

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IAH

Support person present: No

1. My name is IAH My date of birth is 1967. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Burnside, Glasgow and stayed with my mum, dad and two older sisters until I was two years old. My mum's name is and my dad is Mum worked part time as far as I believe but I am not one hundred percent sure on that. What I have been told by my dad is that he was hard working holding down two or three jobs. My sisters are who is sixty and who is fifty-eight.
3. My parents split up when I was two. My mum left the family home and my dad had us with him. I can remember parts of it but not much. Certain incidents I think I remember but now I don't know if it is that I have just been told about them through the years from either of my parents. These incidents were just the sort of things you did when you were a wean. Me and my sisters then went to stay with my mum in Castlemilk which wasn't too far from Burnside. It was like going from a private area to a more council estate type of place.
4. I went to Windlaw primary school until primary seven. I then moved to Grange High School which is now called Castlemilk High School. My mum moved to another area in Castlemilk called Downcraig where the people around us didn't have anything. We didn't have much but before then I wasn't out stealing or anything like that. Once I was

fourteen, I started getting in trouble with the police for things like stealing from the school. It was just stupid childish things. I started fighting with the people who I had been going about with before I moved to the other end of Castlemilk. I would have to cut through that way going to school and was in class with them all too. I started dogging school and all of that is why I ended up getting put in an approved school.

5. I wouldn't say I was brilliant at school. In high school, they showed me two different handwriting samples and one was neat and the other was hell. The neat one was my writing from primary school and the bad writing was mine from high school. I couldn't believe my handwriting had got so bad.
6. I got on all right with my sisters, we grew up together without any issues and they went to the same schools I did. They were lassies and older than me so I was the stupid wee brother. I got on all right with my mum too. My oldest sister moved out when she was sixteen and went to stay with my auntie in Uddingston. She ended up meeting someone through there and getting married. I was still seeing my dad on occasions. He always took part in my life.
7. I was never involved with the social work but I ended up in front of a Children's Panel because me and my two pals had broken into the school. The police lifted us and the next again day we were taken to court but the court sent us to the Panel. It was Glasgow Sheriff Court who sent us to the Panel which was in Glasgow. My two pals and I were at the same Panel and they sent us to Larchgrove for three weeks assessment. After that assessment they let me go home but my two pals got sent to a List D school. I don't know why they didn't get home, maybe they had been in trouble before. My behaviour didn't change and within a week or so I ended back up in front of the Panel and they sent me back to Larchgrove for another three weeks although I ended up staying for about six weeks. I was around 14-15 for both stays at Larchgrove.

## **Larchgrove Assessment Centre**

8. We went to Larchgrove straight from the first panel. I don't remember who it was that took us, maybe social workers or members of staff from Larchgrove. It was a big shock to go to Larchgrove.
9. The second time I went was meant to be for three weeks but my assessment wasn't finished so the Panel gave me another three weeks.
10. The routine for both stays was the same. I was also in the same unit on both stays. Boys would come and go all the time as it was an assessment centre.
11. Larchgrove had a big wall in front of it and St John's Approved school was next door. When you came in the front gates you could drive down to the main door. When you went in the front door the "headies" office was there. There were a couple of bungalow type buildings that were quite long and separate and each had sections where you had the dorms where we slept. There were three wings. Along the corridor there was a big gym in the middle of the buildings. Each dorm had four or five boys in them and each unit had about five dorms. There was a sitting room and a wee snooker room up by the dorms. You could move about the building but the main door was locked so you couldn't come and go as you pleased.
12. In the unit I was in, the boys were aged between fifteen and sixteen years old although there were boys who were younger than me in there. I can't remember the age of the youngest boys. There was another unit up the back which was for boys past the age of sixteen who just didn't have anywhere else to go. It was like a semi-hostel for them.
13. There wasn't a lot of staff, maybe two or three in my unit. I do not remember any of their names. They didn't wear a uniform, they just wore civvy clothing. The staff were all right. Although it was all boys in the place the staff were mixed.
14. I do not think I had anyone like a key worker but there was a member of staff who attended a panel type meeting in Larchgrove although I don't know who they were.

## **Routine at Larchgrove Assessment Centre**

### *First day*

15. The first time I went the headmaster came out from his office and he took us round to where we would be staying. He would show you your bed and the cabinet next to it for any stuff you had. He would then show you about the place before he left you there with the staff. I was split up from my two pals who were put in other wings. I think the staff told me what the rules were.

### *Mornings and bedtime*

16. We got up around eight in the morning, got washed and went for breakfast. After breakfast you would go to the sitting room. You could then have a smoke. Bedtime was around eight or nine o'clock. We were locked in our dorms so if you needed the toilet I think we just kicked the door and the old "watchy" came along and opened it.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

17. All our meals were eaten in the dining room. Breakfast was cereal and toast. We also had lunch and tea. I can't really remember the food but I was a wean and would have eaten anything.

### *Washing/bathing*

18. There was a room with lots of sinks next to the dorms and that is where we would wash in the morning. The shower room was next to the gym

### *Clothing/uniform*

19. I think I wore my own clothes.

### *Leisure time*

20. I really just hung about all day every day. I could use the gym or just walk about. I played football down in the gym or walked about the yard. That was the same on the second stay until I got to go to the school.

### *Trips and holidays*

21. I remember going away in the minibus a couple of times down to the shore but that was about it.

### *Schooling*

22. Larchgrove had a school but it is funny that in the first three weeks I was there I never went to school for some reason. I wasn't offered it.
23. On the second stay they offered me schooling but that didn't happen until I had been there about two weeks. At first it was alright but after about three and a half weeks I started going to another teacher. After the first four days or so with him I had a run in with him and I didn't get back to school after that.

### *Healthcare / medication*

24. There wasn't any medical unit in Larchgrove. You would have to go out to see a doctor but I never needed to go.

### *Religious instruction*

25. Larchgrove wasn't a religious place. I hadn't been brought up in a religious family.

### *Work*

26. I never had to do any work in either of my stays at Larchgrove.

### *Culture*

27. If you were fourteen and older you could smoke as long as you had permission from your parents. I was allowed to smoke and my mum had to pay for them. The cigarettes went into a big box and the staff handed them out to us. I think you were only allowed about five fags a day.

### *Visitors*

28. On my first stay my sister [REDACTED] would come and visit me once a week. It was 30-40 minutes journey to Larchgrove for her on the bus.
29. I never got any visits from Social Work.

### *Running away*

30. I never ran away the first time I was there.
31. The second time I was there I ran away after the teacher hit me. I wasn't away for long, it was just a day or so. I think the reason I ran away was because of the teacher but I can't say now that my memory is clear why I did. It was a spur of the moment thing when my sister was up seeing me. I had taken a pal down to see my sister with me. The visiting room was right next to the headmaster's office near the front door. They had to open the front door to let my sister out and when they did me and my pal bolted through. I just went back up the road to my mums. The polis came and took me back to Larchgrove. I got the belt from the headmaster for running away. He hit me over the hand two or three times. The belt was just like the one you got at school.

### *Review of detention*

32. I think the Panel would have said what type of assessment was to be made on both occasions I was sent to Larchgrove but I can't remember. On the first stay I don't know what they could be assessing as I wasn't going to school.

### *Discipline*

33. The only discipline we routinely got was the belt. It was only the headmaster who was allowed to give us the belt and it was always being strapped across the hand. I think it must have been legal to give us the belt but I don't know what would want make someone want to hit weans. As far as I believe everything was plain sailing with me until the teacher hit me. It was as if that changed everything.

### **Abuse at Larchgrove Assessment Centre**

34. During my second stay, after three and a half weeks I started going to another teacher and within four days or something I think I was being a pest so the teacher told me to stop my carrying on. I must have been acting gallus so he back handed me bursting my mouth. I remember spitting the blood from my mouth on the floor and the teacher grabbed my head and rubbed my face right into it. All the other boys in the class saw what he did to me. I ran down the stairs and the headmaster just came out of her office and grabbed me. I don't know her name. She asked me what I was doing so I told her that the teacher had just battered me. I don't remember the name of the teacher now but I would have known at that time so I told her. I think he taught maths or art. I was sent back to the unit and that was it. Nothing else was said to me or anything so I don't know what happened after that. I never went back to school again after that. I cannot remember what the teacher looked like but I was only a wee skinny boy and he was a lot bigger than me. I only said to the "heady" what happened because she was there at the time and grabbed me. She would have seen my mouth was burst.
35. I think I could have been really cheeky at the time but I think the teachers would have got that quite a lot from the boys. I keep trying to remember what I had done to make him back hand me and all I can think is it must have been for carrying on. Whatever the reason, he should have been able to deal with it without hitting me.

## **Reporting of abuse at Larchgrove Assessment Centre**

36. Other than the headmaster, I didn't tell anyone.

## **Leaving Larchgrove Assessment Centre**

37. After the first three week stay I went back to the Children's Panel in Glasgow and they released me back home. My mum was at the Panel but so was my dad. I don't know if he made the difference because he wasn't there for my first appearance in front of them. I was just happy I was going home with my mum.
38. After the second three week stay they sat down and discussed outcomes for me. Whether I go back home and go back to school or go to an approved school. It was decided that I needed to stay another three weeks as the assessment hadn't been completed.
39. I didn't go to another Panel after the additional three weeks but they held a meeting inside Larchgrove and that wasn't that long after I was hit by the teacher. My mum was there but my dad wasn't. It was decided that I should be sent to another school but I didn't know which one I would be going to. I can't remember being told the reasons I was being sent to a List D school. All I remember of that Panel was my mum was crying and a social worker was saying that they could manage me on the outside but the rest of the Larchgrove staff were saying no. I do honestly think that one social worker wanted to put me back a year at school but the other social workers didn't think it would make much of a difference to me. They didn't think it would be good for me to be in a class with boys who were going to be younger. Larchgrove overruled it and decided I was to go to a List D.
40. Not long after that, perhaps a week, I was moved to Kerelaw however I was meant to be going to a place called St Philips but they wouldn't take me because I was a Protestant. Although it was a Catholic school I was told it was mixed. I was taken to see it but a few days later staff at Larchgrove told me St Philips didn't want me.



## **Kerelaw List D School, Stevenston**

41. I hadn't heard of Kerelaw before and learned the day before going that this was where I was being sent. It is in Stevenston near Saltcoats in Ayrshire. It must have been social workers who took me.
42. It was big and had what was like a country road all the way round it. There are two big main gates which remained open. It didn't have big fences or anything like that around it. There was a burn. When you drove in, the top bit had football pitches then the closed block. If you drove down you had the units which were all separate.
43. There were four units which were Fleming, Millerston and Baird and Wilson. I went to Fleming. I think there were thirty boys in my unit and the same number roughly in the other three. The closed unit wasn't open then. There would be about three or four staff on during the day and it was watchmen covering overnight.
44. My dorm had about six boys sleeping there and it was single beds with a locker at the side. You couldn't lock the locker so it was more or less a free for all.
45. I know there was a guy staying there who was eighteen because I remember sitting talking to him. The reason he was still there was that he had nowhere to go to, he was no fixed abode. They were looking for a place for him to move into. I don't know whatever happened to him but he was the oldest there. Most of the boys were aged between thirteen and fifteen and they would come and go. I think they were from all over Scotland.
46. I was in Kerelaw for just over a year to a year and a half and was around fourteen and a half when I went there until my sixteenth birthday. I was never told how long I was going to have to be at Kerelaw when I went so it was open ended.

## **Routine at Kerelaw List D School**

### *First day*

47. I was met by staff at Fleming and they took me into a wee office before showing me about the place. They showed me where my bedroom was as well as the TV and snooker rooms, dining hall and the rest of the unit. I didn't see the headmaster that day.

### *Mornings and bedtime*

48. We got up in the morning and went for breakfast. After breakfast if you were allowed to smoke you could sit and have a fag in a wee foyer area. After the fag you would go and make your bed up before going to school.

49. We weren't locked up at night so we could walk about the unit and go to the toilet when we wanted.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

50. Our dining hall was joined on to Millerston but we stayed with those in our units to eat. There was a wee swing park outside it where you could mix but most of the time we didn't. Units tended not to mix. I don't know if the other two units shared a dining hall or not. Breakfast was cereal or toast. After lunch we went back to school and tea was after school. I don't really remember the food. I was a wean so I would have eaten anything. I ate whatever was put down in front of me. I don't think that the food would have been bad. I think you got a choice when you went into the dining hall but you never got a say in the menu or anyone asking us what sort of food we would like to eat.

### *Washing/bathing*

51. There were toilets and showers in the unit and I think I could have a shower when I wanted. The showers were not in cubicles so you didn't have privacy. It was a row of about four open plan showers. You just pressed the button and the water would come on. Staff didn't supervise me showering but I was a wean so I needed to be chased up to have one.

### *Clothing/uniform*

52. I wore my own clothes and the staff didn't wear uniforms, they wore their own clothes.

### *Leisure time*

53. Sometimes we would go to the Magnum which is a big leisure centre in Kilmarnock or somewhere like Largs with the staff. That would tend to be at the weekend and we didn't get much of that sort of thing. We would go in a minibus and it would be those who never got home at the weekend.
54. We had a snooker table and other things but if I could explain that after the first doing I got off them it made me very wary of the staff. I didn't want to do anything in front of them

### *Trips and holidays*

55. I never went away on any holiday with Kerelaw.

### *Schooling*

56. I went to the school all day and it was near to the dining hall and the headmaster's office. It was a big 'L' shape.

57. The school wasn't like a normal school where you had to do sums or write things down. I don't think there was any normal schooling but maybe if you coaxed them into it they might have done it. You had things you had to choose to do but it was things like woodwork and painting. I would probably say that these were things that might help to get jobs when we were older but a wean should be given a basic education first before having skills to work. You didn't need to go to school if you didn't want to and if you didn't go you just had to float about. I mucked about in joinery but I did a lot of running away at Kerelaw which meant I wasn't there a lot.

*Healthcare / medication*

58. There wasn't a medical unit or nurse in the place. I never saw anyone working there who was medically trained. I never required medical attention in the time I was there.
59. I don't have any memory of having to get a medical before I went to Kerelaw or at any time I was there.
60. I remember going to the dentist but that was down in the town.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

61. We got a Christmas dinner but I don't think Christmas was really celebrated. There was nothing like what I was used to being a wean excited for presents and things like that. The staff put up Christmas decorations but that was about it. I was able to put my Christmas cards from my family up in my room.
62. My dad would come down and maybe take me out on my birthday

*Personal possessions*

63. I could keep my own clothes in my locker and things like bottles of juice. You wouldn't leave anything in the locker because boys would do things to it.

### *Culture*

64. I got on well with the boys in my unit and had no problems with them.

### *Visitors*

65. My dad actually came down every Thursday and he would ask the staff straight away how I had been behaving. If they said I had been okay then he would take me out but if they said I hadn't then we stayed put. The staff never told him about the doings they were giving me. None of the rest of my family visited so the only time I saw them was when I was running away and going home.
66. My sisters never really said anything about me being in Kerelaw. My oldest sister wasn't there as she was already staying through in Uddingston and my other sister got married when she was sixteen or seventeen. That meant it was just me and my mum in the house when I was running back there. I think my mum moved in with her boyfriend at some point when I was in Kerelaw.
67. When my dad did take me out he would take me to get some clothes or we would go out for a meal before going back.

### *Family Contact*

68. You could get home at the weekends but you had to be good for something like four weeks before that would happen. I got that maybe once or twice and that meant I got home Friday to the Sunday. Staff would drop you off in Glasgow and you would make your own way home from there. They would pick you back up on the Sunday at the same place they had dropped you off. I am sure this will be written down somewhere in my records.

### *Running away*

69. We were not locked up in Kerelaw so it was easy to run away when I wanted. I ran away about three times a week and always went back home. Two nights was the longest I was away. I mainly skipped the train home but a lot of times they would come down to the train station looking for me. I would be busy hiding because I knew what happened when they caught me. It was normally the polis who would come and take me back to the school. I would be handed over to the "heady" but I don't remember his name. I remember there was a change of "heady" when I was there but I don't remember the other guy's name either.
70. I ran away so often because I hated Kerelaw and I hated the way I was being treated. I was too afraid to tell my parents because I didn't want them to get into trouble for complaining. My wee mum was a single mother.

### *Review of detention/hearings/external inspections*

71. I didn't get any visits from a social worker but I am sure I would have had one from the Castlemilk office. All I can remember is that on the day that they released me there was a lassie social work there and she said she was my social worker. That's the only time I knew I had a social worker.
72. During the time I was in Kerelaw there was never any Panels or meetings that I had to attend. I was never told at any point that I was going to be there until my sixteenth birthday so it was more or less like an open ended sentence when I was put there.
73. I was never aware of anyone coming to speak to me about how I was doing or how I was being treated. I don't think there was ever any inspections of the place.

## *Discipline*

74. If they wanted to discipline you they would just take away your weekend leave. That happened to me a lot.

## **Abuse at Kerelaw List D School**

75. The first time I got a healthy doing from staff was from the night watchmen. I don't know their names but I know one of them is dead because he died when I was in there. He was old and had been working there for years. We were all carrying on, running in and out of our bedrooms and the "watchies" came round. They got about five of us all lined up and one at a time they took us into the kitchen and first one and then the other battered us. I would just curl up in a ball and they booted and punched me over the head and body. Each time they brought one of us out we were all greeting our eyes out. They told us that every time we carry on this is what we would get. You could smell the booze off them as well. Sometimes we would be afraid of them but sometimes we would try to tell them we were only carrying on, just being weans. To them we were interrupting their time. I am pretty sure I would have been bruised. This sort of thing happened once every month or once every two months.
76. A member of staff called Matt George started picking on me shortly after arriving at Kerelaw. The first time I got a doing during the day was when Matt George had grabbed me and said something like 'you were the wee bastard that got such and such suspended in Larchgrove for hitting you. We all stick together so you can go and tell who the fuck you want and nothing will happen. We will lock you up here forever'. I didn't know the teacher had got suspended for hitting me because no-one had said anything about it to me. He took me into the staff office which was their tea break room and slapped me about. I was really terrified as he punched me about the body, pulled my hair and was slapping me on my face. It was never really heavy punches like a man's punch but they were punches all the same and you felt it. Matt George battered me many times in that office. I can't say how many times but it was a lot.

77. I don't know if they did this sort of thing deliberately and only hit you so you were never left with bad injuries which would stick out. The thing is I had already told a member of staff and nothing had happened about it so when he said the things he did to me I thought he must be right. I felt if I did try to do anything about it I would be fighting in a corner myself. I ended up hating the people who were meant to be supervising me as this kind of thing happened fairly often. That hatred didn't stop at the staff. I hated the police for always taking me back there. I know now it was because of my own stupid ways but that wasn't obvious to me when I was younger. I realise now it was my fault for behaving the way I did but they still didn't have any right to batter my head in.
78. There was a couple of other staff who would batter me but I can't remember them all. They didn't do it constantly and it would be if you were out of line a wee bit. I don't think there was anything wrong with a wee clip over the ear if you go over the score but I don't think I ever went over the score. I remember wee Mrs <sup>KAM</sup> [REDACTED] was one of them who hit me. She was a senior member of staff. Matt George, Mrs <sup>KAM</sup> [REDACTED] and other staff would hit me in front of other staff and only once did Matt George give me a doing in front of another staff member although I don't remember who that was. They would slap me in front of the other boys but I would never get a doing in front of them. If a member of staff shouted on you to go down to their tearoom you knew what would happen in there, everyone knew that was where we would get battered. It happened to the other boys too and that is why I thought it was just the run of the mill.
79. <sup>FSR</sup> [REDACTED] was a footballer but he worked in the gym. It wasn't doings you got from him it was just if you were naughty he would slap you on the head and tell you to stop it. I really just accepted it was part of how we should be treated. He wasn't hitting us for no reason we would be having a carry on and he would have already told us to stop it.
80. If you had a falling out with another boy they would make a boxing match out of it but it wouldn't be organised for another week or two weeks so you had that wait and build up to deal with. They organised for you and the boy to box in the boxing ring whether you wanted to or not. The full school including all the staff would be there to watch.



They would make a wee showpiece out of it, so there would be posters made advertising that one boy was fighting another in the ring. I had to do it twice and I had the fear in me. I knew I would have to go in and try and knock hell out of this boy because if you got beat you would be degraded by staff and pupils. Everyone would be screaming and bawling as they were watching. Sometimes they would bring people from boxing clubs in to fight with us, like a tournament. I don't really know if you had a choice or not because staff would say you were fighting whoever and you just did it. If you didn't you were made to look and feel like a coward.

81. There was a cell next to the headmaster's office and that is where I would be put every time I returned after running away. It was just a bare cell which didn't even have a bed, it had a cement block instead. It was the exact same as a police station cell and it was freezing. If SNR [REDACTED] was there he would put me in the cell and slap me about or give me the belt for running away. The belt was the same as the one they used at school. Normally, he would belt me across the hands but sometimes he would belt me all over the body depending how angry he was. Then he would take my clothes so I was completely naked, strip search me before leaving me with an itchy blanket. The blanket wasn't even like a blanket it was like hard cardboard stuff. That would be me until the morning and I would be freezing. I wouldn't know if any records would be kept for all the times I was put in this cell naked.
82. It did depend what time I came back, if it was the middle of the night the night "watchy" would slap me about first for wasting his sleeping time. He also made me strip all my clothes off and would give me the itchy blanket. I don't know if this was for suicide prevention or what but I had never said I felt suicidal. He would lock me in the cell and the next day SNR [REDACTED] would come in. SNR [REDACTED] would either give you the belt or a couple of rapid punches in the ribs.
83. Every time I was put in the cell I was always on my own. The light would be left on all day and night. When they were slapping you about they would be holding you and I would be trying to get away. They would be slapping you mainly about the head as if to say don't do that again. I was always kept in the cell until the next day no matter what time I got back and then I would be sent back to the unit. There was only one cell

so I don't know what happened if other boys were brought back. Although I sometimes ran away with other boys I was always brought back alone because I would always go home.

84. SNR [REDACTED] who came was a bit more lenient, he wouldn't batter you all the time so it would depend what mood he was in I think. When you got the belt from either of them it was usually about six times until I would say that I was not taking any more of it. Sometimes they would slap you about a bit more. It was never heavy punches or anything like that.
85. The thing was, even after SNR [REDACTED] dealt with me for running away the staff on the unit would also have a go. They would come and get me and it would depend which member of staff it was as some just took it in their stride but others would give you it stinking. They didn't generally batter you in front of others but they would give you the odd slap if other people were around. They would give me a backhander with the back of their hand slapping my face. They made it out like they were warning me by saying I wasn't to run away again. I had already been belted or punched by SNR [REDACTED] and been locked in a cell.
86. The staff had only one way to reprimand you and that was by hitting. Some of the staff were brilliant but I was terrified of the rest. Some of them treated us like human beings but for the others, in their eyes, you couldn't do anything right in front of them. I felt some of them hated the ground the other boys and I walked on.
87. I would say I was assaulted quite a lot. It happened every time I ran away and that was two or three times a week most weeks. It wouldn't always be like a doing but after the belt got banned that was when there was a lot more slapping. The same rota happened every time I returned with being put in that cell. I don't think it was just me, I think everybody got the same treatment. It was talked about amongst the boys. I think nearer the end of my time there it started to get a bit easier because I was getting a bit older but the random slaps on the head were just part of being there.

### **Reporting of abuse at Kerelaw List D School**

88. I never wanted to tell my mum or dad about the doings I got as I didn't want to get them into trouble. I was terrified from the staff.
89. There was a member of staff called <sup>KBJ</sup> [REDACTED] and I remember telling him about Matt George. He was one of the better staff and I thought I could trust him. I was there for about a year and he was kind of concerned and told me that he would see them for me. I told him not to as I didn't want to get myself into trouble. He told me that I needed to deal with it but I told him it didn't matter. Nothing ever came of that. Nobody ever came and spoke to me or anything like that.

### **Leaving Kerelaw List D School**

90. On my sixteenth birthday they put me before a Panel and released me. It was maybe about three days before that they told me I was going to this Panel but I had no idea I would get released until they decided at that meeting. I think the only reason it was organised was because of my age. I was told that they could decide to keep me until I was eighteen but the staff said social work don't usually do that.
91. My mum was at this meeting and so was a woman who told me that she was my social worker from Castlemilk. There was always a social worker at any Panel I went to but I didn't know they were my social worker.
92. Getting released was completely out of the blue. I had no warning or expectation I would be getting out. I got the bus home but my mum was staying with her boyfriend so I was having to stay with pals.
93. There was no follow up with social work, from my sixteenth birthday that was the end. Looking back now there should have been a pathway set up for me. I wasn't equipped for the outside world and had no experience. There should have been continued assessment and support by people like social work to help me fit back into society and

learn basic skills to live independently. They basically threw me out the door and that was it.

94. After that my life was just a cycle of going to jail and getting back out.

### **Longriggend YOI, Airdrie**

95. I was in and out of Longriggend from the age of 16 to 21. It was usually a five week remand with three weeks for reports followed by a three month sentence with a back dater so I would go up to the detention cells for 5 days and get back out. I was probably in Longriggend 5 or 6 times between the ages of 16 to 18. It was petty crime like theft and car theft.
96. The place just had a bunch of guys from all different areas. They were all young offenders who thought they were wee gangsters. I was probably the same but in reality we were just stupid wee boys lost in a system where there is never an ending unless you make the ending yourself. It never happened with me.

### **Routine at Longriggend YOI**

#### *Daily routine*

97. We got up at seven or half seven and walked down to the dining hall for breakfast. After breakfast you walked back up to your cell and were locked up. You were locked up for 23 hours a day and you shared your cell with one other person. You went down to the dining hall for your dinner at 2 o'clock and then you could have an hour's exercise. That was you for the day with two of you in the cell. All the halls were opened up together for exercise but there was a lot of fighting between the guys. They ended up stopping that and had one hall exercising at a time.

98. We each had a chamber pot in the cell which you used whenever you needed a pee, day or night. There was a toilet cubicle outside so you had to press a wee light on the side of the cell if you needed to use that. We had to slop out first thing in the morning.
99. We got a shower once a week unless you did PT, then it would be everyday.

*Healthcare / medication*

100. I did need medical treatment once. I had been in a car crash so my face was all ripped, I had broken ribs and they didn't know if I had internal bleeding. I was in the hospital for about a week and when they said I didn't have internal bleeding they released me to go to court for the car crash. That is the only time I have had hospital treatment in the jail.

*Work*

101. I didn't get any work to do in Longriggend.

*Visitors*

102. I did get visitors and there were different times they could come. My family would visit and some of my pals.

**Abuse at Longriggend YOI**

103. I was abused many times in Longriggend. The screws were just cheeky to you non-stop. You always had to be in single file, hands out your pockets and you were not allowed to talk to anybody. If they caught you they would tell you off the first time but if they caught you again they would be dragging you out. They would wait until everyone moved on and the next thing is they are getting a good few digs in at you. They would punch you about the body but never on the face. Sometimes it was on the

back of the head. This could happen anywhere, wherever they pulled you out of line. There was always a good few screws around if we were moving around. This didn't just happen to me it would happen to everyone.

### **Reporting of abuse at Longriggind YOI**

104. I wouldn't have told anyone because I didn't see what was happening as abuse, it was just run of the mill.

### **Leaving Longriggind YOI**

105. Every time I got out I would be back in within a couple of weeks. It was as if the police were going out to stop me but then again I shouldn't have been doing what I was doing. I stopped being sent to Longriggind when I was 21.

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

106. Since leaving care I have been in and out of jail. Fourteen months is the longest I was out when I got married at nineteen and we had a wean. I married [REDACTED] who was my school sweetheart. Things were okay until we got married and that is when it all went downhill. [REDACTED] got pregnant and I was kind of rushed into marriage by her family. Our marriage didn't last long, maybe two years. We had two daughters and I have always had a relationship with them. I phone them everyday and they would come and visit me whenever I need. I don't get them to come up often because they have their own lives to lead and I don't want them to run after me. They have settled down and are working. They are now 37 and 35 years old.

107. The petty crime I was involved with became more serious as I got older as I ended up with a drug habit. I started robbing places and when I got caught I had to do the time. I am in jail just now and should be getting out in [REDACTED] 2023.
108. My mum passed away about four years ago. She was magic and in her eyes I couldn't have done anything wrong but I just think she didn't really point me in the right direction or give me a lot of parental support to make better choices. My dad is still alive but I don't have any relationship with him now.

### **Impact**

109. I never realised that I experienced abuse. I just thought this was normal behaviour. As I am older I have recently realised that a lot of the things that happened to me were abusive. Not just the hitting but being locked in a cell naked. I think they banned the belt for a reason but they just replaced that with slapping us. They must have known it was wrong. I don't think I was bad at that age, I think I was mischievous. When I think back now I realise I was only a wean. Back then I just thought that if you run away that is how you get treated and I thought every wean was getting the same treatment. I don't suppose they were as I was never belted by my mum and dad. If I was ever clipped across the ear by them, I would have accepted that it was because I behaved in a way I shouldn't have but they were my parents and they were allowed to do that in that day and age. Parents were teaching their kids right from wrong. I would just need to see the anger in my mum's eyes or hear the anger in my dad's voice and that was enough for me. I know it is now allowed now but it was nothing compared to how the staff would clout you which was done with a bit of force. I can only think now that the staff hit us to take out their frustrations.
110. I think being in jail most of my life is an impact from my time in care. I don't think I would have had a life in jail if I hadn't been in Larchgrove but more so Kerelaw. It gave me no fear of the police. When you are growing up you should be taught that the police are there for when you do wrong and these are the consequences if you do the wrong things in life. They should have taught us right from wrong but instead they slapped

you about which made me grow feelings of pure hatred for people in authority like carers, polis and screws.

111. Sometimes I wish I wasn't even here. I started taking drugs in the jail but I never had a drug habit until I was outside. That was when I was 22.
112. I have thought about my time in Kerelaw more so lately than through the years. I had just put it down to if I had done wrong or they thought I had done wrong then being hit was what the outcome was, so I didn't know any different. To this day I still don't know any different but through talking to my pals when they were talking about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry I did start to realise. My thought was, do I really want to bring this all back? I don't know how it will make me feel if I talk about it. Up to now I had the feeling if I got skelped across the head then I must have done something wrong. I do question if I am doing something wrong just by talking to the Inquiry. I have just moved on and bottled up the things that happened to me. I am glad it has finally come out.
113. It's hard for me to explain what I think or feel, I don't find it easy to find the words. I think I have always been left feeling I was always bad and if I got hit it was because it was my fault.
114. I think when I was in care they should have showed me the right road in life. They should have showed me all the things I could have done. They could have tried to help me change the way I was behaving and got me out of that cycle because my entire life has continued the same. It's been the same year in and out and it is all I know.
115. It has taken me until I am 55 to question whether it is possible for me to change my life. There has got to be a change for me. I am too old for this and that is not the only reason, I am just sick fed up of it. I really hope I can make a change when I get out.
116. I can look back on my life and when I stayed at one end of Castlemilk I didn't do anything wrong and when we moved to the other end everyone was stealing and I joined in. I knew it was wrong but for some reason I enjoyed it. I then got put into places where they hurt me but I now know they shouldn't have done that. They should



have looked after me. They were paid to keep me on the straight and narrow and show me the ropes. What they should have done in Larchgrove and Kerelaw was show me the way to be free, get a job and how to move out of there able to cope in the real world. I should have had hopes to go out and work and create a good lifestyle. I should have felt able to make plans in life instead, I wondered what I would get the jail for next time. I think these skills are called life skills and I never had any. I never had that kind of support, not even from my parents. It was as if they just accepted how I behaved without giving me any boundaries. As long as I was alright they were happy. Instead, I wondered what I would get the jail for next time.

117. I have heard of the term institutionalised and I definitely think that fits with me. I think places like Larchgrove and Kerelaw institutionalised me so it probably was no surprise that I ended up in the prison system. It wasn't just me, I met a lot of the boys I had been in care with in the jail. I believe that getting sent away to these schools was a case of we were forgotten, like they locked us up and threw away the key. No-one cared after that.

#### **Treatment/support**

118. I have never had any counselling or anything like that.

#### **Reporting of Abuse**

119. I have never reported the abuse to anyone.

#### **Records**

120. I have never applied to see my records. I don't see the point, what's in the past is in the past. I don't want to see them as what difference would it make to my life now? I don't want the past to haunt me.

121. I phoned redress and they sent me a letter but that's all I know. I think they said they need to see my records so I don't know what the outcome of that will be. At the end of the day redress doesn't necessarily bother me that much. I would rather have a wean be treated right than treated the way my life was.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

122. Anyone involved with a child in care should be able to sit down and talk to them at a level a kid can understand. They should set good examples to help kids know what their life could be like.
123. I think kids in care should be given a good education to help improve their options for jobs. As part of that education they should be taught skills. Not every kid is clever but if you are taught a skill for something that can get you a job that allows you to earn a wage or even start your own business.

### **Other information**

124. I just hope by speaking with the Inquiry that the next generation of kids in care get treated better. I hope they don't get abused. You don't need to hurt a wean to let them know that they have done wrong. Bring a wean up to know that they don't need to have hatred for people. I hope the people who work with children in care realise that it is only a job, they don't need to protect and stick up for each other and take their frustrations out on the kids. If, by speaking to the Inquiry, I can help one person then that is good. I will feel that I have done something right in my life. That's not something I can say often.

125. 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.

IAH  
[Redacted Signature]

Signed.....

Dated..... 14/2/2023