

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of GCK [REDACTED]

GCK [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is GCK [REDACTED]. My date of birth is the [REDACTED] 1985. I am 34 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. I was the only child of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I was born in Rutherglen in Glasgow. My father was a violent man and also had a drink problem. My father used to smash up the house. When I was four years old my mother left him and went to live in woman's hostels in Glasgow. I went with my mother. I eventually ended up living with my mother in a flat in Govanhill, Glasgow. I had occasional contact with my father.
3. My behaviour changed at this time and I was a "right wee toerag". I attended Holy Cross Primary School but one day I tried to [REDACTED] because I was angry and I was expelled. I was then made to attend St Bride's School in the mornings only until a place could be found for me at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Glasgow. This was not a residential school.
4. I went [REDACTED] for about seven weeks until I was expelled and was sent to Falkland House School, Falkland, Fife which was a residential school. Prior to going to Falkland I spent a year at home without any school. I was staying with my mother.

**Falkland House School, Falkland, Fife.**

5. I was twelve years old when I went to Falkland. I had a history of violent behaviour and had been expelled from most of the other schools I had attended. I had to stay at Falkland for about a year until my father died. Secondary Institutions - to be published later



6.

7.

8.

9.

**Leaving Falkland House School, Stevenston, Ayrshire.**

10. Secondary Institutions - to be published later the social work department decided that the best place for me to go would be Kerelaw Open School, Stevenston, Ayrshire. Secondary Institutions - to be published later I needed more supervision because of my behaviour.

**Kerelaw Open Unit, Stevenston, Ayrshire.**

11. I was at Kerelaw Open Unit for about eighteen months sometime between 1998 and 1999. There were three main units at Kerelaw, the open unit, the closed unit and the independent living unit. The units were further divided up into sub-units and there were two boy's sub-units in the open and closed units. There were two girls units in the open and closed units and one independent living unit making a total of seven sub-units
12. There were two sub-units for boys in the open unit. They were Millerstone and Fleming. I was in Millerstone sub-unit in the open unit. If you were in the open unit you could come and go as you wanted as you were not locked in.
13. When I first went there I was told that I would get home leave if my behaviour improved and that I could be trusted to go home and not cause problems.
14. The best way to describe Kerelaw was that it was like an old prison. Part of it was secured by a big fence which was eight feet high. This was the closed unit. I can recall a boy called [REDACTED] who managed to get over the fence and escape. He sent a postcard to Kerelaw from a place in Ireland where he had managed to get to. He was remembered by all the boys.
15. The open unit and the independent unit were in the large grounds along with the schooling unit. The grounds seemed to me to be very big. The headmaster had a house on the grounds. I would suspect that there were about seventy boys and girls resident at Kerelaw.

**Routine***First day*

16. I think that Mr Lang the headmaster from Falkland took me to meet my social worker who was to take me to Kerelaw. I can remember my first day very well as I didn't

want to go there. I was taken there by my social worker called Frances Sharp. She was an English woman and she told me that I would need to behave when I was there. I think that there was also another social worker called David with her. I was very intimidated by the big fence but was told that I was going to the open unit and there was no fence.

17. The first member of staff that I met there was called <sup>FSY</sup> [REDACTED]. He interviewed me when I arrived. I told him that I didn't want to be there and I remember kicking him on the shin. He tried to comfort me in front of my social worker but all that was to change as there was very little love shown after that. It was put on for the benefit of my social worker.
18. The staff were all wearing ordinary clothes although I felt that at times that they were inappropriately dressed as they wore shorts and revealing clothes. They all carried radios on them. I think that some of the staff were having relationships with each other.
19. I was then shown my room and at the start I was sharing a room with another boy. This only lasted for a few days when I was moved to another room on my own when I came out as being gay.

*Mornings and bedtime*

20. All the boys were woken up at about seven thirty and told to get a shower and some breakfast and get ready for school for nine thirty. There was a communal showering area with cubicles. The staff were mixed males and females.
21. I remember that there was one boy who was dying of cancer and the staff spent a lot of time looking after him and giving him special attention. His name was [REDACTED] and I was very friendly with him.

22. All our meals were eaten in the boys dining room during the week. At weekends the boys and girls dining rooms combined into one as most of the residents were home on weekend leave and there were much smaller numbers. All the meals were eaten in the dining rooms.
23. The staff sometimes took you for a trip to the beach in the evenings. There would be a few of you and it was quite good fun. You would be in bed at 9:30pm but you could stay up as long as you remained in your room. I had a television and a radio in my room and so I could listen to music .
24. Because I was gay I was put in a room on my own as living in a room with another boy was too intense for me. I only shared a room for two days before I was moved.
25. My best friend at Kerelaw was called [REDACTED]. He had cancer and I spent a lot of time with him. A member of staff called Pat Beaton was [REDACTED]'s full time carer. She was brilliant with him, she really cared. When [REDACTED] died Pat Beaton became my key worker and she was such a nice person.

#### *Mealtimes / Food*

26. The food on the whole was very good and the kitchen staff were very kind. There were two in particular Betty and Jane who I got on with very well. I would help them out and they would give me crisps and bottles of ginger. There were separate dining rooms for boys and girls apart from at the weekend when they combined.

#### *Staff*

27. There must have been about seventy members of staff. The ones from my unit that I can remember were [REDACTED] <sup>KBS</sup>, [REDACTED] <sup>zLEC</sup>, Shona, [REDACTED] <sup>KBG</sup>, [REDACTED] <sup>FSL</sup>, Anne, [REDACTED] <sup>KBD</sup>, [REDACTED] <sup>KBW</sup> and Matt George who was the teacher. These were just the staff in Millerstone which was my unit. There must have been at least eight per shift. There was also a night shift staff. The staff worked a three shifts per day system to cover for a 24 hours period.

28. The night shift were a skeleton staff and this is when there was a lot of trouble between the boys and the staff. There were probably only seven staff covering the whole school and this led to a lot of trouble as the boys often rioted and fought with the staff.

*Washing / bathing*

29. There was a communal showering block with separate cubicles. The staff would do some supervising but you just got on with it yourself.

*School*

30. When you went to school you didn't have to do any school work. You sat about and watching videos and drinking tea and coffee. I remember I wanted to do some English work and the teacher told me to sit and wait until he had repaired the television for the other boys to watch. I had to wait for half an hour until he was ready to teach me. We just didn't get any education and the teachers didn't seem to bother.
31. The school ran from 09:30 till 3:30pm with an hour break for lunch between 12:15 and 13:15. There were some organised activities in the evening or afternoon like playing football.
32. In the open unit when you were sixteen you had to leave school and there was no more education. The only place that I was educated was when I was in the secure unit at Kerelaw.

*Trips / Holidays*

33. I remember we went to the Alloway Shore Lodge in Dumfries. It was a big lodge with lots of rooms. I think that it is closed now. We had great times there. It was a very old building.

34. I also remember going to Alton Towers on two occasions which must have cost a fortune. We travelled up and down in a day. We also went to Loudoun Castle in Ayrshire which was an adventure centre.

*Pocket money, Birthdays and Christmas*

35. You got birthday money but there was no real celebration of your birthday. I think that it was the social work department that gave you the money. You also got pocket money every Friday but if you misbehaved some of it would be docked. If you broke anything the staff would take some of the money from you. The staff looked after your money.

*Visits / Inspections/ Review of Care*

36. The only time that you saw your social worker was at a review session. They were quite fly as the social worker would only come when there was a staff meeting and I wasn't allowed to attend. My social worker at this time was called Anne Barclay.
37. My mother was concerned about me and made a complaint to the social work department about the treatment I was receiving at Kerelaw. Alan Alexander was in charge of the social work department and he got involved. I was then reviewed on a weekly basis and my social worker was changed to John Steven. Over my period of time in care I must have had at least eight social workers. They constantly changed.
38. My mother used to visit me when I was not getting home at weekends and didn't qualify for home leave. I used to get the train home at weekends. We would be given a travel warrant

*Healthcare*

39. There was basic first aid and some of the staff were trained. There were no doctors or nurses at Kerelaw. If you did receive an injury you would be taken to the hospital in Kilmarnock



*Running away*

40. I ran away on a number of occasions. It was easy to do as there were no locked doors. You could be away for about three hours before anyone missed you. The staff would contact the police and they would classify you as being high or low risk. Based on how many times you had run away before.

*Discipline*

41. There was no official discipline although the staff were constantly amusing themselves by practicing their boxing or martial arts on you and hitting you. If you made a complaint nothing ever happened as they would just deny it. They also did a lot of shouting at you like you were in the army.

**Abuse**

42. I was bullied by the other boys in the home because I was gay. The staff could also be quite boisterous in the way that they restrained you. They would twist your wrist and force your arm up your back. The staff only did it if you acted up or there was some horseplay. There was only about seven members of staff that abused me the rest were all fine.
43. There was a lot of bullying going on. Matt George, who was a member of staff, used to encourage the bullying amongst the boys. I think that he received ten years in jail for doing that sort of stuff. I was one of the youngest boys along with another boy called [REDACTED] and we were both moved to a room on the top floor of the unit. I acted up and after eight weeks I went back to the main area.
44. I got a kettle of boiling water poured over me when we were in the cookery class. That was one of the boys called [REDACTED] and I still have the scar. It was because I was gay. I ended up in the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow to get treatment for the burns.



45. The staff were present and saw what happened. The member of staff in the class pressed the panic alarm and other members of staff came running. The staff restrained [REDACTED] on the floor. I had grabbed a knife and wanted to stab him. A member of staff who I really liked called KBV [REDACTED] told me to put the knife down. Because it was her, I did what she said. The result was I was no longer allowed to attend the cookery class. I don't think that [REDACTED] was punished.
46. On one occasion I ran away with another boy called [REDACTED]. He was only thirteen at the time. Whilst I was on the run [REDACTED] raped me. When I was returned to Kerelaw I told one of the other residents called Michelle Kearney what had happened. She told me to tell the staff. I didn't want to. She eventually told the staff and a doctor and the police were called.
47. Michelle Kearney also ran away on one a number of occasions. When she ran away she was using heroin and prostituting herself to pay for her heroin habit. The social worker who was meant to be dealing with her who was called Grieg Gallagher and he went on holiday at the same time it was decided that Michelle should be returned to a secure unit. Tragically while this was going on Michelle was found dead from a heroin overdose in a flat in Glasgow. Michelle was only sixteen years of age.
48. The doctor that did the examination completed it in the presence of one of the female members of staff called Sylvia Rennie. All the doctor did was a brief examination and concluded that there was no forced entry. It was out of order having a female member of staff there.
49. I was interviewed by the police and I told them my story. Nothing ever came of the complaint and I still saw [REDACTED] when I went to school although they moved me from Fleming House back to Millerstone to get away from him. I got threats from [REDACTED]'s friends but managed to avoid those boys.
50. One of the members of staff broke my arm. It happened in my bedroom when it was just the two of us. Matt George was in his fifties and loved showing off his martial arts. He broke my arm when he forced it up my back. I insisted that the police were

told. There were no other witnesses and the police told me that there was not enough evidence. I also told the hospital staff and they told me that Kerelaw and the police would deal with the matter.

51. There were a lot of other boys who told me that Matt George had been sexually assaulting them. He used to take them into the shower block. I was not sexually assaulted by him but he was constantly laying hands on the boys and touching them inappropriately. I never saw this happening.
52. One of the best members of staff was a man called <sup>KBW</sup> [REDACTED]. I always thought that he was very fair. One day I went into one of the other boy's rooms and saw <sup>KBW</sup> [REDACTED] sitting astride [REDACTED] who was one of the youngest boys. He was bullying him as he was a very big man. You only got bullied if you acted up. I was surprised by what I saw.
53. A lot of people knew the abuse that was going on. All of the staff at the school must have known. The organisation Who Cares Scotland must have known. There were staff members who were prosecuted for their behaviour. It was all hushed up and no one would speak about it. So nothing ever changed.

#### **Reporting of abuse**

54. When the boiling water was poured over me I made a complaint to the staff at Kerelaw and although another staff member was present nothing ever happened.
55. When I was raped by another boy I reluctantly made a complaint to the staff. They in turn reported the matter to the police. I was medically examined and interviewed by the police who told me that there was insufficient evidence.

56. The second occasion it happened they did not take it seriously. They asked me at the time if I had enjoyed the rape. There was no further action taken by the police. The boy remained at the school and I was subjected to threats from him and some of his mates.
57. The time my arm was broken by a member of staff I reported the matter to the staff. I also reported the matter to the staff at the hospital who examined me. Their view was that the Kerelaw would deal with it. The staff at Kerelaw reported the matter to the police who interviewed me but told me that because it happened in my room and I was the only witness there was again not enough evidence.

#### **Leaving the open unit at Kerelaw, Stevenston**

58. Another of the boys at the school called [REDACTED] raped me . No one believed me and a lot of the other boys would not believe it. I suffered from a lot of threats and bullying . One of the members of staff called KBT [REDACTED], who was a manager, knew what had happened. It happened in [REDACTED]'s room when the night shift were on duty. I was about fourteen and [REDACTED] was sixteen.
59. I made a complaint but nothing happened apart from I was moved schools and [REDACTED] was moved units. I insisted that the police were told. The police asked me if I enjoyed it. It was the same policemen that had been there before. I was not being believed.
60. Two days later I was moved and sent back to my mothers. This was in 1999. I only lasted there for about two weeks before I was arrested for threatening my mother with a knife. I was taken to Helen Street Police Station in Govan. The staff from Kerelaw were contacted by the police and they came and took me to Newfield Assessment Centre in Johnstone where I was to stay for six weeks.

### **Newfield Assessment Centre, Johnstone**

61. I spent about six weeks at Newfield. There were about eight to ten boys all resident there. Although my behaviour was a bit erratic, I had no issues when I stayed there. There was a woman called Carol who worked there. She later apologised to me for the treatment I had received when I was there. The staff had no understanding of my behaviour. They should have been talking to me instead of restraining me.

### **Leaving Newfield Assessment Centre**

62. I was being assessed for my next placement which was to be the Kibble in Paisley. Newfield was not a long term solution and it was inevitable that I would have to go somewhere more permanent.

### **The Kibble School, Paisley**

63. When I arrived at the Kibble School, I saw that there were about ten separate units. The school must have had a hundred boys resident. It was a great place and I would go back in a minute. I stayed there till I was fifteen and a half.
64. Whilst I was at the Kibble, I was always running away because one of the staff broke my arm and I was moved house from "Skye" unit to the "abuse unit" which was called Mossway. Mossway was a unit with specialised staff trained to deal with children who had been abused. In Skye I had my own room and I didn't want to move as I would be sharing.

### *First day*

65. I remember arriving at Kibble, I was taken by the staff from Newfield. I went to see the place first. It had been decided that I was to receive more schooling and less home leave. I had received virtually no schooling when I was in Kerelaw.

66. I was told by the deputy manager Craig Devlin who was very good to me that I would need to earn my weekend leave by behaving and getting involved in the schooling.
67. All the staff at The Kibble were brilliant bar one called <sup>ZGNS</sup> [REDACTED] who broke my arm trying to restrain me. He was sacked for doing that. I really enjoyed my time at The Kibble.
68. The school itself must have been set in about twenty acres and I can remember St Mirren Football Club training in the grounds.

*Routine at Kibble.*

69. I was in the house called Skye. You would be woken up about 7:30 and you could have a wash in the sink in your room. There was a shower and bath shared between four of us.
70. You went down for breakfast and you would help yourself to the food that was layed out. You went to assembly every morning when you were told about what was going on that day. If it was somebody's birthday they would sing "happy birthday" to them. It was great as all the boys did not bully me because of my sexuality and I got on well with them. The staff did not tolerate bullying of any kind and the boys accepted this.
71. Lunch was between 12:15pm and 1:15pm. You went to school for most of the day until about 3:30pm or 4:00pm. There would be a boys meeting when the chores would be handed out. You also discussed any problems you had with other boys. It was a good way of dealing with issues and getting rid of the tensions. The staff were also present.. You then had time to yourself until you had your tea. The food was always very good and I have no complaints about it.
72. When I was in the abused unit the staff were basically on a one-to-one basis and they looked after you very well. You had to do your chores and if you failed to do them you would be sent to your room.



73. I did get some home leave when I got there but it was cut back and a lot less than the leave I was getting at Kerelaw Open Unit. Some of the boys who were not able to get home leave were taken on holiday to Ireland although I didn't go on that trip.

#### *Staff at Kibble*

74. There was 24 hour cover by the staff and at least two members of staff on duty at each of the units at any one time. There was one member of staff called Pat Young, she was very caring and looked after me. She gave me extra education to try to help me to catch up.
75. Even after my arm was broken by a member of the staff the other members of staff continued to look after me for the short time I was to remain at Kibble.
76. The staff were really good with me and to this date I still keep in touch with my key worker. The school is having a reunion this year and I will probably go along to it. If you are feeling down, they encourage you to phone to speak to someone. They even have a Facebook page called Kibble Connections so that you can keep in touch.

#### *Schooling*

77. There were six pupils to a class and we had different teachers for different subjects. I was taught English, history, maths, art, modern studies, computing and science. There must have been about thirteen different teachers. I did sit prelim exams when I was to return to Kerelaw after being at Kibble.

#### *Discipline*

78. Most of the discipline was to be sent to your room or an early bed. They didn't hit you and they couldn't take money off you unless you broke something. It was an effective punishment as you didn't want to sit in your room looking at four walls with no television or radio.

79. The staff would also put you into a “safe hold” if you were acting up. It was like getting a cuddle and was designed to calm you down. It was not excessive and did not hurt you.

*Running away*

80. I was at the Kibble about fifteen months before I ran away. It was after I got moved to Mossway Unit for “abused children” and when my arm had been broken by a member of staff. I hadn’t run away before that. When I ran away I got involved in taking heroin. A heroin dealer set me up in a flat so that I could sell heroin for him. I was nearly sixteen years old.

*Medical treatment*

81. If there were any problems you went to the local doctors surgery in Love Street, Paisley. I think there was also dental care available.

*Leisure activities*

82. You would be taken to watch St Mirren play football and I am a Celtic supporter. I watched them play against Celtic who scored a goal. I got so excited I jumped up and then realised I was sitting with the St Mirren supporters. They also took you ice skating.

*Visits*

83. My mother visited on a number of occasions but I was getting home leave on a Wednesday and at the weekend. You would usually have to come home on the Sunday night but if you phoned in you could come back the next day. The staff could withdraw this privilege if you didn’t behave.



84. The Care Commission did visit the Kibble and I can remember sitting down and speaking to them. There were no real issues to discuss as I was being well looked after.

### *Christmas*

85. Christmas was a great time at Kibble. I was never there on Christmas day but the lead up to Christmas was great. You would be given a hundred pounds to buy Christmas presents and would go shopping with the staff. The only rule was that you couldn't buy alcohol.

### **Abuse**

86. On one occasion I had wrecked my room. A member of staff called [REDACTED] came to investigate. He asked me what I was playing at and shouted at me. He restrained me by pinning me on the ground. He put my arm up my back and I heard the snap as it broke. I was in agony and screaming.
87. Another member of staff called June appeared and asked what was going on. I told her that [REDACTED] had broken my arm. She told me that it looked okay and that I was a "drama queen".
88. The duty officer who was Gerry Daly was called. [REDACTED] kept apologising to me. I was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital where I was treated for my arm. I stayed there for about two days. There was an investigation and the police were called. They spoke to the staff but I can't remember speaking to them. I think that [REDACTED] was sacked almost immediately.

**Reporting of abuse**

89. The only incident of abuse at Kibble was the time that my arm was broken by a member of staff. It was reported to the staff and the police. All that I know was that the member of staff involved was sacked. I don't think that I was ever interviewed by the police.
90. My lawyer was instructed to sue the school and I spent some time going between Kibble and my mother's house. I do remember that Kibble School apologised to me. I was able to return to Kibble and the staff were very supportive to me.

**Leaving Kibble School, Paisley**

91. The Kibble weren't able to look after me as I was running away all the time because I didn't feel safe. I was involved in heroin when I was living on the streets. There was very little the school could do for me. I always remember it was the [REDACTED] 2001 when I was told by the staff that I was going to be moved to The Secure Unit at Kerelaw. I know because it was my mother's birthday.

**Kerelaw Secure Unit, Stevenston**

92. I had to attend the children's panel on a few occasions and I told them everything that was going on. I was running away and used to miss the sitting of the panel. Someone had told the children's panel that I was prostituting as a "rent boy" when I was running away. The children's panel felt that they had no choice but to put me in a secure unit. They thought I was a risk to myself.
93. It was about a month before my sixteenth birthday that I was taken to the secure unit at Kerelaw. I was to remain there for six months. It was a tough place and I was bullied by other boys and the staff. The whole unit was separated from the rest of Kerelaw by a large fence. There were about eighty boys in the unit.

94. You were in a locked room and you needed to be let out by the staff. You had a buzzer in your room which you used to alert staff that you needed to get out. You had to use the buzzer to get to the toilet. If there was no staff in the room where the buzzer rang you could be left until someone heard the buzzer. I can recall having to urinate on the floor of my room because no one answered my buzzer for over two hours. The locked room also had a tiny glass window.

*Routine*

95. The daily routine was the same as the open unit. You would be woken up, wash and then go for breakfast. The food was fine. There were no chores to do.
96. The school was contained within the secure unit and that is where you went for classes. You didn't go to the open unit as there was no security there.
97. You didn't get outside much unless the weather was good and the staff took you for a cigarette. There was only one television room and it was quite hard when there were eighty boys all trying to watch it.

*Discipline*

98. They had a segregation cell in the unit. If you were placed in there they would strip you down to your underwear and leave you in the cells for hours on end. There were no chairs or beds just an empty room.

*Inspections*

99. The Care Commission did inspect the secure unit but I never got to speak to them. I do remember them visiting.

*Trips and visits*

100. I remember I went to Peebles on a trip but I don't remember any others. Even though it was a secure unit my mother was able to visit. It was always a supervised visit and after she had left I would be strip searched before being returned to the secure unit. Near the end of my time at the secure unit I started to get home leave.

**Abuse**

101. You were always getting slaps and kicks from the members of staff and the other boys. They also gave you wrist burns and there was violent horseplay. There was usually two members of staff present and although I would make complaints they always believed the staff and took their side.
102. If you were put in the segregation cell the staff would pull off your jogging bottoms and often your under pants came down as well. It was very embarrassing but they just didn't care.

**Reporting of abuse**

103. I used to tell my social worker what was happening but they didn't believe me. There was always two members of staff and it was my word against them. The social workers never did anything about it.

**Leaving Kerelaw Secure Unit**

104. I learned to behave when I was in the secure unit because it was not a nice place and I wanted to get out. They operated a privilege system of bronze, silver and gold. If you were bronze you had no privileges and if you attained gold you got a radio and television in your room. I was three weeks on gold and they decided to move me back to the open unit as I was no longer a danger to myself.

105. That decision was made by the children's panel and the social workers. I remember being at that panel meeting and arguing with one of the social workers about being released from the secure unit. I was moved to the open unit at Kerelaw where I was to remain for the next year

**Return to care at Kerelaw open unit, Stevenston.**

106. Nothing much had changed in the open unit and there was still the bullying and bad behaviour. I started to run away again and on one occasion I was away for six weeks. When I was returned I remember one of the staff saying that I looked better than I did when I was in Kerelaw. I was getting benefits and was set up in a flat. I was dealing drugs. The staff realised that they couldn't do much more for me.

107. There were no real instances of note as nothing much had changed since I was last there. I was now nearly seventeen and couldn't continue to stay there as I wasn't getting any schooling. I was going to Hillhead Hostel in Glasgow six nights a week and it was decided that I should go there on a permanent basis. I was still under a Supervision Order issued by the children's panel.

**Leaving Kerelaw Open Unit, Stevenston**

108. I was still under a Supervision Order when I was moved to Hillhead House in Glasgow. It was a sort of hostel for older boys. When I arrived there, the Supervision Order was revoked and I was free of the authorities. I only stayed at Hillhead for about three weeks before I left and went to Edinburgh.

**Hillhead Hostel for boys, Glasgow**

109. I was only there for three weeks and I have very little memories of the place. I didn't like it there and I wanted to be independent. When I first arrived at the hostel there was a Social Work Supervision Order but the minute that was revoked I left. I have no complaints about Hillhead apart from the fact that they took all your benefit money

and left you a small amount that you couldn't live off. I was also a smoker. I couldn't afford to exist on the money I was getting.

### **Leaving Hillhead Hostel for boys, Glasgow**

110. I only lasted three weeks at Hillhead before I left and the social work department put me into a hotel in Finnieston. I think that this was because I was quite vulnerable. I was now out of the care system and I could come and go as I pleased but I still needed help from the social work department.

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

111. I was offered a job in Edinburgh cleaning a pub called [REDACTED] in Edinburgh. I knew the owner through a friend and they got me sorted out. The social work department couldn't give me money for a train fare but they gave me a tenner to spend on food which I used to get to Edinburgh. The gay scene in Edinburgh was great.
112. I stayed with a friend in the [REDACTED] area in Edinburgh. I was there for about ten months until he became violent and I had to leave. I went back to my mother's in Glasgow to live.
113. The social work department managed to get me a loan based on the time I had been in care and they also got me a private let flat. I had to give the flat up as I missed a medical appointment. I missed my appointment because I was affected by the abuse I had suffered. The Barnardo's Street Team were conducting an enquiry into the care at Kerelaw. I was working with David Neil from Barnardo's. It all came back to me and I couldn't cope.
114. I went into supported accommodation despite David Neil from Barnardo's telling me it was not my best option. The social work department organised this through Quarriers. They had a flat in Kennishead, Glasgow and that was where I was placed. I was now about 22. I had a relationship at this time with [REDACTED] who was living near

me in a Quarriers flat. We went between each other's flats. [REDACTED] had a lot of problems and I think that Quarriers encouraged me to look after him. Quarriers promised me lots of help but they always let you down.

115. I then stayed at a number of addresses in Coatbridge, Glasgow and Paisley. I still had anger management problems and had dealings with the police where I could not control my temper.

### **Impact**

116. I am still receiving support from Renfrewshire Association for Mental Health who are treating me for post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of my time in care. I also suffer from emotional unstable stress disorder. I have a number of mental health issues.
117. I am supposed to be receiving treatment but it keeps getting suspended. I have been involved with psychiatrists and mental health professionals all my life. It has taken them 27 years to do a proper care assessment for me.
118. I have constantly been let down by the social services, who over the years have made lots of promises but always let me down. I feel very badly towards them and the police. I just can't trust the authorities.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

119. I reported abuse to the people who were looking after me when I was in care. I have also made complaints to the police all through my time in care and nothing ever happened. It was pointless as no one believed you. It was only when I was in my early twenties that I again reported the abuse to David Neil at Barnardo's when his organisation were doing an inquiry. They were liaising with the police but for some reason the police didn't want to speak to me.



**Records**

120. My lawyer is actively trying to get my records from my time in care. The lawyer has had no response in five years trying. I know that there are lots of mistakes and assumptions in my records. They say things like my mother used to hit me and had addiction problems and this is not the case. There were other allegations about me being a rent boy which are not true. Some of these entries were read out at the children's panel and they are lies and I don't know where they came from.

**Lessons to be Learned**

121. You can't trust the social work department or the police. They do not provide the support that is needed. There should be longer transition periods between periods of care. There should be more support for people leaving care and the people in care should be prepared for leaving. The authorities could do a lot more.

122. I contacted the Inquiry because I want to see things change. The social work department carry too big case loads and they are not able to devote the right amount of time to cases. I know they have to prioritise but that is no good if you need help and they can't provide it. When you are a child they should be in touch with you on at least a weekly basis.

123. 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... 31/7/19.....