

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry****Witness Statement of**

HMD

**Support person present: Yes****Background**

1. My name is HMD. My details are known to the Inquiry. I was born on [REDACTED] 1964 and I am 52 years old. I am single and live alone. I have four grown up children.
2. My parents separated when I was just four and me, my dad and my big two sisters went to stay with my paternal grandparents at Cranhill. I have no idea where my mum stayed back then and she has never been in my life. Shortly after that my dad took up with the woman I call my stepmother. I also had three younger half-siblings through my dad's relationship with my stepmother.
3. Life at my grandparents was normal. I was never in any trouble then.
4. I remember when I was maybe about eight being taken to the Social Work Department in Osborne Street, Glasgow by my stepmother. The social worker there was a Sarah Wilson. I remember she had ginger hair and gave me a 'Glen Michael Cartoon Cavalcade' book then put me in a room and said "sit there". Next thing I knew I was put in a car by her and my stepmother and was taken to a children's home. The home was called Glen Rosa and was in Maxwell Drive in Glasgow.
5. My sister has always said that I was sent there because I used to wet the bed but surely that cannot be right? You cannot put somebody in a home just because they wet the bed. I asked both my parents why but they just blamed each other and my dad's dead now. It was after my dad moved in with my stepmother and she started having her own children with my dad in 1970 – 72 that I got put into care.

6. I then spent the rest of my childhood and adolescence in a succession of homes and institutions including Nerston Residential School and Kerelaw Residential School. These were the two main institutions I resided from 1973 – 1980.

7. During my four years at Nerston I recall I was also briefly in and out other institutions including Larchgrove and Cardross which were assessment centres. At some point I had been charged by the police with stealing a goldfish. I know I was in Cardross on the day that the Scotland fan's wrecked Wembley in 1977.

8. I also remember a time when I was in first year at Bellahouston Academy that I stayed at Craigdhu Children's Home and would go between there and Ardoch House both of which were council run children's homes within walking distance of each other. I must have been 12 or 13. I did not do second year education because I was locked up somewhere. I think I also had a spell in Kerelaw before being returned to Nerston because between 1976 – 1980 I was in Kerelaw on two separate occasions, each for long periods.

9. I am really not clear about where I went and when. That is why I really need to find my social work records. I also badly need to know the reason why I got chucked into the system at such a young age and the key thrown away.

10. It was not in every place I went to that I got abuse but in every place violence seemed to be the answer. My experience is that when you go into a children's home you cannot get out of the system. You are a prisoner. It ruined my whole life. I simply became part of a system where we thought we were bad boys.

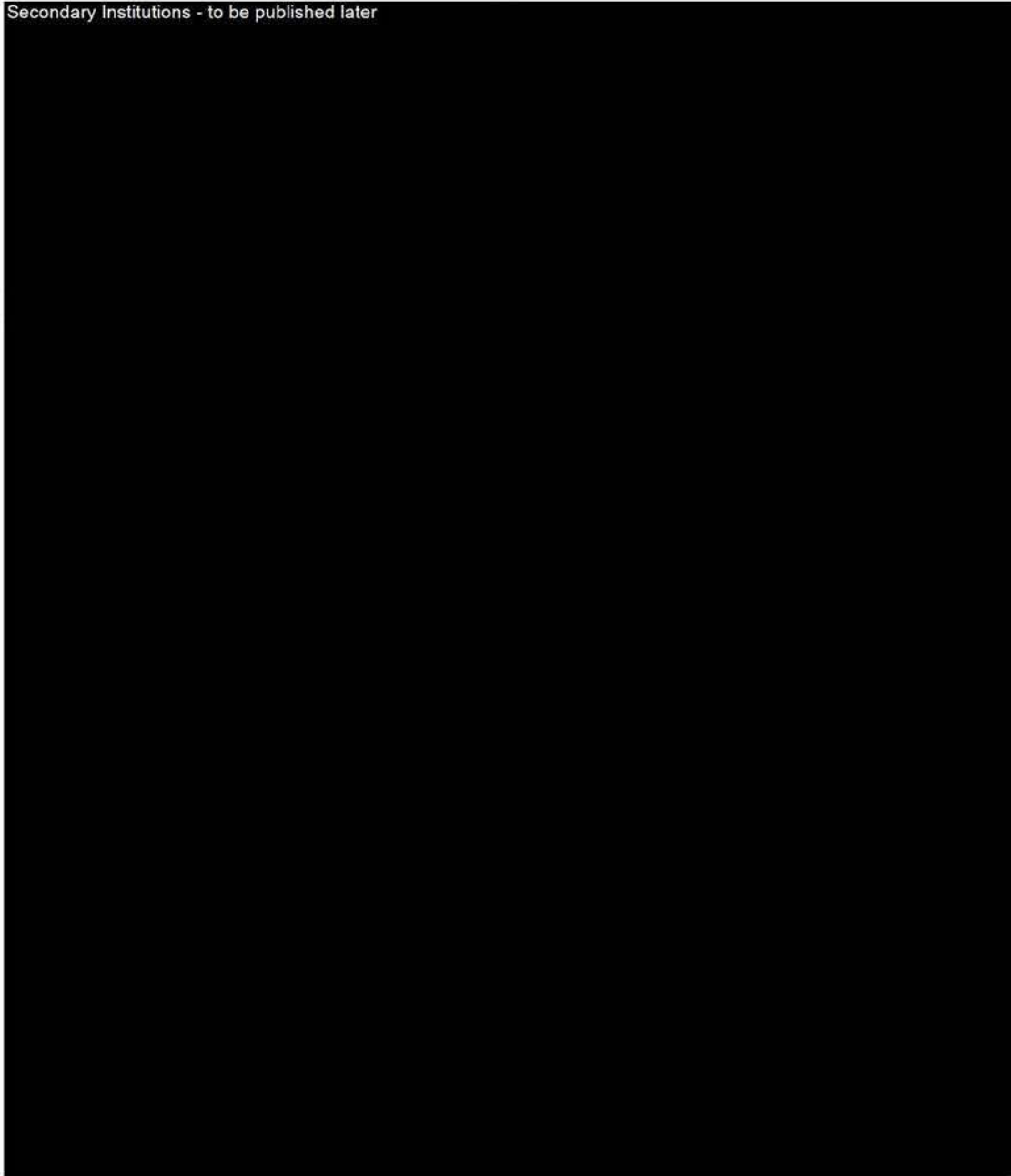
11. I was sent to Glen Rosa when I was maybe eight years old in about 1973. It was a place for orphans and I think there were about 18 of us in there. It was an old Victorian House

12. I think I was in Glen Rosa for just a couple of weeks but really have few memories of my short time there. I have one memory of walking along the street with some of the other kids and seeing my dad and stepmother coming to the place in a taxi. I saw them and went to go to them but a woman dragged me away from them.

13. After a couple of weeks I went straight from Glen Rosa to Nerston in about 1973 or 1974. I don't know why I was sent there. I just remember after I had been at Glen Rosa for a couple of weeks my stepmother took me to Nerston on a red bus with a suitcase. She took me there and left me. I stayed there until about 1978.

#### **NERSTON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL, EAST KILBRIDE**

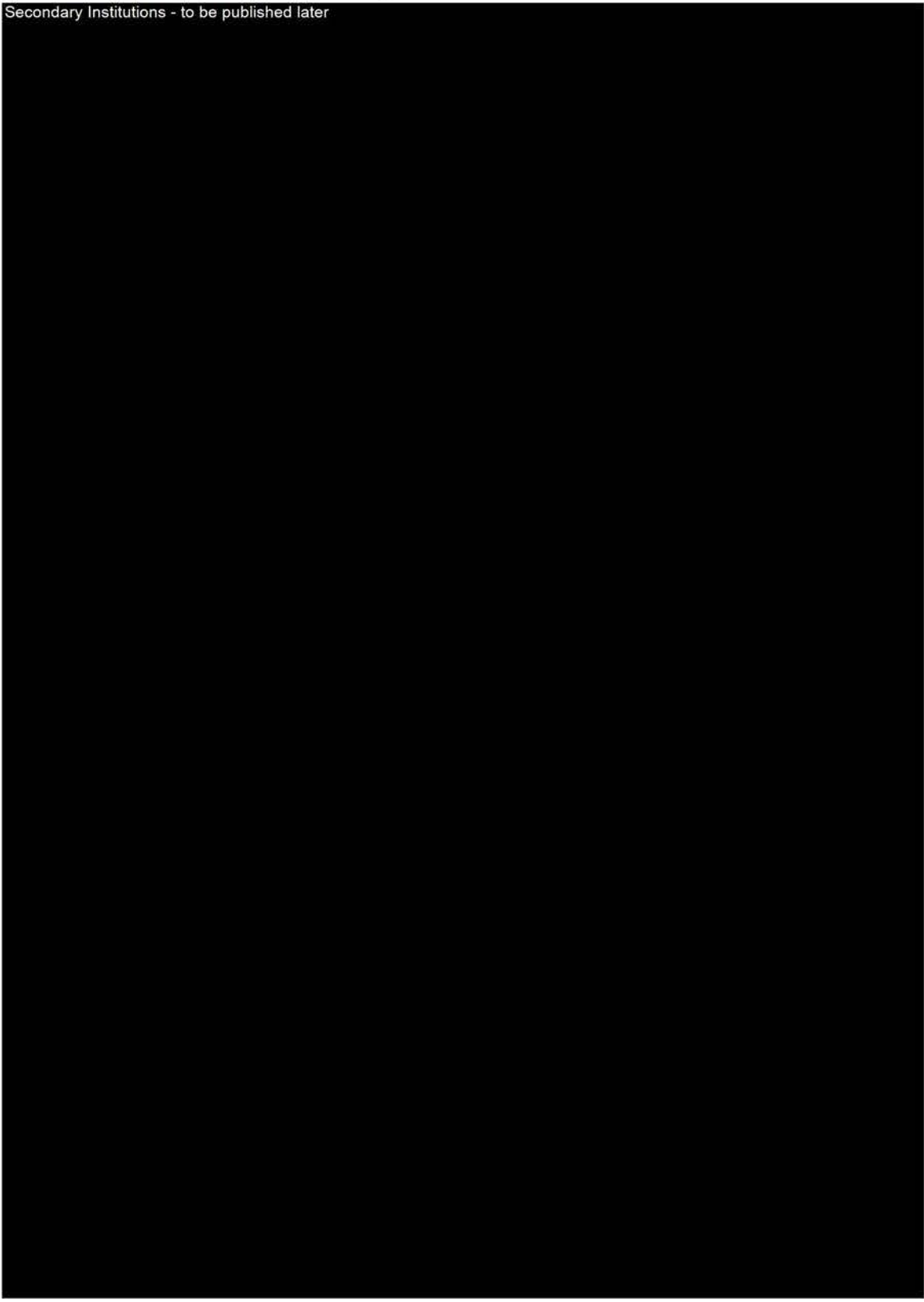
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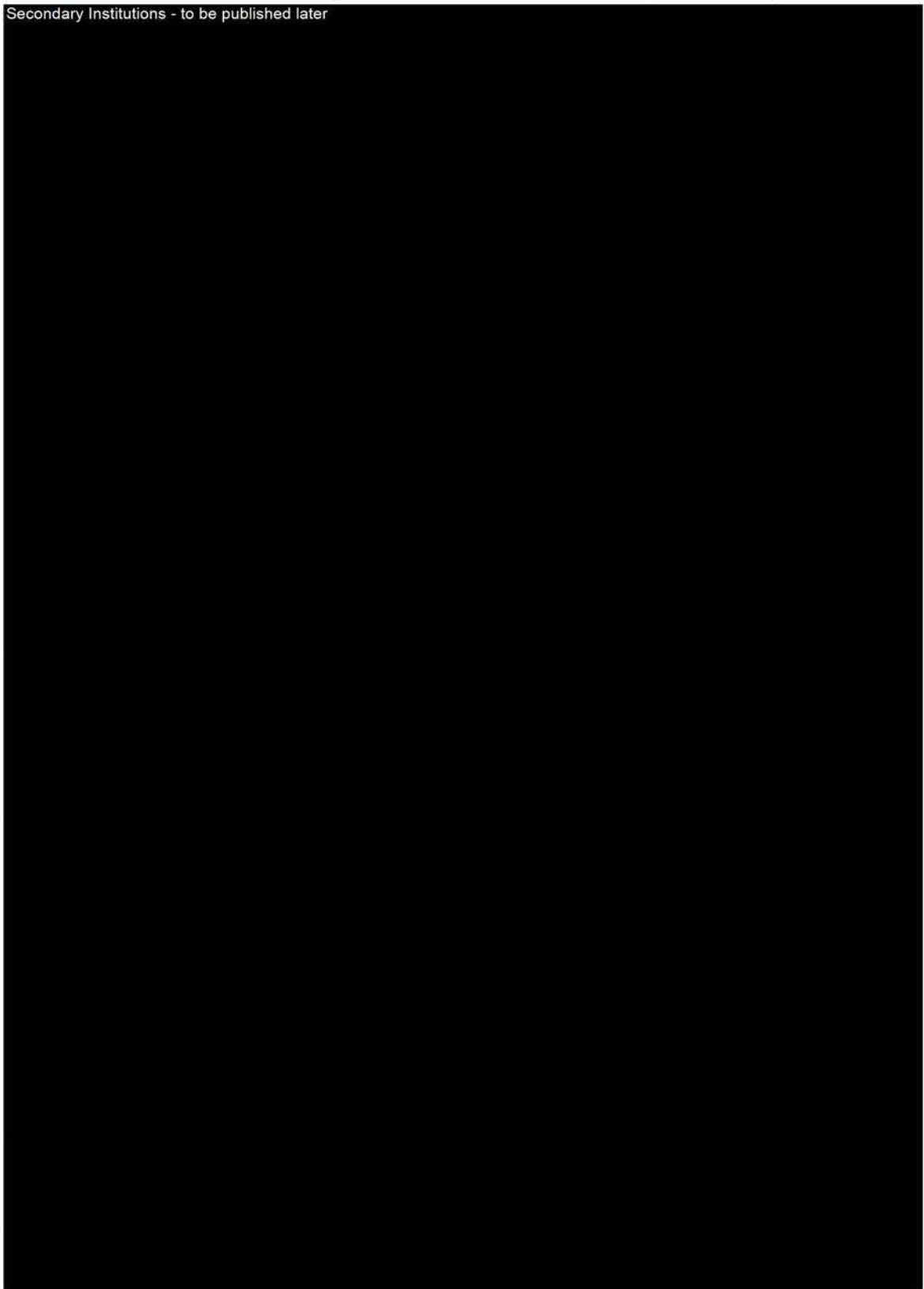
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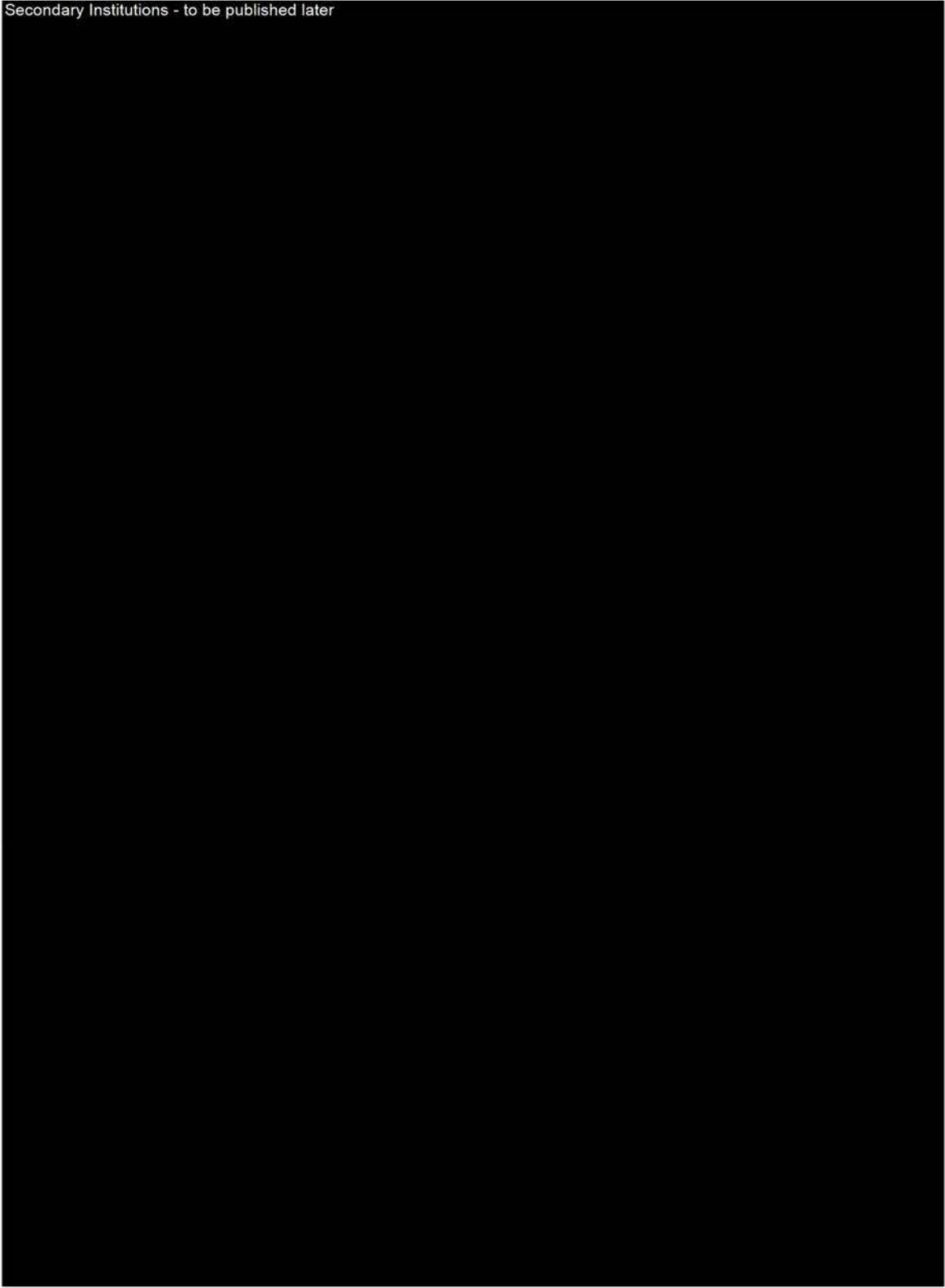
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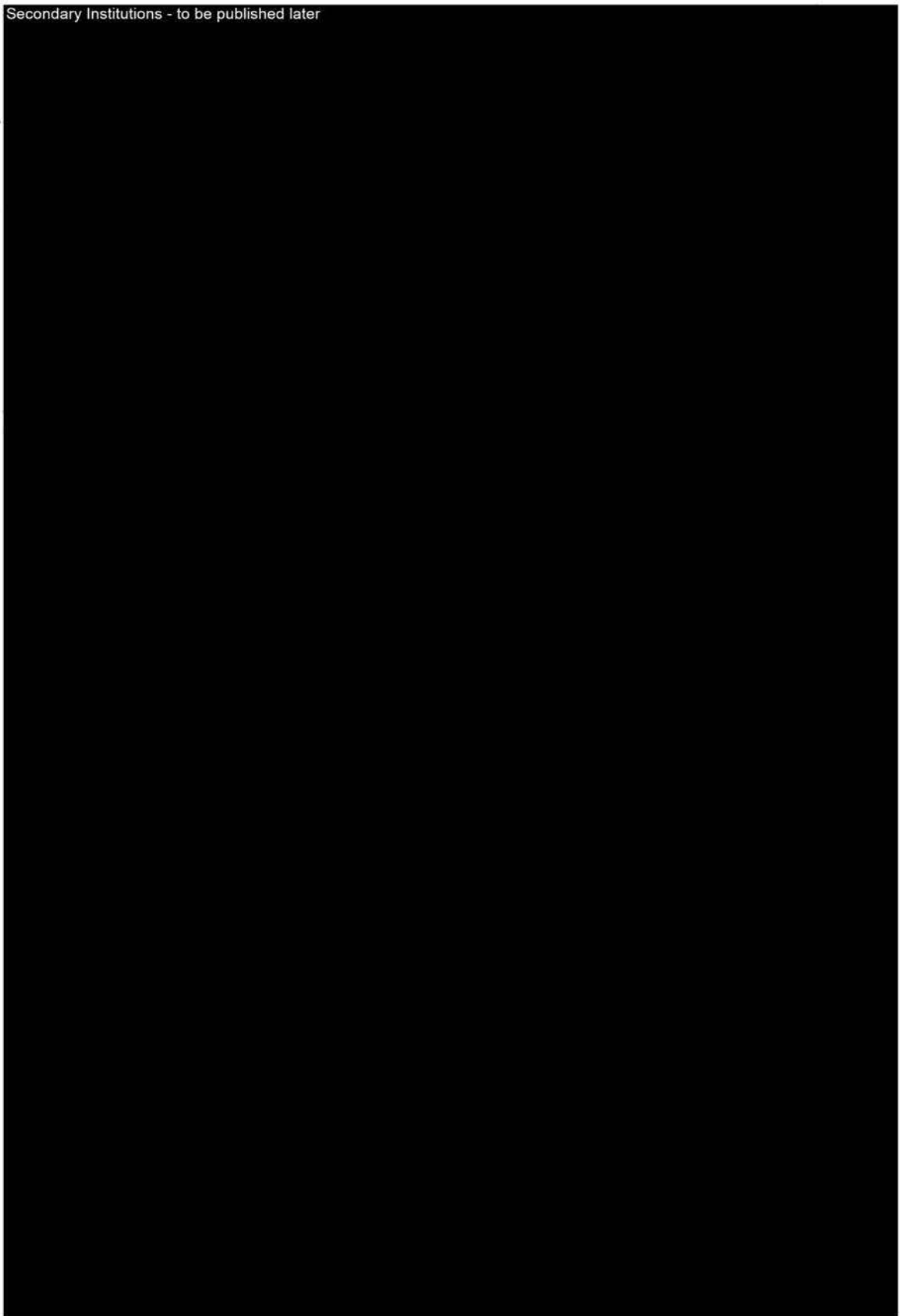
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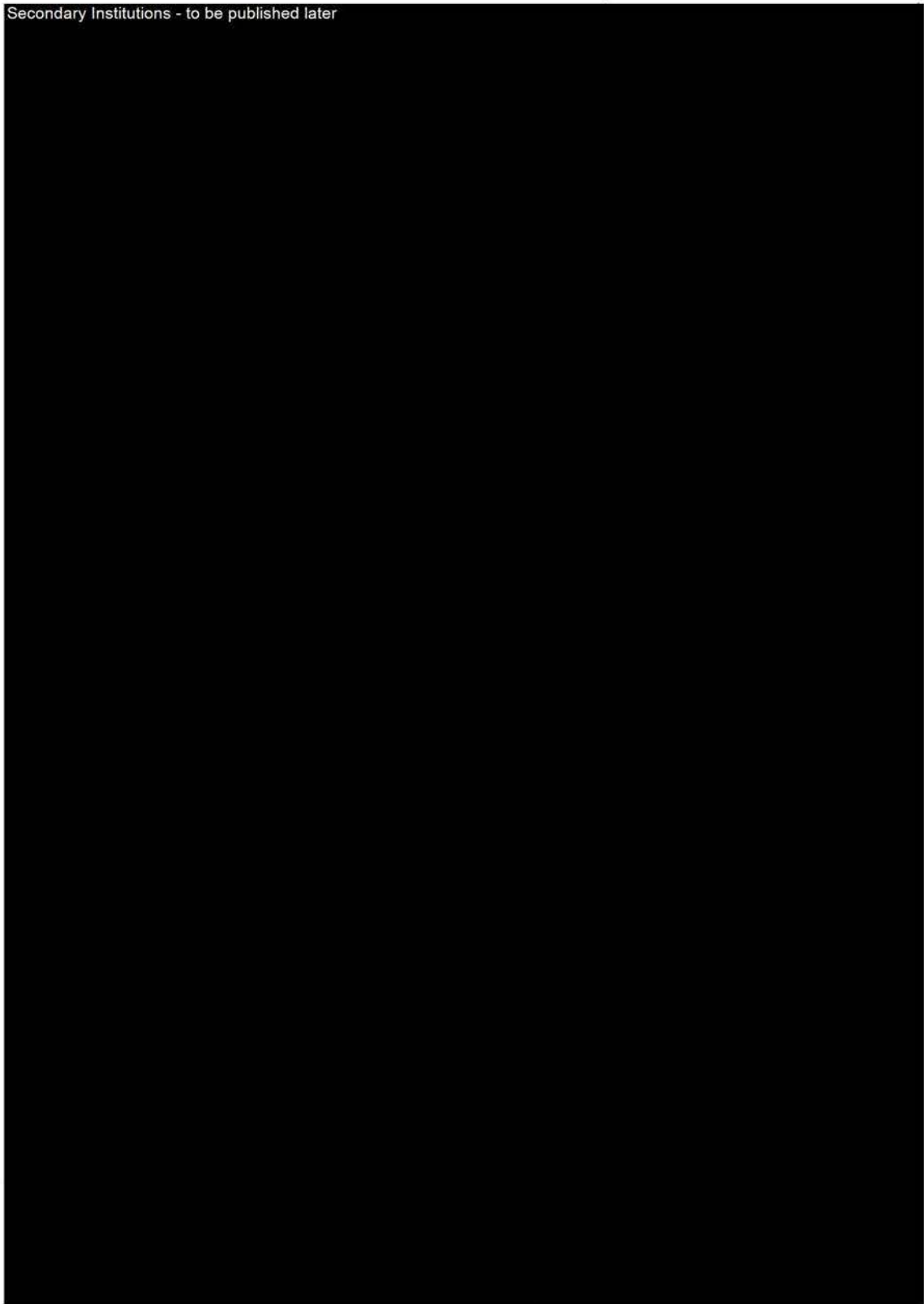


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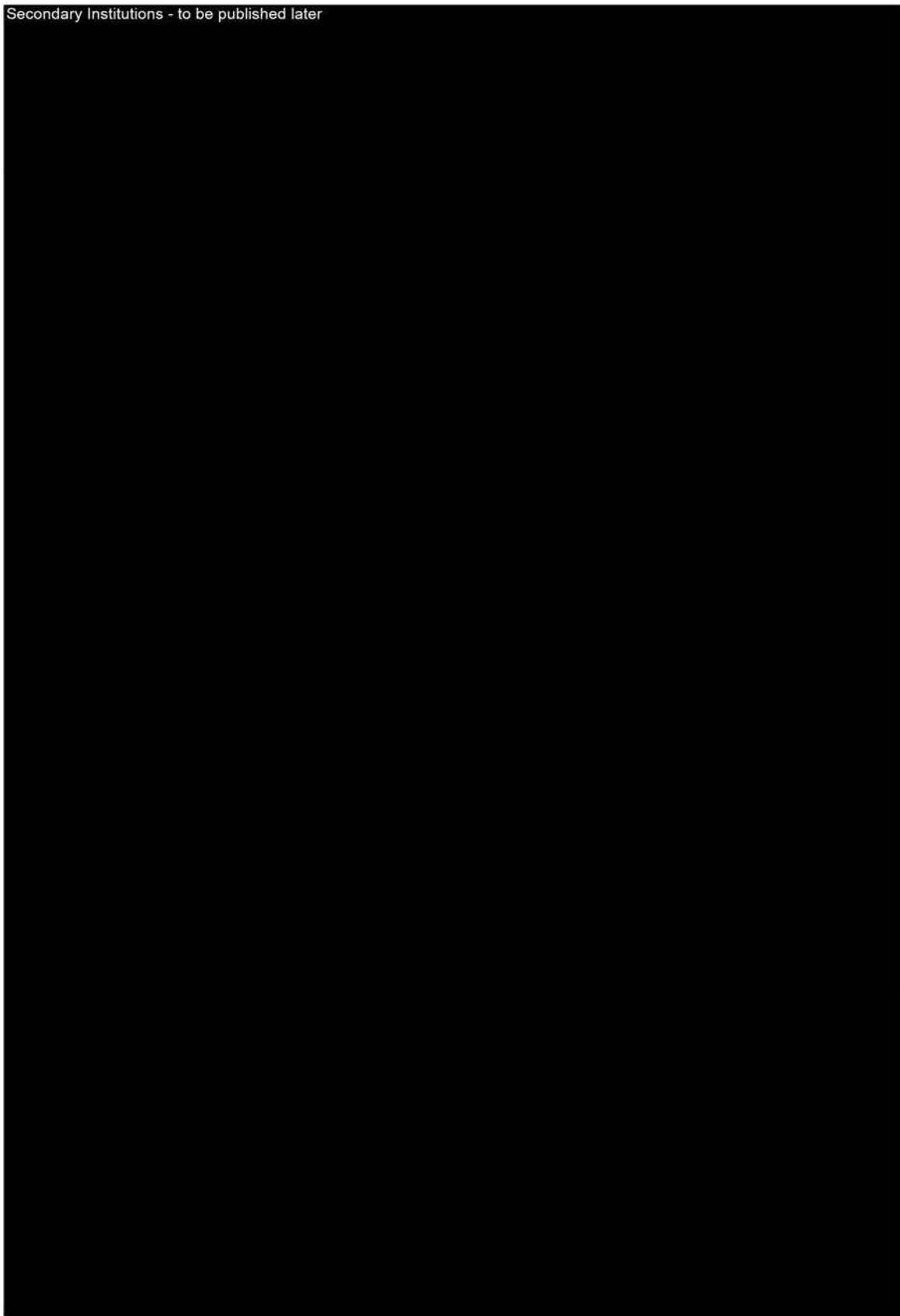




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## **KERELAW – RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL & SECURE UNIT**

60. Kerelaw was a residential school near Stevenston in Ayrshire. While I was there they also opened a closed or secure unit where I spent a long period. In fact I had two quite lengthy periods in Kerelaw between, I think, 1976 - 1980. I was there for two or three years in total as far as I recall.

61. As I have got older I have thought of Kerelaw as an institution that trained you to be a prisoner. I had never seen a cell until I saw the closed block at Kerelaw. I had seen a cell in the police station but I had never spent any time in a cell until I was in the closed unit in Kerelaw. SNR [REDACTED] Mr MTT [REDACTED] used to tell us that those cells would be the sort of places we would spend our lives when we ended up in Barlinnie or Peterhead.

62. Kerelaw was all about bullying and because I was in that institution I knew I was always going to spend most of my life in such places. Kerelaw was just a rotten place full of violence and full of violent juvenile delinquents who all picked on each other.

### **Routine – at Kerelaw**

63. There were no lassies in Kerelaw while I was there. The girls were placed there much later in the 1980s I think. We had about 30 boys to a block and there were four units. I would say that the boys' age range was about 10 – 17 years. There was no uniform though we were all given wrangler jeans to wear.

64. There were four people in my dorm. There were two such dorms beside each other and then a dorm of single rooms then another two dorms for four. Lights out at night was at 10 pm.

65. In the mornings they came round, opened the wee dorm and woke you up. The dorms would be open about 8 am then it would be breakfast at 8:30, then school.

66. The school was separate to the units but on the same site. I got no education as such in Kerelaw, the only things I did were the SRA cards I mentioned earlier and even then I just used to cheat.

67. Leisure time outside of school time was spent either playing pool on the tables provided or more usually watching TV. Sometimes the staff would take you somewhere, swimming for example. We got taken to the leisure pool at Saltcoats regularly. There was a gym and a boxing school in it. If I had an argument with somebody we would sort it out in the ring. I call it a boxing ring but it was just a rope tied round four posts that were in a square. There was usually a member of staff present during such things to make sure it did not get out of hand.

68. There were plenty of sports if you were into that sort of thing. There was the boxing, football, rugby and there was even photography. That was only there because one of the staff did it as a hobby and showed the boys how it was done. I tried it but did not like the dark room.

69. Meal times were chaotic. You got your food from a wee hatch. Meals were always at the same time. The food was alright, you did not starve.

70. I don't remember there being a library although my dad used to encourage me to read and I would normally bring a book back with me if I was at home. There were no toys provided but we were maybe too old for that.

71. We used to get what I suppose you would call a wood work class though the only thing I remember doing was putting the weave on wee stools where the frame of the stool was already made. I don't remember learning much that would have been of use in my adult life apart from maybe some painting and decorating.

72. There was a person like a school nurse who looked after our health though if there was anything seriously wrong with you, you were taken to Kilmarnock Hospital. In fact, they are always saying they have no record of me in these places

but I know for fact that my hospital records from Kilmarnock have Kerelaw as my address.

73. I don't remember any dental hygiene and don't even recall ever being issued with a toothbrush.

74. There was no religious education except being taught that if you had Christian values you would be alright.

75. Some Christmases I did not get home and I do remember spending Christmas at Kerelaw. However, if Kerelaw was closed over Christmas and you were not going home, then you would get moved to another home for the duration before being returned to Kerelaw when it re-opened. There is nothing in my memory to suggest that Christmas was celebrated in any great way although I remember Christmas trees, a Christmas dinner and I think you would maybe get a wee present, like a selection box or something if you were not going home for Christmas. On your birthday you might have got a birthday card but nothing beyond that.

#### **Kerelaw – Contact with family**

76. I don't recall specific visiting days. My recollection was that your parents could come and see you any time they wanted. My dad came twice. Once was when he confronted Matt George, the art teacher who abused me. The second time was when he and my stepmother came to see me in a play. That was also a time that he spoke to Mr <sup>MTT</sup> [REDACTED] <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] about the abuse I had suffered but that might have been the same time as the play.

#### **Kerelaw – visits from social workers**

77. I don't remember any visits from social workers though I maybe saw them when I was sent to the Children's Panel in Glasgow. I don't recall ever speaking to them when I was on my own; it was usually with my parents or a member of staff. I don't recall them ever asking how I was treated at Kerelaw.

78. I don't recall any specific system about discipline. It usually just depended on which ever member of staff was about. Mr MTT, SNR was the only one who gave the belt. He would give you anything between two and six strokes depending on what you had done. I don't know how much force he used, enough I suppose and it was certainly sore. It was over the bare backside. I probably got the belt twice a week. It could be for anything silly. I was belted once for taking down a poster. I was called unruly.

79. There was a closed block or unit at Kerelaw which was basically a collection of cells. While I was staying in Baird block we slept in a dorm but the rooms in the closed block were for one person only. They only had a bed, a cupboard and two chairs in each room and you would be locked in. I actually saw the closed block being built and if you ever find the records for Kerelaw you will see that me and were the first boys put into the closed block. We were actually quite excited about moving in because it would mean we had more privacy. However, that was only until we realised what it actually was. It was actually a prison. It was the exact same as a prison. It would probably be called a secure unit now. We were put there because the staff at Baird unit, where we had been staying, said we could not stay there anymore.

80. You entered the closed block via a locked gate which led you into a corridor off which were the rooms. I was in the closed block during my second spell at Kerelaw and was in that block for about eight months. If the cell doors were open you could sit in each other's room but you usually had to ask permission for that. We would do that to play cards.

81. I did have some good times in Kerelaw, like with Mr Cruikshank. Dan Cruikshank was his name. He was a painter or a handyman or if he was a teacher it was of something practical like that. He used to set up zip wires for us and let us play on them. He and his wife would give us tea and sandwiches or juice. They were a lovely old couple. They stayed in a wee house just as you came into Kerelaw at the top of the hill. He used to show us how to paint walls or hang a bit of wallpaper. It was like vocational training he gave us.

**Kerelaw - Abuse**

82. It was a man called Matt George who sexually abused me there. He was an art teacher. He made me do oral sex. There was a whole lot of other abuse other than that one bit of sexual abuse. He turned me into a criminal. While I was in homes their whole attitude was violence. Matt George victimised me and made me a bully because I victimised someone and made them a bully.

83. The Matt George thing came about when me and a couple of my mates, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who we knew as [REDACTED], were sitting in the dorm one day. It was a four man dorm that we shared though I cannot remember who the other person was but they were out for the weekend. We were talking about bullying and how it was that, if you bullied somebody, you could get them to do whatever you wanted. We decided that I should bully a wee guy from [REDACTED]. I never knew his name so just called him [REDACTED]. He was along the corridor in a single room and was the only other person who was in for the weekend. We were just going to hit him with our pillows but then we said "No, You need to make them do something for you to be a bully". I was not sure how I would go about bullying and one of the others said I should get him to kiss my arse. So that's what I did. I went and found [REDACTED] and got him to kiss my arse.

84. The next day Matt George must have heard about this. I think [REDACTED] told him. It was a Friday, possibly about 3 o'clock. I know this because the minibus taking those who were going home for the weekend had just left. I can also remember it was the 17<sup>th</sup> but I cannot remember if it was June or July. It has been with me my whole life, that is why I remember it was the 17<sup>th</sup>. I think I had been in Kerelaw about three years by then.

85. I was coming down the stairs. I think [REDACTED] was behind me on the stairs when Matt George grabbed me. I can only think I had been upstairs to get a fresh pair of jeans and underwear because that was one of the things you did on a Friday if you were not going home. Anyway, as I got to the bottom of the stairs, Matt George came from my right and punched me on the face. He then grabbed me by the hair and dragged me into the staff toilet that was to the left of the stairs. It backed on to

the staffroom. The toilet was built for one. All it had in it was a wash hand basin and the toilet bowl. Matt George was just battering in to me and battering me off the walls. He also banged my head off the wash hand basin. I had a big lump on my head because of it. He was rag dolling me battering me all over the place. At one point my head was jammed between the toilet sink and the wall. As he was punching and hitting me he said "Bullying? I'll show you bullying."

86. As he was saying this he was pulling his trousers and pants down. He said "I'll fucking show you what bullies do. Now get on your knees and suck that". I was saying "no, no" but he grabbed my face and pushed me in to his groin. He forced his cock into my mouth. I was choking and greeting and trying to fight back but I was still very small for my age at that time. All I could do was cry .He forced his cock into my mouth three times. He did not have an erection and I think this lasted about 30 seconds.

87. I think he stopped because of the noise I was making and he was maybe worried that others would hear what was happening. When he stopped he said "That's what happens to bullies". He also told me I was not to tell anybody about it. There was nobody else present but if anybody had been in the staffroom they must have heard the noise.

88. After he assaulted me I went up to the dorm and just lay on my bed and cried. Nobody spoke to me and I stayed there until about 7 p.m. when I heard the last bus leave and it was time for tea.

89. I went into the dining hall and sat next to my pal [REDACTED] who asked me what had happened to me and I just told him that Matt George had knocked fuck out of me in the wee toilet. I did not tell them he had sexually abused me.

90. I cannot remember whether or not I spoke to Matt George again later that day. I just know I was terrified of him and avoided him all the time. Even when he was doing the head count I would be under my cover but just shouted that I was there. What he did to me in the toilet that day left me feeling petrified, absolutely petrified and ashamed.



91. About two or three months after that happened I was at the pool table maybe being a bit loud and he perhaps thought I was bullying somebody. He said to me "You remember what happens to bullies". He did not mention the toilet incident but it was obvious that he was referring to it. He never did mention the incident in the toilet but he would make silly remarks and try and bring me down in front of other people.

92. That was the one and only time he sexually abused me and I never saw him sexually abuse anyone else. I saw lots of physical abuse but did not see any sexual abuse other than what happened to me.

93. Matt George would bully you every single day of your life. He did this thing where he would grab your hands and crush the top of your fingers into the palm of your hand, all the time squeezing your fingernails. It was agony and often he would make you sing stupid songs or do silly things as he did so. If you did not do what he wanted he would then give you a slap but still have a hold of your fingers until you did what he told you. I remember the first time he grabbed my fingers because afterwards I demonstrated it on my wee brother.

94. This incident happened within a week of me going into Kerelaw. I was the new boy. I was in the day room with a few others. I can remember [REDACTED] and I think wee [REDACTED] was there. We were to tell each other part of our life stories. While I did say something I was not going to tell them everything that had gone on in my life. It was none of their business. Matt George grabbed my hand and squeezed my fingernails. That was the first time he had done it and it was agony. I then told the rest more about my life. I am sure he did the same thing to some of the others. The squeezing of my fingers became a regular form of bullying to me by Matt George. He knew he could control me just by touching my fingers.

95. Another thing he used to do was flick a wet towel at us. This would be when we were in the showers. The shower cubicles did not have doors or curtains on them. Matt George would walk past and flick the towel at you. That was him having fun with the boys in the shower. At first I think we all thought it was just a laugh but you stopped laughing when you saw the big welts it left on you. That is

when I told him it had to stop but he just told me to shut up. This happened more than once. You could take a shower any day you wanted but everybody had to have a shower on a Friday. I think there would always be a member of staff present in the shower area even if it was not Matt George because there were always lots of fights there.

96. Matt George lived in a house at Largs. He took me there. I think it was a wee white detached cottage or bungalow with a big garden. It was right beside the beach at Largs. He used to take three or four of his to his house to help him with his garden. We would either go in his car, or if there were few of us, in the old Sherpa van with seats down the side. We did not get a choice about going. He would just point and say "you, you, you and you. Get in the car". If you refused he would punch you or grab your fingers and do the fingernail thing until you agreed.

97. I remember the first time we were there he took us to a wee hut in his garden round the back and gave us spades and things and told us to dig up the weeds and turn the soil in the square in the garden. At this point we saw Matt George's wife standing at the patio door. She was stark naked. She did not have a stitch on. Matt George shouted at us to get on with what we were doing and when we looked back his wife was gone. He then went into the house but came back later to see how we were getting on. He took us into his kitchen and gave us sandwiches and juice but we did not see his wife again until we were leaving when she just thanked us for our work. She had her clothes on this time. I think she may have been in her twenties. I think they had children, two wee lassies, but I did not always see them there.

98. Matt George never sexually abused me in his house. There were times when he would take one of the others out of the room. A while later whichever boy it was would come back in calling Matt George a bastard but they never actually said what had happened.

99. Matt George took us down to the rock pool near Kilwinning one summer. He took us there three or four times. This was before the incident in the toilet. There was an old Sherpa van that we would go in. We didn't know where we were going

the first time. About six or eight of us just got told by Matt George to get into the van and he drove off. We got out of the van after a while and walked over some fields to the rock pool. He told us to get our clothes off and we stripped off to our underpants. Matt George then told us to take them off as well because we did not have any spare dry ones with us.

100. The first time we were there, I went into the water and it was so cold I was struggling to breathe, Matt George told me to get back in and when I refused he just threw me in. I was in my teens at this stage. We were all swimming naked including Matt George. We were there for about an hour that first time.

101. We never thought there was anything wrong with the fact that we were all naked when we were swimming or that Matt George was also swimming naked with us. We were all used to seeing each other naked in the showers and we just thought Matt George was teaching us to swim.

102. I remember Matt George caught me sniffing glue. I had locked myself into one of the upstairs toilet cubicles. I don't know how he knew what I was doing but he kicked the door in and grabbed my bag of glue. He then shouted "explain this to your parents" and spread the glue all over my head and hair. It took a couple of months to get that stuff out of my hair. I told my dad and he agreed with what Matt George had done and said it was my own fault, that I shouldn't be doing shit like that anyway. My dad was fucked up in the head too, he was an alcoholic.

103. To me Matt George was nothing but a bully. I remember he had a horrible wee black moustache. I have no memory of him ever being kind or generous. He had this pal called [REDACTED]. He had been in Kerelaw as an inmate but when he reached leaving age he had nowhere to go. SNR [REDACTED] said he could stay in the unit at night only but was not to interact with any of the boys. He was just another bully who bullied all the other boys and was allowed to. I remember him kicking the ball right into my face one time just because he thought I was too slow in joining my team after we had picked sides to play football.

104. When Mr <sup>MTT</sup> [REDACTED], <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] gave you the belt you had to drop your trousers and pants and he'd hit you over your bare backside. One time me and [REDACTED] got the belt at the same time side by side and we both had to drop our trousers and pants. You could get the belt for any silly reason like jumping out windows or absconding and I would say I got it at least 10 times while I was there. He would normally give you three hits but sometimes it could be as much as six.

105. A man called <sup>HNY</sup> [REDACTED] taught boxing there and he was another bully. They had a wee boxing gym in Kerelaw. He would punch you in the belly and knock the wind out of you particularly if he found you out of your bed at night. He was a sort of night watchman and only worked at night but he would come down sometimes and take the boys to the gym for the boxing. He used to get the boys to fight each other and constantly threatened us. He would say "if you do this....If you do that...I'll skud you". And he would.

106 I remember he organised a boxing match at the palace of art in Bellahouston Park that six of us went to. I got disqualified and he punched me. If you lost a bout he would batter you. I hated him, he was just a bully. If he was on at night I would try and stay in my dorm as he'd punch you for anything.

107. There were times when I would stay in my dorm just to stay out of the way. If you stayed out of the way there was less chance of you being picked on.

108. It was only Matt George who sexually assaulted me. With the others it was all physical abuse. The other members of staff clouted everybody including me. Another one was the English teacher <sup>HNZ</sup> [REDACTED] who would give you a slap on the back of the head for any silly wee thing. From most of the staff this was a normal occurrence. I think the whole system was set up to train us for life in prison and brutality was how they controlled us. Even the staff who did not physically abuse you were aware of those that did because they would see it but did nothing about it.

109. There was also bullying amongst us boys as well. That was happening every day. It was part of life there and it was because of the way we were treated there by staff like Matt George. They encouraged it and turned you into a bully. You

were either a bully or you got bullied. It was name calling backed up by physical violence. I sometimes picked on people simply because I could.

110. The staff would see it but instead of stopping it would laugh and encourage it. Sometimes they would even join in with the name calling. I used to get called googly eyes because I had a squint in my eye. Staff would call me that as well. One of the staff told me I had ice cream eyes. When I asked why he said "That one's made of ice cream and that one's a way round for a lick at it"!

111. I told Mr <sup>MTT</sup> [REDACTED] about the bullying. If I said it was by another pupil he would go and speak to that pupil or give him the belt maybe.

112. I used to run away a lot from Kerelaw and would usually go to my big sister's but would always end up being taken back. I remember once when my dad took me back. I begged him not to take me all the way but to drop me nearby so it would look as though I was going back voluntarily. However, <sup>MTS</sup> [REDACTED] saw me. He was either a teacher or a support worker or something like that. He was beside his Austin Princess car and tried to grab me. He chased me round his car. As we ran round the car I tried to tell him that I was going back to Kerelaw. However, he caught me and slapped me about the head a few times and then put me in his car.

113. He drove back to Kerelaw and took me to the Mr <sup>MTT</sup> [REDACTED] who belted me. It was a traditional teacher's belt. He never hit you on your hands, always your bare arse.

114. Bed wetting was still a problem for me at Kerelaw and I was terrified people would find out about it. Some of the staff were okay about it but others would try to bring you down in front of others and make you feel bad about it. Matt George was one. He would call you things like "pissy – bed" in front of people. <sup>MTS</sup> [REDACTED] was another one who would call you such things. If you wet the bed you had to change the bed yourself by putting the wet sheets in the laundry and putting fresh sheets on the bed.

**Kerelaw – Reporting of Abuse**

115. The first person I ever told about Matt George's sexual abuse was my big sister [REDACTED] about two years later and who advised me to tell my dad. The reason I told her was that I ended up sniffing glue and she asked me why. I told her it was because it took away the pain and took me to another place. I then told her what Matt George had done to me. I told her I had been getting bullied and had been sexually abused.

116. She told my dad and he went to Kerelaw a couple of days later to see Matt George. I remember my dad coming into the Baird unit where I was and walking into the dining hall where Matt George was. I was kept in the unit so did not see what happened but my dad later told me that he punched Matt George. I have a recollection of the police coming but my dad being allowed to leave without being arrested.

117. I also know that my dad spoke to SNR [REDACTED] Mr MTT [REDACTED] about it but cannot be sure if that was the same time as he saw Matt George or another occasion. Anyway, I remember my dad spoke to Mr MTT [REDACTED] for about half an hour before I went into Mr MTT [REDACTED]'s office. When I went in I heard Mr MTT [REDACTED] say "I am sure it will never happen again". Mr MTT [REDACTED] asked me why I had not reported it and I told him I had tried to but that nobody would listen. I had complained to him previously about the bullying but not the sexual abuse. Having said that, as far as I am concerned Mr MTT [REDACTED] must have known about both the physical abuse and sexual abuse that was going on in that place.

118. The only person I really told about the abuse was my sister. I felt too ashamed and disgraced to speak about it to anybody else. I did speak to my dad about it eventually but that was because he asked me about it after [REDACTED] told him what I had said.

119. I did not tell anybody else about what happened in the toilet until I spoke to the police about it years later after having got involved with the In Care Abuse Survivors (INCAS) group. The police came out to my house about a year ago and

took a statement but I did not hear any more from them. I don't know if there are any criminal proceedings arising.

120. I told one of the teachers about the incident when Matt George spread glue over my hair. I think it was Mr HNZ who might have been the English teacher. I don't know if he did anything about it or if anything happened to Matt George about it. I also told one of the wee helpers about it. Her name was Peggy. She said she would tell Mr MTT about it. I don't know if she ever did.

121. In 1980 I was allowed home on leave from Kerelaw to my dad's house for two or three months when I turned 16 and therefore was legally not allowed to be in Kerelaw any longer. I recall a man called Mr Gascoigne, who we called Bamber Gascoigne, came to the house to say I was to sign some papers and, if I did, then I was on leave until May after which I would be free. I don't think I ever had to go back to a Children's Hearing or anything for that decision to be made.

122. After I left Kerelaw my stepmother kicked me out of my dad's house. I sofa surfed for a while and then was homeless. There was a care home sort of place in Easterhouse that might have been an adolescent centre or something like that. I can't remember what it was called but I stayed there for a few months. I was doing a YTS at the time and it was a place where you were supposed to learn life skills. I think from there I was arrested for something, maybe a breach of the peace. I know I was at the District Court.

123. Between my 16th and 18th birthdays I was in and out of detention centres. I was in and out of Friarton, where I did a three month detention in 1980 or 1981; and Polmont where I did a two year borstal sentence in 1982 – 1984. I think I was an adult by the time I was sent to Glenochil.

124. There was no sexual abuse or anything like that in the detention centres or prisons I went to after Kerelaw but they would still bully and victimise you. There was plenty of physical and mental abuse. I say that because that was just how these places worked. They ruled you by fear and would punch or kick you whenever they felt like it.

125. In my life I have served 28 years in prison which is the equivalent of two life sentences. My last prison sentence was served from 2005 – 2007.

#### **LONGRIGGEND REMAND CENTRE**

126. I remember being in Longriggend for a three week remand as a schoolboy for a social enquiry report. I was sent there by the District Court. I'm sure I was under 16 at that time and maybe as young as 11 or 12, not that that made any difference. The only difference was that the cell doors opened out ways for boys and in ways for the older inmates. I remember there was a wee corridor that segregated us from everybody else in the jail. I may have had other short periods on remand here. That was a mad place. The screws victimised you there too. They were proper prison officers in there. I recall one occasion being booted into the shower because I had said I was not taking a shower.

#### **FRIARTON DETENTION CENTRE**

127. I was 16 when I was in Friarton. I was there for about eight weeks. Even there I ended up in solitary confinement. In fact I was released straight from solitary confinement. I remember one incident in Friarton. I was given a razor and refused it because I didn't need it. I got punched and told to do as I was told.

128. Not every place I went to did I get abuse but, in every place I went to, violence seemed to be the answer. If you didn't do what you were told they'd just beat you up and say "now you'll do as you're told".

#### **POLMONT**

129. I really don't know how old I was when sent to Polmont. I think it was for two years between 1982 and 1984 but it is at least possible that I might have been only 17. I can't be sure but do know that I did my borstal there.



130. In there you just did what you were told. You had no say in anything. I remember being put into solitary confinement for six months. I have no idea why I was given that punishment or why it was for so long but I think it was the governor's decision. His name might have been Middleton although there were several governors and deputes.

131. When in solitary you did not get to speak to anybody and while you were supposed to exercise for an hour every day that usually depended on which of the screws were on duty. You slept in the cell and got fed in the cell. The thing I hated most about it was they would get you up at 5:30 am and give you a cup of tea and a wee sandwich then take you to the gym. This would be before the rest of the place were up and about. There would maybe be up to five or six of us there at any one time in separate cells.

132. You also had to slop out, empty your own toilet. There was no sink or shower in the cell. Your bed would be taken away and all you could do all day was sit there and count the bricks in the wall if you wanted to. You could read if you were sometimes lucky enough to get a book. You had to sit on a cardboard chair at a cardboard table. There was no TV or radio. You were not allowed to smoke. The cells had windows but they did not open.

## **IMPACT**

133. The whole affect that being a child in care had on my life was that it made me an angry wee boy. I became a whole different person. I began bullying and picking on other people.

134. It was because of the way I was treated that I began picking on my younger half-siblings, my stepmother's children. My wee brother actually killed himself through abuse. Not only abuse he suffered from me but also abuse he did to someone else. I used to bully him all the time and make him do things. Then he forced himself on my niece. He tried to blame me but my dad seen it for what it was and that it was my brother's own decision to abuse somebody else. That is why he

took his own life years later; he could not live with himself for what he had done. He killed himself in about 2000.

135. My brother was in care too and went to various homes. He was about seven years younger than me. I used to get him to do things for me. I would bully him to do things like steal things, rob things and batter people I had fallen out with who were younger than me.

136. I also abused my wee brother. I did it the same way Matt George abused me. I forced oral sex on him. I felt guilty about it and would always try to make it up to him. I think the fact that I forced him to do oral sex was why he forced himself on my niece. I think I abused my brother to bully him into doing things for me. It was so as he would do as he was told, do what I told him to do. I know that sounds sick but that is the truth of the matter. To me, I was his big brother so I was allowed to bully him anyway.

137. My early life in care has affected every part of my life.

138. Isolation is another outcome. Sometimes I cannot even sit with people including family members. I sometimes get this fear that I am going to assault them or say something wrong or hurt them and I would rather just leave and be alone. Sometimes I don't go out the house for three or four days.

139. My family all think I am institutionalised. I don't. I know I can live outside institutions. I might struggle at times but I can do it and I'm getting better at it although initially it was very hard.

140. My time in institutions has lead me to become a drug addict and meant that I lost contact with my kids because I did not want them to see that. Also I did not want to be with them and feel angry towards them. I could not take the risk that I would hurt them. My own dad used to hit me and hurt me and I did not want to pass that on to my own kids. To be honest there were times when I was using drugs that I just did not really care about them. So they grew up without even knowing me and I have never been a dad to them.

141. I turned to drugs to get away from the shame and guilt that I was feeling in respect of my time in the institutions. I started on glue when I was about 15 then moved on to sleeping tablets and then on to heroin. Drugs eased the pain that I was feeling. I was 18 when I started on heroin and I used it intravenously up until five years ago. I have been off it ever since. I did try to go to rehab about 10 years ago but my past always caught up with me and I relapsed into heroin use again. I injected heroin unless I was in prison. I still managed to get other drugs in prison.

142. I also started drinking when I was a young teenager. I started with a bottle of wine and found I liked the glow it gave me and helped me forget things. I drank all my life and it was a problem for me up until nine years ago. I have not had a drink since. But it was the drugs that destroyed my life.

143. The drugs have resulted in me having Hepatitis C. You can get medicine for it but I don't take it because it causes depression and I suffer from depression enough, often feeling suicidal. I just feel that, because of my time in the institutions I don't fit into society. That makes me feel suicidal and depressed.

144. I have self-harmed and tried to commit suicide many times. I have slit my wrists and on one occasion contemplated hanging myself to the extent that [REDACTED] but did not go through with it. I have had suicidal feelings all my life and doubt if they will stop until I can come to terms with my past.

145. In 2005 or 2007 I was diagnosed as clinically depressed, I take anti-depressants and see a psychologist.

146. I don't have a proper sleep pattern and can often sit up until 4 am thinking how bad my life has been. When I do sleep I used to have nightmares although not for three or four years now, not since I began speaking with the psychologist. I had a recurring dream about Matt George sexually abusing me.

147. I am unemployable due to my past because every time they do a disclosure on me they don't want to know me. Also I never received any proper education.

148. I have a serious lack of trust in people. It has seriously affected my confidence and played a big part in me not having a proper relationship with any girlfriends or partners.

149. I realise that a lot of what has happened to me, including offending behaviour and lengthy prison sentences, is as a result of things I have done and my own behaviour but that has been as a result of the childhood I had in those institutions and what that time did to me.

150. My time in those places is with me on a daily basis. I think of it every day and can only hope that there are no kids going through the same things nowadays and the hell that I went through.

151. I go to support groups now like the Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. I also go to a survivors group called A Voice Within.

152. I see a psychologist through the NHS about once a fortnight though sometimes it is once a month depending on her schedule.

153. The supports help and let me look at things from a different perspective, you know, instead of always blaming myself for these things.

154. I know that some of the reasons I got locked up at various times in my life was as a result of things I have done but this all started because I was locked up at such an early age and to this day I have no idea who decided I was to be locked away and why or what I was supposed to have done to deserve it.

155. I find the AA is the best help I get as I have a sponsor and it gives me one to one sessions and somebody who can guide me through when things get tough and help me stick to my programme. My big sister [REDACTED] is also a big help to me.

156. I think that my time in the institutions was a way of training me for prisons and I think that they should not just simply lock you away. I know that some lessons

have been learned from the past, for example I know that they do disclosures now for everyone. I also think all kids should be taught an AA/NA style 12 step recovery programme when they are at secondary school because even those not in care are still victims of society. I know people that attend the AA who were never in care.

157. My hope for this Inquiry is that it can give me freedom from the system, help me break the cycle of what has been my life and that I can stay away from prisons. In the wider sense, for society, I am not optimistic that it will change anything.

## RECORDS

158. I tried to get my records from the archivist at the Mitchell Library and was told that social work have them. I have still got the e-mail on my phone that a Michael Gallagher sent me confirming that there are records but they are with the Social Work Department.

159. I used to think it was 1975 that I was put into a home but that e-mail about three or four years ago put the dates into it and was able to tell me it was 1973 – 1980 that I was in care.

160. I then went to Glasgow City Chambers and asked for a Subject Access Request Form. They said that they did have records but that they belonged to the Social Work Department. I was then thrown out of the Chambers by a woman called Helena Congleton.

161. I was involved with the Children's Panel and I have also asked them if I can see their records because they have been recording them since 1972. I phoned up and asked if they had archived records and they said they did. I asked if I could see them but they said it depends what your name is and what year you are talking about but they said that I could not access them. That was about three or four years ago and I still have their e-mail on my phone too. I keep whatever I can find. That is what I need to know, where I was when and who made the decision to lock me away until I was 16.

HMD  


Signed

Dated 2-11-16