

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Gary McMENEMY

Support person present: No

1. My name is Gary McMenemy. My surname at birth and when I was in care was Bryce. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1988. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow. My parents' names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Both are now deceased. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] My mum suffered from mental illness but I was never told what the nature of the illness was.
3. My dad wasn't on the scene and we moved from house to house while I was growing up. I thought the first place I lived in was Castlemilk but I have since found out that the first place I lived in was Priesthill. The longest we stayed anywhere was [REDACTED] in Nitshill. Then we moved to Pollock. Then we had a flat in the Gorbals. We stayed in Govan too. I never completed a full academic year in one school because of that and for various other reasons.
4. There were problems at home [REDACTED] me and I went to Children's Panel hearings before I went into care. I was in a few institutions before I went to Moore House. I was in care about 85 per cent of my childhood life from the age of four. I was in Urdale, Greenview School, and Cleveden. These were all for short periods of time. There is nothing that sticks in my mind about any of these other places. I could have been ill-treated or not getting the attention that I should have got and I would still have thought it was better than [REDACTED].

5. My earliest memory of the care system is from when I was four years old and I was staying with foster carers. They were two police officers from Irvine and I would go down there and stay with them. For a brief moment [REDACTED] came down and stayed with them as well. They had two cats and I used to hate cats. The cats used to terrorise me, that's how I can remember it.

6. My mum was arrested multiple times and I would go into care. One time when I was about eight years old I managed to sneak out of the house and I went to Brockburn police station in Pollok. I would say that I hadn't had a proper meal in five or six days, I was completely fatigued. The desk Sergeant asked me if I was alright. He asked me if I was [REDACTED]. He knew straight away who I was. At that point he managed to get a hold of the out-of-hours emergency social worker and they came and picked me up. That led to me going to Moore House.

Moore House, Bathgate – 1999 to 2001.

7. I went to Moore House when I was about ten or eleven years old. I remember I was there on September 11, 2001, the day of the twin towers attack. I think I was put into Moore House because I had no stable attendance at school. For me, that was the main reason. I don't remember going to a Children's Panel for that but there must have been. I can't remember who my social worker was at the time.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Review of care

19. My social workers were based in Langside Road, Pollock, Glasgow. The only social worker I can remember the name of is Ian McLeod. I went to a lot of Children's Panel hearings too. The Children's Panel used to be where Maggie May's pub is.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Moore House

22. The decision to leave Moore House was made for me. A lot of it was down to my mum saying she couldn't handle me. It was at that time I first met my social worker Ian McLeod. My mum was trying to paint a terrible picture of me and Ian turned round and said to her, "Are we talking about the same boy here?"
23. I completely lacked any confidence or self-esteem. The one thing that my mum failed to realise was that her opinion was just her opinion. As much as she was good at manipulating people, she couldn't manipulate facts. The descriptions she gave of me versus the opinions people had after meeting me were polar opposites.

Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenson, North Ayrshire – 2001 to 2004

24. I was about thirteen years old when I went to Kerelaw. The decision to be sent there was made for me by a Children's Panel. The whole point of me going to Kerelaw was that I didn't need to go home at the weekends. You could stay full-time at Kerelaw.
25. Kerelaw was just outside a small Ayrshire town called Stevenson. The staff were trained in different techniques at different places and the structure was different. That's

why I went to Kerelaw not Kibble or somewhere else, because I was becoming boisterous.

26. The layout of the buildings was just nuts. There were buildings scattered all over the place like someone playing a video game had just plonked them where they pleased.

Routine at Kerelaw Residential School

27. There were usually about 32 kids at Kerelaw but it felt like more to me. The age range was from about thirteen years old to sixteen or seventeen years old. I was one of the youngest there.

28. There was staff for each unit, plus each child had a keyworker. Each unit had a manager. The manager at Millerston was John Muldoon. On any one shift I think there were three or four members of staff. It was one member of staff to two children, twenty-four hours a day. I couldn't say how many staff there were in total. There were temp staff and seasonal workers as well as the main staff. It was probably about sixty staff.

29. Jim Hunter was in charge of Kerelaw. He is the only person that managed to sue for unfair dismissal when Kerelaw was under his charge, when all the abuse was happening. He said he didn't know what was going on.

First day

30. I went to Kerelaw straight from Moore House. I think I went there in the autumn. My social worker at the time took me there first thing in the morning. I don't know who I met when I arrived. I didn't feel anything about being there. With the way I had been treated [REDACTED] I was filled with emptiness. I felt just like a scud book being passed about.

31. There were no gates at Kerelaw, just a small brick wall. There were four houses, Millerston and Fleming for boys, and Baird and another house for girls. I went into Millerston. The houses were two storeys, about half the height of a tenement but

without the verandas. They had glass foyers. Fleming was connected to the main building where you ate.

32. In the main building the kitchen was on the left, the staff office was on the right. The dining room had a corridor connecting it to Fleming. There was a little sitting room and through that was the pool table. There was another dining room on the right. Up the staircase there were two rooms to the left. One was the quiet room, the other was a bedroom. On the right was the nightshift staff office. You went through doors and there were the toilets and shower room. Then there were six bedrooms.

Mornings and bedtime

33. You would get woken up at 7.00 am with a whack on the door. That's assuming that you had been able to sleep without getting woken up through the night, or that you weren't awake in pain from being restrained the day before. After you got up, you went for a shower and then went down for breakfast.
34. There were about eight or ten boys in Millerston. I think the other units were the same. We all had individual bedrooms but we never felt like individuals. From my very first night, the staff used to chap or bang on the door knowing that kids would bounce out of bed to see who was at their door. It was to incite fights so the staff could then put hands on you. It was a mad situation.
35. Bedtime was 8.00 pm which I think was because the staff change-over was at 9.00 pm. Nobody slept well in the place. I got used to the fact that staff would open the door at night, or bang on the door. The other kids seldom did that. The kids would fight and things but nothing as vindictive as what the staff were doing.
36. I can remember being in bed and staff would open my door and then kick the door of the person opposite me. That person would get out of bed, see my door open, and think it was me. That would cause issues between us, and the staff would just wait for the opportunity to put hands on us. When I first joined the army and they subjected us to sleep deprivation, it was no problem.

37. When the staff had finished with banging on the doors at night and all the rooms were shut, I would get up and go downstairs. The staff would all be sitting watching a film and I would challenge them about that, about the fact that they should be looking after us. They would chase me back upstairs because that was their, "Unwinding time." But they were the ones causing the issues.

Mealtimes/Food

38. The eight or ten kids from my unit would have breakfast in the kitchen which was like trying to get forty people in a lift. The staff just let us do our own thing which meant all the kids fighting over one packet of cornflakes. I lost track of the times I nearly electrocuted myself trying to get the toaster to work. The staff should have been doing all that for us.
39. The dinner ladies were lovely, they served stodgy food. There wasn't a choice at mealtimes but sometimes we got a chippy. Mealtimes were supervised and it really pissed me off that the staff ate with us. They're beating you up and then sitting down to a nice meal with you. I could have had a burst nose, or carpet burns from the way I was restrained, and then they were sitting across the table from me. I wanted to hit them. I would think about how to do it and get away with it.
40. We only got one jar of Nutella or peanut butter between all the kids in the unit. We would scoop it out of the jar and hide it in a sandwich bag. Then we would go to the staff and say the jar was empty and get another. When they put the empty jar in the bin, we took it out and put the Nutella or peanut butter back in. that way we would have two jars.

Washing/bathing

41. I think there were four showers at Kerelaw. They were little cubicles with a curtain. There were some kids who didn't wash, some were shy. There was nobody making sure you were showering or keeping on top of your personal hygiene.

Clothing/uniform

42. We had our own clothes. I can't remember ever going shopping for clothes. There were times that new trainers were bought for you and you got them in the staff room. I don't know how much was set aside for a clothing allowance for each child but I know that the staff were stealing the money. They were making out to us that there was less than there should have been. They did that with our pocket money as well.
43. Our clothes were washed for us although sometimes I got dirty clothes back. Sometimes we were given the wrong clothes back deliberately. It meant you were wearing someone else's t-shirt and people were going off their nuts. It happened too often to be accidental. It caused massive issues among the kids but the staff were aware of what they could get away with so eventually they put name labels on our clothes.

Pocket money

44. We got something like ten pounds per week. I was borderline malnourished when I went into care [REDACTED]. I was so used to not eating I seldom ate. I didn't buy sweets so my pocket money built up. I didn't smoke either. I always tried to keep a count of how much there should be and then on a Friday I would be arguing with the staff about how much there was. They would try to say that I had spent it on such and such but any withdrawals were supposed to be signed out. I was so used to having nothing that I lived within my means. That's why, when I was older, I became so materialistic.

School

45. The school in Kerelaw was massive. The secure unit had teachers as well. The school wasn't really a school, it just appeared that way. I don't know a single person at Kerelaw that got decent exam marks. In the middle was a big courtyard and the school kind of wrapped round that in a big square.

46. I sat my prelim exams in the secure unit of Kerelaw, which is somewhere I should never have been in in the first place. I think the highest mark I got for a single exam was a six. I know I am a lot more intelligent than that but how are you supposed to do your exams when you're locked up? I was falsely imprisoned, it's as simple as that. I have had to educate myself because there was no-one else to do it.
47. There would be four or five of us in a class, boys and girls. We moved from class to class for different lessons. The technical teacher was an alcoholic but he was a decent guy. I can't remember his name, he was a big bald guy with a beard. He was always stinking of drink. Matt George was the art teacher. I don't know what ^{KBN} was meant to be doing, he was a weird guy. There was an English teacher and a maths teacher but I can't remember their names.

Personal possessions

48. Stuff would get stolen all the time by the staff. There was nothing of massive value that we had. We didn't have any lockers but your door to your room was supposed to be locked. I used to have posters of people like Tupac and Eminem. The staff would take posters off your walls and swap them with another kid's. The ceilings were really high, the walls were about twelve feet high so the staff would have to help you put your posters up. It was always the high up posters that went missing or got torn. Other kids wouldn't have swapped them, we all had the posters we wanted. We didn't want each other's posters. It was definitely the staff who were doing it.

Chores

49. I didn't have to do any chores. Chores would have given a sense of structure. It would have given a sense of discipline and life skills. I didn't know how to open a bank account when I left Kerelaw. There was no progression into after-care.

Leisure time

50. School finished about 3.30 pm and then it was a free-for-all. Kids were fighting, running away, boozing. It was the most volatile place I have ever been in. Nothing was structured. They could have brought in an army battalion and it still wouldn't have been structured. Every child had different trigger points and nothing was managed properly. It was just a horrendous place to be.
51. FSB [REDACTED], was the gym teacher. FSB [REDACTED] used to lock up the gym and take the key home. But the gym was supposed to be left open. It was supposed to be a form of recreation. That meant there was nothing to do apart from the pool table or the TV. We could play football outside but the five-a-side goals were in the gym.
52. We were always trying to work out ways to get one up on the staff. We worked out a technique of folding up a piece of paper and sticking it in the lock for the gym. When FSB [REDACTED] put the key in the lock it still made a clicking sound but the mechanism didn't lock and we could get in to the gym. If we were really lucky he had left the trampoline out. If they had let us have access to the gym every day, we would have been bouncing on that trampoline all night until we were shattered and then we would have gone to bed.
53. We were supposed to just go back to the unit after school and watch TV but that never happened. I stayed out of that building for as long as I could, whether that be up a tree or down at the burn. When it got to the point when I had had enough, I tried to avoid other people because if they wanted an argument, they were going to get it from me. If they wanted to put hands on me, I was going to fight them.
54. [REDACTED] was a staff member, [REDACTED] I idolised him. He was a phenomenal football player and I was obsessed with football. He fought tooth and nail to get permission to take me with him to his junior football matches on Sundays and I would go with him. I actually got enrolled into his football team. I was there for about four weeks before John Muldoon damaged my ligaments and I never went back.

Trips/Holidays

55. They didn't take us on trips to things like Blair Drummond Safari Park. They didn't take us on holidays. I didn't go on holiday until I was sixteen years of age. I forged my mum's signature and went to Tenerife.
56. If we were lucky some of us would get taken out at the weekend, like ice skating. The kids were left to come up with ideas for things to do. If it had been more structured it would have been better. If a kid woke up on a Monday and thought, "I can't be bothered going to school this week" they might then remember that it had been organised to take a trip to Go Ape or Laser quest on Saturday. Then they would behave for the week, otherwise they wouldn't get to go. There were no incentives to behave.

Birthdays and Christmas

57. I never had a birthday party at Kerelaw. There were parties for things like Halloween. Ian McLeod recognised my birthday but there was no big song and dance. A couple of other people might wish me happy birthday. Ian would get me a card and things. He is probably the most significant male figure from my childhood.
58. Christmas was turkey and Christmas hats. Everything you would expect Christmas to be but at Kerelaw it was the complete opposite. Looking back now I realise that there was no sense of empathy, care, or celebration of Christmas at Kerelaw. There was no buzz, it felt nothing like how Christmas should.

Visits/Inspections/Review of Detention

59. I wasn't aware of any external inspections at Kerelaw. I am sure there were but they were very clever, they took me right out of the picture. If I had known there was an inspector in Kerelaw they would have had to have put me in a straight-jacket and locked me in a cell because I would have been singing.

60. The only visitor I had was Ian McLeod my social worker. I think Ian started working with me when I was thirteen or fourteen. It was when I was in the secure unit. He later told me that when he first went to Kerelaw he thought there was an air of immaturity. The staff didn't seem like they should be staff in a children's home. The staff would stand with their feet on the wall, or chewing gum.
61. I had Children's Panels every six months or so. Ian did speak up for me at Children's Panel reviews but the staff at Kerelaw were good at twisting things. I feel that the reviews were pointless. I would sit and question why they were allowing things to continue in Kerelaw the way they were but the panel members would just sit there and look at me as if I was an idiot. There were times I turned up at Children's Panels on crutches, with black eyes, and carpet burns all over my face.
62. I can remember going to the Children's Panel a few times. Ironically one of the times I should have been there was when John Muldoon and ^{HIZ} [REDACTED] took me to the secure unit and locked me in there.
63. I was put in the secure unit at Kerelaw by a Children's Panel, to keep a lid on me. I was thirteen or fourteen when I went in there. It was ridiculous. My social worker remembers the day when the secure unit was recommended for me, even though I was at the panel for something else. Ian went to his manager about it, to say they hadn't followed the correct procedure.

Kerelaw secure unit

64. The process of getting put in the secure unit was supposed to take weeks but when I came back from the Panel they decided I should go there straight away. I was marched up to the secure unit that day. It was weeks before my social worker knew where I was. The police have told me that they have found email chains talking about this confusion, but I don't where these emails came from or who they were between.
65. I was in the secure unit for about nine months. I was the only child who went from the open unit, to the secure unit, and back to the open unit. There was no treatment or

anything. They realised it would only take one adult to accept what I was saying as fact and phone someone to do something about it. They knew that it was going to happen and I knew it was going to happen. They put me in there to shut me up. Then they put me back in the open unit. I was ten times worse when I got out. They had made their bed and they were going to lie in it. I was causing havoc.

Healthcare

66. I never had a local GP at Kerelaw. If you were injured, you went to Crosshouse Hospital. I was there quite a lot. The police found my medical records. On more than one occasion the same doctor was the A&E department and put notes on my file raising concerns about my welfare. The police told me about that. I don't remember the name of the doctor but it is in the records the police have.

Bed Wetting

67. Bedwetting wasn't an issue for me. There were some kids who wet the bed, but staff were putting water in the beds as well. I have seen a member of staff throwing a cup of water on a bed and then putting the duvet back. That was FSL I don't know how the staff dealt with anyone who did wet the bed.

Running away

68. My absconding was unbelievable. I was running away all the time. I knew I would get caught by the police and then I would have someone who was going to listen to me. I would try for as long as I could not to get arrested but when they caught me I would tell them everything that was happening.
69. At some stage a policeman probably did write it down as a statement but I wasn't aware of anything happening. The police never came back to me to follow it up. The police probably just thought of me as a wee tearaway from Kerelaw. I didn't consider the damage I was doing to how I looked in the police's eyes but how many times does it take for a child to be saying the same things before someone starts listening?

70. Nine times out of ten I was returned by the police. That was the only way I would go back there. I even ran away once and went to my mum's in Arden [REDACTED] [REDACTED] My mum phoned the police herself to come and take me away.
71. I became addicted to ice skating. I absconded when they took me to the ice rink. I managed to get to the train station but I got on the wrong train. I ended up going to Ayr instead of Glasgow. I jumped off at Irvine and went into the shopping centre. I was eating sweets out of Woolworths and cutting about. I had no money but I felt like I had won the lottery. I ended up talking to a wee guy the same age as me called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He asked where I was from and I said I was staying in Stevenson with my aunty. I didn't want to say I was from Kerelaw.
72. That became my out. I would run away and go to Irvine and hang about with [REDACTED]. It was like I was living a double life. [REDACTED] played ice hockey which I wasn't into but they used to have ice discos at the Magnum centre. They had one at the time capsule as well. Every Friday I would go to the ice discos. Ian McLeod managed to get funding to get me ice skates and I went every weekend. Then [REDACTED] sold my ice skates. I would sometimes stay over with [REDACTED]. I had a good circle of friends in Irvine. [REDACTED] would say I was his best friend. I was a good looking boy back then and there were girls.
73. It was a brilliant time for me, I was living a normal life. I was being labelled as this problematic terror child. Then I would abscond, go out-with the grounds of Kerelaw and I was expressing myself in a normal way because I was normal. I was just in an abnormal environment.
74. I kept talking about this boy [REDACTED] and Ian McLeod asked me who he was. I told him and he said, "This is really good for you." But I didn't want to tell the staff at Kerelaw in case they knew his mum or dad, plus [REDACTED] mum and dad were cottoning on to the fact that I was always going about on my own. Ian thought it was a good thing for me and managed to get tickets to the football for me and [REDACTED] and we would go Rangers

games with his dad but that all fizzled out when I left Kerelaw. I reconnected with [REDACTED] about ten years later and we are still in touch.

Abuse at Kerelaw Residential School

75. From my first day at Kerelaw Residential School it was absolutely horrendous. I had never experienced a more hostile environment before then. Initially it shocked me to be in a worse place than my home life. At times it mirrored that living nightmare of being at the hands of [REDACTED]. There were very brief glimmers of happiness that became completely blackened by the misery that suffocated the place. Very few staff members were pleasant because of the poison that the majority of the other care staff spilled out into the other three units and my unit also, Millerston, and also the education unit.
76. Physical abuse was a daily occurrence for me. The names of the staff members responsible have already been forwarded to the police. I went from one hell into another. Kerelaw completely ruined my childhood [REDACTED]. What should have been a safe, caring, and supportive place to live that gave the children life skills and the chance to live a relatively normal life did the complete opposite.
77. [REDACTED] KBP was an ex prison officer and used to bounce my head off the floor. He assaulted me on the first day I was at Kerelaw. He was basically bouncing my head off the ground as he dragged me up the stairs. If he was on shift, I was getting it. He would stand and watch me in the showers but I don't want to get into that. The police are aware of it.
78. There has been multiple different people who have made accusations against [REDACTED] KBP. There have been multiple different people who have corroborated my accusations against him. How can the council continue to justify him working with kids? I know [REDACTED] KBP is still working in child care in a home [REDACTED].

79. Another staff member called Matt George squeezed my penis. There was a member of staff called FSB who used to flick my testicles. There were also EUL John Muldoon and IWS who physically abused me.
80. There was one time when I was getting restrained by John Muldoon, KBP and HQQ HQQ was standing on the back of my ankles and he damaged my ligaments. He has given a statement saying he wasn't PCI trained so why was he working with children and standing on their ankles?
81. We were treated like prey. They were preying on us like a pack of hungry lions. We were so young, vulnerable, and alone. This became everyday life for me, just like it was when abused me. I went from one hell to an even worse one. I don't think my words are doing it justice.
82. Some of the restraint techniques were just unbelievable. They would cross your legs and you would get bent up so that the soles of your feet were touching the back of your neck. Then they would sit on your legs so you couldn't move. They used to do the gooseneck restraint, they would bend your fingers back. When I worked with children I was taught the figure-of-four restraint which is not harmful but keeps children in control.
83. There were instances of adults coming in to the shower. I had experience of that, but I don't want to talk about it.
84. HIZ did a fair bit to me. His abuse was more vindictive. He would squeeze your hand, flick you in the genitals or pull your hair. It wouldn't just be when he was trying to restrain you, he would do it when you were walking down the corridor as well. I don't know how he could think that was appropriate.
85. EUL is another one that I have made complaints about. EUL used to grab your genitals in the gym. He would pull your shorts down too. That's the kind of carry-on you might expect from children together in the changing rooms but not from an adult male. He would slag you off if you didn't have any pubic hair. He would call you,

"Baldy dick." and other stuff that is detrimental to a child. In that environment those comments were magnified.

86. There was a variety of different abuse. I would say that the mental abuse was equal to the physical abuse. The mental abuse might be getting told that your mum doesn't love you, or getting your shorts pulled down. On the physical side, probably 80% of the damage was done while they were restraining you.
87. I would say that being at Kerelaw was like being in Guantanamo Bay. We were treated like dogs but even then there was a difference and I was one of the mongrels. Some staff members might like you but the ones that liked me obviously didn't like me that much because they knew what was going on but they didn't put their foot down and stop it. They definitely knew because they were there when I was getting swung about like an empty tracksuit. It wasn't happening behind closed doors, it was blatant. The staff thought they could get away with it.
88. The abuse at Kerelaw was blatant. If there was something to be done to a child, whether it be punching or kicking, they would do it.

Reporting of abuse at Kerelaw Residential School

89. At Kerelaw the system for reporting allegations against staff was ridiculously long-winded. The first thing you would do is report if a staff member was hitting you. I cottoned on to the fact that they were writing down the statements in pencil. There were marks of things being rubbed out. As soon as my back was turned they would be scrubbing it all out and re-wording it. It should have been an outside agency dealing with complaints.
90. When they put me back into the open unit, they knew their days were numbered. All it would take was for one adult to see what was going on and report it. They re-enforced the fence up to stop me from getting up to the roof of the gym which was about forty feet high. I used to shimmy up there every day and stay there because I knew it was only a matter of time before they would have to phone the police. Then I would shout

to the police that I wasn't coming down until they had contacted the council to tell them what was going on. I was just a child but I knew how the system worked.

91. If I was the manager of a care unit and a kid came to me with an allegation of assault or abuse, I should have to contact an outside agency to investigate. The staff member should be taken out of the equation and the child should be isolated until they have given their statement so the investigators get the information fresh. When I was reporting issues of assault on a Monday, the guy who assaulted me would be back on shift on Tuesday. I reported things to multiple people but it was like a world within a world. Very seldom did someone come in to that world from outside. I know people who work in care now and they have told me the structure is still the same.

Leaving Kerelaw Residential School

92. I was one of the last residents at Kerelaw as it was closed down. The staff were selling off the furniture. They sold TV's and one of them took the pool table. It was an open conversation at the time and I subsequently spoke to ^{HRZ} [REDACTED] about it, she was probably one of the only decent ones who worked in my unit.
93. When I left Kerelaw my social worker Ian McLeod got me a place in a hostel on Sauchiehall Street. It was full of people from Kerelaw and it was filthy. Then I joined the army, then I got kicked out of the army. It said on my discharge letter that I had all the attributes to be a phenomenal soldier but they didn't know everything I had been through. I was homeless until Ian got me in a hostel in Edinburgh when I was seventeen years old. I was still technically in care but I was just floating about like a tumbleweed until I got a place in adult foster care.

Adult foster care

94. Ian got me a place at [REDACTED] Uddingston through a kind of adult foster care scheme. I stayed with a woman called [REDACTED] who was a crackpot. I stayed with her for about six months. I was quite vain by that time. I was always getting my hair done or going on sunbeds but [REDACTED] claimed to Ian that I wasn't looking after my personal

- hygiene. Ian came through to her house and could see that I looked immaculate. He told me to pack my stuff and he would get me somewhere else.
95. When I was eighteen years old Ian got me another place, staying with a woman called [REDACTED]. She was a lovely woman, she stayed in Old Kilpatrick.
96. [REDACTED] took me out on driving lessons and for whatever reason I thought that meant I would be able to take a shot of her car. I got pulled over by the police and charged with driving without a license or insurance. I didn't get charged with theft of the car.
97. Ian came to court with me. I had already applied to the army again. The judge offered me the chance to continue with that application but [REDACTED] wanted me out of her house which meant I also had to give up my college course in brick-laying. I had just started going out with my girlfriend at that time two weeks previously so I moved in with her and her parents. We were together for six and a half years. Her family became my family.
98. I found the adult foster care massively beneficial. I don't know if that's still done. I think it's a good thing for kids that have been in care, especially long term residential care and have no life skills, because it's a one to one situation. I didn't know how to use a washing machine, open a bank account, or other simple things we take for granted. [REDACTED] taught me how to cook. She taught me about seasoning. I don't know if that was part of her official role or just because she was a nice person. She encouraged me to do things rather than forcing me.
99. The care system is stretched as it is and I don't think their focus on turning out Michelin star chefs but they need to give kids life skills. Kids in care have been used to having things done for them and being told what to do and then they are spat out the other end without any immediate family and without any life-skills.
100. I don't think it was a deliberate planned decision by Ian to send me to adult foster care. It was a reactive response to my situation. They had sent me to a hostel in Edinburgh

before they tried the adult foster care because that was the more cost effective solution.

101. After I had to leave [REDACTED]'s house Ian told me that he had exhausted his resources and there was nothing more he could do for me. We did remain in contact for a wee while. He didn't need to put me with [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] but he did and I am grateful to him for that.
102. There is just not enough after care support. All public sectors are stretched. I heard the same discussions amongst adults when I was a child as I hear today. The government are not financially supporting the things that clearly matter.

Life after being in care

103. I have made a conscious decision not to have any contact with my family. As far as I am concerned I don't have any family. I have always been on my own anyway.
104. The uncle of a friend of mine used to say that I would be great working with children. He was the director of a company called Aspire, in Kilbirnie. I went for an interview and the two people who interviewed me were outsourced, so they wouldn't be biased, and I got the job. I was 25 years old at that time. It was a big deal to be offered that job. I worked there for a few months but it was just mad. Things like thirteen year old's needing parental consent forms signed so that I could give them a cigarette. There were young girls talking about sex. When I was a kid in care, we would try to tease the staff with that kind of talk. As an adult, I just couldn't deal with it. If I hadn't had the experiences I had in the care system I would probably still be working with kids, or I would still be in the army.
105. I was in the army twice. I completed my first and second phase infantry training twice due to my immaturity. I was given an honourable discharge the first time, after six months, and told to return when I had gained some maturity. I joined the second time about a year later but I was ten times worse. I was trying to fight with my section commanders. I had no respect for rank. I was arguing with my commanding officers

who were in charge of 500 soldiers. Then I was told my services were no longer required.

106. I am still in contact with two of my close friends in the army. One of them is going for his non-commissioned officer training. I have never got over being kicked out of the army, every time I think about it it's like rubbing salt in old wounds. It's not just my childhood that was taken away from me due to being in care, it's everything.
107. I got a job working in China but it turned out I was duped. The company I was working for was selling the visas that they were getting issued to people like me and there wasn't actually a job when we got there. I had to get in touch with the British Consulate and they got me out of China because I was there illegally. I consider myself street-wise but I was duped because I didn't get any guidance about situations like that during my childhood.
108. I am taking a civil case against Kerelaw. It was recommended to me by the police because I kept banging on asking if they were going to take action to make the council accountable. They said they couldn't do that and suggested I speak to a lawyer. I am not interested in the money, it's blood money, I want the council to be held accountable. I would give the money to my kids.
109. My action is progressing but the council are digging their heels in about releasing my social work records because they know that there is so much information in those records. If my lawyer had access to all the statements and records of mine that the police have got, the case would be sorted in months. Unfortunately the police will not release information relating to an active investigation even though the criminal case they are trying to win is the same as the civil case I am trying to win.
110. My lawyer got me to see Professor McPherson, a psychiatrist, for an evaluation. In his opinion I have borderline personality disorder, at the time I had a chronic cocaine addiction, aggressive tendencies, and attention deficit. There were probably about ten different things that he mentioned. He indicated that these things were directly

attributed to my experiences in care. But I'm not too interested in his opinion. He went to university to study psychiatry but he has not live my life.

Impact

111. From the start my life was already an uphill battle. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] My earliest memory of the care system was around the age of four and I was in and out of care from an extremely young age.

112. [REDACTED] As hard as that is to believe given my age, I carried the weight and stress of my young life heavy on my shoulders because as young as I was I quickly developed the ability to compare situations. As a result, I knew I was beyond different to other children of my age. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

113. As a result of how Kerelaw ravaged every single part of the boy I was, I ultimately made rash decisions which then spilled over into my early adulthood, committing petty crimes and making terrible choices, living every day with the overwhelming anger and misery which Kerelaw caused me. Still to this day my life in there haunts me and I feel like one of the lost children of the old care system. Eaten, chewed up, and spat out into the world. I had no life skills, no people skills, not even the knowledge or ability to open a bank account. All I had was the ability to survive at all costs.

114. I have never been one for blaming anything I have done on anyone else. My choices were made by me but when you are helpless defenceless child being victimised and severely abused daily you are bound to make bad decisions.

115. I have tried to keep my life on track making friendships, being a respectful and loving partner to my girlfriend but the demons of Kerelaw are always at my back. Drinking

heavily became my poison of choice. Then drugs, then both. Then adding constant fighting into that mix as well, it's a miracle I have not been in prison, let alone still alive. I am trying to live a quiet happy life. Neither me nor any of the other children at the same time or before deserved any of the sexual, mental, or physical abuse we suffered at the hands of those animals. That's what they are, animals.

116. I always wanted to work with children in the care system in whatever capacity I could and I finally gained employment with a well-known child care establishment. I wanted to make sure no other child experienced what I went through but working with kids brought back everything from my childhood. Sadly I wasn't in the right head space to help other children when clearly I was still mentally and emotionally broken. As usual I turned to my poison of choice, drink and drugs but more so drugs. This poison became my go-to which ultimately resulted in me losing my job with this employer.

117. That kick-started a chain reaction with the majority of my future jobs. As hard as I have tried I have not had the ability to remain stable because of that place and the demons that are always lurking around. Ironically, after the closure of the other units, and all the other boys and girls had left, I was the last remaining child within the whole school. I was in my opinion the poorest treated child in the time frame I was there but after years of abuse and trying to raise the alarm unsuccessfully I became the final nail in their coffin. It took me years to assess that situation properly.

118. When I left Kerelaw I had literally nowhere to go so after a brief stay in a hostel I joined the army, not long after turning seventeen, thinking it would be a turning point in my life but soon after enlisting I realised I lacked a lot of basic life skills that were required, respect for authority and rank being one of the immediate issues. But it was my trust in men that ruined my opportunity for a military career. Eventually I was honourably discharged, basically told to mature and re-enlist which I did. But by then the demons had took over me and soon enough I was dealing with my second failed attempt at a career in the army.

119. I never drank heavily or touched a drug until I was in my early twenties. Before then I tried to cope on my own but things just got too much. I turned to drink and drugs to

cope with the horrors I faced at Kerelaw. The feeling of being beyond let down by the powers that be, Glasgow City Council to mention the main one.

120. I started using cocaine, I found it calmed me down. I kept chasing that feeling of being calm. Drugs nearly ruined my life, they nearly killed me. I have spoken to doctors who told me that if I kept going like that I would have a heart attack.
121. Before Kerelaw I was such a timid boy, someone who was scared of their own shadow but after suffering daily abuse in there I turned into a ticking time bomb, constantly angry at the world. I was shattered and broken by the people who were supposed to be caring for me. Instead these people were systematically breaking me apart before I was sixteen. I truly believe that if Glasgow City Council had stepped in a long time ago then my life and many other former pupils' lives would have turned out dramatically differently. I was failed by Kerelaw, The GCC, and the police.
122. I have nothing but respect for the people involved in the Inquiry but it has taken years of abuse that children have suffered for things to get to this point. It should never have got to this point. Some of the abuse was absolutely blatant. The first time John Muldoon injured me it was the ligaments in my ankle. Every single time he restrained me after that, the police were involved. I was screaming at the police telling them that he was battering me, asking them to do something about it but they took me away. What was going through the police minds? You are in a residential child care unit for troubled children. The staff are supposed to be TCI trained and they are paid to keep a lid on the kids. But they are having the kids arrested. It would be like being in prison and the prison officers were getting the police in to do their job. I can understand they might not have believed me the first time but after ten, twenty, or thirty times you would think the police might have believed me. Then it got to the point where I was on the roof in the pouring rain with helicopters chasing me.
123. Kerelaw is the reason why I am so aggressive, so temperamental. It's why I am so anti-authority. The staff there created that monster through what they did to me, and other kids.

124. I hope this goes some way to show exactly what Kerelaw has done to me and the effect is still has on my day to day life. Hopefully one day I will get justice for everything that has happened to me. I pray for that day. Then I will finally be free from Kerelaw and the chains of misery that have held on to me to this day, seventeen years after I left.

Treatment/support

125. About eight months ago I was referred to a consultant psychiatrist, Dr Jacqueline Scott, by my lawyer as part of my civil claim. She consults on behalf of NHS Ayrshire and Arran and I had several video conferencing sessions with her.

126. Following those sessions, on 22 February 2022 she wrote to my lawyer with her diagnosis, which is that I suffer dissociative personality disorder and prominent symptoms of complex PTSD, unsocialised conduct disorder and borderline personality disorder. She states in that letter that this is directly associated with my experiences at Kerelaw and she recommended various therapies, although I have yet to start any treatment. I am, however, on the waiting list with Anchor.

Reporting of Abuse

127. I spoke out about the abuse I suffered seventeen years ago and I am really angry that the police didn't take any action until I spoke to them again recently. I went with Ian McLeod to give a statement somewhere in Glasgow but I don't think they were taking it seriously at that time. I think I walked out.

128. About 2019 a police officer called Claire Garner contacted me and I went through to Kilmarnock police station. Within the first five minutes they whipped out a bundle of statements that had been taken from me between the ages of thirteen and fifteen. These were statements taken from me by staff at Kerelaw and which hadn't been acted upon. They were sixteen years old. They had just sat there and nothing had happened to them. Nothing happened to the staff members I complained about, other than Muldoon but he didn't go to prison for what he did to me as I was never included

in his indictments. The first time it came out, I didn't want anything to do with it. I feel that the stuff that happened to me was so extreme and on a daily basis that I didn't want someone questioning if it really happened, if I wasn't adding arms and legs onto it. I thought I would rather just keep it to myself. I didn't need to justify myself to anyone. I know what I went through.

129. She started reading the statement through to me and asking me to confirm things had happened. She hadn't prepared me for the fact that she was going to do this. I told her I couldn't cope with it and went and got drunk. That's how bad that kind of thing can affect you. They were relying on people like me to help with their investigation but why didn't they do anything about it at the time? Unfortunately my opinion is there will not be any change. It might look like they are acting on it but something happens today and the same thing happens tomorrow. They just go round and round in circles. I would love to eat my words but if I am still luck to be here when I am fifty years old, I will be saying the same thing.
130. The police took an impact statement from me in 2020 but for what reason when they also told me that it would be years before it would go to court? I thought that was going to be my moment in time, I would be remembered for that description of the impact Kerelaw had on me but it has sat in their pile with my statements I made in Kerelaw fifteen years ago. The impact statement will be five years old before this goes to court. That's a clear indication of how backward the system is. This is why people have severe addiction issues, why they have relationship issues, why they commit suicide, or why they take things into their own hands.
131. I did ask why they were taking an impact statement at that stage, when it would be years before the case went to court and they said that was their normal process but from speaking to my lawyer the police normally take an impact statement in the run up to the case going to court.
132. I left Kerelaw almost twenty years ago and they have had statements that I made for over twenty years. I am being told things are being acted on now but who's to say it won't take another twenty years? I would be fifty three years old by that time. I don't

want to be carrying around these feelings for forty years. It's too long already. I need peace, I need my own tranquillity. I want to be able to go to bed at night and not feel a thousand voices screaming in my head.

Records

133. I have a shortened version of my medical records. I had a head injury when I was six months old that I didn't know about. It's crazy. My lawyer has employed an advocate to try and get my records because the social work department is digging their heels in and refusing to release them. I contacted the Mitchell Library and they told me my records are there but I can't get a hold of them. They won't give them to me without a court order. The council are getting hammered with people making claims.
134. The council knew what was going on. It's not just the people who worked at Kerelaw who knew what was going on.

Lessons to be learned

135. The abuse I suffered went on for years, as did my attempts to report it. If my son or daughter reported to me that they had been abused by their teacher or someone, I would go straight up there and grab hold of them until the police arrived. I wouldn't allow the kind of delay that I saw in investigating things.
136. There should be a prominent presence of authority in the care sector. As a survivor of abuse I would say every care facility should have local authority inspections monthly, if not weekly, to check if there has been any change. They should prepare reports and gather feedback. I don't know if it should be the Care Inspectorate or someone else who should be doing these checks. They should be investigating any abuse accusations or allegations. Someone should be coming in to oversee stuff.
137. I think that if a child is raising concerns of abuse, going into graphic detail of what is happening to them then they are either an Oscar winning actor, they have been told what to say, or it's actually happening. Those things should be investigated. Get the

alleged abuser out of that equation right now. If it turns out to have been an unfair suspension then they should be compensated. I know for a fact, as of 2021, that **KBP** **KBP** is still working in care, he is still working with kids right now. I have told the police what he has done to me. Nothing has been done but if I went and assaulted someone in the street I would be arrested and charged instantly. If there are 100 allegations of abuse, there should be 100 court cases. They shouldn't be prolonging things for the first person to report abuse because that delay might lead to an abuser getting worse and end up killing a child. Whoever is in charge is playing with children's lives. What would you do if it was your child in that situation?

138. I don't think the niche of childcare is small enough. All types of people work in it. I don't think they do enough background checks because I passed a PVG and I had charges for assault coming out of my ears. In a PVG check they check for drugs, murder, armed robbery, or child abuse. My convictions were either spent or they just didn't fit into one of their categories. I'm not a bad guy but you can guarantee that you would find other adults with my kind of convictions working in child care.
139. If I was in charge of the Inquiry I wouldn't be waiting until I had interviewed everybody before doing anything. After a couple of hundred people I would want to start making changes. I would still take statements from everybody else but I wouldn't want there to be any more delay.

Hopes for the Inquiry

140. I wish this Inquiry will make a massive difference but I don't think it will. I think it is just another thing that is getting done. Like Grenfell, they are retracting all the cladding, meantime it could happen again.
141. The team of people I met with to discuss my childhood in care was formed off the back of forty years of abuse. It should never have taken forty years. It should never have taken over forty years of all the reports of abuse to get things done. Children were living with abuse and I am the living proof of that.

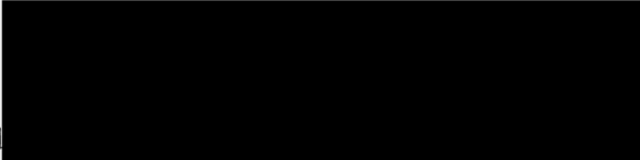
142. I don't think anything is going to change. I don't think I'm ever going to get my day in court. As a survivor of abuse I could explain until I am blue in the face and it would probably go in one ear and out the other. People would think I was off my nut. I think things have just gone on far too long, I don't think anything will change unfortunately.

143. Too often I have been told, "We'll check that and get back to you." I would like Lady Smith to invite me to appear before the Inquiry so I can speak my mind in an open court. To drum into people what I have been through and what some other kids are still going through. I would like to be so blunt that it will start a chain of events so there is not another person like me. I want to say that I outlived the abuse, that I saw change, that I saw people being brought to justice, that people listened to me and I wasn't just a small part of a big investigation. If enough senior people would have the decency to hear me out and see the passion in my face, to understand the damage being in care has done to me and continues to do to others people's lives, then they would understand and change things immediately.

144. Many small changes create big change and there are many things that could be changed but you have to stop talking about it and do it.

Other information

145. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed 

Dated 15/08/22