

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IPV [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My full name is IPV [REDACTED] and that was my name on my birth certificate. I was known as IPV [REDACTED] as a child and when I was in care. My date of birth is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 1965.

Life before care

2. I lived on [REDACTED] in Glasgow when I was born. It was a nice area with nice houses. It was posh compared to Possilpark, which was across from it.
3. I lived with my mother, [REDACTED] and my biological father, [REDACTED]. I also had an older sister, [REDACTED], who was eighteen months older than me and a brother GFN [REDACTED] who was two years younger than me.
4. My mum kicked my dad out when I was three years old and had three children to bring up by herself, with no help, which was really difficult. She did three jobs to get by because we lived in heavy poverty. The neighbours were nice and helped out sometimes.
5. My dad met another woman and had three more kids called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who are between eight and fifteen years younger than me.
6. My mum met a man called [REDACTED] when I was about three years old, and he took on my mum and us three kids. Life changed after that. [REDACTED] worked for a

chemical and drug firm in Glasgow and made good money. He was like a dad to us, and would take us on holiday and things. My mum had a another child with him called [REDACTED] who is nine years younger than me.

7. I had a relatively good life. We ate well, dressed well and went on holidays. I was going to primary school and was also out playing football and climbing trees. [REDACTED] then got cancer in his spine and was in a lot of pain. I once had to stuff peaches in his mouth to stop him screaming because even a sheet touching his skin had him screaming in agony. Watching him waste away in agony was a really traumatic thing in my life. He was my father. He died when I was eleven years old. I started to misbehave a bit after that.
8. I had started high school by this time but I started acting out after my dad died. I stopped going to school, I was stealing cars and smashing windows and things. I ended up at a children's panel. My mum told them that I was misbehaving because my father had died, and she wouldn't let them take me away and said that she would look after me. No social worker was allocated to the family, which should have happened. I kept misbehaving and ended up at another panel, and was put on something called an "unruly certificate." I was eleven years old at the time.
9. The panel decided to put me into Larchgrove Remand Home.

Larchgrove Remand Home, Glasgow

10. I was eleven years old when I was put into Larchgrove Remand Home. It was on Edinburgh Road in Glasgow. I didn't know how long I was going to be there for when I went in. I ended up being there for about six weeks.
11. Larchgrove was a home for boys and there were about fifty boys there with a ratio of one member of staff for every ten boys. I feel they should have had more staff. I have no idea who was in charge and don't remember the names of any of the staff.

12. Larchgrove was ok because nothing sexual happened, but there was a culture of physical abuse. There wasn't really any discipline in there. The staff just did what they liked and would give boys a kick in if they took a dislike to you or if they thought you were misbehaving. I was funny and would make other boys laugh, which the staff didn't like. They would say "there's no fucking laughing in here" and then batter me. One of them would take me into a cupboard and give me a few whacks on the head with a wee stick, which was about two centimetres by two centimetres. They would hit you on the body as well so that nobody would see the marks. It was inhumane. It was traumatic because I was getting battered for nothing. I wasn't doing anything wrong.
13. I remember being taken on trips to Glasgow Zoo and other places.
14. My mum came to visit me a couple of times when I was there but not much because she had three kids to look after at home.
15. There were no inspections while I was there. I don't remember anybody asking if I was ok. A social worker visited me once for about 35 minutes.

Going to Loaningdale List D School

16. I ended up in front of another panel when I was about thirteen years old. It was in an office near Glasgow Sheriff Court, Ingram Street, I think. I was there with my mum and there were three middle class twats sitting across from me, who didn't listen to a word said by mum or me. We both wanted me to go home with my mum, but instead they went with a social work decision to put me in a List D School even though this social worker had seen me for one 35 minute meeting in Larchgrove. I don't remember anybody from Larchgrove being there to say that they'd assessed me or anything.

17. I was taken straight from the panel in a van to Loaningdale. I think the decision must have already been made before the panel because I think it was people from Loaningdale who were there to pick me up in a van and take me away. My mum or social worker didn't come with me. I wasn't told how long I would be there for.
18. It was near Biggar. I don't know why they decided to put me so far away from my family.

Loaningdale List D School, Biggar

19. I was about thirteen years old when I was taken to Loaningdale. It was out in the country, near Biggar. Loaningdale was a List D School for boys, which was funded by Lanarkshire Council.
20. I remember driving up to the place. It was a standalone grey, listed building, which was lovely. It was set in lovely grounds with a few houses for staff in the grounds. There was an arch, where horses used to go through. It looked impressive from the outside.
21. I remember arriving and meeting ^{GYF} [REDACTED] who showed me around. I didn't get a good vibe off him. I felt like I was going to get physical violence from him or that he was a pervert. He showed me around and where I was going to sleep. He told me the rules of the place, but there weren't really any. He told me I would get a quarter of tobacco a week, some papers and matches but that you could earn more credits and get more money by doing what you were told.
22. The main school building was only two floors. The kitchen, dining room, laundry room, showers and classrooms were all downstairs on the ground floor, and the dormitories were upstairs.

23. The boys were divided into a west wing and an east wing, with about eighteen boys in each, so there were about 36 boys in the whole place. Boys would come and go so it wasn't always the same boys.
24. I was put into the west wing. The rooms in our wing had four beds in them and some had two. I was put in a room with two beds. I was there for two years and other boys would come and go, so sometimes I would be sharing the room and sometimes I had it to myself.
25. I remember a wee boy called [REDACTED] who stuck out because he was half-caste.

Staff

26. The guy who ran the place was a man called John Wilson who stayed in a mansion on the grounds. He would walk about with a kilt and sporran on. We only saw him about once a month.
27. I was in the west wing and the housemaster there was GYF [REDACTED], who had his own house [REDACTED]. The housemaster in the east wing was Ron Reid who was nice. There was a man called John Porteous who lived in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with his wife and three kids. He was an outwards bound guy who took the boys out kayaking and stuff.
28. The females I remember at Loaningdale are Jessie, who did the laundry and Amanda Findlay, who was the administrator. There was a maintenance man who we called "Harry Honda" because he had a Honda motorbike.
29. The staff was very minimal. It was really GYF [REDACTED] who ran the place. Ron Reid was quite a laid back kind of guy so GYF [REDACTED] made the decisions. IPW [REDACTED] was also around a lot. Sometimes there would be a student in to help in the west wing.

30. In the school, IPW [REDACTED] was the P.E. teacher, but he was really involved in running the school and took boys away on trips and stuff. A woman called IPY [REDACTED] took art classes. There was also a female trainee social worker who came for a couple of weeks to work in the school.

Routine at Loaningdale

31. We got up at 8 am and went downstairs for a shower, got dressed and went for our breakfast. We then had a morning meeting every morning where GYF [REDACTED] would tell us what we were doing for the day, which was a waste of time. He would have been better writing "nothing" on a board because we didn't do anything all day.
32. We went to class but we weren't there long and didn't do much. None of the staff seemed to care so the boys just did their own thing. Me and some other boys would play football outside during the day until lunchtime. We would have our lunch then just hang about or play more football until tea time. We were allowed to smoke and got tobacco, so we would spend time smoking.
33. We would watch telly in the evenings and would go to bed at 9pm. We caused chaos every night as young boys together would.
34. There would be a night watchman called IPX [REDACTED] who would watch the boys at night. He was there every single night. I only remember one night when he wasn't and a woman watched the boys that night.

Mealtimes / Food

35. The cook was great. All the staff and the boys ate at the same time and we all got the same food.

36. There were two cooks. One was called Marian and she was good but when she was off, there was another cook on and she was rubbish. The portions were really small. We didn't have to finish what we had on our plate if it was something we didn't like, but if we didn't eat it then we didn't get anything else.

Washing / bathing

37. The showers were downstairs. They didn't have cubicles, which they should have had for our privacy. All the boys just had to stand under the shower heads. GYF GYF or IPW would come in and look at the boys penises and tell us to hurry up as we were showering.

Clothing / uniform

38. We wore green sweatshirts in the west wing, and the boys in the east wing wore blue sweatshirts. You had your name and a number assigned to you, which was sewn into your clothes so you go them back after they'd been washed. All the boys were different sizes so they made sure you got your own clothes back
39. The laundry room was downstairs and Jessie did all the laundry.

Schooling

40. There wasn't any education other than one class, which was an art class taken by a woman called IPY All boys would be in that one class and we were all different ages. It was ok if you wanted to paint but I wasn't interested in that. They never taught us any proper school subjects or even any life skills or anything important. Sometimes they'd roll in a big telly and show us programmes about baboons or other animals, and that was all the education we got.
41. GYF was a photographer and would take what he called a photography class where he would take pictures with his big, fancy Nikon camera and give us a small camera to take pictures with. He had a dark room to develop pictures on the

first floor in the west wing of the main building. He would take boys into that room one at a time to help him with developing pictures. He took me in on three occasions that I can remember, but maybe more. The photos I developed with him were ones that I had taken on his camera.

42. We also got P.E. which IPW [REDACTED] took.

Chores

43. There was a list up on the wall that changed every week. It listed boys names and what their chore was every day. It would be things like sweeping and mopping. You got credits for doing these chores, and then you got money to buy tobacco and sweets.
44. GYF [REDACTED] would take a boy home to clean his house every week.

Trips / Holidays

45. We would be taken out in the mini bus on day trips sometimes. There would be about eight of us at a time and GYF [REDACTED] chose who got to go. He would take us out to the woods or something.
46. Once a year, boys would be taken to Dunbar for a holiday. We would stay in accommodation that were like barracks, and we slept on bunk beds. Mr GYF [REDACTED] and Mr IPW [REDACTED] would take us and the staff slept where the boys slept.
47. GYF [REDACTED] and IPW [REDACTED] would also take us on orienteering trips. We would be away for four days and we would sleep in tents.

Visits / Inspections

48. I didn't get any visits while I was there. No social worker visited me in the two years I was there. I don't think there was any care for kids back then.

49. I remember one inspection while I was there. The staff were told in advance that the inspectors were coming the next again week. I wondered what the point was of that. The inspectors were upper class twats that had no idea that kids were incarcerated in a place where paedophiles and abuse was prevalent. They didn't talk to the kids. They just made comments on the gardens.

Family contact

50. My mum had three children to look after in Glasgow so it was a lot to ask for her to come out and visit me. She came to visit me once but she had to get two buses, a train and another bus. It was a lot for her so I told her not to come and see me again. It was my choice because I knew it was difficult for her.
51. If you were a good boy, you got to go home for the weekend.
52. There were two mini buses to drop boys off on Fridays because boys were from all over. One bus would drop Glasgow boys off at Buchanan Street in Glasgow and any other drop off points, and one would go to Dundee and Edinburgh and wherever else on the way. Then they'd pick you up again from the same place on Sunday and take you back to Loaningdale. I never got to go home that often. I would be expecting to go home then GYF would find some reason to stop me from going home.
53. I only remember being picked up in the mini bus in Glasgow three times so I think I only got home on three weekends.

Healthcare

54. If you didn't feel well then you told the staff, who would phone the doctor in Biggar to get you an appointment then take you to see him. On a few occasions, the doctor came to the school to see boys.

55. You would be taken to a dentist in Biggar or Lanark. The staff would organise that but they'd wait until you were really in pain before they took you.

Discipline

56. There was no communication from the staff about what your behaviour was like or what it should be like. They had no interest in making boys behave better and to get them home to their families.
57. If you did anything they thought needed punishment then they'd take away privileges like not let you home at weekends, making you sit in your room, not letting you watch TV or not give you pocket money. GYF [REDACTED] decided who got these punishments and why. It could be if you called another boy a name or had a fight. Most of the time though, GYF [REDACTED] just used these as threats to get me to do what he wanted so he could abuse me, then he would find some reason to cancel my home leave anyway so he could keep me there at the weekend.

Abuse at Loaningdale

58. There was not so much physical abuse but you would sometimes get hit from GYF [REDACTED] and IPW [REDACTED] if you didn't do as you were told. I was used to that though and I thought it was normal.
59. When I first saw GYF [REDACTED], his jeans were so tight that I could see everything in them. It wasn't appropriate for work. I knew within three days that GYF [REDACTED] and IPW [REDACTED] were dodgy because they'd come and watch us boys in the shower. We were going through hormonal changes and trying to figure out who we were and these men came and looked at us, and made us feel uncomfortable.
60. All the boys would slag off [REDACTED] because he was half-caste and I used to stick up for him. One time I went upstairs to the dormitories during the day and I saw [REDACTED] giving Mr GYF [REDACTED] oral sex. Boys weren't allowed upstairs to the dorms, but

I had just gone up because I had a "fuck it" attitude but I was shocked by what I saw. I thought if he tried it on me I would stab him to death.

61. The boy who got the most credits through the week would be called the top boy or head boy of the week, and would get to go to GYF's house to clean on a Friday. GYF decided who got the credits and he manipulated them and gave them to boys who he wanted to abuse.
62. I was the boy of the week one week, and GYF took me to his house, told me to go in and Hoover and clean the kitchen. I went in and the place was spotless. The next thing, GYF came in and told me to clean the sink area in the kitchen. Then he came up behind me and pressed himself against me. I didn't know what to do. I was shocked but I managed to wriggle away and get out of his house.
63. The second time I was top boy of the week, I was in GYF's house in his living room Hoovering when GYF came in and pulled his jeans and either boxers or pants down. I can't remember what underwear he had on. He told me to come over to him. I didn't move, so he came over to me and he said IPV, don't worry. You'll get twenty credits." I said I didn't want twenty credits. He manipulated me, the way paedophiles do, and he made me give him oral sex. I never done anything, actually. He just put his penis in my mouth and masturbated himself until I had his sperm all over my face. He then got a tissue and told me to wipe it off.
64. I would end up being head boy every two or three weeks and be taken to his house for him to abuse me. This happened over the two years I was there. IPW was also there when GYF was abusing me one time. IPW didn't do anything to me, but he was masturbating while watching GYF abuse me.
65. During the time I was there, it was always the four same boys that would get most credits and be head boy of the week. One was me, and the other three boys I remember being head boy and going to GYF's house a lot were [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. That doesn't mean they were being abused because I never saw that happen, but they probably were. No boy should have even

been in GYF's house at all because it was against the rules for boys to be in the staff quarters.

66. [REDACTED] was from a place called Ladywell just outside Edinburgh, and I knew he was getting abused. He had the same sadness that I had. There was a procession of boys coming and going from the place all the time so there were always different boys for them to abuse. It was like a production line of vulnerable boys for them to abuse.
67. My first year was there was an up and down balance of good and bad. If I didn't do what GYF and IPW wanted me to do, I wouldn't get any money for tobacco and sweeties. If you were a good boy and did what you were told, you got an extra two pence for every time you were a good boy. GYF called it a credit and would tell me that he'd give me a credit or five credits if I did what he said, and that was a lot to a wee boy.
68. Sometimes, at night, I would notice that a boy who should have been there wasn't in his bed. It makes me wonder if GYF was taking them back to sleep at his house and abusing them. Sometimes, when there was no other boy sharing my room, GYF would sleep in the other bed in my room so he could abuse me at night. He should have been going back to his own house to sleep so he was breaking rules.
69. GYF tried to have anal sex with me, but I would squeeze and not let him in. That didn't stop him trying. He tried putting gel on me and would keep trying but I would not let him do that to me.
70. The abuse continued from the age of thirteen to fifteen, until I left. He did it upstairs in the dormitories whenever he could, in his house [REDACTED] and on the camping and orienteering trips. He would get me to sit on his lap in the lounge and I would feel that he was erect. He would feel me up in front of other boys and pretend it was a joke.

71. It wasn't just sexual abuse, it was psychological as well. GYF made me feel like I wanted the sexual abuse to happen and it was what I wanted. He abused me so much that he normalised it. I knew I liked women but GYF told me it was ok and that I could be bisexual. I was confused and wondered if what he was saying was true. He must have abused me about one hundred times over the two years I was there and made me believe it was normal. I never knew it was wrong because I hadn't had sex education, but I felt like it was wrong. I would sometimes be physically sick after he made me do stuff. This country is so backward that I hadn't been educated about sexual things or about understanding my feelings.
72. I also had so much trauma from my father dying and I was vulnerable, so GYF was able to manipulate me. He started chipping away at my confidence from the day I got there so he could control me. He knew he could get away with it because I was vulnerable and I had no family visiting me. He would bribe me and offer me extra credits to do what he wanted me to do. He took me into his confidence and made me feel comfortable by telling me that it was a nice thing he was doing, that it was our secret and he only did it with me because he really liked me. He told me about this big house he had in Edinburgh that I could stay in with him when I left care. He would also threaten to lock me in my room for four weeks and take away any TV and pocket money privileges. He threatened to call the police and get me charged for stuff if I resisted. It was all to get power and control over me. I was getting to be a big boy by the age of fifteen but it was difficult to disengage from the manipulation, power, control and threats from GYF.
73. GYF would take boys to the dark room one by one under a pretence to develop pictures. He took me in at least three times and when I was in there, he would touch me and abuse me. GYF had friends who were into photography, who would come to his house. One time, I was in the dark room with GYF, and one of his photography friends was also there. GYF was making sexual innuendos and slyly touching me in this small room. GYF used to be in that dark room a lot so I think he was taking pictures of boys being abused and developing them in there. I don't know if his photography friends were involved in the abuse, but they probably were. I don't remember any of their names.

74. GYF [REDACTED] was about twenty-eight to thirty years old when I was there. He was the most evil, manipulative, monster I've ever met in my life. He was an animal. He was very cunning and would bring a girl from Edinburgh into Loaningdale and say she was his girlfriend. It was just a cover.
75. IPW [REDACTED] and GYF [REDACTED] would try and get you away on trips and away from Loaningdale whenever they could. They were abusing boys in Loaningdale but there were still other staff members about so they had to be careful, I imagine. They'd take us orienteering for four days and we'd sleep in tents. At night, GYF [REDACTED] would come into my tent and do what he wanted with me. I once saw IPW [REDACTED] having anal sex with [REDACTED] on one of these trips.
76. We would be taken on holiday to Dunbar once a year and we all slept on bunk beds in one room. Mr GYF [REDACTED] and Mr IPW [REDACTED] slept in the room with the boys. I saw GYF [REDACTED] having anal sex with [REDACTED] in Dunbar.
77. One night in Dunbar, I woke up because I felt something behind me. IPW [REDACTED] was behind me and he had taken my hand and put it on his penis and his hand was on mine. He was playing with my penis and trying to get me to do the same to him. I was erect, which I was embarrassed about, but I was having none of it and I knocked him off my bed. He wasn't discouraged and just got up and went into another boy's bed. I saw him having anal sex with a boy. I also saw him getting oral sex from one of the boys. He pushed the boy away when he seen me so he tried to hide it a little bit.
78. IPW [REDACTED] came to me on a number of occasions in Loaningdale and when we were in Dunbar, and sexually abused me. He didn't target me as much though. He targeted [REDACTED] who was just a wee boy. I tried to protect [REDACTED] from the other boys but I couldn't protect him from the staff. I think [REDACTED] killed himself after he left care.
79. IPW [REDACTED] did things differently. He would start acting camp and prancing about and say to boys that we'd go to the showers and see how big our penises were. It

made me feel really self-conscious because we were just wee hormonal boys. He told me to stay back after P.E. one day and told me just to have my towel on, but I kept my clothes on. That makes me think that he kept boys back after class to abuse them.

80. It felt like the purpose of running Loaningdale was just to exploit children. Nothing was done to teach us or to rehabilitate us, to stabilise us and try to get us back to our families. We were just there to be abused.
81. The boys didn't talk about the abuse between themselves. Nobody talked about that kind of thing back then. You would also be worried that you'd be made fun of if other boys found out you'd given the house master oral sex.
82. I wanted to be in the east wing because I knew the housemaster there, Ron Reid, wasn't a paedophile. I asked to be moved but the only person I could ask was GYF and he wouldn't let me move because he had a grip of me.
83. With so many boys in one place, it was chaos at bed time. There were boys going through puberty and were hormonal, so they would be running around with their penises out or masturbating. IPX would come out of his room and have a look and watch. He was a voyeur. Then the boys would just go to sleep when they were ready. I saw some boys go into IPX room as well but I never went. I stayed away from him as much as I could. IPX came into my room as well. He was about fifty years old.
84. IPY the art teacher would let you have a wee grope of her breasts, which was good. There was also a female student, who was doing a social work degree, who came to work at Loaningdale for a few weeks. She also let us have a grope of her breasts. Talking about sexual things was endemic in the place.

Bed Wetting

85. I was full of fear of GYF and IPW and used to sleep with one eye open. I started wetting the bed as a consequence of their abuse. The last time I had wet the bed before that was when I was about four or five years old and living at home with my mother. A few of the boys wet the bed in Loaningdale and it was the ones who were being abused. It was very evident that there was something going on with the boys but nobody was there to pick up on it.
86. GYF would put his arm around me and tell me not to worry about it and that it would stop. He was a very cunning man. Jessie, the laundry woman, who was about seventy years old, thought the sun shone out of his arse.
87. We had to take our wet sheets down to the laundry in the morning and I would be embarrassed because older boys would make fun of you and call you "pish the bed." The staff never did anything to stop the boys making fun of us.

Running away

88. I ran away about ten times in the two years because of the abuse. I was in constant fight or flight mode. Loanindale was in the country so it was hard to get away. I would offer to go to Biggar and do the shopping, then I would steal a car and get away.
89. One time I ran away and stayed with a guy called [REDACTED] who worked for the Co-Operative Milk [REDACTED] in Glasgow, and lived on [REDACTED] in Glasgow. I woke up with the guy having his hands down my trousers. The world seemed to be full of paedophiles that nobody was looking for. This man was also a scout master, which I think he did to be close to boys. He was about thirty-five or forty years old at that time.
90. I would always get caught when I ran away and the police would take me back. The punishment when I got back was that I wouldn't get any credits, have to go to bed

early or get television privileges taken away. The real punishment was the abuse.

GYF would punish me by making me do more sexual favours for him.

Reporting of abuse at Loaningdale

91. I didn't have anybody to talk to about the abuse. My father figure had died. There was nobody at Loaningdale I could talk to. Nobody was asking me how I was.
92. When I ran away, the police would take me back. I would ask them not to take me back to Loaningdale and to take me somewhere else, like to Larchgrove or somewhere safe. They asked me what I meant by "safe" but I wasn't going to tell them. It was a very difficult thing to talk about. Sexual abuse wasn't talked about at that time.
93. I was made to believe that the sexual abuse was ok because I was being told it was normal so I wouldn't have gone out my way to tell anybody about it. If someone had told me it was not normal then I would have known and might have told someone.

Leaving Loaningdale

94. I ran away and left Loaningdale when I was about fifteen years old, then when I turned sixteen, they couldn't send me back. I didn't speak to social work again after leaving care.

Life after being in care

95. I went back to my mum's when I left Loaningdale. One of my family member's got me a job in a factory and I worked there for eighteen months. Then I went to London and worked for a demolition company, driving machines, for two and a half years. I can turn my hand at any job if I am showed once.

96. I was a good footballer and played a lot of football in my spare time. It was a distraction for me. I played at amateur level and Crystal Palace were going to give me a two year contract but I tore a ligament just before I was due to sign the contract.
97. I got into a relationship with a woman who basically stalked me and came after me to London. I ended up being in a relationship with her for 22 years. My brothers followed me to London and they were taking heroin so I started taking drugs in London and became an addict. I had kids and ended up losing them because of the drugs. I had to fight with social work for seven years to get them back. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I studied the law to get them back and I did. I had to go to the Old Bailey in London.
98. My wife was my soulmate but she cheated on me so we split up. I have six kids and I have a grandchild who I see.
99. I moved back to Scotland from London. I decided I was going to visit Loaningdale to confront GYF [REDACTED]. I went to Lanark to get the bus to Biggar, and I saw the administrator, Amanda Findlay, in the street and we recognised each other. She told me that GYF [REDACTED] had died a horrendous death. She didn't tell me how he died but just said it was horrendous. He was very promiscuous so maybe he had got HIV, or maybe somebody killed him, but I don't know. IPW [REDACTED] wasn't there but I know that he is still alive. The place had turned into an Outward Bounds place.
100. I got clean for eight or nine years and stopped taking drugs. I got a job and a house and did all the normal things I was supposed to do. I studied psychology and realised that it is a guessing game about what's wrong with you.
101. I opened two drug projects and I ran them. I organised funding, set them up and did it all. Half the people who attended were men and half were women. It was unusual to have so many women, but it meant the women felt comfortable with the projects. I

started working with ██████████ in Glasgow. They started a project in ██████████ called ██████████ which was a name they stole from me. They stole all my ideas.

102. Then my sister, brother, nephew, and other brother all died from drugs. I ended up having a mental health breakdown and being in two mental health hospitals.
103. My own biological father, ██████████ turned out to be a paedophile. I found out when I was an adult that he had raped my sister, ██████████ when she was age two, three and four. ██████████ drank a lot and ended up killing herself when she was 39 years old. My half-sister ██████████ told me when she was eighteen years old that our father had raped her as well. He was living in Possiplark and I tried to find him but couldn't. We found out later that he died. My half-brothers ██████████ and ██████████ are dead now as well.
104. My brother, ^{GFN} ██████████, was in Dr Guthries in Edinburgh. I found out later that he was abused while he was there. My brother used to go to the place where fruit machines were and this man picked my brother up there. He started taking ^{GFN} ██████████ to his house in Edinburgh and was abusing him there. The police set up a sting operation and followed the guy once after he picked ^{GFN} ██████████ up and took him to his house, but they broke the door in five minutes later so didn't catch the guy in the act. The police should have waited. My brother had already been raped so many times so if they had just waited a bit longer they could have caught the guy in the act. My brother ^{GFN} ██████████ is a heavy drug user to this day.

Impact

105. I never had a choice about going to Loaningdale. I never made a choice to be abused. I had no choice and nobody was protecting me. The abuse ruined my whole life and it was not because of any choice I made.

106. I was abused at a time when I was at a developmental stage so that has affected my whole life and left me confused about who I am and what I am. The abuse took away my self-esteem and my feeling of well-being. I felt like I was less than anybody else. GYF destroyed every single thing about me and every dream I had. I was low in confidence and also very angry. I had so much anger towards him as an adult that I wanted to kill him. Luckily for me, he was already dead.
107. I got into some trouble when I was eighteen and nineteen years old and have convictions for firearm offences and robberies. I thought I was going to be Al Capone and I turned out to be Chicken George.
108. I went to London thinking I could get away from everything and the memories of the abuse, but you can't escape them. They go with you wherever you go and it is always there. You can picture it in your head. I couldn't get the abuse out of my head no matter what I did and was getting flashbacks, so I started smoking hash to forget and be able to sleep. Then when my brothers came to London, they were taking heroin and I started taking it too. It helped me just forget about everything, and so I became an addict. I was really clever as a young lad and could have done anything, but I became a drug addict. That hurt my mum and my family as well because they had to put up with it. I lost my children because of the drugs and they had to go into care for seven years. I had to fight for seven years to get them back.
109. I always seemed to attract damsels in distress. I think that's because I wanted to look after women who I knew had been abused and needed to be cared for, so I could look after them. My wife was a damsel in distress and I ended up being with her for 22 years to look after her. Whenever I would do anything sexual, I would get flashbacks of the abuse. Sometimes a song or something would trigger the memories of the abuse and it would make me land right back at that same time and place of being abused. I was using the drugs to get me through it. It took me six years after being with my wife to feel comfortable enough to have sex with her. She knew something wasn't right and would ask me if there was anything I wanted to talk to her about but I wasn't going to tell her or anybody.

110. I didn't want any of my family to know that I was sexually abused. I was the oldest brother and the oldest son so I didn't want any of my family to know. I never told my mum, my psychiatrist or anybody. I only told my brother GFN when he told me that he had been sexually abused when he was at Dr Guthrie's, but even then I didn't give any details.
111. I wanted a normal life and was not able to have one. I could try my best and get a job and house and be with my family, but everything would catch up with me eventually and then it would all implode and I would lose it all again. I ended up in mental health hospitals twice after having breakdowns.
112. I have had struggled with depression and suicidal thoughts as an adult. I spent half my life crying. It kills me inside thinking I did those things. I will never stop getting flashbacks until I die.
113. The thing I did learn from the abuse was to be respectful in relationships. I always made sure that any girlfriend or my wife wanted to do the sexual things we were doing and that they had a choice. I always had decency in me, but experiencing the abuse made me more aware and I made sure I didn't do it to anybody else.

Treatment and Support

114. I started seeing a psychiatrist and was supposed to see him every month but I didn't see him again after four sessions because of the pandemic. I started seeing a Community Psychiatric Nurse as well but I can't tell her everything. It is a painful, embarrassing and difficult thing to talk about.
115. I take anti-psychotic medication, Olanzapine, as a result of the abuse in Loaningdale. I take anti-depressants every day for the emotional pain. I take Pre-Gablin, which is for the psychological and physical pain. I also take 20 milligrams of methadone every day now. I had stopped taking the methadone for a while but re-started it as a safety thing, so that I don't start taking heroin again.

Reporting of Abuse

116. I have never spoken about the abuse or reported it. I would never talk to the police. I don't trust them.

Records

117. I never bothered trying to get my records. I don't think I want them because I don't think reading them would be beneficial to me.

Lessons to be Learned

118. There was no protection for children when I was in care. I call it the "Jimmy Saville days" when everyone was at it, abusing kids. These institutions attracted paedophiles. All they had to do was write a mission statement and social work would give them money. They could then employ who they wanted and they were mostly men who made up their own rules. There were no background checks on workers, no enhanced disclosure and no training given. They could do what they wanted, whenever they wanted and get away with it because nobody was checking on them. I would hope all of that is different now.
119. There needs to be more staff working with kids and especially more women.
120. Kids should be taught about their own bodies, boundaries, and what is right and wrong, so if someone abuses them they know it is bad and can tell someone. There should be enough staff and people around so that a child has someone to tell if they are being abused.
121. Where children are put in the care system, the money should not be an issue. There should be enough money spent as is needed to make sure children are kept healthy, physically, mentally and emotionally.

122. The inspectors who came to Loaningdale gave them warning before they came. When inspectors visit children's institutions, they should turn up unannounced instead of giving the place warning that they are coming.
123. Social workers assume you are a bad parent because you take drugs and that is not the case. There are reasons people take illegal substances, but social work just remove your kids and put them in care if they find out you take illegal drugs. Their ethos is to keep families together but they do not do that. They just put the kids in care and separate siblings. They should first find someone within the children's own extended family who can look after them.
124. A lot of social workers seem to have no experience of growing up in poverty, disadvantage or being from broken families. They just go to university, write a few essays and then make decisions about families with no clue. They have more power than the police, but don't have enough resources to do the job. They need more resources so they can be trained better and so there can be more of them because their workloads are too big.
125. Legal aid has been cut so much that when parents do have their children removed, they can't even get legal aid to fight to get them back. The government is cutting all funding for people and it is affecting people at the bottom. We need money to be invested in helping people.
126. 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.

IPV


Signed..

Dated.....

27/7/23.