

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HPZ

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is HPZ. My date of birth is 1973. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. Almost the whole time I was in care I was known as HPZ.

Life before going into care

2. I was born and brought up initially in Blackhill, Glasgow and have one brother and one sister. My sister is three years older than me. My brother is nine years younger than me. Neither or were ever put in care. My mum and dad, and, were both working around the time I was born. My dad worked on building sites and my mum worked part-time in a restaurant. She was also at college doing a course to become a social worker. When we were living there I went to St Philomena's primary school. As far as I can remember my early childhood was okay but things changed when I was about six years old and we moved to Ruchazie.
3. When we moved to Ruchazie I started at St Philip's primary school. Because I started after everybody else I was given a bit of a hard time for being the new boy. It was a bit rocky at school to start with but it got better. The down side was that we had moved away from my grannies and my uncles who lived next door to us in Blackhill. I turned a bit feral when I was there and started to become violent and lashed out at people. I was always fighting. The teachers at school weren't interested in me. My parents were very strict with me and kept me in the house all the time and wouldn't let me out to see my pals.

4. It started off that I was just getting into trouble at school then it was happening at other times in Ruchazie. I was getting into trouble, mostly for fighting and smoking. I started running away from home because I hated being locked in the house and because my parents were too strict. I was meeting up with my pals who were older than me and I was often staying out overnight. The police would catch me and take me home but as soon as I was back I would just run away again.

5. I had a social worker because of my behaviour. She was Anne-Marie Mercer who worked in the Ruchazie office. The first Children's Panel I ever went to was when I was eight or nine because I was running away all the time. At one of the Panels they decided to send me to a children's home. My mum and dad were there and they were asked how they felt about me going into a children's home. My social worker was there too. My parents objected but the Panel said they had decided that I was going. When I was about nine I saw a child psychologist in Alexandra Parade, Denniston. He was asking me lots of questions and was trying to figure out why I was running away. I refused to talk to him.

6. I am not sure of the order of the first two homes that I was in. I think I was in Alva House in Crookston first and then Maxwell Park but it may have been the other way round. I went straight from the Panel with my mum and dad and my social worker. I was quite happy to be going into a children's home because I felt my mum and dad were too strict with me.

Alva House children's home, Crookston

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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12. I was still running away from home and getting into trouble so I went to another Panel and was sent to Maxwell Park children's home which was also in Glasgow.

Maxwell Park children's home, Glasgow

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later



15. I went to two Panels during my time at Maxwell Park and my mum, dad and social worker were there. Again my running away and my gang fighting was discussed. At the last Panel they decided that I was to go to Larchgrove and it was all arranged for me to go. I was told I was going there for three weeks to be assessed. I went straight from the Panel in the back of the social worker's car and my mum and dad came with me.

Larchgrove assessment centre, Glasgow

16. I didn't want to go to Larchgrove because some of my pals were in there and they told me some things about it and said it wasn't a good place to be. I was apprehensive about going. I was ten or eleven when I started there and I was just about to go to secondary school.
17. Larchgrove was an old building and it was horrible. It was right next door to St John's List D School on Edinburgh Road in the east end of Glasgow. On one side it was Springboig and on the other was Barlanark.
18. I went with my social worker and my mum and dad. When we arrived the staff were all 'nicey nicey' until our parents left. The head teacher, whose name I can't remember, met us. After my parents left it was pretty strict. Like all the other places I had been I continued to run away. I wanted to be with my pals in Ruchazie. When I was caught and taken back I got a slap on the head sometimes from a member of

staff called ^{HUB} [REDACTED] We called him that because [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED]. I can't remember his real name. I probably deserved these slaps and wasn't too bothered about it.

19. There was an open unit and a secure unit. For some reason the secure unit wasn't supposed to be used and had shut down but when I was caught running away I was put in there to try and stop me. There were other boys in there too.
20. There was a school within Larchgrove. I went there sometimes but often when I went in the school it wasn't secure so I climbed out a window and ran away.
21. I was supposed to be in Larchgrove for three weeks but because I kept running away it ended up being six or seven weeks. There wasn't anything that I would call abuse in Larchgrove. It was okay.
22. My mum and dad regularly visited me and I know that they wanted me to be back at home with them but they couldn't make it happen. Because of my running away I had another Children's Panel and again my mum, dad and social worker were there. The decision at this Panel was to send me to St Philip's List D school.

St Philip's List D school, Airdrie

23. Again my mum, dad and social worker took me to St Philip's List D School in Airdrie. I don't really know how I felt by that stage. I think I was getting used to being moved about from pillar to post. We were met by the headmaster Mr Kane. St Philip's was made up of several small newly built units. I was shown the dining room and where I would be sleeping. Initially I was in a dorm with four beds then when other rooms became available I moved to a room with two beds then ultimately I had a single room. It wasn't a secure building. There was a school within St Philip's which I went to which was alright. Round the back was a play-barn where we played football at night.

24. Staff were quite reasonable with me and the food was alright. There were no issues here and there was nothing that I would consider to be abuse. I didn't run away as much because there were other boys in there from Glasgow. I was also getting fed up sleeping rough when I ran away. I was either sleeping in closes or in stolen cars and sometimes at some of my older pal's houses. Because of that I became a day boy. That was after I had been there for around a year. This meant that I got to go home every night and just went back to the school at St Philip's through the day. In the last six months I was there the staff told me that if I continued to return every day and go to school and stop running away I would be allowed to return to live with my mum and dad.
25. I was there for around a year and a half. I went to more panels and because things were getting better for me and I had stopped running away I was allowed to go back full time to live with my mum and dad.

Life back at home with mum and dad

26. At home I started mixing with the wrong people again and started skipping school. I was going to St Gregory's in Cranhill at that time. I saw my social worked probably once a fortnight. She always asked me how things were going but I was still hanging about with older people and getting into trouble with the police. I was home for about six months before another children's panel was arranged. My mum, dad and social worker were at the panel. The panel this time decided to send me to Cardross to be assessed. They didn't tell me how long I was going to be there for.

Cardross assessment centre, Cardross

27. I was at Cardross for six to eight weeks. It was a fairly new building. Initially I was in a double room but when one became available I got a single room. I ran away once when I was at Cardross but I never went far. I was with some other boys and we stayed in the area.

28. I had a good time at Cardross and all the staff were good. They couldn't do enough for me. I didn't get home for the weekends but my mum and dad could visit at the weekends and take me out for the day. Sometimes they took me down to the beach or sometimes to Helensburgh then afterwards they would drop me back off. It seemed far more stable at Cardross. I went back to a panel at the end of my time at Cardross. Again my running away and violence was discussed even though I never really ran away from Cardross. They weren't just assessing my time at Cardross they were looking at everything that happened before. At this panel it was decided to send me to St John's List D school at Springboig.

St John's list D school, Springboig

29. I went straight from the panel to St John's. I would still have been thirteen when I went there. There were about a hundred boys and the age range was from thirteen up to seventeen. It was split into five units and one of these was for independent living. This was for the older boys who were soon to be leaving. I never went there. I slept in a great big room upstairs that was divided by wooden partitions. This meant there was no ceiling and there wasn't a door, just a curtain. You didn't get any privacy.
30. I was there for about eight months. I had a good time and all the staff were good. I went to school within St John's for a half a day and the other half a day was spent at working groups. If you were nearly fourteen and your education was okay you could take part. There were working groups for mechanics, bricklaying, landscaping, electrician and other things. I chose to do landscaping and I did it the whole time I was there. These were all within St John's.
31. St John's wasn't secure so I could run away at any time I wanted. I did and usually headed back to Ruchazie to see my pals and again got involved in gang fights. One of the times I ran away I was with my pals and a member of staff was driving past and recognised me. He stopped and told me to put the machete I was carrying away.

My pals surrounded him and I had to get them to leave him alone and I made sure he got safely back in his car.

32. After that incident with the member of staff I was on the run for another three or four weeks before I was caught. I was sleeping in stolen cars or in closes or anywhere I could find. The police caught me and I was taken to Easterhouse police station where I was kept overnight. In the morning I went to the Sheriff court because of the violence and the fighting. I was referred by the Sheriff court to the Children's Panel and they decided to send me to Kerelaw. They didn't say how long I was going there for. My mum, dad and my social worker were at this Panel. By this time it was a male social worker whose name I can't remember.
33. The police took me straight to Kerelaw in the back of a van. My mum, dad and social worker didn't come with me. I was still fourteen at this point. I didn't really have any feelings about going to Kerelaw and I hadn't heard anything about it before I got there. I thought it was just another place that I would have to get used to.

Kerelaw List D school, Stevenston

34. Kerelaw was made up of four units in separate buildings. Attached to each unit was a dining unit. There was also a secure unit which sat on its own. Kerelaw sat in its own grounds. Also in the grounds was the education block and a gym hall. Within my unit, which was called Morriston, there was a shower unit, a recreation room and upstairs were the bedrooms. I was in a dorm which had four beds in it. There were six or seven boys in my unit. There were girls in one of the other units and I think there were a couple in the secure unit. The age range was thirteen up to seventeen. I can't remember the names of the other units.
35. Miss Dock was in charge of Morriston. Other members of staff were John Muldoon and one of two brothers. One was in my unit and the other was in the secure unit. Their names were zHWW-HWW but I can't remember which one was which. It was the younger one that was in Morriston. The other brother in the secure unit was

older and had buck teeth. There was another member of staff in Morrision called HUF but I can't remember his last name. He had a gold Vauxhall Carlton car. There were night staff too but I can't remember their names.

Routine at Kerelaw

First day

36. When I arrived I met Miss Dock. She showed me around the unit and where I would be sleeping. She told me not to run away and act like a 'wee Glasgow gangster'. As soon as the police went away I was told to get undressed and they took my clothes and trainers off me. They gave me a vest, shorts and underwear but not any shoes. This was to stop me from running away. That was all I had to wear for the first week, even to school. I didn't even have anything on my feet. I was the only one dressed like this.

Mornings and bedtime

37. The staff woke us up in the morning, usually at half past seven, and we would get up get dressed then go downstairs for a wash then go for breakfast. After breakfast I would go back to the unit then go to school. The bedtime routine was a wash then we were sent to our bed about half past nine.

Mealtimes/Food

38. We sat anywhere we wanted in the dining room and the woman brought our food to us. We went back at lunchtime and then later on had our evening meal there. The food was alright but there were certain things I didn't like and was forced to eat them by John Muldoon. If John Muldoon wasn't on duty the rest of the staff were fine, and if I didn't want to eat something it was okay to leave it. If John Muldoon wasn't there the woman who served the food would ask if there was something else she could do for me.

Washing/bathing

39. We washed every day at the sink and had a shower once a week. I can't remember what night that was.

Clothing/uniform

40. After I had been there a week, only wearing the vest and pants they gave me, I was given my own clothes back. I got my trainers back too. Other clothes were brought to me from my home. Our dirty clothes were taken away, washed and returned to us at the unit.

Leisure time

41. In our leisure time we would play table tennis or pool or just sit about watching the television. There were no board games to play or books, comics or magazines to read. The staff were always there with us. We weren't allowed to go back to our bedrooms. We played football in the barn outside and the staff played too.
42. I got to go home one weekend a month because I was entitled to it.

Trips and holidays

43. Sometimes the staff might take us to watch a football match or something like that but it was always something they wanted to do. It was usually to Ayrshire junior games. They used to take us in to Saltcoats using our money, and they played snooker. They would drink beer and play snooker but we didn't get a chance to play a game. We had to just sit there and watch them. Sometimes we were left in the amusement arcade which was downstairs and they gave us a juice. We had to wait until they were finished. This was the three men from our unit. The whole unit had to go and we didn't have a choice.

44. They took us on a hill walking break for four days and we stayed in a bothy somewhere but I am not sure where it was. This was just an excuse for John Muldoon and the other male staff in the unit to drink. We got lost trying to find the bothy but we asked a farmer and he ended up giving us a lift in a trailer to the bothy which was about ten miles away. There were four or five people already there and through talking to them I found out they were students. As soon as we arrived John Muldoon and HUF were bossing these students about. The students obviously felt really awkward and upset by the way they were treated so much so that they packed up and left. There was a visitors book in the bothy so it would be interesting to know what John Muldoon wrote in this book before we left.

Schooling

45. The school was in a separate building. There was very little teaching and it was all just a big carry on in the class. Some teachers came from outside and some worked in Kerelaw. There were six or seven children in each class and we just sat, smoked, did drawings and colouring in and had a carry on. After lunch we would go back to the unit then go back to school.

Healthcare

46. There was a matron there who we went to if we were unwell but if she couldn't deal with it we were sent to the doctor in Stevenston. We went to the dentist in Stevenston too.

Work

47. We had chores to do like cleaning the bedroom, the recreation room and the showers. There wasn't a rota and it wasn't at a certain time of the day. We all just mucked in and did it when we were told. Any of the members of staff supervised us.

Birthdays and Christmas

48. I can't remember if I was in there over Christmas or if it was celebrated. Birthdays weren't celebrated at all. My mum and dad visited me on my birthday and that was all.

Pocket money

49. I got pocket money when I was in Kerelaw. I think it was something like seven pound a week. My mum and dad used to send me money too. It was all recorded in a book and if you wanted money out you had to sign for it. John Muldoon and the other two male staff used to tell me they were skint and asked for a loan of money. They would get me to sign for twenty pound and they would take it. I never saw it again.

Bed Wetting

50. I wet the bed when I was at Kerelaw and I was punished. Other boys wet their beds and they were punished too.

Visitors

51. My mum and dad came to visit me, usually on a Saturday. We didn't get a private room or any privacy anywhere. There were two chairs placed right outside the staff office in the unit. Two sat on the chairs and someone on the stairs. I wasn't allowed to go out for a walk with them.

Running Away

52. I ran away in the first week even though they had confiscated my shoes and my clothes so I couldn't. I borrowed a pair of trainers from another boy. A couple of weeks after getting my clothes back I continued to run away. I was running back to Ruchazie to see my pals. The police usually caught me and the emergency social

worker would be contacted and took me back to Kerelaw. I never told them why I was running away because it was a waste of time. Nothing would have changed.

Abuse at Kerelaw

53. If you didn't like food or didn't eat it, John Muldoon would force feed you. If I refused to eat it he would make comments asking if I thought I was Bobby Sands. One time I refused to eat the porridge so he rammed my face into the bowl. He then pulled my head back and rammed a sausage into my mouth. This happened almost every day with him.
54. I wet the bed when I was at Kerelaw. Sometimes I got my face pushed into the wet sheets in the morning. I was scared because I couldn't breathe. My face was pushed right into the wetness and it was going into my mouth and I was inhaling my urine. This happened to me regularly. Staff, including John Muldoon, often made me sleep with the same sheets the next night.
55. All the abuse was by the three men who were supposed to be looking after me, John Muldoon, ^{zHWV-HWW} and the other boy called ^{HUF} John Muldoon was the ring leader and the others copied him. They weren't quite as bad when John wasn't there. All three of them used to 'leather' me for nothing. They used me for their entertainment. They all punched me and kicked me to my head and body. Sometimes they would lift me up the drop me so that my spine landed on their knee. This was a wrestling move that was popular at the time. They practiced all the wrestling moves on me, twisting my arms up my back, things like that. I would sometimes be screaming with the pain. I saw them doing this to other boys too. I didn't deserve the way they treated me.
56. One time when we were on a hill walking trip, John Muldoon ^{zHWV-HWW} ^{HUF} were there. They were still drunk from the night before and they burned the breakfast so I refused to eat it. Muldoon ^{zHWV-HWW} rammed the burnt food into my mouth. They then put me into my sleeping bag and grabbed the top end and spun me round and

round then let go. The three of them then trampled over me in the sleeping bag. They did this to the other boys too. They were animals.

57. They made me fight with another boy from Ayrshire who was in the unit. I couldn't refuse or they would have battered me. I fought with him. This happened with other boys too. The person that lost the fight got a beating from the staff. The loser would be the person who 'gave in' first.
58. Sometimes when they were playing pool one of them would pin my hand to the table so my fingers were hanging into the pocket. They would then hit the balls hard so that my fingers got hit by the ball. They would take shots at it. My fingers were broken but I never got any treatment. Another time I was pinned to the floor and they rammed the pool cue up my backside after they pulled my tracksuit bottoms down. All the time they were saying that I wanted it and that I would enjoy it. zHVV-HVV holding me down and Muldoon was ramming the pool cue into me. I don't know if it went inside me or not.
59. I can't remember when it was but John Muldoon had me lying on the ground pulling my legs apart and he was standing on my balls. Muldoon would do whatever he wanted to me. I couldn't stop him. Sometimes he would be in the showers and when I was washing my hair he would hit me in the balls with a stick. If I tried to cover myself up with my hands he would hit me on the head with the stick. He would then drag me up and down the shower room. He was brutal.
60. In the matron's room there was a book kept called a falls book where anybody who was hurt and needed treatment was recorded. The matron recorded the information in this book.
61. I had bought a steak knife when I was out on leave in Glasgow and I took it back to the unit and left it under my pillow. I was going to stab John Muldoon. The staff must have searched my bed space and found it when I was downstairs. I was shouted to go into the office and they told me they had found the knife and I got a couple of slaps across the head. I was then taken upstairs to the dorm and I got a further

beating from the staff. My legs and head were hit with pool cues, and I got a slap to my back. My mattress was put on top of me lying on the ground and they all jumped on it. I can't remember who did this to me.

62. I smashed up **HUF** car. Not **HWW** but the other **HUF** whose name I can't remember. He battered me regularly so I damaged his car. I got a beating for doing that too. I smashed Muldoon's car up too. They knew it was me and I got a beating from them.
63. I was never tied to a bed but I know they tied one boy to his bed to stop him from running away. He was tied with bedsheets. Another thing they did was tie boys to their bed then turn the bed upside down so they were facing the floor. Again this was just for their entertainment. I don't want to name the other boys who I saw this happen to.

Kerelaw Secure Unit

64. About two weeks after the steak knife was found I was out on weekend leave back in Glasgow and I got slashed. I ended up in Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The doctor at the hospital refused to allow staff to take me back to Kerelaw. He told them I was to go home. I would still have been fourteen or fifteen. I went home for a week then had to go back to Kerelaw. When I got back to Kerelaw I got beaten again by John Muldoon. As soon as I could I ran away again and when I was caught and taken back I was put into the secure unit.
65. I was in the secure unit for about a year. There were five other boys in secure. We had individual cells on the upper level. The staff in the secure unit were far better. I trusted them more and they didn't batter me. Even though it was secure at least the staff tried to help me.

66. After a while we got told John Muldoon was coming to work at the secure unit so me and another boy barricaded ourselves in a room. The staff told us that Muldoon wouldn't touch us and they convinced us to come out.

Abuse at Kerelaw secure unit

67. When I was there I heard that John Muldoon was going to be coming to the secure unit. I told **KAN** my personal officer, and another member of staff called Dunoota about the abuse that I had suffered at his hands but they just said it wouldn't happen in the secure unit. Other boys were telling them the same thing. I think there was a senior management change in there that allowed John Muldoon to come to the secure unit. When Muldoon arrived he continued to batter me but always did it when there was no other staff there. He would take me up to level one when he knew no one else would be there.
68. John Muldoon didn't force feed me like he had done before because there were usually other members of staff there. There were no issues with the food being offered but I still had issues eating solid food.
69. I went on a trip to Arran when I was at the secure unit. When we were there two boys stole a car. They were caught and we were all sent back to the secure unit. Our trip was cut short. When we got back they got leathered by **SNR** from the main jail whose name was **LEF**. He was English. I didn't see them getting beaten but I heard it. One of the boys was called **[REDACTED]**
70. When we got back from Arran just after the other boys had been given their beating I was caught smoking so I was dragged back upstairs by my collar to the bedrooms where he hit me with his fists in a backhand and he burst my nose. He then punched me in the face and burst a tooth. As a result I had to go to a dentist in Stevenston.

Reporting of abuse at Kerelaw

71. I never told my mum and dad what was going on at Kerelaw. I told my social worker that John Muldoon had not only abused me in the residential unit but he had followed me into the secure unit where he continue to abuse me. He just called me a liar. This was the male social worker whose name I can't remember. After he called me a liar I never mentioned it again. There wasn't a member of staff that I trusted that I could tell.
72. When I was in the secure unit I tried to tell the brother of the member of staff [REDACTED] that his brother had battered me when I was in the residential unit. He told me that I was a liar and slapped me a couple of times.
73. All the other staff at Kerelaw knew what was going on but did nothing about it. I told the other members of staff at the secure unit what Muldoon was doing but they said they never saw it and there was nothing they could do. They would have seen him always taking me up to level one and they would have known why he was taking me there. They just turned a blind eye. Miss Dock must have known what was going on.

Leaving Kerelaw secure unit

74. I was doing better towards the end of my time in the secure unit. I was getting weekend leave and I was going back on the Sunday evening. This was because things were slightly better in there apart from when Muldoon was on duty. I went to another children's panel and it was decided that I should go back to St John's List D school. My mum, dad and social worker were there. My mum didn't want me to go back to St John's because it was so close to where we lived and she thought I would end up running away again to be with my pals and would get into bother. She said this at the Panel but because I had done everything that had been asked of me they said they couldn't keep me at Kerelaw. I was fifteen when I left Kerelaw.

Back to St John's List D School, Springboig

75. When I went back to St John's the staff knew that I wasn't eating solid food and was only eating soup. I couldn't eat meat. This was ever since I was force fed food at Kerelaw. They must have been told that I wasn't eating solid food and they thought it must have been something to do with my diet. They asked me why and I told them it was because of the force feeding at Kerelaw. I think the member of staff I told was John McFadden.
76. Everything was alright at St John's. This time I was in St John's about a year in total. I only ran away a couple of times when I was there. Because I was behaving, after about eight months, I became a day boy meaning I got to sleep at home. I think I realised when I was in there that I needed to grow up and start to do things for myself. I went back to doing my landscaping and I enjoyed it.
77. I got a job when I was in St John's working in a hotel. When my City of Guild's certificates came through for landscaping I got a job working for a landscaping firm. I had to get two buses to get there. I never ran away because I had friends and I was doing my landscaping which I enjoyed.
78. Just before I left, the headmaster Mr Paddy Hanrahan approached me and told me that I was old enough to leave. I was sixteen. He said that I had to leave, stand on my own two feet and try to survive in the outside world on my own. He told me that I would have a couple of weeks at St John's to get myself sorted and find somewhere to stay. My social worker came to see me at St John's to see what was happening with me.
79. No one ever taught me, before I left St John's, how to cook, how to pays bills or generally how to look after myself. No one even helped me try and find a place to stay when I left.

Life after St John's List D School

80. I stayed with my mum for about a week but it didn't work out so I left. I 'sofa surfed' on and off for a long time. I was getting into bother with the police because I was still involved in gang fighting and I was involved with football casuals at the same time. I had regular contact with the police who were locking me up and I often appeared at court. The first couple of times I was remanded then let out. I was given community service which was painting.

Longriggend detention centre, Airdrie

81. I would have been sixteen when I was first sent to Longriggend. I am not sure what I had done. I was supposed to be in there for a three week assessment but because there were problems with my paperwork it ended up being six weeks. I was in and out Longriggend a few times after that until I was 21. There was nothing significant that happened at Longriggend I want to talk about.

Life after being in care

82. No one ever approached me after I left St John's and told me that I was no longer in care or that the social work no longer had anything to do with me. The only dealings I had with social workers were through the courts who did background reports on me before I was sentenced.
83. I was in and out of prison from the time that I left St John's when I was sixteen. I worked for a landscaping firm and they took me back each time I was released from prison. When I was twenty I was sentenced to a fifteen year custodial sentence for robbery and I served ten and a half years of that sentence before I was released. Between my prison sentences I also did various jobs. I worked in McDonalds, in hotels and in a warehouse.

84. My life has been a life of violence and crime. Most of my convictions are for violence. I was married for about fourteen years but we divorced.

Impact

85. The lasting impact for me has been that I am either too clingy or I stay too far back. People in my life have always said I am either intense or I act like I don't care. I find it hard to show emotion, and control it.
86. I was with my ex-wife for 14 years, having married her at age 24. The marriage lasted 7 years and we had one daughter. Memories of the abuse came up again, and I pushed them away to protect them. I felt I could not be trusted. I am unable to open up to her. She visits me but I can never open up.
87. My oldest daughter lost her Mum on [REDACTED] 1997. We have never got on since and as a result I don't see my grandkids. Communication with her often drops off.
88. One of my daughters experienced abuse from a friend of family. I will never forgive myself for this. I found out when I got out of prison. The trauma of past memories led me to a spiral of drug use to try and block out the memories. I feel like everything I touch turns to shit.
89. My Mum and Dad don't even know the full story. I can never tell them the full truth. I told my Dad once that the staff were hitting me, he went up to the home and threatened the school. I saw the look on his face and I knew I could never tell him anything more.
90. Relationships with friends have also been difficult. I feel unable to share the truth with anyone. I told my friends about the fight in St John's and they went up and surrounded the cars. The staff locked themselves in and wouldn't come out. Keeping the abuse to myself was a way of protecting people I care about from pain or them

getting into trouble. I have always been a people pleaser and hate to see people upset.

91. Whilst I was being abused I would play a song in my head on repeat. I would pick a song I liked and it would take me away from what was happening. When I hear it now on the radio or TV, or even when it's remixed into a song I get sweaty hands and a knot in my stomach. Now I am in prison I can't take myself away.
92. Food and food smells are very triggering to me because of what happened in Kerlaw. Even in the hottest days I keep the windows shut as my prison cell is near the kitchen. With the window open the smell fills the cell. I keep lots of air fresheners in my cell. The smell of meat is especially triggering. Every time I eat food, especially any sort of hard food I think about my time in Kerelaw and I have great difficulty eating. I don't get any pleasure in eating anything. I live off Lentil soup and meal replacements drinks which the GP prescribes for me.
93. The impact on my life from my time in care has been massive. I started taking illegal drugs to block out my memories. My drug use would change depending on what I could get my hands on. Sometimes I would need to feel up, sometimes to go down. I started taking them when I was in the secure unit at Kerelaw. Because of taking drugs throughout my life I have had difficulty holding down jobs. I would work for a few months then have to leave and find other jobs.
94. When I was in my late thirties I got a job as a telehandler on a building site but I was given a drugs test and it came up that I had methadone in my system. I was told that because of that I would have to get extra insurance to work the machinery. I tried but couldn't get any insurance so that meant I couldn't work there anymore.
95. Because of what happened to me in care I don't trust authority. Everyone in Kerelaw knew what was happening and no one did anything about it. I can't blame being in care for me becoming involved in crime. That was the way I was heading anyway.

96. Every time I read in the papers or see something on the television about children in care being abused, I think back to my time in care, especially in Kerelaw. I think how unhappy I was and how what went on was so wrong. I can't believe that they got away with it when everyone knew.

Treatment/support

97. I was never contacted after I left St John's and asked by anybody how I was or if I was coping. No one at any stage ever contacted me and told me I was no longer classed as being in care.
98. I have never tried to get any help, support or counselling to try and help me. I would have to trust someone enough to tell them what I had been through and how I felt. I find that really difficult because I don't trust anyone.

Reporting of Abuse

99. When I was in Shotts prison around 1998 or 1999 I had been on various courses and it was coming up in my course work about the abuse I suffered at Kerelaw. Yvonne Jones, the prison social worker, at my request, arranged for CID officers to come and I gave them a statement. I didn't tell them as much as I have told the Inquiry because I didn't trust them. They left and they never came back to see me or tell me what was happening. I have never told anyone else.

Records

100. Yvonne Jones also tried to get my social work records for me. She came back to me and told me that because my mum and sister were social workers my records were blocked. I am not sure why that is the case.

Lessons to be learned

101. I want to see the people who abused me in court and get the jail for what they did to me. My life was hell and they have got away with it. I don't want any other child to go through what I did when I was in care and hopefully by me coming forward it will make sure it doesn't happen again.
102. Staff shouldn't work permanently in the one unit. As soon as John Muldoon and the other two were put together they became like a gang. They socialised together and worked together.

Other information

103. Every time my mum and dad came to the Children's Panels they made it known that they wanted me to go home with them. The panel never let them and always said that they had to stop me from running away because they were worried that something was going to happen to me.
104. I am not aware of actually being assessed at any of the places I was put. Staff at Larchgrove and Cardross, which were assessment centres, were the only ones who asked me about my daily routine and how things were going. They wanted to know why I was running away and getting into trouble. They were trying to get a decent picture of my home life. I think they were doing this to do a report for the next Children's Panel.
105. Anne-Marie Mercer was my social worker from before I went into care until I was fourteen or fifteen. I saw her a lot and she tried to help me. The social worker who replaced her, I can't remember his name, but I hardly ever saw him.
106. 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.

HPZ

Signed.....



Dated.....

15-3-22