

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HHY

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is HHY. My date of birth is 1976. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was brought up in Glasgow along with my two brothers, and my sister. My brother is four or five years older than me, my brother is six or seven years older, and my sister is ten or eleven years older than me. My parents were and.
3. My earliest memories are of living in Drumchapel. I remember going to Summerhill primary school there. I remember primary 1 and primary 2. My dad didn't live with us in Drumchapel, I don't know what he was doing. My dad was quite old, he was drinking all of the time. He would visit us from time to time.
4. At that time, it was obvious my mum was struggling to look after us all. I imagine we were a bit of a handful. I think there was a separation between my parents, even though they weren't living together. We moved out of Drumchapel, back to New Cumnock in Ayrshire. My dad was from Ireland originally. I remember the school I went to in New Cumnock was called Cairnhill primary school. I have got some memory of moving into a flat with my dad. I don't remember my mum being around too much, my sister took on more of that role looking after myself and my brothers. My mum would disappear for a week or two at a time.

5. There was a teacher I had at Cairnhill primary school in New Cumnock who was quite violent. His name was Mr [REDACTED]. He would make you stand in the Magic Square, a particular tile on the floor near the blackboard and hit you with a ruler or cane you. I don't remember him ever filling out a punishment book. He seemed to pick me out for some reason. He used the cane on me because he realised the ruler didn't have any effect.
6. I was defiant of him. It got to the point that if someone else was going to get smacked I would offer to take it just out of sheer defiance. He would also put you in a cupboard. There was a big cupboard in the classroom and he would shut you in there in the dark. There were times when I think he thought he had given me too much of a caning and he would shut me in the cupboard.
7. There was one time he really hurt me and I went home and told my sister. She said she wasn't having it and went into the school. Nothing happened to Mr [REDACTED] but he did stop hitting me. I think Mr [REDACTED] is dead now. I heard years ago that he went on holiday to Spain and had a heart attack.
8. Round about that time I had problems at school because I was a Glaswegian in Ayrshire and my schooling fell apart. My sister wanted me to stay with her in New Cumnock but at some point I went back to Glasgow with my mum. My dad had a flat in the Gorbals by that time as well.
9. My mum shouldn't have had children. She wasn't a bad person but a lack of education meant she couldn't tell the right kind of people you should have around children. My sister knew that's what my mum was like which is why my sister wanted me to stay with her rather than my mother. There was a bit of a tug-of-war between them and I was caught in the middle. They had an argument and my mum then basically told me she didn't want me. However my mum took me back up to Glasgow. We were going about different places and then she dumped me with my dad. My dad wasn't a bad guy, it was basically me living in his flat and looking after myself.

10. There were social workers involved by this time but to be honest I don't think they did very much. I don't remember seeing social workers or speaking to them. They decided I was to stay at my dad's house and to begin with I thought it was great because I could just do what I wanted. I could come and go as I wanted and no-one was telling me what to do. My dad was a binge drinker. He would go to the pub and drink until all his money was gone and that meant if I wanted anything I had to steal it. I had seen my brothers doing this. I developed sticky fingers and I would go up the town and hang about with a lot of the wrong people. My mum was around at that time but she was usually involved with some guy.
11. Due to going out stealing or just hanging about in the close or in flats where I lived, I saw a lot of the Concierge. He was sat in his wee office with a heater and I was often standing about in the cold. I thought it would be a good idea to get in with this guy. He was a decent guy and I got on with him. He would try to keep an eye on me and one night he took it upon himself to phone the police about the situation I was in. He must have seen it a hundred times. The police arrived and asked where my dad was. I said I didn't know and then they took me to the police station.
12. Some social workers came in and intervened at the police station. They couldn't get hold of my mum or my dad so they got an emergency supervision order for me and that's when they took me to Maxton, I think it was in Bridgeton. It was a big shock to me because there were things there I wasn't used to. I wasn't used to being fed regularly, not since I had lived at my sister's. My dad never really had any food in the house.

Maxton Children's Home, Baltic Street, Glasgow 1985

13. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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17.

Leaving Maxton

18. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- 19.
20. My mum took me out and told me that this was going to be a new start. She took me to this place which was like a privately run place for homeless people and drug addicts. Straight away it was very uncomfortable. There were guys drinking, smoking, taking drugs, and playing poker for money. I felt responsible for my mum because she was vulnerable, she didn't see danger. I could see the dangers but it was like she blocked them out. There was one other kid in the place. He was the son of the guy who ran the place. He had loads of pirate videos. My mum thought it would be a good idea for me to get pally with this boy.
21. I had only been staying at the place for a few weeks when we came back and the whole place was boarded up. Apparently there had been some kind of raid on it. My mum said she would phone her friend [REDACTED]. I had never heard of this guy. She told me he would pick us up in his car and we could stay at his house. He came down in his nice car and we went up to his house. His brother was in the house too. It became apparent to me in the first twenty minutes that he didn't want me in the house. I could hear him and my mum arguing in the kitchen. I didn't fit into the equation. He ended up giving me a fiver to go and get something, to get out of the way. When I went back my mum told me it wasn't going to work out staying with [REDACTED] and we were going to have to go elsewhere.

22. My mum got us in some other homeless place round about Possil. We were in there for a few weeks but something happened there and we ended up going to my dad's. I did have a social worker at that time but I hardly ever saw him because we were always moving about and my mum never took me to see him. I think the social worker's second name was Jenor or something.
23. My mum got a house in Castlemilk at [REDACTED]. By that time I was a prolific shoplifter. I was in and out of the police station like a yo-yo. All the policemen knew my name and face. Social workers were talking to me sometimes when I went into the police station but nothing was happening, no one was taking any action. I had a friend who lived near me and his mum felt sorry for me. I developed a sort of relationship with her. She knew my mum wasn't in a lot of the time which is why I was hanging around waiting for my mum to come back. I could be waiting until two o'clock in the morning or I could be waiting two days. I would go up to see my friend's mum and she would give me something to eat. I wasn't really hungry because I always had money and I could have gone to McDonald's or something. However, because I was out shoplifting my friend's mother would buy the stuff off me. It became a base for me, it made good sense to go there and I was making good money.
24. I was friends with a boy called [REDACTED] and he had an older brother called [REDACTED] and he used to beat me up. What would happen was me and [REDACTED] would run away for a couple of weeks at a time. We would go to places like Butlin's and rent a chalet and then go to a campsite and rent a caravan for a week and keep moving all the time, plus I would accumulate money by stealing. My mum told me one time that they were going up to see [REDACTED] mum because she was absolutely furious about us disappearing. The next thing I knew, [REDACTED] brother [REDACTED] started punching me about. The guy was an adult. Then I had to go and sit and listen to [REDACTED] mum giving me a lecture, telling me it was my fault. I could see this hatred building in [REDACTED] and every time he saw me he would give me a doing. I was backed into a corner because wherever I was around Castlemilk he was on me.

25. I did eventually manage to knit into the community in Castlemilk. I got on alright with everybody. Then my mum's boyfriend [REDACTED] turned up going crazy. He started kicking off, he pulled out a knife and my mum was shouting that he had a knife. The guys upstairs heard and came down and starting fighting with him. After that my mum phoned the police even though I told her not to. That meant we had turned into grasses for giving the police a statement. A day or two later I came back to the flat and all the windows had been smashed. I waited until my mum came back. She said she was going to get another house. I said I would move with her as long as it wasn't in a high rise block in Castlemilk but that's exactly what she got. That lead to me not being able to go back to Castlemilk, it dissolved that place for me.
26. After that I got into more trouble and somehow I ended up in front of a Children's Panel. I can't remember the address of the Panel but it was in Glasgow. My brother was staying in England by that time but he came to the Panel and he told me they were going to take me away. He told me to get in his car and he would take me to England. I thought about it, but I didn't do it. I can't remember exactly but at the Panel I think my mum said she didn't want me, or she couldn't cope with me. I was taken from the Panel straight to Ballikinrain. I don't think they trusted me to go back home from the panel.

Ballikinrain, Stirlingshire 1990 to 1992

27. Ballikinrain was a castle. It was all boys, and was divided up into different units. On the ground floor you had the unit for the youngest kids, between nine and twelve years old. I would say there were at least twenty kids in that unit. We were separated into different rooms of two or three. On the top floor was the unit for the older kids, from twelve up to sixteen years of age. I would say there was less than fifty boys in that unit. There was also a leavers' unit on the top floor too. That was for boys getting ready to leave.
28. I think there were between two and three members of staff on duty at a time in the bottom unit and another two or three staff on duty in the top unit. There were maybe

about 25 staff in total. It's hard to say. As well as the staff looking after us in the castle, there were teaching staff at the school too.

29. The big main bit in the middle was the recreational space and everything else was spread out like a fan all the way round. The dining room and the main hall were in the middle bit of the building. The Headmaster's office was on that floor too.

Routine at Ballikinrain

First day

30. I was fourteen years old when I first went to Ballikinrain. I went in the social worker's car. I had been in social worker's cars before but that was always to be taken back to my mum or dad's houses, not being taken to a children's home. **Secondary Institutions - to be**
Secondary Institutions It was quite a long drive to Ballikinrain. I remember we drove up the driveway and it was dark. I remember seeing all these owls with their eyes lit up. It was quite a scary place, the castle looks dead spooky at night.
31. I went in and was introduced to someone. It wasn't the person who ran the place, I think it was the person on duty. I can't remember the name of the person in charge. I went up the stairs. I think it was the first night that the other boys dropped in to see me. I remember getting stuffed into a quilt cover. I was scared, some of the boys were bigger than me and these were not boys that I was used to. They said it was an initiation and I had to do it. I felt like I had no choice so I got in the quilt cover and they hung the quilt cover out of a window. After that, I was accepted as one of the boys.

Mornings and bedtime

32. We were put in dormitories. Some of the dormitories had two beds, some had three, and a few had four. The dormitories were spread all around the building, on the top floor. In the morning we got up early, about 7.00 am, and then you got a shower. It

was a member of staff who would get us up. At night there was only one member of staff on duty but they would just sit there watching telly.

33. The room I went into was quite a big room. What I didn't know was that the boys went into that room to smoke, have a joint or sniff glue. People did all sorts of different things. There was quite a congregation when I went in the first night, for my initiation.

Mealtimes/Food

34. The food wasn't that good in Ballikinrain, apart from when you were in the leavers unit, then you could pick your own stuff. In the main unit, the food was just crap. The mentality was quite simple, if you didn't like the food you were given, you didn't eat. There was one time we complained about the food and went on a hunger strike. A couple of the staff couldn't handle the situation. One of the male staff, [ITK] couldn't control us and he called in [HHZ] another member of staff. He came in and I thought he punched a boy, although he didn't. He hit the seat the boy was sitting on and the seat went flying back. It was sort of like a warning. He told us to move. We moved pretty quickly so the hunger strike was defused pretty quickly. [HHZ] was like that, he didn't have much time to talk about things. He was an enforcer. However, after the hunger strike the Head teacher did come up and say they were going to do something about the food. There said they were going to start getting better things on the menu but nothing changed at all.

Washing/bathing

35. We had showers in the morning. The showers were not supervised. The showers were like that kind at a swimming pool, they had just a wee curtain. I think there were four or five shower cubicles. There was a queue of boys in the morning to get a shower, so some were in the shower cubicles, some were waiting outside the cubicles, and some would be in the corridor. I think the home was understaffed because they just had staff out in the corridor keeping folk moving, they weren't in the actual bathroom, so they didn't see what went on there.

36. Within the first three or four weeks of me being at Ballikinrain there was one incident with a guy called [REDACTED] in the showers. I called him [REDACTED] but I don't know if that was his real name. He was maybe a year or two older than me and he used to try and bully me. I thought he was going to beat me up. He asked me, or bullied me, to expose myself to him. The shower curtain opened and he pushed me on the shoulder. It ended up that I was lying on my back and he had his foot on my chest, just staring at me. I managed to get up and pushed passed him and got out. There was another time I got a kicking in the shower but I can't remember any more, I don't know if it was [REDACTED] or not. I just remember crawling under a sink and this person booting me. That was about all that happened in the shower.

Clothing/uniform

37. I always found it really weird that we had to wear their clothes. When I first went to Ballikinrain they took me to a big cupboard full of clothes. I found that weird. When you needed fresh clothes, you took them from the big cupboard. The clothes you had been wearing would get washed and would be put back in the big cupboard for anyone else to choose to wear. I just found that really strange. I don't remember any of the clothes having name tags. I just remember wearing whatever fitted you.

School

38. There was someone who spoke to me the morning after my first night in Ballikinrain and explained that I would have to go to school. I got into a fight on my first day and got kicked in the genitals. That gave me a taste for what the school was going to be like. The school was separate from the building we were staying, it was outside the castle but it was still in the same grounds. There were separate teaching staff for the school.
39. It was the strangest school I have ever been in because we didn't do anything. We spent most of the time watching videos. I think it was in the English class we watched The Italian Job. There was about five minutes where we were told to copy down a written paragraph.

40. As far as I am concerned there was no education. If there was, I would be educated. My spelling would be better and I would be able to do things.
41. I wouldn't square up to anyone, I wasn't a fighter. I would rather take a kicking than stand up to anyone. There was a guy who used to teach us signwriting. One time [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was winding me up outside the classroom and the Signwriter heard the commotion. He shouted at me to come in the classroom and he shut the door. He asked me if [REDACTED] was winding me up. He told me I needed to be careful with that boy, that he was known for being a bit of a pervert. I knew what [REDACTED] was like but it was just speculative by the Signwriter.
42. It got to the point where I was in with the woodwork teacher, ^{GPB}[REDACTED]. He had the perfect view and he had seen me getting smacked about by [REDACTED]. ^{GPB}[REDACTED] came up to me and asked me what was up. He said he knew it was [REDACTED] and that I had to stand up to him. ^{GPB}[REDACTED] basically advised me to beat [REDACTED] up but I was scared to fight back. ^{GPB}[REDACTED] knew that I felt safe in his class so he told me to get [REDACTED] to go there. ^{GPB}[REDACTED] said he would go in the back, out of the way, so [REDACTED] would think I was alone. ^{GPB}[REDACTED] told me to grab [REDACTED] and hit him repeatedly on the side of the head.
43. [REDACTED] did come down and I grabbed him and gave him three rapid punches to the side of the head. He wobbled a bit and held on to the side of the table. Then he walked away upstairs to the unit. I felt like Rocky but then I thought I have got to go up to the unit where he is and the people he is pally with. I explained this to ^{GPB}[REDACTED]. He said not to go up there all scared, he told me to go up and admit that I had battered [REDACTED] and to tell people why I had done it. I went up and as soon as I did the other boys were on me straight away. I said I had battered [REDACTED] because he was a pervert. That's when I got a wee bit of freedom. I realised that I did need to fight back, I couldn't just let things happen to me.

Leisure time

44. A boy arrived at Ballinrain and he was getting a hard time. His name was [REDACTED]. When [REDACTED] arrived at the home, me and [REDACTED] were like brothers. We made a pact

that if anybody messed with one of us, they were messing with both of us. Me and [REDACTED] would pal about and when we got weekend leave, sometimes we went home to our mums and sometimes we didn't. Sometimes we wouldn't go back and would try and stay out for as long as we could.

Chores

45. You didn't have to do any chores at Ballikinrain, except for when you were in the leaving unit, you were encouraged to do everything in there. The leaving Unit was run by a Danish woman called Anna. She was really good.

Trips/Holidays

46. We went on a trip to Denmark and this other boy called [REDACTED] was on the trip. I felt sorry for [REDACTED] because he was brought in to Ballikinrain by his parents and he soiled himself while he was standing with them. He got a lot of grief from [REDACTED]. A staff member called Ian, [REDACTED] GOU [REDACTED], he had some kind of hatred for me. He told me that this trip to Denmark would be good for me and that we would be sailing the ship. When we got there, it was a small boat for about eight people and it turned out two of the people were blind. I think they had paid half the funding for the boat. The captain of the boat was drunk, all he did was drink whisky and we were out sailing in the North Sea. I was really sea-sick on the boat and the Captain gave me some injection. It knocked me out and when I woke up I was a bit worried because [REDACTED] had been around me and I didn't know what he had been doing. However the Captain was drunk and he got me to sail the boat for about five hours. I was terrified, it was some experience. I did say to Ian, the member of staff who was with us on the trip, that the Captain was drunk. He actually saw it before we noticed but he just said that he was the Captain and what he said goes.
47. They obviously never had any crime out in the place we moored up to in Denmark. Me, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] went on a crime spree, nicking stuff. We took that much stuff back that the captain could actually tell because there was too much weight on the boat. We were at the first place for a week-and-a-half and then the Captain moved

the mooring a bit further up the coast. The next morning we woke up and the place was crawling with cops. There were police everywhere.

48. They took us in and ██████ told me that I was taking the rap for it. If I didn't, he was going to make sure that between himself and ██████, that I would get three times as many kickings as I usually got. I suggested that me and ██████ take the rap but ██████ wanted me to take the blame on my own. That's what happened, I took the rap for over thirty things. I was admitting to the police that I was stealing motorbikes and things. The police worked out that it wasn't just one person who had done it all and they were talking about keeping us all in Denmark. They got someone over from the Church of Scotland as they had organised the trip. It ended up that we were deported out of the country on a plane, we weren't even allowed to sail back.

49. We got back and I was the disgrace of the Church of Scotland because this sailing trip had been running for a long time and I had ruined it. Ian, the member of staff who was with us on the trip, was initially sceptical that it was just me but I insisted that it was only me who had stolen stuff. Also ██████ and ██████ were making out that their holiday had been ruined and Ian ended up believing me. He then said this to the other staff when we got back to Ballikinrain. They told me there had never been any problems on the trips before me, and that it had been spoiled for the blind people. The heat got really turned up on me. There were all these speeches about how terrible I was and one even said that he wouldn't be surprised if another boy gave me a slap for what I had done. There was a lot of bullying, until I learned how to do something about it.

50. Before I went to Denmark I got some sympathy from some of the staff because they knew I would be getting a couple of smacks in my classrooms and a couple more smacks back at the home. When I came back from Denmark those staff didn't care anymore because I was such a disgrace. I went deeper into myself and started staying in my room.

51. Later on there was an incident with me and my friend [REDACTED]. The staff threatened to send me to Kerelaw. I had heard of Kerelaw before. They said that either one or both of us was going there. [REDACTED] said that I wouldn't last ten minutes in Kerelaw. I think he felt sorry for me. He said he was going to end up going to Kerelaw anyway, and that he would be the muppet and I should carry on with getting decent, meaning sort myself out. Away [REDACTED] went and as I'd reached the stage where I could stand up for myself, nobody at Ballikinrain caused me any problems.

Birthdays and Christmas

52. I do remember being in Ballikinrain and having Christmas dinner. To me it was like a lot of the staff were alright but there is a big difference now with a lot of the safeguarding that goes on. I can see how it was difficult for the staff to pick up on the bullying, because if you're not telling them about it then how are they going to pick it up?

Visits/Inspections/Review of Detention

53. The only visits I remember was from my Social Worker, Anne Marie Walker. She was my social worker in Castlemilk and I think she stayed my social worker at Ballikinrain. I didn't see her very often, her visits were few and very far between. She never really came into the building. I would come down the stairs and be told she was there, then she would say that we would go down the road for a pub lunch and then she would drop me off back at Ballikinrain.
54. One particular time, I had a big massive black eye. It was ridiculous looking. She turned up and took me for a pub lunch. It was a really nice day and we were sitting outside on benches. There were other people sitting outside as well. She was sort of looking at me and she went, "How did you get the black eye?" In all honesty, I can't remember what I said to her but I think I might have given a description that something was going on. I remember that the thing that struck me as strange was that I was trying to explain to her what had happened with getting the black eye, and she was more

concerned with me saying that I had had a wee drink at my sister's house. This was the thing that she was most concerned about.

55. I also had a keyworker called HVC [REDACTED] and he was good. I didn't see HVC [REDACTED] do anything wrong but he wasn't as aware as he should have been about what was going on.
56. One of my brothers said that he came up and visited me but I don't remember that. My mum also said that she came up and visited me but I don't remember that either. The only time I remember her coming up was to a panel when she wanted me to stay in there.

Healthcare

57. In the first few months at Ballikinrain I got hit in the face with a pool cue. I was playing pool and I moved a ball. The boy I was playing against took offence and whacked the bottom end of a pool cue right across my teeth. It cracked all the top teeth and I was bleeding. They just gave me a tissue and said they would get me to a dentist, but they didn't do it that day. The boy who did it never even got told off, someone else just continued playing pool with him in my place.
58. When I did get to see a dentist he said he was going to have to rebuild my top teeth and put caps on. It ended up that I was in the dentist from when I went in to Ballikinrain until I came out. But it did mean that I walked out with a new set of teeth although I have lost my teeth now.
59. I only ever remember seeing a nurse once at Ballikinrain, and that was for an injection. I remember them telling us that we were all getting an injection but I don't know what it was for.

Running away

60. [REDACTED] and me started running away a lot. We ran away quite a few times. We would run away for two weeks and disappear. We would go to Butlin's for two weeks because that's what we were looking for, a holiday away from Ballikinrain.
61. There were always consequences with the staff when we got back but there was also consequences in the towns near the school. There was a big carry-on about cars that had been stolen. We used to nick the school van and staff cars. When [REDACTED] came in, that's when crime really took off for me. [REDACTED] was used to it, his mum was a heroin addict. His dad was the same and [REDACTED] was just left to get on and do whatever.

Abuse at Ballikinrain

62. Within the first few days of me being at Ballikinrain we were coming back from school and all the boys were running up to the top unit. They were all looking over the bannister and there was a member of staff on duty on the bottom unit supervising all the boys going up the stairs. I looked over and saw the member of staff at the bottom and then I was aware of all the other boys jumping back from the bannisters. I noticed someone had spat over the bannisters at this member of staff. He was bald and the spit landed on top of his head. His name was [REDACTED] something. He was average height, he had hair round the sides and back which was a mixture of grey and black.
63. When he looked up, all he saw was me. He shouted at me not to move. He grabbed me by the scruff of the neck and the seat of my pants and rammed me by the head through a door that lead us in to the bit before the main hallway and there was another staff member there, [REDACTED] standing against the radiator, supervising the boys. The guy who had hold of me just launched me at the wall, at a point where there was a bed against the wall. I hit my head off the solid wall and blacked out. It was like getting hit in the head with a mallet.

64. I came round and I was lying on the floor in a weird position. I looked up and I could see the door I had been pushed through head first and my immediate thought was, "Why am I not on the bed?" as I should have landed on the bed against the wall at the point I hit my head. The guy who had hit my head off the wall was standing above me and he had his leg on my ribs. I think that he was booting me while I was unconscious and I had ended up on the floor. Then he disappeared and I was left feeling sick.
65. Then this other kid walked in and said, "Alright wee man? Don't worry you'll get used to it." I couldn't believe that this kind of thing was considered normal. This kid then pointed out that [REDACTED] watch strap had broken. It was the kind of elasticated metal watch strap. This kid said that [REDACTED] loved that watch, I thought he was winding me up. He said I would have to take the strap down to [REDACTED] I was busy wondering about the other member of staff who had seen my being pushed through the door head first and then slammed into a wall but he was just looking about as if nothing had happened, he didn't want to look at me.
66. The other kid kept on going on about the watch strap. I think the other kid might have been [REDACTED] I took the watch strap down to [REDACTED] and he went crazy again. The only grace I had was that all the younger boys were around, otherwise he would have split me in two. He told me to go and get my stuff as I would be moving in to his unit, even though it was for younger kids. I went back up for my stuff and complained to [REDACTED] about being told by [REDACTED] to move down to the younger kids' unit but he said, "If he says you go down, you go down."
67. The first or second night I was in [REDACTED] unit he made me sit in my underpants with the other boys. I have a memory of sitting on a seat in my underpants and people laughing at me. I was paralysed with fear any time I was near [REDACTED] because I knew what he was capable of. He made a lot of threats against me and after the first time he assaulted me I was terrified of him. He didn't assault me again, he didn't have to. I got a lot of abuse from the boys. I would sit in my room and when I was alone it was like a sanctuary. [REDACTED] would come in and sit on the bed. I don't remember too much more because he paralysed me with fear. It got to the point that I was almost like a caged animal. I never spat on [REDACTED] that's what infuriated me the most.

68. I confided in a trainee woman but I think she didn't want to be part of it. I can't remember her name. It was a vague description that I gave her but she got the idea. She seemed sympathetic and she tried to coerce me into being more explicit in explaining what I was saying, but I couldn't, I just felt upset. Shortly after I spoke to her, I was pissed off with what was happening and started shouting at random about staff members' hitting boys. HHZ [REDACTED] was walking upstairs and heard me. He came over and asked me what I was talking about and I repeated that staff members were hitting boys. HHZ [REDACTED] told me to tell the Head teacher what I had been saying about staff abusing boys. He dragged me up to the Head teacher who had already decided I was making it up. I said, "If a boy was getting beaten by one of your staff would he get moved out of here immediately?" I couldn't say anything more. I was worried about saying anything if I was still going to be stuck in the bottom unit with GOU [REDACTED]
69. The Headmaster had already made his mind up that I was lying. I asked him again if he would move someone out if they were being beaten up by a staff member. He said things would have to be investigated but the boy possibly could be moved, possibly not. He also said the boy could get moved to a place he possibly wouldn't like. That was it, after that I didn't feel I could say anything, not even to HHZ [REDACTED] I had to go back down to the bottom unit. As time went on I realised that HHZ [REDACTED] was a muppet. I realised the Head teacher went along with things. He didn't have the guts to stand up to people like GOU [REDACTED] and tell them they couldn't be that way with children.
70. At some later point I got told I could move back up to the top unit, but then I had other things to deal with. There was a lot of bullying, particularly from [REDACTED].
71. I have never been a big fan of football. I don't really like watching it. Despite this, the Headmaster always made me play football. I was always getting injured in the process of playing it, but it was like he enjoyed it. HHZ [REDACTED] was a bit like that too.
72. HHZ [REDACTED] only ever called me Spamhead. He was very demeaning. He used to take us down to the gym to sort out problems. If you were arguing with another boy about something, he would tell us to go to the gym. He would get us to box it out. What he

didn't realise was that some boys were getting into that situation in order to bully boys. They would pick arguments deliberately. I remember one time getting sent down to box and a boy who had been bullying me anyway was hitting me and hitting my head off the wall. [REDACTED] had ducked out of the room for a second and then ducked back in, he didn't even know it had happened.

73. There was another teacher who was a canoe teacher, he was the cruellest guy I have ever met in my life. I think it may in fact have been [REDACTED] [REDACTED] When I first went canoeing, he put me in a canoe and booted me off the jetty. The canoe turned upside down. The rubber seal that goes over your waist where you get into the canoe was supposed to come off but I couldn't get it off. I was drowning and he was standing there laughing. One of the boys had to jump in, dive under, and get me out of the canoe. It was almost like he got satisfaction out of your fear. I saw the same thing happening to other boys. He took us caving as well. I said to him that I was terrified of small spaces but he still forced me to do it. I was terrified.
74. There was a maths teacher who was a bit of a weird character as well. I don't remember his name. He had some other duty in the school, I can't remember what. He would give you biscuits, he always had a packet of digestives open on his desk. He would ask who wanted a biscuit and there were always plenty of takers. He would get you to stand in front of him and he would get you to curl your fingers round the fingers on your other hand, like they were hooked together and he would squeeze your hands really hard. It was really painful. Once you had done it a few times, it was easy to get used to. I thought it was maybe his way and getting back at all the annoyance of the boys. It was one of those weird things that shouldn't have been going on, but it was.
75. There was another time when there was quite a surreal situation with a boy called [REDACTED] a boy called [REDACTED] and a boy called [REDACTED] I think I was trying to evade somebody and I walked into a room. This boy [REDACTED] was lying down and the leg of the bed was on his head. One of the other boys was holding the leg of the bed in place on [REDACTED] head and the other boy was bouncing on the bed. When I walked in, they shouted for me to get out. The boy [REDACTED] was quite hard but these other

two were harder than him. There was blood in [REDACTED] ear and he was all dazed or concussed. The other two shouted at me again to get out but I refused to leave the room. The reason I refused to leave was that [REDACTED] had saved me a couple of days before. One of the boys came over and was going to smack me but then the other boy came off the bed as if to stop him. I told them that I had just come in to the room, I hadn't seen anybody, I hadn't seen anything. That was it, we got the bed off him and [REDACTED] got up. His head was bleeding and his balance was off. His eyes were glazed. I can't remember [REDACTED] getting any medical treatment. I can remember him sitting in the living room next to the two boys who had done it. [REDACTED] actually said about the incident, "Shit happens."

76. It was common knowledge amongst the boys and the staff that [REDACTED] was an absolute pervert. There was this other boy in the top unit, all he did was sit in his room and listen to The Doors. Nobody hassled him. Due to a lack of supervision, I was forced to run in to this other boy's room to get some sanctuary from [REDACTED]. This other guy was angry but he saw [REDACTED] standing outside. I think his room had been converted from a cupboard as the window looked out onto whoever was outside the door of the room. He questioned what [REDACTED] was doing and told him to beat it and [REDACTED] left. He told me to keep away from [REDACTED]. I explained that's what I was trying to do when I ran into his room but he wanted his own space and I complied with that. I told staff members about [REDACTED] but it depended who was on. Some of them didn't get it, they didn't do anything because they didn't understand what was going on.

Reporting of abuse at Ballikinrain

77. [REDACTED] HVC was my Keyworker all the way through my time at Ballikinrain. It might not have been him right at the start. It took me a long time to open up and talk to [REDACTED] HVC. I did talk to him about my mum but I couldn't talk to [REDACTED] HVC about the abuse I suffered because [REDACTED] HVC was part of Ballikinrain. He actually lived on the grounds, I spoke to his wife and kids. I think that was part of the reason I didn't want to disclose things to him. I didn't want to disrupt his perfect life. He was straight down the line. I am confident that if he had seen any abuse, he would have stopped it. I never seen [REDACTED] HVC do anything

wrong or say anything wrong but I think he just wasn't aware like he should have been. I just don't think he knew what was going on. I did have regular meetings with HVC. We would go downstairs and he would ask me how I was getting on, but to me he was just a guy with dark sunglasses on. It took me a long time to talk to him but I don't think he believed anything I said. So I adopted the mentality that he wasn't going to believe what I said. It was only when he started listening to what I was saying about my mum and stuff like that, that he started to get it. I can remember him writing things down when we had these meetings. It's possible he made notes.

78. I think when I was taken into the Headmaster's office with HHZ that was a day after GOU had done me in and I was still on his unit. My plan was that I wasn't going to say anything about what he had done. I was going to treat it like, put up and shut up. The only reason I said anything was because there was this girl who was a trainee on the unit. She had been talking to me and trying to get me to be explicit and it made me very upset and loud, so that's why when I went to the end of the unit I shouted about staff beating up kids. It was a cry for help. Otherwise I wouldn't have said anything.
79. When HHZ took me up there he dragged me up denying that staff would hit boys. He went in first and I was stuck outside. When I went in I kept it vague, talking about a staff member hitting a boy, not hitting me, and would that boy get moved straight away. I didn't want to say something and then get flung back in GOU unit and I thought it was pretty obvious that that's what I was really saying. The Headmaster said there would have to be an investigation and that there was no guarantee that the boy would be moved straight away. When he asked me, "Is that it?" I couldn't really say anything more. If I had got a bit of reassurance, maybe I could have come to a different conclusion. For me it wasn't really possible to say something about, it was an outburst I had to get out of once I was in it.
80. I was taken back downstairs by HHZ and there was a short delay before I went back up to the top unit. They must have spoken to GOU. If I had thought about it at the time I could have told them that ITK had seen HHZ ramming me through the door and maybe got moved out for that reason. Even if he didn't see it, he must have

heard it. He was standing right outside the door at the radiator. I didn't know [ITK] and he had the mentality that he was like [GOU] a screw.

Leaving Ballikinrain

81. When I went in to the Leaving Unit, the idea was that you learned to do things yourself before going out into the real world.
82. I didn't feel like I could go out into the real world because I had never been educated, because of all the schools I didn't go to. It sounds strange but the only times I remember going to Secondary School was in Ballikinrain and two weeks in Castlemilk. The only qualification I got was a Scotvec thing for the Signwriting course I had done.
83. When I left Ballikinrain I was basically just given a handshake. [HVC] came to me and told me the problem was I was going to have to go to Kerelaw until I was eighteen years old. My mum didn't want me to get out of Ballikinrain, she wanted me to stay there until I was eighteen but they only kept you until sixteen. It was very difficult for the staff to get hold of my mum. I said to [HVC] that it wasn't fair, and that my mum didn't want me to get out. I kept saying that and [HVC] kept saying I must have got it wrong and that she wasn't really like that. I told him that I knew her better than he did.
84. The build up to what turned out to be me leaving care was that they expected kids to have home leave in the summer. I couldn't stay with my mum because she wouldn't take me. I was also told my sister couldn't take me at that time, because she was decorating. I kept nagging [HVC] for an alternative to where I could go and he said that if I could get hold of someone he could ring, then maybe we could get something sorted out. I racked my brains and came up with a neighbour who contacted my sister's boyfriend. He came on the phone and said they were not decorating, My mum had told [HVC] that my sister was decorating and they had taken her word for it. My mum had made the whole thing up. My sister's boyfriend said to [HVC] that I could stay but [HVC] had started to realise what was going on and said that someone would need to sign for me to stay with them.

85. I stayed with my sister and her boyfriend for a few weekends. After that I tried to push to go to stay with my sister full time instead of staying in care until I was eighteen years old. My sister had her own problems to deal with and had a young child, it was her partner who took pity on me. He said to HVC that I could stay with them, so that was that. HVC spoke to him and then there was a Children's Panel for me to get out. HVC had realised what my mum was like, what I had told him about her previously. He arranged to give my sister some money to help her and he gave me some money too. My sister and my mum came to the Children's Panel and I was released from care.
86. When I came out of Ballikinrain I went with my sister up to Castlemilk and we got some money, I think it was £1500. My social worker Anne Marie Walker did say that the money was for me but I felt in debt to my sister. I gave her money to get her house done up and I stayed with her for a few months but I didn't want to stay in Scotland. I had just had enough of it. I moved down to England when I was sixteen years old and I never went back.

Life after being in care

87. I moved down to Preston when I was sixteen years old. I just put it all behind me. I stopped doing all the crap I was involved in and moved on. I lived with my brother for about two or three months but he was a bit of a madman. Our relationship broke down and we didn't get on. I met my partner [REDACTED]. She had been in care. Social services had got her a flat and were paying for her to stay in it until she was eighteen. To cut a long story short I basically moved in with [REDACTED]. We've been together ever since and we have five children. My eldest has just got a degree from university.
88. Two of the kids have moved out, one is an actor and one is a carpenter. The actor has just landed a film part so we are going to have a premiere to go to. The other three are still with us and they are all doing really well. I insisted on taking them all to school. I have spent the best part of twenty years taking my kids to school and bringing them back every single day.

89. My mum is in supported housing very near where I live and I still see her. Forgive and forget, that's what I say.

Impact

90. I think my time at Ballikinrain had a big impact on me. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
Secondary Institutions - to be published later when I went in to Ballikinrain it was all at once. It felt to me like one thing happened and then another thing happened and it became normal. Violence became normalised, at least me it did when you had teachers taking you down to box and telling you that you had to hit the other guy. But I'm glad they did because it taught me to stand up for myself. I thank the guy in every way because I would still have been getting kickings for a while after that if I hadn't stood up for myself.
91. It has made me very withdrawn. I have never worked or tried to educate myself, I have just spent time at home with my family. My dad never cared for me but to any sensible person the care of your children is your first priority. That's common sense so when I look back to my parents I don't know what to think. I have a child who is the same age as when I went into Maxton. It makes you think.

Reporting of Abuse

92. There was one time, about ten years ago, and I was on Facebook and I came across this University lecturer that wanted to hear from people who had been in Ballikinrain. She worked at Preston University but she had lived in Glasgow. When I arrived all her students were hanging about outside. She had a tape recorder and I did tell her a bit about Ballikinrain but the environment wasn't right. There were people standing about outside who could hear me and I felt funny so I just gave her brief versions of this and that.

93. She asked me if I had ever tried to report the abuse but at that time I had suffered a breakdown and I just wasn't listening to anyone. I had been in a car crash with my brother and I was lucky to walk away but it did something to me so I had to go for counselling. That time with the car crash was the only time I have had counselling.

Records

94. I am going to try and get my records. I wouldn't mind having a look at them, to see what they have written down. It might fill in some gaps for me.

Lessons to be learned

95. We must listen to kids and safeguard them. The things that I noticed was that the bullying was the biggest part. That thing that happened with **GOU** that was something I got over because the bullying with the boys soon took over. The biggest problem for me was that I couldn't talk to anybody. There was nobody I felt I could talk to, but there should have been. The only one that I ever felt that I started to talk to was the woman who must have been on a placement or something. I don't know if she was training to be staff or a social worker or what but she definitely had some quality that spoke to me a wee bit.
96. Considering all the staff that were there, **HVC** had some really good qualities about him. Hannah at the leaving unit was amazing. If all the staff were like her and treated you the way that she did, I don't think there would be any problems. There were certain things that couldn't happen in her unit. There were certain boys that couldn't come in because she was adamant that anybody who walks through her door, they had to check in with her immediately. If someone was in her unit and she didn't know about it, that was a problem. The funny thing was that she was probably one of the few that spoke really good English. She had great communications skill as well. She let you cook your own food. She had a motherly instinct. She was able to communicate with several people in a room as individuals. That is a skill.

Hopes for the future

- 97. I like to imagine that everything is alright now for kids that are in care. I would like to know that instead of imagining it. We are talking about the 1990's that I was in care, not the 1980's that for me is a bit weird. I know there were some crazy things that went on the further back you go but the 1990's is modern society. You would think they would have learned the lessons of the past by then.

Other information

- 98. 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 December 2020