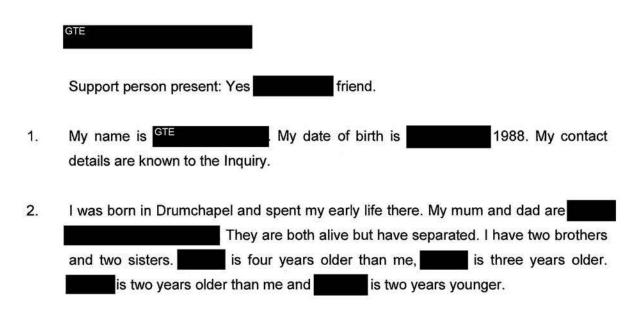
Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of



Life before going into care

3. I lived with my mum and dad until I was about seven years old. I know both my mum and dad had issues with alcohol. I know that the social work were involved with my family before I went into care. I remember there was a female social worker, Helen Butler who used to come to our house. There was another male social worker who used to come, Kevin. I can't remember his last name but he is now the manager at Easterhouse social work office. They used to take us out of the house for a few hours and would do things with us like take us to a community centre. I was about seven when there was a fire in the house and I think one of my siblings set it. We were then taken into care.

Life in care before Kerelaw

- 4. I went to Cleveden Children's Unit in Drumchapel. The police came and took me and there. I don't really remember why we were taken to Cleveden and I don't remember anyone explaining anything to me. I only spent a short while there then I went to foster carers and then went back to live with my mum and dad. At some point my dad went over to Ireland. I went over there too with my mum and in 1999.
- 5. In 2000 in Belfast I became quite rebellious. I ran away with my brother and I stole some money. We were caught and when the police took us back my mum and dad were drunk. Because of that I was put to foster carers. My brother went with different foster carers. We had a social worker over there, Edel, who worked at the Shankhill social work office. After a year or so Edel brought us on a plane back to Glasgow and I went to foster carers in Pollok, I went to other foster carers after that.
- 6. At some point I also went back into Cleveden Children's Unit for a while. I think they decided then that I needed more support than foster parents could offer me so I was put into a children's unit. My two sisters were by that time already in Kerelaw.

 was in the secure unit and was in the residential unit. went back to my mum and stayed with my Auntie. was never in care and he was brought up by our auntie. There was nothing that happened in Cleveden or any of the foster placements that I think I want to tell the Inquiry about. I didn't have any issues with any of these places before I went into Kerelaw.

Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenston, Ayrshire

7. I went into Kerelaw Residential School in 2002 when I was 12 years old. I was supposed to be going in there to get a proper education. I had been skipping school, drinking alcohol, and was generally quite disobedient. I think I had been picked up by the police possibly for drinking and was classed as unruly. I was kept in the police station from Thursday until the following Tuesday. I was taken by the police and a

social worker from the police station to Kerelaw. I think there was some sort of supervision order. I think the social worker's name was like David McGinigo or something like that

8. Kerelaw Residential Unit was run by Glasgow City Council. It was designed for children between the ages of thirteen and sixteen. Some stayed a bit longer depending on their circumstances. It was split up into four units: Wilson, Baird, Fleming and Millerston. The girls were in Wilson and Baird units. The boys were in Fleming and Millerston. The two boys units were in different buildings and we didn't mix. The two girls units were basically two separate buildings joined in the middle by the kitchen. I was initially in Baird. We had our own rooms, so I didn't have to share with anyone else. The bedrooms were upstairs. There were bars outside my bedroom window. I think there were maybe ten or twelve girls in each unit.

Staff at Kerelaw

9. Jim Hunter was in overall charge of Kerelaw or at least was in charge of the education department. In Baird unit I think there must have been about fifteen staff altogether to cover all the different shifts. John Muldoon was the unit manager so was in charge of the unit.

[EUL] and [FSL] were nightshift staff. Stella McFadden was my key worker for a while. She was the best key worker ever. She was really kind. I trusted her. I knew Stella before I got into the unit because she was my sister's carer. I had a good relationship with her. When Stella left became my key worker.

Routine at Kerelaw

First day

10. I just remember going up the driveway to Kerelaw with the police and the social worker. I was really scared and upset, although I knew that my sister was already there. It looked like a prison. The unit manager John Muldoon and another man called here. I can't remember his last name. They took me in and showed me around the unit and my bedroom.

Mornings and bedtime

- 11. It was usually John Muldoon who got me up in the morning. When we got up we would just really get ready for school. Sometimes I didn't have time for breakfast because I had to strip my bed if I had wet it. I was often upset if I had been treated badly and felt sick so I wouldn't have felt hungry anyway. I regularly missed my breakfast.
- 12. There was no real routine at bedtime. It was chaotic. They did try and put us to our rooms and you weren't allowed out even to go to the toilet. If you were caught by some of the night staff you would get dragged back into your room.

Bed-wetting

13. I regularly wet my bed. I stripped it myself most of the time. John Muldoon would come in most mornings and would check to see if I had wet the bed. Sometimes if Stella was on or there were nice staff like Michelle McVey, they helped me change my sheets. Michelle told me not to be embarrassed and just ignore it. Other members of staff would come in and they would be more sympathetic than John Muldoon was.

Washing and bathing

14. There wasn't a routine for washing. You more or less just washed or showered when you wanted and basically looked after yourself. If they thought you needed a shower they would tell you and make you have one.

Food

- 15. There were cooks who came in and did the cooking. The food was generally alright. The cooks did their best. We had our meals in the dining room. For breakfast there were all the usual breakfast cereals if you wanted them. We went back at lunchtime and then we had our evening meal. If you were hungry at any other time you couldn't get anything else to eat because all the cupboards were locked.
- 16. If you didn't like the food that was served up you just didn't eat it. Some of the members of staff were nice and would make you something else. Other staff wouldn't so you would just go hungry.

School

- 17. I went to the school that was in Kerelaw. School was horrendous. There were some good teachers and some bad teachers. We were split up and put into different classes. I think that was according to our needs. There were girls and boys in the classes. We had different teachers for each subject. I hated school. I didn't get a very good education. I was never taught any life skills to help me for when I left Kerelaw.
- 18. Matt George was an art teacher. He just liked to show his dominance in the class especially to any new children. He would arm wrestle them to show he was the strongest. He used to use us to sell some of his paintings and art work. When people were visiting he would soften us up so we were nice to him. He would then get us to go round the visitors showing them his art work and try and get them to buy it.

Leisure time

- 19. The girls didn't get to go outside and play, even in summer. There was a living-room where the girls from both units could sit. They gave us a smoking room where the girls could just sit and smoke. The unit manager gave us consent forms to get our parents to sign saying they allowed us to smoke. We all signed each other's forms. The staff knew that I didn't have anyone to sign my form but they still accepted my form.
- 20. There were no books that we could read or toys for children to play with. There was a television in a sort of living-room and there were couches in there but it was so chaotic that you couldn't actually sit and watch a programme. There was just too much going on. There were no organised sports day or any events like that. The girls were never allowed to play outside. You weren't allowed to mingle with the boys. If you had a boyfriend some members of staff let you go into the living-room for an hour or so with your boyfriend. Looking back that was terrible that they allowed that. You got to mingle with the boys at school obviously.

Trips / excursions

21. We used to get taken out for day trips. We would go to Ardrossan. If it was Stella who took us she would get us a wee chippie and walk down the pier with us. These trips were good. Sometimes this would be at the weekend. I don't remember ever going swimming or to the cinema. I just remember going bowling sometimes. We would get taken out most weekends unless we had been bad, in which case it would be cancelled. Stella would take us out to the shops to buy clothes. I think we got a monthly allowance to spend on clothes.

Chores

22. I kept my room tidy and that is all I really had to do. I tried to help out doing other chores about the house but it was never good enough for the staff. There was no rota to do jobs around the house.

Birthdays and Christmas

- 23. A lot of the other girls got to go home for Christmas but I didn't. I remember feeling quite depressed because I was there over Christmas. The staff that were there did try and make it nice. We got taken out for dinner once. There were Christmas decorations put up and we got presents.
- 24. I only remember ever getting a birthday card once. That was from Stella my key worker. It was my thirteenth birthday and it was a card for becoming a teenager. I don't remember anything else about my birthday.

Visits / Inspections

- 25. My mum and dad never visited me because they were too far away. Even though my sister was in Kerelaw I never really saw her. She was regularly running away as well at different times from me. I saw her initially when we were there but I think she might have been moved. was in the secure unit but I never got to see her.
- 26. My social worker would come and see me and sometimes he would take me back to Kerelaw after I had run away. I think my social worker was supposed to come once a week but I hardly ever saw them. Sometimes there were months between me seeing them.

Running away

27. I regularly ran away. I think it was almost every day. Sometimes I would even run away in my bare feet because my shoes had been taken off me to try and stop me. Sometimes we would pass notes to the boys telling them to run away at a certain time and arrange to meet them. We would run down to Stevenston where I would steal a bottle of vodka then go back. Sometimes I would sleep in abandoned buses in garages in Stevenston. I would be away for a few days to a couple of weeks. I

would get food by stealing. I even pawned my jewellery to get some money. Often I would run to the social work office in Drumchapel.

Healthcare

28. I was an asthmatic child but when I was in Kerelaw I never saw a doctor. I never had an inhaler and I think now that I should have. I don't know if I ever saw a dentist in Kerelaw. I don't remember ever seeing any dentist in there.

Abuse at Kerelaw

- 29. John Muldoon would come in to my bedroom in the morning and wake me up. I was a regular bed-wetter so when he saw that I had wet the bed he would drag me through to the showers. Luckily they weren't very far away. He would either grab me by the shoulder and drag me through or walk behind me pushing me all the way. I would often be crying and breaking my heart. Sometimes I would try and push him away but it would end up that I would get pushed to the floor and restrained, and probably injured.

 EUO used to do the same thing to me. When I got to the shower they would leave me to get washed. I would then go back and take the wet sheet off my bed. The staff must have washed the sheets, I don't really remember. I tried to wash my own sheets and underwear sometimes because I was embarrassed.
- 30. John always called me GTE and he called me that in front of everyone else. This would really upset me and it was humiliating. It would put me in a bad mood for the rest of the day. It would make me quite argumentative. He called me GTE all the time, even when we were getting on okay. George and all the other staff members who didn't like me, called me this too. They all knew I didn't like it but they carried on calling me it.
- 31. Both and John used to pour water over me if I was in my bed and refused to get up. Sometimes it would be a cup and sometimes it was a bucket of water. I

remember getting dragged through to the shower room then I ran back. I jumped into my bed. That's when I got a bucket of water over me. Getting water poured over me in my bed happened so many times I couldn't tell you how many times they did this. Because they called me names everyone else got to know that I was a bed-wetter. I was humiliated by this and some of the other staff used to laugh at me.

- I was regularly restrained in Kerelaw. I actually think it was more than just being restrained. I used to get thrown to the floor and abused. It was an assault. It was not a restraint. A restraint, as far as I know, is only meant to happen if you are a danger to somebody or if you are endangering yourself. It was always John, who I called some and some some might have only really restrained me and didn't hurt me as much as the others. The others enjoyed hurting me.
- 33. Sometimes I would kick a wee vase or punch something. That was it. They would come running over and fling me to the floor then three or four big guys would lay on top of me. All the time John Muldoon would dig his elbow into my back. Lying on top of me would be John, another member of staff called but we called him have you begging for mercy. They would make you say how sorry you were before they would let you get up. I regularly had marks round my wrists where they had been holding on to me so tight. I have had marks and bruises all over my body. When you were lying on the floor John and would punch and kick you as well.
- 34. EUO used to regularly use excessive force when he was retraining me. He would fling me to the floor and pin me there for twenty minutes to half an hour, maybe longer. Sometimes I was panting and foaming at the mouth. I was crying and couldn't breathe because of my asthma. He said that he was just restraining me but it was his way of abusing me.
- 35. There was one time in particular in March 2002 where badly assaulted me.

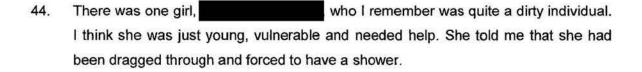
 We had been arguing but I don't know what it was about. I just know he grabbed my hair. He actually pulled lumps out my hair. I still think I have got a bald patch that

never grew in properly. He dragged me up about ten stairs and then along a landing. I ran into my room and I remember him slapping me and he also may have punched me. I was screaming. He then restrained me. He was a big guy, a muscle man, and I was only thirteen at the time. I was shouting for help. EUC used his radio and shouted for back-up.

- 36. I think I was bleeding, I don't know if it was my lip that had been burst but I was injured anyway. I remember lying on my bed crying. He definitely hurt me.

 EUL came in and asked what he wanted back-up for because he saw the state I was in. I said to that I wanted the police and phoned the police for me. My beating was to the extent that I could actually barely stand on my own two feet. I was really badly bruised. I had to go to Kilmarnock Police Station and I got pictures taken of my injuries and I pressed charges. I think stayed with me all that time I was with the police.
- In 2003 or 2004 me and another girl, 37. ran away from Kerelaw in our bare feet. We got to Buchanan Street bus station then to Livingston. We ended up in a stolen car driven by a strange man. sat in the front seat. I was in the middle seat. We were taking drugs and he crashed the car. I was lucky to even be ended up cut with the seatbelt. She broke her back, legs, her arm, her alive. hand, everything. Kerelaw just gave up on They left her in Southern General Hospital spinal ward for months. I wanted to visit her but Kerelaw told me was away back to her family and they shipped me away. I never got any counselling for what I had been through. There was nothing that should have been in place for somebody who has just been through what I had. I tracked down almost fifteen years later and she is still paralysed. I feel terrible for her that I have got my life and got my wee boys and she has not had any children. The social work and Kerelaw were to blame for just leaving her there and not letting me visit her and just kind of gave up on her. She told me that she felt all alone.
- 38. Being in Kerelaw was like being in a prison. You couldn't be unwell. You couldn't go to the doctors. You couldn't miss a day at school and if you tried you were dragged out of bed and put to school in your pyjamas.

- 39. They used to take our shoes off us and keep them in the office to stop us from running away. Sometimes they would let us use the phone in Kerelaw to contact our family but we weren't allowed to talk about other children in the unit or about the staff. John Muldoon would tell you this before you picked up the phone. If you tried to talk about anything, John Muldoon would just hang the phone up. He wouldn't let you use the phone for days after it as a punishment.
- 40. If ever any of the girls needed any sanitary towels we had to go and ask John Muldoon. We were all teenage girls. These things should be in the bottom of our bed. They should not be locked away in a cupboard to go and get humiliated every day when you had to change a pad. It was just wrong. If you had a daughter you would put these things in place for her so she didn't need to come to you and be embarrassed.
- 41. FRB one of the technology teachers, used to get you to bend over in the classroom. He would then skelp you on the backside with a small piece of rope he had attached to his keys. He would then give you a sweetie from a tin. It wasn't sore and he probably thought it was a bit of a joke. He also used to stand behind you when you were working and he would be leaning over you and have his arms around you helping with what you were doing on your work bench. I never thought anything about either of these things at the time but looking back I now think it was a bit creepy what he was doing. FRB was actually one of the nice guys there, at least I thought he was.
- 42. Matt George, the art teacher regularly threw me to the floor and restrained me. He even spat in my face. He was very intimidating and he would say that he was bigger than me and nobody would believe anything I said.
- 43. I saw , one of the other girls, getting knocked down by a member of staff in a car. We had all run away and we were walking back up the driveway. We were all mucking about. who I called the people carrier car and he was chasing us. He was chasing and she got hit with the car. She got knocked over but jumped straight back up. She wasn't injured.



- and I had been arguing one time. and John Muldoon put us into a room and told us to fight. I was only thirteen and was fifteen. She was much bigger than me. They shut the door and we fought. I got battered by remember if I got injured but she did hurt me.
- 46. I saw lots of other girls getting hit, thrown to the floor and allegedly restrained by the staff. It happened so often I can't tell you about a specific time. It was always John, EUO and FST who were the worst.

Leaving Kerelaw

47. In 2005 I got involved in a fight with other girls in the unit - and and I got taken to a police station where I was kept from the Thursday until the following Tuesday. I can't remember if there was a court or any sort of children's panel. They separated us and a social worker came and took me to a children's unit in Shettleston.

Reporting of abuse at Kerelaw

- 48. When John Muldoon got me up in the morning when I had wet my bed and he humiliated me, sometimes I would demand to use the phone. I phoned the social worker or phoned my mum. I always used to tell him that I was telling people what he done.
- 49. In 2002 EUO assaulted me. This was reported to the police and was charged. I saw a doctor at that time at the police station and he examined my injuries. I went back to Kerelaw but EUO didn't. A few months later John Muldoon

asked me how I would feel if came back to the unit. I said that I didn't want him back anywhere near me. He didn't come back to the girls unit but he did start working again in one of the boy's units. I saw him working there.

- 50. I told my social worker, David, loads of times what was going on when I saw him. I told him that I didn't want to go back but he just said that I was being rebellious. Nobody listened to me. David did nothing to help me. The social work were apparently getting weekly reports from Kerelaw about my behaviour which were not true. They were getting told that I had done lots of things which I hadn't. Nobody believed me and anything I said was just swept under the carpet. When my social worker came to see me, would just seem my key worker was there. If I tried to say anything would just butt in and I got really annoyed. Sometimes I would end up storming out, raging. I wish I had just stayed there and told the reason why but when you are a child you don't really think like that.
- 51. Every time I ran away and saw the police I told them that I didn't want to go back there because of the staff. I can't remember if I told them specifically about any particular member of staff or any incident but I did tell them. Sometimes the police came into Kerelaw for a coffee and a chat with the staff. I went in and told them that I didn't want to be there. I was just told by the staff to get out because they were busy.
- 52. I got moved to a different unit in Kerelaw and I think it was because John Muldoon thought I was going to tell everyone about what was going on. He knew I had spoken to the police by then. I got moved to the Wilson unit. Things were better in there but I was only there for a few weeks.
- 53. When I got moved to the children's unit in Shettleston when I was fifteen, the police came to see me and asked me if I wanted to make a statement about what happened to me when I was at Kerelaw. I didn't want to bring it all back up again so at that time I said I didn't. I felt I had moved on with my life and I didn't want to risk anything changing it.

54. In October 2017 I gave a statement to the police regarding the abuse I suffered in Kerelaw from John Muldoon, and Matt George. I had been thinking quite a lot about my time in Kerelaw and I knew that it wasn't right so I decided to contact the police. I was worried that they were still working with children and I didn't want to think there were any children getting treated the way that I had been treated. It was CID officers from Kilmarnock who came and took my statement.

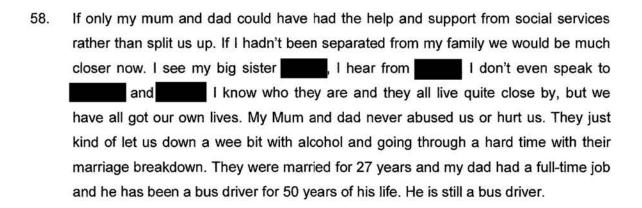
Life after Kerelaw

55. After Kerelaw I went to a children's unit in Shettleston. I had my own bedsit in there. There were a lot of four to five year old children in this unit. I often took them to school. I was one of the oldest there so I used to help the staff look after the younger ones. I remember going shopping. I helped wrap up the Christmas presents for the younger ones. I got on really well with the staff and I turned my life around. I ended up getting a part-time job in a chip shop. The bedsit really prepared me for leaving because it had its own kitchen and I had my own space. I liked my time there.

Life after being in care

- 56. I got a different social worker, Elaine Currie, who also worked from Drumchapel social work office. She helped me a lot. I was at the children's unit in Shettleston from fifteen until I was sixteen. I never had to get restrained when I was in there and everything was good once I settled in.
- 57. I got my own flat in Drumchapel. Elaine the social worker was still helping me. I met my wee boy's dad and I got pregnant. Elaine helped me furnish the flat and prepare the baby's room. She supported me until my wee boy was about one year old. I now have three boys. I don't work and don't have a partner.

Impact



- I blame the school for not getting a proper education. There were always distractions in school and there was never a time when you got peace to be taught anything. I think it was Glasgow City Council's fault because they didn't have any interest in what went on in that school. Because I had no education I find it impossible to get a job. No one will employ me. I know I am only ever going to get dead end jobs. I can read and write but that was only because I learned when I was in primary school before I went into Kerelaw. I was the top of my class in primary school. If I hadn't been in care I would have had a better future and a better life for bringing my wee boys into the world.
- 60. I got impetigo when I was at Kerelaw. I think I got it from some of the times I was being restrained and my face was pushed into the dirty carpets. The beds were sometimes quite dirty too. I got acne as well. I can't blame them for that but I didn't get any cream or anything for my skin to help me. I am now paranoid about my skin and I can't take my wee boys swimming.
- 61. I am not affectionate or anything like that. I have never been a person that likes cuddles. There are lots of silly wee things that make me feel I could have been a completely different person, I am not ashamed of who I am. I am actually quite proud of what I have become from then to now. I do feel that I could have done a lot more for my wee boys, and I could have been a better person.

My mental health has been affected by what happened to me at Kerelaw. I think about my time in care a lot. I have flashbacks especially about what did to me. Sometimes I wake up in a panic at night and it feels like I am having an anxiety attack. I have not had flashbacks for years but recently since I have been going to see a psychologist and mental health people I have obviously been talking to them and it just brings it back to me. I don't know why I do that but obviously what did to me was not just a wee assault. It was a very bad assault. My legs and my back were covered in black and blue bruises, lumps of hair were pulled out. It was a really traumatic time for me.

Other information

- office, Lauren Milney. I told her about my time in Kerelaw and that had been charged in 2002 but I had never heard what happened to him. She later got back to me and told me that he had been charged with assault to injury and that he had been sentenced and had been given a warning letter.
- 64. I think it was the police who recently referred me to Future Pathways. I have been to see the Future Pathways lawyer, who is going to help me take a civil action out against Glasgow City Council for what happened to me.

Treatment / support

65. I went to my doctor just a few months ago because I was feeling so anxious about everything. He said that I have mental anxiety. I just think I am going to die all the time. I always want a scan if I have a lump because I think it's cancer. If I have a lump on my neck I think the worst but all it turns out to be is swollen glands. I just think the worse of everything. He referred me to the mental health team for counselling and they have referred me to the trauma team. I have only just started to

see them. Apparently they think I may have PTSD but this has not been diagnosed yet. They are going to assess me.

Records

66. I have never tried to get any of my records but Future Pathways are helping me try to recover them.

Lessons to be learned

- 67. In 2004 EUO assaulted me and I reported it to the police. He was charged but he was allowed back to work with children. Some of the staff were good. They all had different reasons for being there. Some were there for the money. Some were there because they were abusers, and some were there because they cared for children.
- 68. Kerelaw was full of vulnerable children who were there for various reasons and different backgrounds. It was really hard for all of us. They should have supported us and helped us. One thing I never understood was why, in Kerelaw, all the male members of staff were six feet tall and really big built. They were all built like bouncers. Why did they feel they had to have that kind of staff there? That was really intimidating because of their size. They also have to put children in the right home, where there is the right kind of help. You can't just put somebody that has been molested with someone who has a drug habit. All that will happen is that the molested child is going to end up taking drugs.
- 69. I think I have been let down by Glasgow City Council who put me in Kerelaw. I was placed in there at the age of twelve and as far as I know you had to be at least thirteen to be in there. There must have been somewhere else more suitable that I could have gone to.

Hopes for the Inquiry

- 70. I think staff at children's homes should be trained appropriately and I think they should be trained to deal with children from all different backgrounds. Staff should get extra training if they are dealing with kids who have mental health problems, or kids who have come from drug backgrounds. Some kids had been arrested previously before they went into the unit and I just think they need to have trained, appropriate staff to work with these kids.
- 71. I just hope that things change for the younger generation so the abuse does stop. There are loads of people old enough to be my great gran who it has happened to and it is still going on. Hopefully the word gets out there and they get the right people for the jobs. It is not just a job dealing with children, it is people's lives. Sometimes emotional damage is worse than physical damage and it stays with you. It has certainly stayed with me. Some people have had a lot worse than I have and their lives have been destroyed. They shouldn't get away with it.
- 72. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed	
Dated 11 / 1 / 1 8'	***************************************