

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HDU

Support person present: No

1. My name is HDU. My date of birth is 1960. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. When I was born I was given the surname HDU from my natural mother. I do not know anything about my natural parents. I was adopted when I was two or three months old by and . I was not aware I was adopted until I was about fourteen years old and when I was in Geilsland, HDY told me.
3. Initially we stayed at near Mount Florida and when I was five we moved to Crofffoot in Castlemilk. When I was six the family adopted . She was a baby at the time and I think my parents knew her mother.
4. The first school I went to was Crofffoot Primary and I really enjoyed my time there. I was about eight or nine when my parents split up when he ran off with another woman. It was a long time before they divorced. I stayed in the house with mum and for about six months, before I went to stay with my dad. stayed with mum and my dad never saw her again. It was never explained to me why I moved to dads and stayed with mum.
5. At this time dad was staying in Stewarton in Ayrshire before he moved to Burnside in Glasgow and later Dumbarton. I started going to school at Burnside Primary. At that time I was allowed to play with pals and go to their houses. They were not allowed to

come to my house. To this day I am not sure why my parents adopted [REDACTED] and I as they were not good parents.

6. I was in primary five when I was moved to Knoxland Primary. I was happy at that school and there were no issues. At home, life with dad was getting bad. His new partner stopped allowing me in the living room and I had to stay in my bedroom. She even served me my meals in the room. My dad was always violent but it got worse and he would use his belt to punish me for anything. He would use the belt to hit me on the bare backside and often he did this in front of anyone that was in the house at the time.
7. Dad never gave me any pocket money. At that age I was able to get a job working on the Co-Op van on a Saturday. The milk lady gave me money for working.
8. One day I ripped my jeans and I got a beating from dad. I had been saving my own money for a new pair anyway. The next day I was at school and the PE teacher saw the bruises. I was then taken to see the Headmistress and the school nurse who were asking how I got the bruises. I told them I got them from being hit by some other kids. I was too embarrassed to say it was my dad.
9. Not long after that I tried to contact my mum a couple of times. I had no money and tried to jump a train to go and see her. I was caught by the train staff and dad was contacted. When he came to pick me up he gave me another beating. His partner told him either I was to go or she was leaving.
10. My dad took me to the local social work office. He had obviously phoned them beforehand because when we arrived he just said there he is and walked out. I was totally devastated being dropped off like that. They never even made any attempt to contact my mother. There had been no involvement with the social work prior to this.

Cardross Park Assessment Centre, Cardross, Argyle and Bute

11. When I was sent Cardross in Argyle and Bute, I found that it was a really dirty run down place, almost derelict. The social worker, I don't know her name, who had taken me from their office to Cardross, just dumped me with staff and then left. All with no explanation, I had even been asking her during the car journey but she said nothing to me. The most she said was that I would soon find out. I was then at Cardross for the next twelve weeks. The building was really run down, looking almost derelict and you could smell the dampness. Not long after I left it was knocked down.

Routine at Cardross Park Assessment Centre, Cardross, Argyle and Bute

First day

12. When I arrived at Cardross I was met by a woman, I don't know her name but I think she was in charge. She told me I had to take all my clothes off. I was not happy with this and a guy, again I don't know his name, came in to help her make me. He started giving me a belting using his hands. After getting my clothes off he gave me a set of rags. He then put me into the day room and locked the door. All the other boys who I had never met were also in that room.
13. There were five members of staff that I can remember. There was a female and three guys who all worked during the day and a night watchman. I don't remember any of the names.
14. I was put into a dormitory with boys whose average age was fifteen years old. They were in Cardross for many things including rape. Being the new boy. The older boys were taking the mickey out of me. Not only for being new, but that I was only there for care and protection. I wish I had done something wrong to get there as I might have been bullied less.

15. The dormitory I was in had another eleven or twelve boys. It was divided into two sections and between each section were the toilets and showers. I think I was the youngest there with the oldest being about fifteen. Most were around that age and there was no one in my age group.

Mornings and bedtime

16. We were woken by one of the day staff around seven thirty. We got washed, brushed our teeth, dressed and then we went back to the dormitory to make our beds. We then headed downstairs to the TV room where we all sat. The woman then brought in our breakfast on the trolley and we helped ourselves. When we were finished we put the plates back on the trolley and it was taken away.
17. We were kept in the room all day. While we were in there we were not allowed any visitors. We were not allowed any playtime and we didn't receive any schooling. While we were in the room there were no staff supervising us. If we made too much noise then someone would come in and we would be given a slap around the head. Around seven thirty we were then sent back to our dormitory for the night. I don't know how they got away with this. It must have been the easiest job in the world as the staff did nothing all day except hit us.
18. At night I had a shower before lights out about eight thirty. The night watchman was supposed to look after us. I soon found out that he left the building early into his shift and he would go to the local pub for last orders. This was every night and when he left the older boys started playing up, by jumping about and making a lot of noise. They knew his routine and the time he was due back. As soon as he was back the boy who had been in for rape complained that we were making so much noise he could not sleep. He pointed us out to the night watchman who then beat me and another younger boy.

Mealtimes/Food

19. Breakfast usually consisted of porridge, tea and toast. The food there was not good. I can remember the first time I was given Rice Krispies and was so looking forward to tasting it, but the female worker then handed us milk made from powder, which was horrible. Lunch and evening meals were very similar to school meals and again provided on a tray while we sat in the TV room.

Washing/bathing

20. Every night we had a shower. There were a few showers in the room and were communal with no privacy. The night watchman was supposed to supervise them.

Clothing/uniform

21. I was issued with some clothes which included a brown jumper, which was far too big, khaki trousers, black slip on gym shoes, y-fronts, vest and socks. Each Sunday at night we were given a change of clothes. I am not sure but I think the underwear and socks were changed every couple of days, but definitely not daily.

Leisure time

22. During some leisure time, if I had any, the older bullies would make you fight some of the other boys in the room and outside the sight of the staff, all for their fun. To survive you had to get better at fighting. We were kept in that room all day.

Birthdays and Christmas

23. I was out of there before Christmas so I don't know what happened there. I can say that during my time there I can't remember anyone celebrating their birthday.

Family contact

24. Mum did visit me and she came with friends. I presume they were there to drive her there and back. She came to visit me a few times while I was there, usually at least once a week between two and five in the afternoon. I also got a visit from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who were cousins of my dad, but my dad never visited me.
25. When mum came to see me she was always telling me they never told her that I was in the home and how she was trying to get me out of that place. She would bring me sweets when she visited. If me or any of the boys received a visit and had been given sweets they shared them amongst the rest of the residents.

Running away

26. I never thought about running away, apart from being so young, I had no idea where I was. I could have been anywhere in the country.

Bed Wetting

27. I did not suffer from bed wetting but I saw that the boys that did were issued with a plastic mattress. Staff would embarrass them by making sure that everyone was made aware who wet the bed.

Leaving Cardross Park Assessment Centre, Cardross, Argyle and Bute

28. I was picked up by someone, I presume was a social worker and was taken to a panel. My mother was at the panel. My mother had been telling me how much she was trying to get me out and I had been to at least three panels before this one. At each of them they kept saying they were waiting on reports from the social work which were always delayed for some reason. I am not sure what the reports would have contained but it was nothing with my thoughts because they never came to see me to speak to me. Whilst they were making their deliberations I was never allowed in the room. On this

occasion when I was taken back in I was told that I was being released back into the care of my mother. The man in charge of the panel told me I had to behave. What he never knew or took into consideration was that I was never in trouble,

29. When I was back living with mum the social workers did visit the house about once a month. It was usually an older man and when he came I never spoke to him and he never asked how I was. I did not have anything to say to him anyway. He just spoke with mum.
30. There was a honeymoon period with mum where all was well. After that mum began drinking again and would verbally abuse me. Sometimes if she felt angry enough she would try to hit me but she never had the strength to hurt me. She was working in a Sub Post Office but she never looked after herself or the house.
31. She was being treated by her doctor and given sleeping tablets to help her. One day she took an overdose of the tablets and alcohol. She fell as a result and was black and blue from the fall. My aunt [REDACTED] came to the house and she contacted the doctor and she was taken to hospital.
32. When she came out of the hospital the sleeping tablets had been taken off her but she was still drinking. I was in first year at Kings Park Secondary and was also looking after [REDACTED]. Between then and the age of fourteen I was going to school less and less. I was also hanging around older guys and getting into trouble.
33. I was caught by the police breaking into cars and other places. Mum wasn't able to look after me and my dad did not want to have anything to do with me. It was a holiday weekend and I was kept in the police cells over the weekend until the Tuesday morning. The boy I was with was sent to Juvenile Court and I was sent to the Panel.
34. I was in the police bus as it travelled between the different stations picking up the prisoners for court. I was one of the last out and appeared at the Panel in handcuffs. The decision made by the Panel was that I was to be sent to Larchgrove Remand Home. Mum and no one else I knew was present at that Panel.

Larchgrove Assessment Centre, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow

35. I was taken from the Panel straight to Larchgrove by the social work. I thought it would be similar to Cardross but it was much bigger. I think there were about 250 boys split into 4 different houses. The houses were all named after Scottish Islands.
36. I can remember some of the staff at the home. Mr Tinlin was the Physical Training Instructor, Mr HDW was a senior member of staff and I remember Mr HDV, who was also senior at the home. They were on different shifts and did not usually work together. Mr HDV was a really big guy and a rugby player. If you did anything wrong and were given a slap by him, he was so strong you would be knocked to the ground. Mr McGee, who was young and trendy and fitted in with the boys in the home. There was a lot of turnover of staff, maybe because it did not suit them. I think there were maybe five or six for each house during the day and more at night. There was never a shortage of staff.

Routine at Larchgrove Assessment Centre, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow

37. When I went into the reception area, just like Cardross, I had to take all my clothes off. I was given a set of clothes and had a medical carried out. This was to see if I had any lice, which was quite common in Larchgrove. I was then taken to the Headmaster's office and told what was expected of me and then sent to my dormitory.
38. Next to reception and the Headmaster's office there was a long corridor which led to the four houses. In each of the houses there were probably at least five or six staff on duty and they worked on a shift rota system. The only exception to that was the night shift, who were the same permanent staff.
39. I was allocated to Bute House where there were about thirty boys aged between twelve and seventeen. Bute House had about four or five dormitories with between eight and

twelve boys in each. In the dormitory we slept in bunk beds. The boys were a mix of real bad boys and other boys who should never have been in that kind of place.

40. The first night I was there I had my tea in the dining room. I was trying to keep my mouth shut until I found out what life was like there. Everyone would be asking what I was in for.

Mornings/evenings

41. The day shift staff would wake us in the morning and we had to go downstairs to the washrooms. There were only six sinks available so not all could go at the same time. After we washed it was back upstairs to get dressed into our day clothes. When we were all washed the staff would queue us up in the dormitory before heading to the dining room together.
42. We were sent to bed about nine o'clock but if you were a smoker you were allowed to stay up to nine-thirty. For that reason I started smoking just to be up that bit later and speak to some of my mates I had not seen during the day.

Bathing

43. You had a shower each night. Like the sinks in the washroom there were only six showers available and we had to take turns for them. The showers were supervised to ensure there was no trouble.

Food

44. We all ate in the upstairs dining room. The seating there was a series of long tables. The dinner ladies handed out the food. Some days the food was good and some not so good. I can say it was much better than being in Cardross. With each meal there was as much bread and butter as you wanted, the only stipulation was you had to eat what you asked for. You were not allowed to waste anything.

45. Breakfast usually consisted of cereal, porridge, sausages, egg and toast. Lunch was similar to school dinners, with soup and bread at evening meal time. Each day had a menu set out so you knew what you were having on a Monday or any other day of the week as it was just repeated. I did not like the meals on a Friday as it was fish. I would try to swap the main course for a pudding which someone did not like.

Chores

46. After finishing breakfast we were taken to the day room where we were allocated our duties for the day. One of the chores was to clean the floors of the whole house. We were given a scrubbing brush, soap and a pail of water. After that they were polished. There were big bumper machines but we were not allowed to use them. The cleaning was seen as a punishment and took us up to dinner time, sometimes longer.
47. The boys did all the cleaning of the house and it was the same routine each day. I think they gave me money about £1.60. I could use that money to buy things in the home. If some of the boys had visitors who gave them some money then they would not have to do the chores. The money was always virtual as no cash was ever held. The details of the amount of money you had earned was kept in a book.

Clothing

48. The clothes issued were jeans, jumper, t-shirt, vest and socks. Unlike Cardross we were issued black shoes at Larchgrove. Underwear and socks were changed each day after we had our shower. The remainder of our clothing would be changed on a Sunday.

School

49. There were classrooms on the ground floor but we were never given any education. There was a woman called Mrs Mackie, one of the staff, who showed us basket weaving. She was there for about six times in total during my time and it was a choice whether or not to attend the basket weaving. When I first went there, there was no

gym as the PTI, Mr Tinlin, was off sick. When he came back to work we had gym for two hours, twice a week and he would also take us for boxing lessons. He was only there for a short period before he was off sick again.

Healthcare

50. Apart from the check-ups when I arrived there were no other visits at the home. I did have to go to the dentist and the treatment was atrocious. I was suffering from toothache and they tried to give me painkillers but that did not help. I was taken to the dentist and he took the wrong tooth out. After that visit I was still having pain in the same area. I was sent back to the dentist and lost another tooth. Again I was still in pain. I was then sent to the local doctor and he found I had a gumboil. He gave me a jag and that helped the pain go away. It felt like the dentist could not be bothered as I was from the home.
51. I can remember the nurse having to stitch up a cut after I had been fighting with another boy.

Bed wetting

52. If someone wet the bed Mr HDW would make a big deal of it. He would make sure that everyone was told the person had wet the bed. On the dormitory door there were name cards showing who was in each room. The card might have info such as which religion you were part of, but he would add the letters 'BW' to ensure that the person was identified even more.

Leisure time

53. During leisure time there was a lot of violence as the boys would fight with each other. One time there was a boy who suffered a slashing wound when a boy had used a broken plate. I can't remember those involved, but the boy responsible was transferred to Longriggend.

54. There was one lad in the house who was a really big guy and had the nickname "██████". He was always bullying everyone as no one was able to take him on with his size. Eventually staff stepped in and he was given a beating.
55. In the large day room there was a television. If we were watching a film seats were put out in the gym hall. There would be enough seats for the whole school. Staff would be in the room to supervise.
56. Cigarettes were allocated by staff each day to each boy and we were given four per day. We would smoke the cigarettes in a separate room, similar to the dorms but without any beds.

Birthday/Christmas

57. I can't remember being in the home during Christmas, but I was there during my 15th birthday. There was no celebration or recognition of it at all.

Running away

58. I did run away while I was at Larchgrove. One time I climbed up a drain pipe in the exercise yard and was able to get away. This would have been about six weeks after I got there. I was away on that occasion for a few months, most of the summer holidays. I was staying with some mates and would sell some scrap metal to keep me going.
59. We had been out sailing for a week in Helensburgh, being taught by a husband and wife. When we were back in Glasgow there was supposed to be staff there to pick us up at Central Station. The staff forgot and I just walked away. A boy was with me and we went to his place at Drumchapel. Later the police called at the house and caught us.

60. One time one of the staff was feeling sorry for me and along with some others we had been taken out for a day and when the chance came me and three others just ran off. There was a fourth boy but he got caught.

Trips

61. I did get taken out for day trips. I can remember being taken to the Prestonpans area to go to the beach there. I can also remember we were down at Largs for the day.

Visits

62. My father came to visit me once and it was just to give me abuse about stealing. He was only there for about ten minutes and the visit was cut short. That was the last I saw him until I was in my twenties. I went to see, but that was not a great visit. His cousin [REDACTED] did visit me there as well on a couple of occasions.
63. I can't remember anyone coming from the outside to check up on me.

Discipline

64. When the police brought us back from running away I was put into the cell next to the reception area. I was threatened by staff, I can't remember which one, that I would get the belt. I was brought back to the home at about one in the morning and kept in there until the Headmaster arrived in the morning. He was the one that would give us the belt. That wasn't the only time I was placed in the cell. If I had done anything wrong that would be where I might end up.

Abuse within Larchgrove Assessment Centre, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow

65. Another punishment if it was for something more serious, perhaps fighting, I would be given the belt by ^{SNR} [REDACTED]. I think I was punished in that manner a couple of times. He would give me between four and six strokes on the backside, over my

clothes. There was always a witness there, usually another member of staff. If it was for fighting then both boys would be punished.

66. Sometimes if I was having an argument with some other kid in the home. SNR SNR would often hit me on the head without me knowing he was behind me.
67. Mr HDW was a vulgar man. He was always shouting and swearing at us kids. He behaved like an old style Sergeant Major. If he caught you doing anything wrong he would come up behind you and slap you to the head, sometimes he even punched you there.

Leaving Larchgrove Assessment Centre, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow

68. Before I was moved I was sent to another panel. I had been waiting on a vacancy at another home. I thought it may have been somewhere like Rossie Farm, but it turned out I was being sent to Geilsland.
69. The social worker took me from Larchgrove to Geilsland in his Hillman Hunter. On the way there we stopped at a shop for cigarettes. He let me go in by myself. I considered running away but decided against it.

Geilsland School, Geilsland Road, Beith

70. When I arrived at Geilsland I was met at the reception area, within Rookie House, by a member of staff. I was then taken to meet SNR, EZD, who was an ex-military man, . He told me that if I was addressing him I was to call him "SNR". He gave me a breakdown of the rules of the school. He kept making out that if I did not behave whilst I was there he would make sure I was sent to Borstal.
71. SNR lived in a bungalow and the other staff lived in quarters near to Rookie House. There was a gym in the grounds which had previously

been built by the residents. There was a large garden area, with a football pitch and an assault course. They had all the different work houses for engineering, brick work etc.

72. I can remember some of the other staff. I remember Mr HDX who was SNR SNR joiner. I found him to be incompetent throughout my time there. Also there was Mr HFA, who was SNR, Mr HEB and HDY, who was the residential care officer. I never saw eye to eye with HDY. He was always finding fault with anything I did. A lot of the time he then arranged for Mr HFA or one of the other staff to administer some sort of discipline.
73. Rookie House was a sandstone building on three levels. New Vic House was like a prefabricated building and it was all on one level. White House was a big modern house on different levels.
74. When you arrived at Geilsland you were allocated to Rookie House. Once I had been there for between eight and twelve weeks I was moved to one of the other houses. I can remember being transferred to Old Vic. There was a chapel in the school and I can remember helping to put the heating in there.
75. I think there were probably about one hundred boys in Geilsland School, split between the houses. The boys were mostly aged between fourteen and sixteen, with a couple of them seventeen. In Rookie House I was in a dormitory with about another twelve boys.
76. I was given a kit bag with all the clothing that I would need while I was at the school. That kit bag had to be packed in a particular manner, if not packed properly you were in trouble. In the bag was a donkey jacket, dungarees, two pairs of working jeans, two pairs of underwear, two pairs of socks, trousers, shirt, tie, shoes, PT kit, trunks, razor, toothbrush, waterproof sou'wester clothing and a hat.
77. The first full day there I was given a test. This was to see where I was with reading and writing. I could write and I was sent to learn a trade rather than educate me further.

The standard we were being taught a trade was never good enough for anyone to be able to get a job on the outside.

78. When you arrived at Rookie House they would turn all the lights off and make you pretend to get up and go for a cold shower. This was to make you learn some of the things you were required to do. You were left in the shower until such time as you sang them a song or took several strokes of the stick, given out by SNR [REDACTED]. I could not sing so always took the stick. This was repeated maybe twelve times over a two week period. This was merely a punishment.
79. The punishments could also be for not getting out of your bed quick enough in the morning. At night they would make you pretend you are just up and have to make the bed. They would repeat this several times until we got it right.

Routine

80. We were woken by a different member of staff each morning, but it was Mr HFA [REDACTED] or any of the other members of staff on duty. Each day we had to make the bed properly and all squared off the same way the army did it. Our kit was inspected once a week on Saturday. If we did not make the bed properly we were told we had to sing a song or receive the stick from SNR [REDACTED]. Every morning after breakfast we had morning assembly where we were each given our tasks for the day.
81. We worked all day, with the exception of lunch break, until around four o'clock. Our tea was four thirty and then we went back to our individual houses for five o'clock. We did have some leisure time, which was very little, before going to bed. There was not a lot of leisure time as they always had you doing something.

Food

82. Every meal was eaten in Rookie House. All the boys from each of the houses ate there as the dining hall was big enough to take everyone. The food was good and the ladies

who did the cooking took pride in what they were offering. There would be four of us at the table and one of us would act as a waiter and pick the food up from the ladies. Each week we took turns about to be the waiter.

83. Breakfast was the usual cereal, tea and toast, but on a Sunday we were given a cooked breakfast. Lunchtime was a three course meal, soup, main course and pudding, and it would be something lighter at tea time. We were all sent to bed around nine o'clock.
84. We had to march to everywhere we had to go to in the school. That included going to dining hall for meals. We were instructed on how to march and if necessary we were given extra marching lessons in the evening, by most of the staff.
85. I was being allocated to the building section. I was there for a while but I did not like the instructor. If he thought I had done anything wrong he would hit me with drainage rods. I had an interest in engineering and wanted a move out of that section and was asked by the Engineering instructor why I was looking for the transfer. I was asked if I had a problem with building or the instructor. I told him in front of the building instructor it was both. He said that as I was honest I could go working with him. My time there was mainly plumbing but there was some car mechanic skills as well.

Bathing

86. In Rookie House we had showers every night which were supervised by the staff. When I moved over to Vic House it became more relaxed. With the limited number of showers we worked it out ourselves who would go down at any given time. There were never any issues there.

Religion

87. There was a chapel in the school [REDACTED] HDY [REDACTED], but on each Sunday we were all made to attend the local church in Beith. Again we were marched down to the church which was about a mile away.

Birthday/Christmas

88. I can't remember any birthday being celebrated at the school, but Christmas was. The staff made efforts with the decorations and the food. There were even celebrations on Burn's night. There was a Reverend James Currie, who used to be on TV doing Late Call. He was invited into the home several times and he would do the address to the haggis. He was really funny and he took time to speak to us. His way of dealing with religion was much different from HDY [REDACTED]. He took an interest in me and even taught me how to play chess.
89. When it came to Christmas the school did put on nice meals and there was turkey for the dinner. When it came to the festive break most residents were allowed home. I had nowhere to go so had to stay with some others in my position. We were looked after by a couple, [REDACTED]. They did not have family of their own but they were really nice with us. Nobody gave them any issues during that time. We called them [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to avoid any confusion [REDACTED].

Healthcare

90. I did not have to see a doctor for any reason. I was taken to the dentist when I was at the school. I was able to get a plate made, for the previous ones that had been removed. It was not great as it did not fit properly and it was only when I was out of care and able to get one done that fitted properly.

Leisure

91. At each of the houses for our leisure time there was a pool table, it was a full size snooker table in Rookie House. There was a table tennis table in each house and TV which was supervised. During leisure time we were still not allowed to visit any of the other houses.

92. At the school I was smoking roll ups. We were allocated a half ounce of tobacco each week. It had to last the week and I always made sure I rolled them thin to make it last.

Chores

93. In each of our houses we all did our own cleaning and laundry. The cleaning was done by hand and we used carbolic soap. We washed our clothes and put them through the mangle. There were no machines to help. Ironing was another chore where we had to ensure we had creases in shirts and trousers.
94. We were taken out of the school where we were tasked with collecting money for charity. Another chore when we were out was to cut gardens for some people. When we were taken out for those chores we were in a minibus or a truck with a canopy and long bench seats, like an old army transport truck.

Bed wetting

95. There was nothing about bed wetting when I was in Rookie House but when I was in New Vic house one boy out of the blue wet the bed. There was no physical punishment but he was ridiculed by the staff. SNR [REDACTED] even brought it up at morning assembly. He was issued with a rubber mattress. At the side of the beds we had a locker with our names on it. Once more his name card was written on to identify him as a bed wetter.

Discipline

96. Some of the manners of disciplining us would be to complete PE in the snow in our swimming trunks. It could also involve going on a six mile run, over a course known as the Bickham, which was always timed. If you had been on a run and disciplined by running on a later occasion you had to better your previous time. Sometimes they would follow you in a van or even chase you in the van to make you run faster.

97. There was a resident who I only know as "██████". He was fooling around on the scaffolding and fell. Unfortunately he died from his injuries. In the school they had a memorial for him and someone was playing a piano. The group involved were taken to the reception area and Mr EZD ██████, SNR ██████, was demanding to know who it was that played the piano. No one came forward. He gathered every boy there and slapped each person in turn. Nobody spoke up and he went round them a second time. No one was admitting to it and he only stopped when he got too tired. Nobody was ever going to admit to it. I am not sure if there was ever a police investigation into it.

Running away

98. I did not run away while I was at Geilsland as we were threatened that if we ran away we would be sent to a borstal.

Trips

99. I was never out on any days away with the staff or any holidays. I did not get any leave as I had nowhere to go to. After about six months at the school I did get work at weekends with ██████ removals, delivering flour to bakeries and for ██████ ██████ deliveries. This was during the week I was allowed to stay out until nine o'clock. Once a month if we had behaved we were allowed out to the cinema and I could go with some others who were also allowed out.

Visits

100. Social workers did come to the school but it was not for any official visit for us. We were to show them around the place but we were not allowed to say anything bad to them, as you were under the threat of violence. One of them was an old science teacher from secondary school, who recognised me right away. He said he had left teaching to become a social worker. I did not get to speak to any of them about the school.

101. I cannot remember having any visits from the social work to check up on how things were going as HDY [REDACTED] was the resident social worker at the school. I think that might have been the reason why I never saw any who may have visited the school.
102. I can also remember my dad's cousin, [REDACTED], came to visit me at Geilsland. He took me to his house on a couple of occasions and I would stay there between Saturday and Sunday. He always made me welcome. Later in life, when I had kids, I thought it would be a good idea to visit him as he had been good to me. I was hoping to introduce him to my kids. When I arrived I found he had moved house and I did not know where he had moved to and I never saw him again.
103. I had always wanted to join the army and just before my sixteenth birthday one of the staff arranged for me to take a test at the recruiting office. I sailed through the tests and was intending to enlist. The army told me I needed to get someone from the Panel or the school to sign off on this, because of my age. HDY [REDACTED] was tasked with making contact with them and he refused my application because it was against his beliefs. As I was so used the regimented life style the army would have been ideal for me.

Abuse at Geilsland School, Geilsland Road, Beith

104. SNR [REDACTED], EZD [REDACTED], had a variety of sticks of different widths. Each of them was wrapped in different coloured electrical tape. If he decided he was punishing us he would send us to his office and bring a particular coloured stick to him, which he would hit us with. At assembly if we had done anything wrong the previous day he brought it up. He would make us bend over in front of everyone and he would hit us with between four and six strokes each time. I got this several times from SNR [REDACTED].
105. I was hit on several occasions by Mr HEB [REDACTED], one of the teachers. This was as a result of talking back to him or for not doing something he had instructed me to do.

106. If I had any disagreements with HDY he would take the issue to Mr HFA, who was SNR, and he in turn would hit us on our heads. It was usually much harder in those circumstances because they thought it was wrong anyone being against HDY. Whilst this happened HDY would stand watching and snigger to himself.
107. Near the end of my time at Geilsland I had been going on the same bus into town. I met a girl who stayed in Kilwinning and I was going to be staying Irvine, the next town over. One weekend she was having a party and had invited me. She wrote to me at the school to confirm permission would be granted. It turned out it was HDY who dealt with it and had read her letter. He telephoned her and told her that I wanted nothing more to do with her. He came to me and told me what he done and started laughing at me. When he told me this I felt like I wanted to hurt him.

Leaving Geilsland School, Geilsland Road, Beith

108. I was sixteen and nearing the end of my time at Geilsland. I was never sent back to a Panel for any official release but was told by HDY that I was being released but would be on licence for three months.
109. I was aware that I had saved up a lot of the money I had earned in the school as an outworker. At that time it was £365 which was kept in a Post Office account held by the school. I knew that this would come in handy for when I left the school to keep me going at the beginning of my life outside.
110. I had been at the local Post Office in Irvine and saw an advert for some digs being available. HDY went to check the place out and told me all was okay. Unfortunately for me he neglected to tell me that I would be sharing a room with a 56 year old alcoholic.
111. When I was leaving Geilsland SNR, Mr HDX said that I could come back any time and visit the place. I told them there was no chance of that as I never liked

the place. He then grabbed me by the neck and pinned me against the wall. When he finished telling what he thought of me he let me go.

Life after Geilsland School, Geilsland Road, Beith

112. I started working as an apprentice with [REDACTED] but lost it because I got involved in a fight there. I had a job with Scottish Land who I previously worked for on Saturdays. When I started working there I was earning fourteen pounds a week, but I had to pay ten pounds in dig money.
113. At this time I was in contact with the school to arrange for me to get my £365 but they kept fobbing me off.
114. When it came to the two week holidays I was taking I was told by my boss that I had not paid enough in stamps to be given holiday pay. He advised that I go to the social security office and make a claim there. Unfortunately when I attended there and they carried out checks it turned out the lady I had my digs at was on the brew and wasn't allowed to have lodgers. They contacted her and I was kicked out.
115. I then got some digs with a couple who had a young child. The child was so young the cot was in their room and I was sleeping in the child's room. I had to move out of this set of digs as the child was getting older and needed its own room.
116. At this time I was still having problems with getting my money from the school. Eventually HDY [REDACTED] picked me up and took me to the school. When I got there I was in a room with HDY [REDACTED] and Mr HFA [REDACTED] HDY [REDACTED] left the room and HFA [REDACTED] locked the room we were in. Without warning he punched me and knocked me to the ground. Mr HFA [REDACTED] started punching me and hitting me on the head and body. He started accusing me of stealing overalls and selling them on. I had never stole from them at all. He insisted they had been told by two of the other residents that I was involved and that as a result they wanted me to sign over the

money to them to recompense the school. I could not take any more and agreed. I later learned there had been no thefts and they had just made it up.

117. After losing my job and the digs I was in I had to declare myself homeless. I had to sleep in an abandoned car. I then bought a Hillman Husky, which was a van type and slept in that. I got a job with [REDACTED] but as I did not have an alarm clock, my time keeping was poor and lost that job.
118. I had been to the social work and housing but they would not offer me any help. At the end of my three month licence period from Geilsland I was back at a Panel and released from social care.
119. I got a job at a coachworks in Girdle Toll working on cars and bikes, but he was just using me to steal bits off cars and not paying what I should have been earning.
120. While I worked there, someone passed my name to the police as being responsible for stealing a bike. I have done many things in my life and admitted to them but I was not involved in this, but I was happy to admit to this as it was winter and it meant that I would be locked up, fed and kept warm. This was just before I was seventeen.

HMP Longriggend, Airdrie, North Lanarkshire

121. I was sent to Longriggend for seven days when I was still sixteen. During that time I saw there was a lot bullying from the staff towards the boys there. At the end of the seven days I was then bailed from the court but as I had fines outstanding I was sentenced to three months in prison.
122. Prisoners would sometimes store the petrol from their lighters in a plastic bag and one day I saw a sex offender who had been involved in the murder of a six year old child, have some of that petrol poured over him and lit.

HMP Barlinnie, Lee Avenue, Glasgow

123. I was then sent for assessment to Barlinnie and I spent seven days there. Barlinnie, apart from the food which was terrible, was tolerable and there were no issues there. They came round regularly as we were so young to check all was okay. Speaking to some of the boys there they often hoped that Longriggend was full as it meant they could stay at Barlinnie. When I was there the staff put on a film once a week.

HMP Glenochil, Alloa

124. After the assessment I was transferred to Glenochil. There was a lot of bullying from the staff there towards the inmates. I would be allowed out for exercise but it was always at the same time as main stream prisoners. I saw a lot of violence during those periods. At that time there was no such thing as segregation.
125. Glenochil was quite a new building when I was there. There were about twenty cells on each landing, ten on each side. I think there must have been between eighty and a hundred in total. On the first full day in there I was once more given a competency test. I was quite clever and did really well with that. The next day I was in the Assistant Governor's office. He wanted to see me because those were not the results he expected and was trying to find out why I was in the system.
126. The inmates were between sixteen and twenty one and there were no hassles from any of the other prisoners. I had a single cell and there was a sink in there to get a wash.
127. Breakfast was about seven o'clock and then back to your cell for fifteen minutes. As long as you were not in bother and having to attend the Governor's office, then it was onto your work. Apart from lunch break you worked until four o'clock. Tea was at five o'clock and after being locked up for an hour we would have recreation where we could play pool, games and watch television. We were sent to our cells about nine o'clock in time for lights out at ten o'clock. On Saturdays and Sundays we did not have work but

after finishing recreation at four o'clock we were locked in our cells for the rest of the night.

128. The food in Glenochil was exceptional and was probably the best I had in any of the institutions I was in. We were also able to get a haircut in there. One of the prisoners, a lifer, was cutting hair and he was doing this as training for when he was released.
129. We were issued with hairy trousers, a jacket and a striped shirt for us to wear at all times.
130. We had showers but those were allocated and controlled by the staff. We were in the gym probably twice a week and we would be allowed an extra shower after that.
131. There were some jobs available when I was inside and you got a few pounds for that. I was tasked with putting toys for the Thomas Salter group into their bags and stapling them closed. I would be able to spend my money on soap, toothpaste, sweets or tobacco.
132. I had no visitors from anyone in the family.
133. If you had got into any trouble at Glenochil you would be up in front of the Governor. If it was serious enough you were put into isolation for a few days. I was never in bother there and did not suffer any abuse. But I did see one of the methods of hurting someone as prisoners would keep a big square battery in a sock and use that to hit other people.
134. After about six weeks at Glenochil came to an end I was at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court for the outstanding bike thefts. I wanted to be sent to Borstal as I thought it would be better for me. There were discussions with Sheriff Smith and he listened to my reasons and agreed to send me there. I was sentenced to two years at Polmont.

YOI Polmont, Nr Brightons, Falkirk

135. Initially staff were taking me to Glenochil and when the mistake was found out I was taken straight to Polmont.
136. When I arrived at the reception area at Polmont I met a pal from Geilsland, [REDACTED], who arrived on the same day as me. When I went into the main blocks I met a couple of other pals from there as well. At reception we were issued with the uniform and met the doctor who would carry out checks for head lice or any other medical problems. He would also question if you were a drug user or a bed wetter.
137. Allocation Hall has three floors, dormitories on each floor with four on the ground. It housed between eighty and ninety inmates. The numbers were constantly changing with inmates transferring to main Halls or being transferred. I think the other Halls were North, East and West. There was Wendy House which is where anyone with mental health issues would be sent, along with sex offenders. There was a guy who had issues and was found hanging in his cell. We would be locked in our cells until they dealt with this.
138. The following morning again you had a test to see how your reading and writing skills were. We were then told to write a letter to our mothers. While we were writing the staff would be standing over you and shouting at you.
139. We were allocated a Senior Officer who would carry out the assessment for the first six week period. I tried to explain the relationship between me and my mother but at that stage he was insistent I write to her. That letter was returned with instructions not to write again. When he saw that he apologised as he was thinking I was just making excuses.
140. For the first six weeks I spent my time in Allocation Hall. During that period I would again have to learn to double march to wherever I was going to. The beds had to be made in a block and each week the Assistant Governor would carry out a kit inspection. During that training I was constantly being shouted at until I learned it all.

141. I was given the job of tea boy. That meant my cell door was left open during the day so I could make coffee for the screws. I could even play pool with them. I was given pay for that which was better than most jobs in Allocation. My cell door was closed at seven o'clock with lights out at ten.
142. The officer in charge of the food had a budget but the prisoners did the cooking. If the prisoner cared for the food it was good, if not, then it was horrible. Once a week the Governor would have a taste of the food and confirm all was tasting okay.
143. Each landing had its own sets of showers and toilets. There was still slopping out from the cells in those days. There was a lot of PT in the gym. I was okay with this as I was quite fit. During the rest of our leisure time we had access to Pool tables, table tennis, television, games and a basic library. I was not a reader of books before that but I learned to enjoy some of the books, particularly Harold Robbins.
144. Again, like other institutions, if you misbehaved you would be up in front of the Governor and sent to the isolation cell. Sometimes you gave an explanation to him and if he believed it, you were returned to your cell.
145. Prior to being transferred to one of the main halls your Senior Officer would interview you, having assessed you over the six weeks. I told him I was hoping to be a mechanic. This was available but not at Polmont, but at Castle Huntly. If I did the course there I would also be able to get an HNC qualification.

HMP Castle Huntly, Longforgan, Dundee

146. Four of us were sent to Castle Huntly and spent the next seven months there. The Chief Officer was a really big guy who was tough but fair. I had no complaints of my time there. If any of the screws were being heavy handed the Chief Officer would step in and deal with them the same way he would deal with prisoners.

147. The first three weeks there I was in a multiple cell with the three boys I transferred with. Sometimes we were misbehaving and the only punishment was a loss of recreation privileges. After the three weeks we were all moved to individual cells.
148. When you first arrived at Castle Huntly you were issued with red shirts and after about three months it was changed to blue and you had earned enough trust you were able to move about more freely. Castle Huntly was an open prison and if you decided to walk out there was nothing in place to stop you.
149. I trained as an Engineer and got a distinction in my City and Guilds. It was a guy from Perth College who taught us. I was so good at fixing cars the screws were even bringing their own cars to the complex. Even the Chief Officer when he was having issues with his car would bring it in and along with his son we would fix it together. I was even invited to his house and had a meal there. The other officers would pay me in cigarettes for fixing their cars.
150. Some of the inmates, as they were nearing the end of their sentences, would be allowed home leave at the weekend. I could not take that advantage as I had nowhere to go.
151. Near the end of my time there the social work got me a weekend job at [REDACTED] Hotel, St Fillans as a kitchen porter. I stayed in the staff quarters during the weekend. The chef had a boat on Loch Earn and on a Sunday I was able to go water skiing.
152. About five weeks before I was supposed to be released I was asked to attend at the Governor's Office. He told me there was a full time job available at the hotel but the staff needed someone immediately. To enable me to get that job he changed my release date.
153. The job was great to start with but I ended up doing over a hundred hours per week for about £20 pay. It was not working for me and there was a woman who worked

there who said I could stay with her. I got a taxi to her place and stayed there for a while.

154. I got a job in a sawmill, but the female social worker who was supposed to be looking after me was not happy and she wanted my licence revoked. She wanted me returned to Castle Huntly. I was not happy with her attitude as I had done nothing wrong. I spoke with senior staff and they allocated me another social worker. He said they would still have to see me regularly but I could call in at the Crieff Office.
155. I was eighteen around that time and I got a job on a Saturday at [REDACTED] Garage, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. To start with this was for no pay but to show if I was good enough to be taken on full time. After showing him my skills I was taken on as a second year apprentice and then graduated to full wages. That lasted until the garage was sold and turned into a supermarket.
156. I had met a girl and we rented a flat in Crieff. Very soon after she fell pregnant. My son was born two and a half months premature. The night he was born I was so high but I had no one to tell. I then remembered the Chief Officer at Castle Huntly and phoned them to speak to him. It turned out the previous female social worker I had the issue with had spoken to him and gave her side of the problem. He was not taking my calls as a result and I was really gutted.
157. For some reason the female social worker was saying she was going to visit me at the garage. I knew that might spoil things and I might lose the job. I tried to speak to her about that but she was not wanting to listen to me and was willing for me to lose my job. I phoned her office and again after speaking with a senior social worker and he agreed that I could attend the office during my lunch break. To being with I attended there every week, which later changed to fortnightly and then the gap was longer as time went on. I never missed any appointments. After six months my licence expired and I no longer had to visit them.
158. As a result of the garage being sold, I had no job and no money to pay the rent. Near the date we were to be evicted there was a woman from the council who came to see

me. It turned out when she was asking why I was unable to pay the rent that she told me I should have been on different benefits, because of my low earnings. No one had ever explained that to me before.

159. When I worked at the garage the owner never sent me to the college to complete my official apprenticeship. Although I was an MOT Tester and had my City and Guilds there was no paperwork to show I was time served. After it closed I took on some work on a farm, but that was seasonal. There was no work available during the winter.
160. I had to move back to Glasgow to have the chances of getting more work. I got us a house in Castlemilk, through the Council. I started working at Kwik Fit but hated the long hours. I left that job and started working at a garage in Newmills. I was earning enough that I was able to buy my own house. I later sold that flat and moved back to Glasgow. I was working doing heavy recovery and had my Class 1 licence.
161. I still work with HGV's and am working near New Cumnock at the moment. This is on a [REDACTED] and it involves a commute from Glasgow each day. It is very remote but I am happy with this. Since I reached the age of fifty I have been really settled.
162. My relationship did not work out and I have had four children with three different marriages. I am married now and have been together for the last ten years. I see most of my children but my first partner does not want me to have anything to do with her or my son.
163. When I was about twenty five I decided I would try and have things out with my dad. I managed to trace him to Kelvinside. He did not know who I was. All I saw was a pathetic old man and just walked away.

Impact

164. Some time ago I was working the doors at clubs and I learned I was there to help and protect people and made sure I was not there to be any kind of bully.

165. I did try to get on a further education course at Auchterarder. I passed everything except basic fractions. No one had ever shown me how to change fractions to decimal. If I was going for a job and had to fill an application form, I was embarrassed about my writing, then I would not take that job. If I could do an interview then I was fine. I found I am also a little dyslexic as is my youngest son.
166. I am doing a Health and Safety course on the site I am on. My wife has had to show me to slow down and listen to what is said on the videos and tie that in with the questions.
167. I was never given any education in any of the places I was in and that definitely held me back.
168. I have learned to put a lot my experiences out of my head. If I feel I have to get my point across it is because I just want someone to listen to me. When people shouted at me in the past, I never liked that. I would get into arguments as a result. If someone told me that my opinion was wrong about something and took the time to explain why I was wrong, I would consider it and perhaps change the way I thought.
169. I was let down by the social work department. None of them ever wanted to listen to what I might have to say. They never took the time to find out why I was doing the things I was doing and getting into trouble. They did nothing to help me and when I was trying to better myself they were trying to put things in place that would have spoiled that.
170. Being in those institutions has affected my employment. My time there made me angry and got me into more trouble and back within the system again.
171. When I was in those places I had to stand up for myself. When I came out that was all I had been taught. I have lost relationships, jobs and friends as a result.

172. Although I had my City and Guilds from Perth Polytech some people would make enquiries and discover that I had never been in the Polytech and had gained my certification while I was in Castle Huntly. They would then terminate the employment as a result.

Reporting of Abuse

173. I have never reported any of the abuse to the police or any other authority.

Records

174. My lawyer, Alistair at Lindsay and Co. in Dundee, is trying to get my records. He has been trying for nearly six months contacting the Church of Scotland, Glasgow and Dumbarton District Councils, Argyle and Bute Council. Each of them are saying it is the other councils responsibility and no one is taking control and just getting the records.

Lessons to be Learned

175. When you go into the system at fourteen you are immature. When I came out at sixteen I was no more mature. When someone is constantly telling you what to do you don't get any chance to learn and to make your own choices. There was no help given to me by the staff in the institutions or from the social work. No one showed me what I was entitled to which would have saved so much stress early in my life.
176. I don't think I should have ever been sent to Cardross. No one from the social work contacted my mother to have me sent to her and she was willing to take me in. That was the start of where things went wrong for me. When I was in my local school I was never in trouble and never received the belt. If someone had taken time to speak to


me I know I would have been a totally different person today. The social work throughout my life has always let me down massively

- 177. Geilsland and places like that should not be allowed to exist. The staff there were just power hungry. They achieved nothing for the people in their care and their systems were a total failure.

- 178. Borstals and their systems are already closed and I have mixed views on that. They did have some ideas which were right. Some of the people who had been to borstal never re-offended again. When I got a chance I went down the line of not wanting to go back into the system and put my life back together. Some were not so lucky and having wrongly put in those places they have gone down the route of taking drugs and it has ruined their lives.

Other Information

- 179. 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..........

21 May 2021

Dated.....