. That was just the way you were, that was your life. It was all mapped out for you.
117. When I was about fifteen and a half [REDACTED] was involved in a fight in the local dancehall and got in a bit of trouble so I had to defend him against other ones. It was part of a gang fight and we attacked the bouncers and got beat up for our pains. They were older and we were younger and I ended up in Longriggend.
118. By this time an image had been created for you or by your own carry on and now you were into playing a role of 'this is who I am.' It's method acting, you know the coo, you know how to talk and whatever.

Longriggend Remand Unit, North Lanarkshire

119. I got sent on remand to Longriggend Remand Unit for two or three months maximum. I think the secretary of state had to sign you in at that time because you were under age.

First day

120. I was in a cell on my own, I always was, 'GTY [REDACTED]', that was me. The first thing they gave you was the rule book. A book about six inches by four inches with several pages. Everything in it was against good order and discipline, so once you read the first one you knew what it was all about. It was basically what not to do and what the punishment was if you did. I never got into trouble there, never.

Daily Routine

121. You got up in the morning and the first thing you done was your bed block. It was about eighteen to twenty inches by twelve to fifteen inches and you folded the grey blanket, with the white blanket with the four folds sandwiched in between. I did that every day. My bed block was always done right, I was that way inclined. I wanted to be told what to do and I wanted to be disciplined. My cell was always clean and tidy. I also had to polish the floor.
122. If other boys didn't do their bed block or floor or cell right you would hear them getting slapped but you wouldn't see it as you were in your cell.
123. We had to slop out when I was there. It was degrading, I never liked it, it was honestly humiliating. I never put a claim in for that though even although that opportunity arose later.
124. You would then go for your breakfast and go for your exercise. You would go outside for exercise for nearly an hour. Everything was regimented. You had a number which usually included the year. You got a number everywhere you went.

Recreation Time

125. I don't recall getting much recreation there. You spent nearly all day in your cell at Longriggend.
126. I went to the gym a couple of days a week and we played that 'murderball' which was alright. It was two teams of boys with a ball just throwing it to your team and just go and get it. It was us against you and it was like rugby without the rules. You had to get it from A to B and the other team could do anything they wanted to you to stop you. You got kicked, punched, driven into the nets you had it all. Of course, people got injured playing it but I didn't look upon that as cruelty, we looked on it as a kind of macho thing.

127. I had a boxing match with a guy once that the screws organised in the gym. There was going to be a fight between us so they said come on then the two of you let's fight in the gym. I won I think as I think I got more blows in. He was bigger than me so I had to.

Chores

128. Sometimes you would get out to polish the floors in the hall with the big buffer and I was glad to get out the cell to tell you the truth.
129. This was before they had these big buffers that spin round so the one we used was like a hairbrush, only thicker and on a pole. It would be fifteen to twenty pounds in weight and you would polish the floor with flammable polish. You would do this by hand, put a mop on it to spread it about and then buffer it up.

Visits

130. I got visits from my ma' and my granny. It wasn't far from Glasgow, maybe twelve miles or something like that. The visits were in the dining hall if I recall rightly. There would be a screw standing a few feet away probably to make sure you weren't getting anything brought in. You could speak although you wouldn't be saying anything untoward unless you were daft. You wouldn't be talking criminality or anything like that with your family.
131. I never had a social worker and the only reports that were made about me were by Mr Reid the probation officer who I ended up detesting. He promised my mother this would happen and that will happen to me, he'll go here or there and I never did. I always resented him for that. He would have been better to be silent than give me hope. He was my probation officer from when I left Thornly Park for a couple of years.

Culture

132. The difference at Longriggend and it being a prison setting was that the boys were maybe a bit more arrogant, the staff were definitely more arrogant and there was a clash. The staff attitude was we are in command, don't do as we do, you do what we tell you to do. What I think nowadays is that I suppose with me being younger than the rest they would look upon me in a different light. They maybe had a bit of sympathy for me, well at least some of them.
133. When you are in that environment, I try to look at it from their point of view because a lot of us are biased in our own favour and maybe I am. These guys had a job to do. They were dealing with rough boys that are slashing, stabbing and killing people. I say to myself what do you do with them, how do you deal with them. Would my way of dealing with people like me and others be any different from theirs because you are dealing with guys that will attack you?
134. In here you were split into different gangs. The Edinburgh guys would go with Edinburgh guys or Celtic supporters would go with Celtic supporters. You go with people with the common denominator. It might be crime, it might be robbers, thieves go with thieves, they go with their own wee cliques, mainly gang based because they were quite proud of the gangs. That's how it is, that's the environment. I've got a pal who is in The Royal Marines and their proudest moment is when they get their beret. When you are in a gang, you are proud of it and that is your green or red beret. That is your credentials, your identity.
135. The atmosphere in Longriggend was that it could blow up any moment because you've got different gangs. It doesn't change from youth to adult institutions. The people change but the environment doesn't change, the jungle is still the jungle. That is how the environment is. That is how you behave or give the appearance of being that way, whatever you are.

Abuse at Longriggend

136. Whilst I was in Longriggend there were lots of beatings going on at the time. It was a standard procedure and some of the prison officers got nicked for it. One of them was a [REDACTED] GUA [REDACTED]. He liked me and I suppose I wanted to be protected. He was a big lump of a man but I had an affinity with him and got on with him.
137. What you would hear would be the guys squealing at night. The gang system was endemic in Glasgow as it is today. You would hear the gangsters getting set about at night time by two or three screws going in. You would hear them getting thumped up and down and I suppose in your psyche you knew that could be you but I never had it for once in my life.
138. I never saw any beatings, you wouldn't, as they're not that daft. When the doors are banged up you only hear what was happening. After a while you can actually tell who it is walking up and down by their footsteps.
139. Longriggend was by far the worst for boys getting beatings. Every night you would hear it. There were ex-professional footballers who were warders, one had been a goalie for [REDACTED] and an ex-paratrooper, two brothers and they were the ones that were prone to it. The whole wing was full of guys from the gangs and they would all be shouting out their gang slogans. So, the screws would shout out the slogans and then go in and give a beating to those who reacted. You would never see it, just hear the muffled sounds of them getting beaten.
140. It never happened to any of my particular friends so I never spoke to anyone about it. I suppose other boys would talk about it. Again, you wouldn't see any injuries because they wouldn't mark people's faces, it would be hidden. I never saw it but I knew who the perpetrators were. GUA [REDACTED] was one of them and a guy GUD [REDACTED]
141. In respect of other types of abuse and by that I mean sexual I could have come in and told lies and said this happened, that happened but not true. It did happen in other

places which I am very aware of because people told me. It happened in the MacDonald Wing, St Mary's, St John's, St Ninian's and the Christian Brothers. My pals [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in these places and they said they were cruel, they were bad to them, they thought they were elite, the SS. They think they've got god on your side so you can do what you want as a lot of people do.

Leaving Longriggend

142. I went back to court from being on remand there and they sentenced me to Wellington Farm, Penicuik, Midlothian but it ended up I never went there as they did not want me. It is on my records from Glasgow Sheriff Court that I was sentenced to go there but I never seen it in my life. Them and other places didn't want me because I had built up a bad name or whatever. I think I was about fifteen and a half coming up sixteen.

Rossie Farm Approved School, Montrose

143. I got sent back to Longriggend awaiting dispersal and then they came and took me to Rossie Farm in Montrose where I was put in the MacDonald Wing.

144. What I did notice at the MacDonald Wing was that all the staff were big, able-bodied men and I think that was deliberate to keep order. There was nobody there to console you, there was none of that.

145. In the MacDonald Wing you had your own room but there were also dormitories. Invariably I would end up in my own room as I think they classified me to be kept on my own, to keep 'bad dog' away.

146. In the MacDonald Wing you were locked up all the time and your world was in there and you learned to adapt. I was in the MacDonald wing in total for seven months and Rossie Farm as a whole for about eighteen months, something like that, maybe even shorter.

147. There were only about twenty boys for the whole of Scotland in that wing. I suppose at that time it would be sort of a credential for you. You would be regarded as that type. You wouldn't hang your head in shame, maybe later on but at that time it was the swagger. Most of the people that I met and associated with in there have died violent deaths.

Routine at Rossie Farm

First day

148. The first day I went into MacDonald Wing, which I was quite alarmed about it at the time. I said why are they sending me here. I remember it clearly, Mr LLY SNR SNR with his pinkish face from high blood pressure said to me 'There will be none of your carry on in here son, you are going to the MacDonald Wing' and then told the staff member to get me out of there.

149. I got taken away and the guy taking me said "Don't worry you're alright." I hated when people said that because it always put me on edge. You know something is about to happen and I'm programmed for that.

150. I remember him dialling the combination lock and it was the first time I had ever seen one. The first place they put you in the closed block was in the cell. I'd been in a cell in Longriggend so it wasn't a punishment, it was the norm. They gave me the book 'Biggles' and wouldn't change it when I said I'd read it before. They kept me in there for a couple of hours and that was part of the conditioning. It was a case of getting it into your head, get in there because this is where you could end up.

151. I think the cell had a tiny wee window and there were no blankets or anything. It wasn't designed for that. It was just a place to put you so that you knew that was where you could end up. They never took my shoes or anything off me, just gave me the book and put me in it.

152. Putting me in the cell immediately was most definitely a psychological tactic to make you think about your behaviour as you would end up there but it defeated its own purpose because I had been in Longriggend and so it didn't make any difference to me. A cell was a cell to me, it was only four walls and it's what you make of it. If there is no bed in it you would go in the corner. You do that because you are insecure, you have something beside you, that's how it is.
153. I don't know for certain whether that was standard for every boy that went into MacDonald Wing to go to the cell immediately but I assume it would be.
154. After the two hours I got taken out and they did the introductions. I already knew two or three of the boys from Longriggend. Some of them became my friends for a number of years and one in particular ended up being shot dead. I was saddened by that.

Daily Routine

155. In MacDonald Wing you were mixing with the other boys during the day to go to classes and all that carry on. You would be taught in the gym. It was all panelled and quite elaborate. I was quite impressed with it.
156. When you first go in there, people are looking at you because they are established and they have their own wee rules and regs. When you are the new boy you've got to emphasise who you are with the other boys and everybody. You would have to let people know where you are coming from with your actions, words or deeds. That's just the way it is and that is the way you become. Rude, crude, whatever you want to be. That's what you become, it makes you that way, it's just the jungle that you live in.
157. Fortunately, I met people that I had met at Longriggend, you know it is all that kind of moving traffic. Now I didn't know anything about the MacDonald Wing but that was the closed unit with the fences and the cells and all that carry on. I had begun to learn things then about the law and I was quite clever with it. I read about it and that was unlawful imprisonment. Bars on the window, barbed wire, eighteen foot to twenty foot fences that is prison.

158. I was there for three or four months and I remember asking to see the headmaster as I wanted to complain to him about me being unlawfully imprisoned. I never got to see him until a number of days later. I can't remember how I went about it but it wasn't in writing. I must have asked somebody through some sort of process.
159. When I got to see him I asked him why I was there and he said because I had been sentenced there. I told him no, that I had been sentenced to Wellington Farm and that I shouldn't be there. After I had spoken about it, I was moved post haste to the open school. I have never forgotten this and that told me I was right and I shouldnae have been there.
160. When I moved to the open unit at Rossie Farm it was different as you were in a bigger environment. You had more freedom and there was a lot more boys. I would say there was about eighty odd boys there and some people from my area. It was one of them, [REDACTED] that I've known all my life that put me in touch with this Inquiry. I met him at a funeral three or four months ago and he mentioned it to me.
161. It was an easier environment but you still had to prove yourself again. There was discipline and corporal punishment going on but probably not as much. When you were in the closed environment things tended to be immediate whereas in the bigger place it wasn't immediate. When I think back it was usually a culmination of something that happened before or a different perspective when people think you mean this but you mean that.
162. Rossie Farm was an actual farm and I worked in the painting with Mr Stewart who was a very good professional artist and a painter. I worked with him and I also did the spuds at Ethy and Feethy farms. I remember the names because they are similar. I did this in October or November and I got paid for it. We got Forfar bridies when we were there and a couple of fags. It was great and I loved it.

Family Contact

163. I never got any home leave when I was at Rossie as it was too far away.

Leisure Time

164. You were allowed into town, walk about town and go to see a movie. You would get a Forfar Bridie, spend your bus fare back and then have to walk the three or four miles back. You hated every minute but it was an adventure then.

Chores

165. In the MacDonald Wing we had to go to a garden which was about half a mile from the school and it always reminds me of Bridge Over The River Kwai. It was the first time you were outside the fences and I liked the half mile walk to another compound. So you went from compound to a bit of freedom but back into another compound where the garden was. I liked it and we were supposed to be making runner beans and whatever but I never did, I just dug holes, that was my forte.

Discipline

166. I remember getting involved with a fight with a guy from Leith called [REDACTED]. The teacher seen the second part of it which was me reacting. He never seen the initial bit and in his view I have started it because that is what he saw. So I got the belt for that as well. I got the belt several times when I was in MacDonald wing. They hit me in the same place, on your backside normally over your trousers. It was standard procedure, same as it was, the standard six times.
167. Another time I gave a bit of snash, which is a bit of cheek which was just me and I got the belt. Up until very recently I would act before I would think but I did learn eventually to think before I acted.
168. You'd get the belt for your manner, the way you walked about. I'm not saying they were cruel. That was the rules and regs, that was what we knew and that was what we would follow. You accepted it because that was the environment you were in. It was a junior prison.

169. In the open unit at Rossie Farm the discipline and punishments were a bit more lax because you are in a bigger environment. I think I was only in two or three fights there and a fight was invariably four or five punches or kicks. You wouldn't always get caught because it was bigger but if you did somebody would break it up and sometimes you would be happy it was broken up because you weren't always the victor.
170. Another punishment I got at Rossie in the open unit was sitting on my own eating dinner for bad behaviour.

Abuse at Rossie Farm

171. On my first week on the MacDonald Wing at Rossie Farm, I met ^{GUB} [REDACTED] one of the teachers, a nice fella who was ex-services who was a well-built stocky man. He said "Hello ^{GTY} [REDACTED] how are you?" I was glad that somebody wanted to know me. When I said I was fine he put his hand out to shake my hand. I took it and he twisted it and dislocated my thumb. I was a bit shocked and a bit traumatised. He then said give me your hand, twisted it again and put it back. It must have been some trick he learned in the military.
172. I think he was in the military so I think they had to learn all that holds and restraints. I liked him and I wanted to be liked myself. I was always enthralled at how he could do that and I did later learn other moves from him beside that thumb one. It was for defence and I learned how to get out of some of them but not that one. He wasn't cruel like that; it was just a lesson.
173. I always thought years later, why did he do that. The conclusion that I arrived at was that it was him saying I am stronger than you and look what I can do. That was my salutary lesson and it did teach me.
174. Just like putting me in the cell at the beginning of my time at MacDonald Wing this was psychological from him to say we're here, I'm the top dog, I'm bigger and stronger than you, more skilled and whatever but that took me years to even rationalise that out.

Leaving Rossie Farm

175. All in all, I was in Rossie Farm a year to fourteen months, a relatively short period. Whilst I was there though there was an incident and I had a fight with a guy [REDACTED], from Edinburgh. After the incident I absconded and they sent the coppers after me. The copper that caught me was a cross country runner.
176. I ended up in either Forfar or Perth Court and I made no plea or declaration. They wanted me put in prison. The judge said no, he's in custody under the Young Person's Act or something like that. The only person that could put you in that environment was the secretary of state.
177. I remember it clearly again that the approved school said they did not want me to come back. They appealed to the judge, the prosecutor said they didn't want me back but the judge said, 'Well I can't send him anywhere else', so they sent me back to Rossie Farm and I was to be put back in my normal location. This was meant to be the open unit but they banged me up, locked me up for two weeks in the cells. So I was back at Rossie Farm and now I was the bad boy.
178. After about two weeks I went back to court, I was put on petition and the secretary of state must have signed the order because I ended up in Perth Prison on remand for that interim period which then was about two or three months. Now you've got the credentials of having been in the nick. It gives you some sort of status or imagined status.

HMP Perth

179. There was no young offenders wing in Perth it was all murderers and everything. Most of the people were from Dundee. I was in with the adult population and as a wee boy that was quite a status thing in your twisted mind. That is you going up that ladder because that is what you are going up in your mind when you are young and immature.

180. You are going up another step in that ladder and this is you getting your red or green beret or bearskin. This is you going up in the social world you are in and you don't frown upon it because you are not educated. You look upon it as if it is another stripe.
181. We used to have recreation in the execution chamber which was quite enthralling when you were young and naïve and that was something different to boast about.
182. I never got punished in Perth. I wouldn't step out of line there because at that particular time even although I was sixteen I would be out my depth. I think I was more content to look, listen and learn. I was looking at who's who and what's what.

Leaving HMP Perth

183. I was in Perth for a few weeks or maybe even two to three months and then went back to court. I got found guilty and sentenced to Polmont Borstal for up to two years.

Polmont Borstal

184. I was about sixteen and a half when I went to Polmont and my number was [REDACTED]. My mum always used to say you will end up as number [REDACTED] but I ended up [REDACTED].
185. I remember going to Polmont and going in the building but I don't remember who took me. I was put in what they called 'The Rookies' for six weeks then into Wallace House. Wallace House was for the 'neds.' I didn't know how long I was going to be there but knew it would be a short period of time about four or five months and then get moved to another special unit.
186. I remember the people that were in the wing. It was the same people who had been in the closed block with me at the MacDonald Wing in Rossie Farm. I remember thinking, everywhere I go it's the same guys but that's the way it is. Three of them that were in there were at Polmont. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and the other one was his brother [REDACTED].

██████ who got found dead in Edinburgh two years ago. He ended up becoming a police informer which saddened me. Another one of them was murdered.

Daily Routine

187. Polmont was pristine and I was in a cell on the second floor next to the canal side. When that cell door opened in the morning you were on standby, you were ready for it. You were up a half hour early so that you were ready for it, just in case it goes off.
188. You would get up rather early, slop out, come back, clean out your cell and make up your bed block. It was all discipline but I was used to all that so it was nothing to me. I was already pre-schooled, I knew the bed blocks. I was interested in doing that because it took up time and effort and because you had all the time in the world, it meant nothing. That and reading cowboy books before moving onto biographies that was your escape.
189. You would clean your cell scrupulously. All that was in it was a bed and your locker. There was no TV, radio or electric kettles either. I used to get wee bits of towel or material, little squares with a pattern on them and put them up on top of my locker just to kind of feminise it a bit or make it homely.
190. It wasn't to be homely though was it, it was to be a cell. The screws would come in, take them down and say you can't have that. Again, similar to being immediately put in the cell at the MacDonald Wing, this was a psychological tactic by the staff. It's a power thing. How else do you control three or four hundred young 'Apaches'. They're the enemy.
191. There would be a cell inspection and I suppose that was a way of checking your behavioural pattern. If your cell was untidy and you knew it was supposed to be tidy, you are on a downer. If it was clean and tidy you were abiding by the rules and regs. If you didn't keep it clean and tidy you would end up in 'The Digger.' 'The Digger' is the cells that are separated downstairs in the basement. They would give you large

axes to chop firewood for the old age pensioners in Stirling. There was a bit outside to do this and a bit inside for when the weather was bad.

192. I got sent to 'The Digger' and there would maybe be four or five of us there at a time. You were allowed to chat, have a cup of tea with no sugar and have your roll-up cigarettes. I rationalised later that I was deprived not getting sugar even although you could buy sugar from your canteen. Being a smoker you wouldn't have the money for tobacco and sugar that so you had your choice.
193. I don't think there was much education at Polmont but we did work. I worked in the cobblers doing shoe repairs for the Dunblane Victoria school, which was the military school. We would make uppers for training shoes on the sewing machines. We got paid but not much. The money got put into your canteen and you could buy about a quarter ounce of your tobacco. It was black bell they called it and it was vile but you had it because it was more of a status than anything. That quarter ounce was supposed to last you all week.
194. We got out onto the football field for recreation but I wasn't a football player. If you're not a football player in Scotland your less of a man. If they were picking teams I would always be last. I could do swimming, lifesaving, boxing, unarmed combat and things like that but football wasn't my environment. There was a TV that you would get once a week.
195. I would get the occasional letter from my family and my mum would come and see me once a month or something. I didn't really want people to come and see me in that sort of environment, as I didn't want people to see me down. People want good news, you don't want to come and see your boy rotting in the jail. They tell you things that you can't do anything about and that just makes you worse.
196. I never saw my probation officer at all but when I was in 'The Rookies' I did get a visit from a teacher, Mr ^{IVR} [REDACTED] who I had at Thornly Park. By this time he was working for the welfare and I was grateful to see him. I knew him and it was a visit and he had taken time out by his own volition to come and see me.

197. Polmont wasn't too bad, just like Longriggend with similar type of staff, prison officers in civilian clothes. I heard from somebody else that one of the screws in there Dan Ross said 'I like ^{GTY} [REDACTED]'. You did get people that liked you and you got people that disliked you too.

Abuse at Polmont

198. Polmont wasn't a particularly sad place but it was violent. People would get battered just like they got battered elsewhere but again you would not see it. You would hear it in the cells at night just like at the other places. There was violence between the prisoners and from the screws. You would hear the shouting and bawling then the running, the thumping and then people getting the mug's rush.
199. That's what I called the twisting of the arms behind your back for control and restraint and I had it in various places. There was usually one screw either side, one behind holding your head and another behind ready to grab your feet. There was also another one there to grab your testicles if need be. You would either be walked away or carried out in that position.
200. This wasn't a daily occurrence but sometimes it might happen three times in one day and then not happen for another two weeks. They were dealing with young guys full of testosterone.

Leaving Polmont

201. When I was just coming up for seventeen I got transferred to Barlinnie E Hall. A pal of mine from Bathgate, [REDACTED] stabbed a guy over tobacco and because I was his pal they decided I was in the swindle so I got transferred.

Barlinnie Borstal

202. Depending on your threat level would depend on where you got allocated. I got sent Barlinnie to E hall and I wasn't upset about it, it was nearer my home so it was easier for visits and it was a bit macho because there was only twenty of you in a prison with a thousand men. You've got your identity.
203. I know that I went in there just before I was seventeen. I clearly remember the screw, **GTZ** who was the PTI looking at me disdainfully when I first went there and me telling him I was nearly seventeen when he asked me what age I was. In fact I think that was maybe the week before my seventeenth birthday.
204. This was pre young offenders and they actually brought that in whilst I was there. When I first went there it was ordinary convicts and we had the bottom floor. We were high status, swaggering about. That was an ego trip and we felt special. At the time we thought we must've been special because there was only twenty of us there for the whole of Scotland. There had to be some sort of stigma attached to us.
205. There were four floors in Barlinnie and although we were segregated from the adults we could talk to them on the landing. There was no nets at that time so if there was anybody from your area you could shout to up to them.
206. I had my own cell as always and my bed was a big door with two chains on it. A big thick thing that was bolted into the wall with a big band round it and you pulled it down to the floor for your bed. Your table was a round log and you used pen and ink.
207. Years later I watched a TV documentary about a Victorian prison and one of these beds was in there. The presenter was staying the night and when he saw the bed and came out the next day they were having to give him cups of tea because he was that shocked. He was shaking and couldn't talk. Maybe that's what it does to ordinary people that haven't been in that environment. To me it was nothing but he was shocked.

Daily routine

208. After you got up in the morning you were meant to wash but at that time there was no wash basins in the cells. You used to have to go out with a plastic or aluminium basin and get water to bring back for a wash and a shave. Aluminium seemed to be a kind of higher status because you could shine it up. All these trivial things had meaning in that environment which was stupid when you look back.
209. You had to slop out and I know it's long ago but it is not dignified at all. Once you had washed, emptied the basin and slopped out it was time to go to breakfast at a dining hall that wasn't very big.
210. They used to take two or three pence off everybody and they would buy records to play on the wee Decca record player while we were eating our meals. I think the governor would have organised that under orders. It was democratic choice between the twenty of us what record we played. At that time I liked the Rolling Stones and of course the Beatles was compulsory.
211. We had to clean our cells and do the bed block. I always did the bed block even when it wasn't compulsory. It wasn't compulsory in Young Offenders but I did for self-discipline. I used to pre-empt being told to do it because that was the way I thought and it was logical. Another thing that I used to do for discipline was I used to get the ash from the ashtray and I would throw the ash and dog ends about the cell. People would ask why I did that. The reason was so that I had to clean it, that consumed time and it gave me something to do.
212. In Barlinnie you had a structure so had a lot of time to think. We got to watch a film once a week in the big hall with several hundred people from the cons (convicts). I was quite happy to see people that I knew from my area. We would show out to them. You'd see the same people everywhere and even twenty years later you would see the same people because that is how the system works.

213. At one time in Barlinnie when you were in the exercise yard you weren't allowed to talk to each other so everyone would speak out the side of their mouth. We just had to walk in a circle. There was a gym and we got to do gymnastics with the PTI **GTZ**
GTZ
214. We didn't have radios in our cells as you had to be doing three years or over to get one, so all you had to do was read the books. This was the period that I really started getting into books and reading a lot. In the beginning I was reading a book but not really understanding it. I would just gloss through it. I eventually learned to identify the characters and think how they think.
215. We had our own workspace and I worked in the cobblers there as well, mainly machine work doing the training shoe uppers.

Abuse at Barlinnie

216. I was once propositioned in Barlinnie by one of the kanga (rhyming slang for screw-prison warder). I was in my cell and he unlocked my door and came in. He offered me fags, gave me one and I felt immediately something wasn't right. He then asked if I had ever been loved by anyone. As he did that he snib locked the door again and I was really worried what he was going to do. When I said 'yeah my mother'. He was raging and stormed out the room. I was really glad I gave that answer as I knew exactly what he was wanting to do.
217. In the other places, not so much. I would say generally people were doing their job. In any situation you will always get bad people but they weren't all bad. To me when I think back on it, they were people doing their job, dealing with ruffians, dealing with bad dogs, some of us should probably have been muzzled. I don't and never have hated screws and I don't want to kill them or anything like that. I don't like individuals just the same as everybody else.

218. When I was on a report to the governor Brownlee for something trivial GTZ had taken me in and said I needed my backside skelped. I turned round and I told him 'I have had that done before' and from that day on we were never friends.
219. That was me, that was my manner, my demeanour and that was just me. I'm not saying I was Oliver Twist, I wasn't that type and I gave him verbal abuse in front of the governor. He slapped me on one ear and the other screw on the other side of me slapped me on the other side on the ear.
220. I got two belts and then I just started foaming at the mouth. By this I mean I was angry, hydrophobic. That was just the way you were brought up, you're living in the jungle. I belted him and that was one of the time's I got the mug's rush. I'm talking six officers grabbing me and throwing me in the cell. The mug's rush that's my definition because there is nothing you can do and you are a mug for causing that situation.
221. I later thought about this as I got older. I said to myself what would I have done in the circumstances and I would say a belt round the ear was the norm.
222. One night in Barlinnie the same screws as I was talking about from Longriggend were now working at Barlinnie and came to my cell with a home-made knife and said they were searching my room. They went straight to my bed and they pulled out a lump of wood with the most outrageous knife I've ever seen. It was like a child had made it. One said 'what is this?' and now I was upset and he's got me up to high doe.
223. Nothing happened they were just winding me up to see my reaction and I suppose they would see the eyes and the foam coming out my mouth. They were winding me up and just started laughing at me. He was one of the ones I was friendly with later on. You get a reputation in these places as the bad dog and people don't go near the bad dogs.
224. I got beat up by a screw called GUC from the Highlands in Barlinnie. He was evil and he never gave me my mail. A letter was very important to you in these places to have a link. I asked him if he had my letter and he blanked me twice so the third time

I was a bit more aggressive in my demeanour and said "Have you got my fuckin letter?" He thumped me right on the jaw with a closed fist. At the time that was the system and I was a bit reluctant to hit him and then he thumped me again two or three times.

225. I battered him and I got nicked for it. I got taken in front of SNR [REDACTED] HEO [REDACTED] and he asked what had happened. I told him about him refusing to give me the letter three times, him ending up thumping me and he believed me. SNR [REDACTED] had known me previously and said 'he ain't like that.' He knew me and I always respected him for that.

Leaving Barlinnie Borstal

226. I think I was in Barlinnie about eight to ten months and it was part of my borstal sentence so they just threw me out at the end of the day. I don't think the governors at the time wanted our kind of people in their institutions. I suppose it would be extra work for them.
227. I was seventeen when I got thrown out of there. Not only have you got nothing and no assimilation back into society but they just throw you out and you are still the same as before you went in.

Reporting to the police / criminal proceedings

228. I never reported any of the abuse I got at any institutions to the police.

Life after being in care

229. Coming out and trying to adjust to life outside I found that lots of the people I associated with outside were the same people I had associated with inside and you

already had a bond with them so there was no great difference. The only thing that changed was the location. I've always been with and stuck with the same people.

230. I think I stayed out of jail for several months again after I left Barlinnie. I got a job scaffolding but was still getting involved in trouble. I got away with a lot and was not back in any institution until I was eighteen when I got caught and was sent to jail.
231. I did the scaffolding from about eighteen for a few years and I when I looked back I noticed I was always alright whilst I was gainfully employed. It was when I had free time that things would start to go wrong.
232. By the time you are eighteen or nineteen you are who you are and you have already established your credentials in that environment. You are a 'made' man.
233. I got married when I was twenty one and my wife was nineteen.
234. About forty five years ago when the kids were about six years old I moved to London for money and to seek fame and fortune. I didn't have a job in Glasgow and was signing on the dole. It was demeaning going to get your £5.50 a week or whatever and I hated that queueing up. It reminded me of the prison and I still don't like queues. I felt I was on the road to nowhere and I needed to get out of there.
235. I started working at London Transport and stayed there for seven years. I have had lots of jobs over the years. I was a hod carrier, a brickie, a scaffolder and did other jobs as well.
236. Over the years I was in jail infrequently but the sentences were quite large. I have done fifteen years in jail over two sentences and one of them was fifty five years of collective sentences at the Old Bailey. I only did the smallest sentence of ten but that will give you a better grasp of the situation. I was released from that twenty odd years ago.

Impact

237. I definitely think that my background growing up in institutions had an influence on me ending up in jail for these sentences. You are what people expect you to be. They wanted you to be ^{GTY} [REDACTED] and that is the way you will be. You want to be that. I would get in trouble because I was a thug and that was the way I was. I was playing the game as I perceived it should be played whether rightly or wrongly. Now my thinking and it is probably too late but it doesn't differ too much as I'm clued up on things. I would still react to the given situation because of the way I had been conditioned by the system.
238. My mate asked me recently if I knew anything about the brainwashing techniques they used in Korea during the war and the conditioned responses. I read about Pavlov and about how they did it with animals but did it with humans as well. I think it's called ultra something where they train you up and put thoughts in your head.
239. I'm not saying they did it in institutes but in that environment you are susceptible. You are a blank tape. It is the same as any child in this world, you can programme them to do anything, kill, bawl anything and that is the way you become.
240. As a young boy going into these places, I clearly remember going into Balrossie that first day and speaking to ^{SNR} [REDACTED] Mr ^{GKF} [REDACTED] and crying how long will I be here. He said you might be here a year, eighteen months or three years. I was wailing inconsolably but after a little while you've got to adapt, you must adapt and you must be one of the chaps on the pecking order.
241. If that entailed fighting then so be it, that's the way it was, that was the norm. It wasn't that you wanted to, it was you had to. You just had to adapt and that's it, you are just following the programme that you don't know is a programme. There is a programme of how best to control you and I'm not condemning them for that.
242. From about age fourteen and throughout my time in borstal people said I was paranoid schizophrenic and I would have this all the time. I'll use the illustration that I had the

Byron system, mad, bad and dangerous to know. It's a syndrome and you think you are that if somebody keep's telling you that. If you keep telling somebody they are a bad dog they become that but you don't learn that until you are older. You think it through and rationalize it out.

243. I had been to child guidance when I was about eleven in Greenhead Street, Glasgow. I think it maybe emanated from there. I can't blame anybody, I can't blame me, it happened in the home as with most bams, that's the seed.
244. In Balrossie, I was a blank tape and you are taking on board what you want to take on board. If you see them fighting, you don't want to fight but you've got to fight because if you don't you are lower in the pecking order. Psychologically you can't have that swagger if you don't.
245. Later on when I was twenty odd years old and I was in Peterhead Prison they asked if I would like to see the psychiatrist. My initial thoughts were no, then curiosity got the better of me so I went. When I saw the psychiatrist several times over a period of weeks and did all the tests, he said I had surprised him because he was expecting something bad. I was bracing myself and wondering what he was going to say but he told me I had superior adult intelligence and I was quite pleased about that. Other people would say I was half clever but I would also say I'm half daft.
246. When I came out after that ten year sentence I felt disorientated because you are in that environment and whatever you're in you become that environment. I used to drink excessively when I came out but I gave it up and I don't drink now. At that time I was I went into the pub and people started laughing. My initial instinct was to attack the guy but he probably hadn't even been laughing at me. You get this sub paranoia because of how you have been brought up in institutions. I hadn't even said anything and so it couldn't have been me but you get to learn these wee things.
247. Another impact for me has been that if I go to a door with somebody else I always wait on it getting opened. I never open it because I have always been used to standing at

a cell door and waiting for it to be opened. It was programmed, probably not intentionally but the result was you were programmed to stand there.

248. I became aware of education when I read the book and watched the film *The Count of Monte Cristo* where the priest teaches him Latin and Greek. I thought to myself at that time well I have the time, the same as him so what can I learn. The other film I found inspirational was the *Bird Man from Alcatraz*. Robert Stroud was a genius and as he is leaving the prison he recognises the type of plane that is flying over and the reporter asked him how he knew it. He said I was in prison, I wasn't dead.
249. However not everybody in there is into Greek and Latin, the common denominator in institutions is football, boxing and criminality and that is all that they talk about.
250. I was probably in my twenties at the time I read the book and watched these films but before that when I was between the ages of twelve and twenty I was a blank tape programmable with anything.
251. I never took up education when I was in institutions or adult prison because to me that be a weakness to rely on the system. That would be my thinking at the time. I created my own world, my own environmentally friendly world through reading. Started off with my cowboy books but they became bland and similar and I then moved on. So I would say I am self-taught just like Mr Stroud but not as clever.
252. The way things turned out, it ain't been all bad. I've got the grandkids and I'm happy with them. I wasn't a good father to my own two children, I gave them everything materially but I wasn't used to it. I wasn't made for it. I wasn't used to showing my feelings because everything is behind the mask.
253. I mean I can be who you want me to be, sometimes. You have this exterior, you have the façade and people look at you and indeed people are frightened of you. I've seen it and personally I was shocked and embarrassed about it.

254. I have a boy and a girl and I am having difficulties with the boy at the moment. Basing it on people I have known from the past I have diagnosed and have him down as a manic depressive.
255. Now my only way that I've been trained and brought up is to blank him when he is in a depression, whereas my wife is more conciliatory. She'll talk to him and try to draw it out of him but I've seen the way he has performed for years and there is a line in the sand with me. If you don't want to talk to me, don't talk to me. I'm not interested in his moaning, I'm seventy three years of age looking after two kids that he has disowned, who he literally gave us custody of. So what would happen if I disowned him and I tell him that, I tell him he's got responsibilities.
256. I'm no great parent and never will be but when I see him at fifty one years of age I've got a bit of contempt for that, I don't like it and I've no time for that. He did say something one night but I blanked him. I've no time for him making everybody feel uncomfortable and that ain't right. However he is now going through a good spell and I am delighted about that.
257. I am totally different with my grandchildren and have been trained up in that one. It has totally evolved, I have an affinity with them and get on well with them. They come in every day and I have to comment on their clothes and tell them they're beautiful. I've got to flatter them but they love it. That was the side of me that I hid before as I couldn't be in a macho environment and be wimpish. You had to walk the walk and talk the talk.
258. I would say being in institutions has affected my relationship with my wife. We've always had a tempestuous relationship, that's for fifty years and even today. I know she is just trying to help me but sometimes she can be a bit overbearing.
259. I am more conciliatory now compared to what I was when I was in and out institutions. If you put your hand out to me then I was attacking you. That was the jungle and I might be going over the top with that jungle phrase but that is what the environment was.

260. I don't have flashbacks as such but I can reflect back to then in my mind and can tell you what happened on a particular day with particular people. I can't recall all the conversations but I remember bits of them.
261. Some of these things that have happened when I was in those schools and borstals and the opinions I have formed from them have surprised me. In most of these places it was compulsory to go to church. I never enjoyed going, it was laborious and in the beginning it meant nothing to me, it was just a half day or an hour out but some incidents like the Road of Damascus changed that. When you were banged up in the cells or 'The Digger' you would always get the bible. So I would read that. I'm not saying I would understand it but I would look at it and say what's relative to me. You are looking for yourself, your soul or your inspiration.
262. I wasn't born into a religion but in my area in Glasgow it was strongly orange with all the masonic lodges. All my pals were in it, I never was but did go sometimes. I think by going to church whilst I was at Borstal I became quasi-religious. I think that would be the term. I believe in somethings and I believe in justice, believe it or not.
263. I would like to turn round and blame this one and that one and absolve myself of any blame but we do have free thought. As somebody once said 'I think therefore I am.' I don't know who said it though. You can be who you want to be if people push you on the right road.
264. I decided a couple of months ago, when people start dying and the older you get the more frequent it gets, the more you have got to harden yourself not to show your real you. I've always done that. When you get older and you know you are in the queue to go, I think your opinions change. You think you might have to have to answer for some of these things that you have done in the past and not been punished for previously. I think and I would hope and try and make amends.
265. Even having the kids there and doing my wee bit, I'm happy with that. I know that money never brought me happiness and I know the jail never brought me happiness.

266. I got City and Guild for plastering and for bricklaying, I was a scaffolder for ten years and done plenty of things but I was never really happy. I had plenty of money from my skulduggery but wasn't happy. That was because what I was doing was morally wrong.
267. I do recall an incident where I had got in trouble when I was about sixteen. I sent my pal to tell my mum I was getting the jail for eighteen months was round the corner listening. I remember her saying, oh that's good he will be in with his pals. I was quite saddened. That had a big impact on me. Well, they were my pals and I didnae like them that much that I wanted to go back to jail.
268. In all honesty I would say things started in my home. The proof of the pudding is that if six out of seven from one family end up in care it starts in the home. The state have the burden and what can the state give you other than material things. I mean I can't blame the system and I've got social work friends who have told me that the state have made good parents but they ain't giving you no love or affection. There is nobody there to give you a cuddle when you are in the system.
269. I've got to use this phrase and it's from a Billy Connolly Song called 'Glasgow gave me more than I ever took away.' Approved school did that. It gave me more than I ever took away. I can say that in all honesty and I think it is appropriate I say that.
270. What I took and learned from the approved schools was how to survive in the jungle. How to deal with people and how to identify potential threats. You know, like the meerkat, without looking, you are listening and you learn in your sub-conscious. You know when there is going to be trouble as the noise level rises immediately. I can always tell whether it is an argument or whether it is liable to blow up because the voices go up and the next thing there's blows.
271. My eyes were always wide open and I learned from anywhere and everywhere including the staff and the other boys. I would take some things on board. Somethings would have a meaning for me.

272. When you went to all institutions you had to prove yourself. Going anywhere you have to. Playing football they see how you perform. After a couple of incidents they soon know who you are. They can look at your record and see this is liable to happen, that is liable to happen. Every school, never mind the approved schools, borstal or young offenders in every male dominated environment there is an undercurrent of violence, even football.
273. I was always a scoundrel but by learning as you got older you looked out for goodness and badness. I came to the conclusion by watching the Jimmy Boyle film that the only thing I did not have a defence against was kindness. He was in for stabbing somebody and the screw gave him a pair of scissors. On reflection I identified with that and that kindness was my weakness or vulnerability. I could go the violence, I could go the snash, I could go the verbal abuse but kindness I've no guard for that. Even today if somebody is kind to me it disorientates me because I am not used to it but I know what it is worth to me.
274. I never got that kindness at Rossie or the other places. It wasn't until I was in adult prisons and there were woman screws in them. I've been friendly with women screws in the jail, not impure thoughts but because they were kind to me and spoke to me. They were respectful and I would be the same back. People would ask me why I talked to them and it was very simple. I said you, my fellow prisoners are the danger to me. They are the enemy identified and I don't know them.
275. I came to this conclusion after years. You assume that you know people, even your next door neighbour, even your wife and children but you don't. You assume you do but you don't and I have been proven right on it.
276. Approved schools and borstals never took my heart or soul away. It wasn't all bad and I've got to keep saying it. There was things that happened to people like people bullied or manipulated but as they say not on my watch.
277. I've seen people getting belted and punched and I've been belted and punched. I've wanted to cry as I told you but wouldn't, even although I was desperate to. I wouldn't

give in, I was quite proud of it after and that's quite twisted isn't it. It was a case of look at me, I'm [REDACTED], you must have the front and you must always keep that front up, even today.

Other action taken

Revisits

278. I have looked on the internet at the institutions I was in. When I looked on the computer at Balrossie I was saddened that it had fallen into disrepair, as was my own area in Glasgow. It's as if my whole past is wiped out but I'm still here. Normally I have my stone face so you don't see that because if you talk to or confide in people that is a weakness and you don't show that.
279. When I found Balrossie on the internet, in my mind's eye I took a walk about remembering where this and that was. It was a familiarity thing, like bonding with the past. It's now being demolished or is subject to demolition. I looked up Thornly Park and it has been burnt down and also looked up Rossie Farm and checked the MacDonald Wing. I felt kind of sad looking at times gone by and it could have been better but that was up to me.

Compensation

280. I did not try for the compensation that was available for slopping out as it would be an indignity for me to even apply for it. I just wanted to put it behind me. I have had the forms in the house for three months to apply for compensation for what happened to me but I haven't filled it in. I looked at it and my initial thought was everybody likes a pound note but when I think about it and question myself money is not the issue.

281. People have said do it and get this but the meaning for me is to help wee boys who need the money. Hopefully what I have said can help the wee boys and lassies in the future and there is plenty of them sadly.

Treatment / support

282. I have looked at it all and reflected on everything that happened but I have never gone for professional help or support.
283. I've never spoken to anybody else about what happened to me because when you confide in people and I'm talking about people from the environment, even wives or husbands that is a weapon that can be used against you.
284. I have been taking sleeping tablets over the last wee while but that is nothing to do with what happened in the past. It is because of my COPD.

Records

285. I have never tried to get my records from these places but I more or less know what they would be because I've lived it. I've got convictions on my record for things that I haven't done. The most common charge in Glasgow was for Breach of the Peace. The police would give you that for just hanging about in a corner with a group. You would then end up in the Sheriff Court and when you went there it was despicable. You could go in there with your head hanging off and they would never question what happened to you. Central Criminal Court was the same, no questions asked and it was as if you deserved it.

Lessons to be Learned

286. I firmly believe that anybody doing long term sentences in any institutions need to be integrated into society when they come out.
287. I think about what could make things better and the only place that I thought was any good and was a place built for boys and run by boys was Boystown in Illinois, America. It is a massive place, maybe the size of London where they've got all these big houses and it was run by Father Flanagan. I thought that he brought them in. You weren't on the periphery, you were in the swindle to use a euphemism from the panel and you were in the swindle together.
288. It was a film but it is based on a real place. I saw a film about it recently and unfortunately in the last few years it has been rocked to the core by the same abuse. It is endemic in every institution.
289. I saw on the news that three hundred and eighty abuse trials rocked the Church of England and I thought how can you control it, how can you control this abuse? After watching that about the Church of England I think that these people go into these positions, they gravitate to these positions of authority, secrecy and power. They are very devious.
290. There has to be more vigilance and not only in institutions but society as a whole. Outside on the street I would hazard a guess that like the rats there is a nonce or a sex offender, a beast or a necrophiliac within ten or twenty feet. I've met all them, I've spoken to them and I'm horrified by it but you can't show it.
291. I was at odds with myself for now and in the past. I think constant vigilance, that's the only way you can stop it because these people are in the community and it's endemic in the community, never mind the institutions. It has to be a structured constant vigilance. These people are like the cream that comes to the top. They're covert, they're devious, they don't think like you and I and they're animalistic I would think.

They are emotionless, cold, dispassionate people and they are animals. They call them monsters and beasts in institutions because they have no morality.

292. I keep hearing phrases in regards to matters like the Rochdale Inquiry that people choose that as a lifestyle and that is despicable because we now know that to be wrong. I think these people blinded themselves because of their political allegiances. They've got to tell the truth but sometimes they can't tell the truth.

Hopes for the Inquiry

293. I believe in justice and fair play because of my experience and I realise that people who were kind to me affected me. It will affect others and I hope that is the way it is going.
294. I am hoping that there will be more women working in institutions. Have mother figures in there because a lot of the children in these places are all deprived.
295. What I did realise later in my life was that there was not really many women in the approved schools and borstals environment or any of the other places I was as youngster. I did notice later on in prison that they did have a calming effect. Maybe it was because the guy that was playing up fancied them or whatever and wanted to be 'Mr Nice Guy'.
296. There was really none of that when I was in the institutions as a youngster so you are in that alpha male environment so what do you do to survive, you adapt.
297. It comes down to resources in society and what the cost is but they must get the right staff in there.
298. I know it is expensive to keep boys in care and that its £30,000 to keep a prisoner in jail a year. I believe people in institutions and prison should be gainfully employed, not sewing mail bags like they tried to get me to do in Peterhead. Don't put somebody in

institutions and let them rot. Give them gainful employment whilst they are in there, like chopping wood for the old age pensioners, let them do something constructive.

299. Find a way to give them education and I know not many people want education in there because they think it is wimpish but they should find a way to do so. I only wish I knew better before.

Other information

300. 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.

GTY


Signed.....

Dated..... 29.11.22.....