

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IGC

Support person present: No

1. My name is IGC My date of birth is 1978. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow. My mum was and I had two older sisters called who was about six years older than me and who was two or three years older. My sisters have the same dad and I have a different dad. My sisters were in the house together before I came so it must have been difficult for them when I came along. They were always good to me, the way sisters should be. The problem was I was a wee shit. My dad was totally absent and I didn't know who he was until I was about twenty-five.
3. My behaviour was a big problem. I had no boundaries and was socially immature. I think my behaviour made my sisters demented. When I was younger I was always a bit out of control, misbehaving and pushing boundaries and it was constant. I always gave my mum a hard time.
4. My mum worked when she was able. She did her best and tried her hardest. She would sometimes have three part-time jobs and between aunts, cousins and stuff we were well looked after and well taken care of. If my mum wasn't working she would be taking care of my cousins as well. There would usually be between seven and eleven of us in the one house. We were not exactly millionaires but we didn't want for

anything. My mum did a really good job of bringing us up, feeding and clothing us. My mum worked hard.

5. We stayed in Kirkintilloch. We were in [REDACTED] when I was a baby but I have no memory of there. We moved to [REDACTED] and then we moved up to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] after I got expelled in primary one.
6. I started primary one in Hillhead Primary and I can't remember how long I lasted but I am pretty sure it wasn't long before I was expelled. I think I hit a teacher with the duster from the board after she flung it at me. I had a period of time between schools and that is when we moved house. I went into St Flannan's primary school which was a Catholic school. I didn't last very long in there either because I was expelled for assaulting one of my pals. I kicked him through the glass doors and broke them.
7. I think it was when I was between primary schools that I was put on social work supervision. I had been in front of the Children's Panel but I didn't care. My mum would be with me but it was just another meeting that my mum had to go to as far as I was concerned. She had taken me to see psychologists, psychiatrists and child psychology specialist from Stirling, Edinburgh and Glasgow. I was taken to universities, behavioural development places and hospitals. I didn't care to be honest. It was another day out for me and I had no clue what it was all about although I kind of knew it was about my bad behaviour. There was never a diagnosis but I was extremely hyper-active and destructive. On reflection now my suspicion is that I had ADHD or something like that and was maybe slightly autistic but I don't know. Certainly highly functioning so I would certainly say ADHD. In later years I have not had any diagnosis although it has been a major factor all my life.
8. I had social workers called Kate Shepherd, Eve and Judy. Eve was from the local area. I can't remember where the other two were from but one of them took me to her own house once.
9. It is hard to explain how things were with my mum. It is not like we didn't get on it was more I didn't want to get on and I wanted everything my way. If it didn't go my way

then I was just going to be as badly behaved as possible. Very early on I learned that if I was good I got attention but if I was bad I got more attention. That attention lasted longer when I was bad and for someone who has only got one parent and two older sisters I was struggling with all of that.

10. After I was expelled from St Flannan's I was put in front of a Children's Panel again. It was at the place where the district court and police station were in Kirkintilloch. My mum was with me and my social worker but I don't remember who it was. The Panel decided to send me to Craigerne Residential School. I wasn't expecting this and I felt terrified and lost. Two guys drove away with me, leaving my mum standing back there. I thought they might just be driving me round the block to teach me a lesson but they just kept going. I didn't really get a chance to speak to my mum before they took me away. I didn't get to take any of my stuff with me as I hadn't been prepared to be sent away.
11. I think the main thing I was feeling was anxiety being separated from my mum and sisters. I also felt confused and absolute terror. I was eight years old. My mum had told me if I didn't behave I would be taken away but I didn't believe her. No social worker or other professional had sat down and prepared me for the possibility I would be sent away. That is why it was a complete and utter shock when the panel decided I couldn't go home and was going into care.

### **Craigerne Residential School, Peebles**

12. I was placed in care when I was eight years old and put to Craigerne School which was a great experience and a great environment especially for someone with all the troubles I had with my behaviour. It was an all boys' school run by Barnardos. I knew who ran the home but I didn't know what or who Barnardos were.
13. Craigerne was in Peebles but it isn't there anymore as I had a look online as I was going to take my son down. It was just over the bridge over the River Tweed when you come into Peebles You then went past Neidpath Castle when you would go over a

humpback bridge and take a right and then a left which would take you onto the driveway which was a dead end. I think there was a farm further up but I think it was just a track. Craigerne was all open at the back with nothing behind it. Peebles is nothing more than a big village but it was a nice place to live.

14. There were two buildings so there was the cottage and what they called the main house. The main house had the classrooms, kitchen, office and a couple of bedrooms. It was quite large compared to a normal house. I can't really describe the inside of it now but it was on two floors. I didn't spend much time in the main house because my room was in the cottage.
15. The cottage was on two floors but it had a bungalow feel to it and was like a big rectangle. You had the sports field at the back of it, a big shed or play hut type of thing next to that, a sandpit and trees everywhere. I think there were maybe four bedrooms and the staff room. One of the bedrooms had two boys, two had three boys and I can't remember about the other one. I can't remember if the fourth bedroom was for staff as there would always be a member of staff there. There was also a couple of bathrooms. I think there was a TV room on the bottom floor and the bedrooms would be on the top floor. I also think there was a room for clothes and stuff like that.
16. It is hard to remember but I think there were between 15-20 boys at the school. I couldn't say what age the youngest boy would be but the oldest boy I remember there was about thirteen. He was called [REDACTED] but I can't remember his second name. It could be [REDACTED]. I got on well with the other boys who were just as mischievous as me. We had plenty space to run about and burn off all our energy. It left us all tired and less niggly. There was a big assault course in the woods which was all built up in the trees with platforms and ropes. There was a big walled garden as well so they taught us quite a few skills. There was lots of stuff for when we were indoors
17. There was teaching staff for the curriculum and they were in during the day. Then there was residential staff who would take care of us like surrogate parents kind of thing. There would normally be about three staff on duty in the cottage but I wouldn't know how many staff would be on duty in the main house. I think Mike Tomin was the

head teacher when I arrived and then someone else took over. I remember some staff like HJJ [REDACTED], he was great and he had two lovely Irish Red Setters. I also remember HIX [REDACTED] who was great and he lived on the site.

### **Routine at Craigerne Residential School, Peebles**

#### *First day*

18. I think I went to Craigerne in either June, July or August. It felt like it took a minimum of six hours but I got there that night obviously and it was dark. As the place is in the middle of nowhere there was no streetlight so it was pitch black and there were bats flying around. It was kind of surreal, like going into the Addams Family mansion. I felt scared, apprehensive, isolated and anxious. The two guys were stand-by social workers and they handed me over to the staff.
19. Basically the staff introduced themselves and told me I would be staying there for the foreseeable future. They were really good about it. They were nice and kind. They tried to put me at ease and I felt they were caring. I think they were aware I was fragile and feeling intimidated and scared. I remember them trying to ease my anxiousness and being very welcoming. I think they could see I was shell shocked so they just got me settled down for the night. I think I stayed in the cottage that night as I can remember someone walking over from the main house with a big torch so we could see where we were going. I went to bed feeling terrified and anxious thinking I was never going to see my mum again. I thought I had been taken off her and given away because she had had enough of me. I think I probably slept well that night because I was so emotional travelling down in the motor as well as kicking and screaming.
20. The next again morning they let me meet some of the boys and they spoke to me explaining that I was there for my own good. They said it wasn't a punishment it was to try and get me to behave better and stuff like that. They told me it was to work towards getting me back to my mum. I felt a bit better after that as I had a goal to work towards. I think I went to classes that first day.

21. My overwhelming memory of my first day is that the staff were really nice.

*Mornings and bedtime*

22. We got up about half seven or eight o'clock. We got washed and dressed before breakfast and then over to our classes for about nine.
23. It got dark really early so it is hard to know what time we went to bed but I would say we would all be indoors by half seven-eight o'clock. One of the staff would sit in the middle of the hallway between all of the rooms and read us a story. They would read a chapter out of a book and that would continue the next night with another member of staff who would pick up where the one before left off. I still do that with my boy today. The staff would sit out in the hallway with the lights on once the bedrooms lights were put out. I think once everyone was sleeping they would put the hall light off and would leave the two bathroom lights on so that you could go to the bathroom at night.

*Mealtimes/Food*

24. We went to the main house for all our meals and they had a cook. I can't remember what the food was like so it must have been good otherwise if it was horrible it would have stuck in my head. There was enough food and I am pretty sure there would be times I didn't like what was being served. I was never made to eat anything so I think they tried to accommodate us as best as they could. I believe if you didn't like something they would do their best to get you something else. It was a good variety and a healthy diet.

*Washing/bathing*

25. We washed in the mornings and evenings before going to bed. The staff would run a bath and would randomly select who was to get a bath that night. The next night it would be someone else's turn. You would get a bath every two-three nights as they had two baths. We were kept clean. You didn't have privacy but you didn't need it

because you weren't bashful back then because we didn't know any better. There was plenty hot water.

#### *Clothing/uniform*

26. I hadn't taken anything with me but the school supplied all the clothing. I would imagine they had clothing which was donated to charity. They had a big cupboard and you could just dig through and get stuff that fitted you. I didn't care what it looked like because there was no-one there to see you. They must have had a laundry because the clothes were always clean. You didn't really have your own clothes you just went to the cupboard but if someone liked something they would just wear it again and again. Some boys did have their own stuff and that would have their name on it but generally they wanted you to wear their stuff in there so your stuff wasn't getting ruined.

#### *Leisure time*

27. We got plenty time to play around the grounds during the day when we were at school and after we finished before dinner. We got to run around the grounds after dinner and do our own thing. We had a lot of freedom within reason. As long as we didn't run away or go into anyone else's property. Most of the boys ran around the big assault course. It was huge and about half the size of a football pitch. Some of them were up twenty feet in the air going along ropes. We had plenty to do especially running about and being boys. They had a football pitch with goals. There was also a big shed where you could play indoors out the weather. It was just a kind of massive shed the size of a single garage. It had open rafters so there were swings with bits of rope, see-saws and things like that.

#### *Trips and holidays*

28. It is hard to remember but I am sure we went on trips. I remember we would go swimming up to Neidpath Castle at the bridge. I can't remember if we went on any holidays.

### *Schooling*

29. School was made up of different classes. There were probably three or four classes and about six boys in each class. Even at that it was too much for me and I still had to show off and be centre of attention. It was definitely better having the smaller classes and it was more intimate so you got to know your teacher. It wasn't like a counting heads thing they actually did make a genuine attempt to get to know you. They tried to learn what your personality was like and what your triggers and cues were. They did well to bring out a more positive side and make you work for rewards rather than being at the back of the class and being punished. Rewards were sweeties or maybe time off doing school work to read a comic in the corner. These were wee things but at that time they were big to us. They were a good incentive.
30. They would try and keep the school day to short periods but interesting subjects so the boys wouldn't get restless, bored or mess about even though we inevitably would. It was like a normal curriculum but it was more condensed into two or three teachers who would cover all the subjects over different times of the day. We got a wee break in between classes, have a lunch break and do another wee session before we finished around half three for dinner which was around half four-five.
31. I feel the teachers tried their best and I did try not to carry on too much but invariably I would get bored or impatient. My favourite subjects were probably reading and maths.

### *Healthcare / medication*

32. I cannot remember being unwell at any time. I don't remember anyone else being ill. I reckon they would have had someone who was medically qualified there. I don't remember going to the doctors but I do remember going to the dentist. I don't know but I think it would have been up in Glasgow.



*Religious instruction*

33. I can't remember anything religious at Craigerne other than singing some Christmas carols.

*Personal Possessions*

34. You got to keep your own stuff. You could choose to share them if you wanted but they were yours.

*Work*

35. We did do some chores but I can't remember what they were. We did do gardening as well but a lot of us liked doing that so we didn't mind. We would grow a lot of vegetables and once they were ready we would take them down to the old folk's home down the back.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

36. My birthday was celebrated and they would make you a cake and all of that. It was just like a normal birthday. I can't remember if we got presents but I think we would probably get a wee something from the staff because they were all like that. They did genuinely care.
37. I think at Christmas we would get the usual selection box and maybe another gift as well. I think we might have got home for Christmas but I can't actually remember. They would have a traditional Christmas dinner and make things as festive as possible. There would be a Christmas tree as they made it as normal and as enjoyable as possible. I think I can remember us singing as well.

*Personal possessions/Pocket Money*

38. We got pocket money and I'm not sure but it could have been £2 a week. My mum used to give me money as well so I would have some extra. Staff would keep it and have it written down in a log. Sometimes we could go into Peebles and we could buy ice-cream, sweets or toys. There was always a member of staff with us if we went into Peebles. It was usually one member of staff with a few boys but sometimes there would be a couple of staff going with us.

#### *Bed Wetting*

39. I never had a problem with wetting the bed. A few boys did it and they would either tell the staff or the staff would find out when they walked about checking the beds were made. We were never made to make our beds but we were encouraged to do things like that. Nothing happened when someone wet the bed. There was always a bucket in a wet room that no-one really went in. The bucket was always half full and I don't know if it had bleach or water and some detergent. We were all told that if we had any skid marks on our pants we were just to put them in that. You could do it on your own privately and there was always stuff in there so I know it was used.

#### *Culture*

40. If you felt homesick or needed someone to speak to you could speak to the staff. They did genuinely try to facilitate something to make you feel better whether that was a cuddle or a phone call. I was comfortable speaking to the staff. They would regularly sit down with me and ask how I was feeling about things. They would ask how I was doing, how I felt about going home and what I was looking forward to. I would have had a key worker but I can't remember who that was.

#### *Visitors/celebrities*

41. There were visitors but I can't remember who they were but the staff would show them about and they would tell us that this is such and such and they are just in for a visit to see how we are. I don't know if they were doing inspections but they would arrive

randomly and get a wee tour and maybe talk to one or two of the boys. I am pretty sure that at some point they would have talked to me.

42. I am pretty sure people like social workers would be coming to the school as well however the only times I remember mine visiting was when they came with my mum.

#### *Family Contact*

43. My mum came and visited me three times. Once with my sisters, once on her own and the other with my aunt. I think they came down with the social worker and then they would have a wee meeting with the staff or the Head. I would then give them a wee show about the school before getting to spend a wee bit of time with them. I got time on my own with them. I would want to go home with them but I did understand I was there for my own good. I think it was a bit stressful for my mum.
44. My mum was free to phone me when she wanted which she would do. She phoned every week at the weekends I was there so we always kept in contact. I could phone my mum when I wanted. You just had to ask and staff would put it in place. I can't remember getting or writing any letters.
45. I can remember when it was my birthday and my mum came down to the school and she brought me a Walkman.

#### *Running away*

46. I can't remember ever running away from Craigerne as I would have thought it would have been hopeless I wouldn't have got anywhere.
47. I did run away one time when I went to get the bus in Glasgow to go back to the school. Me and my pal bolted from the train station and ended up getting picked up by the police somewhere after we got reported missing. The police took us to the police station and waited for a member of staff to come and get us. The police were alright with us. I can't remember if they asked us why we had ran away.

48. When I got back to Craigerne staff did ask and I told them it was because I didn't want to come back, I wanted to be home. I think they said they were going to stop my leave the next time and I think I missed one weekend. That meant I was there for the month rather than the fortnight. That was my own fault so I accepted it. I viewed that as an incentive as in 'don't do it and you won't lose it'.

*Review of detention/hearings/external inspections*

49. It was a residential placement so I had to be at the school all the time even during the school holidays I would be staying there. I started to get home leave and that was every fortnight you would get a weekend back home. You would get back home on the Friday and Saturday and then on the Sunday my mum or an appropriate adult would take me in and meet one of the staff. They would meet all the boys at Queen Street train station in Glasgow. We would get the minibus back down to Craigerne.
50. I can't remember how long it was before I started to get home leave. It seemed like a wee while but I think it was probably 2-3 months maybe. It felt like much longer at the time. I was relieved to get home and I didn't want to go back but I knew I had to. Although Craigerne was a good place to stay it was still a big relief to get home. I am sure me going home introduced another ton of stress into my mum and sister's lives. It must have felt to them it was like bringing back the 'bomb'.
51. The staff did have a plan for me to work to so that I could get back home. It was basically all about my behaviour and me behaving myself. I would try and I did do my best.
52. I reckon we went through periodic updates between parents and social work, like an evaluation kind of thing. I don't know if it was maybe annually or every six months. I don't think I went back to the Children's Panel until Craigerne closed. I certainly don't remember going to the Panel. I do not recall getting any form of clinical evaluations from psychologists or anyone like that.

### *Discipline*

53. In Craigerne they would mostly try and communicate with you if you had been misbehaving. They would ask why you thought you had behaved in a certain way. Things like 'what made you do that?' and 'why would you want to do it?'. They would talk to you more than shout at you. They wouldn't get you straight into trouble they would try and speak to you. To be honest it just felt like another parent that's how good it was. I feel that shows how well they did their job.
54. There was no physical punishment but you would get restrained if you kicked off. It wasn't overly aggressive or hostile they would just stop you hurting yourself or anyone else. It felt to me like it was proper restraints where staff knew what they were doing. Like they had been trained. I got restrained a few times and I never got hurt at all.

### **Abuse at Craigerne Residential School, Peebles**

55. I do not believe there was any form abuse at Craigerne. I didn't get any inclination that any of the other boys suffered any abuse either. It was a lovely place and the staff were good towards me and everyone else.

### **Leaving Craigerne Residential School, Peebles**

56. When I was twelve I think Craigerne lost the funding and it was closed down. I had to go back to the Children's Panel and it was there that it was decided I was moving to Ballikinrain. I do not think there was any consideration about me going back home because I think they realised that I needed the regimented structure. At that age I probably did think there was a chance of me getting home and I would have been disappointed that I wasn't. I didn't feel too bad because it wasn't far from my home. Basically I think the Panel decided to continue with the supervision and get me into another school. My mum and social worker would have been there too. I think it was

one of the staff from Ballikinrain who came and got me from the Panel. There was no staff from Craigerne who came over to help with a handover.

57. I felt apprehensive about going to Ballikinrain because it was a new start and it was another place to try and fit in with all new faces. I didn't know anybody. I knew a guy who had been and he had said it was a bit of a battle ground so that was playing on my mind.

### **Ballikinrain School, Kilearn**

58. Ballikinrain was like a big massive mansion house with a bottom unit and then on the middle floor they had a dining room, assembly room and other rooms. They also had a top unit. On the bottom unit they had a main living corridor with a pool table, table tennis tables and there were rooms either side for the boys to sleep in. I don't know where all the staff lived but two lived halfway up the driveway and two stayed at the bottom of the driveway. They stayed there with their families. It was an all boys' school and there were probably close to fifty boys at the school when I was there. The boys were from all over, places like Govan and Paisley. Basically every scheme in Glasgow and further. I don't know which organisation ran the school but I think it was just the local authority. I never heard of any other organisation being linked to it, I just knew it was a List D school.
59. There was a big driveway with a gate house. It had a big lawn at the back with hundreds of trees at the back meaning there was extensive woodlands in the grounds where we could play. There was also a stream and a big pool where you used to be able to jump off a big cliff thing so it was like a big plunge pool. There was an old skating or curling pond which were empty but had stagnant water at one end of it. There was plenty space in the grounds to run about. I got lost more than once but it was easy because of the size of the place. There wasn't anything like the kind of outdoor equipment that we had in Craigerne.

60. My first impressions was it was a bit intimidating because it was so huge. I was used to having a wee cottage and now I had this massive mansion which looked to me like a stately home.
61. There was school staff and there was teaching staff. There was care staff and day staff. They had cleaners and handymen. There was probably three care staff on each unit. When I started there it was KKM who was SNR IKE was SNR. My key worker was Ann Woodhead and I got on with her really well. I didn't have a lot of contact with the head and deputy head. I think they were more administrative. I also remember Bill Will. Bill was the science teacher. GPB the woodwork teacher was great as well. I remember a woman called Anna who was only temporary so she may have been a trainee social worker or something like that. It is hard to remember the names now although I still remember all their faces.
62. I think it was a guy we called 'old Peter' who done the overnight in the bottom unit. He was the ex-husband of my key worker Ann. There were two staff who did the overnight and I can't remember the other guy's name. They would sit in the telly room and do the odd round with a torch. If you got up for the bathroom they would say something like 'on you go and then get back into bed'.

### **Routine at Ballikinrain School, Kilearn**

#### *First day*

63. I would probably say I was scared when I arrived. It was a totally new environment and there was no-one who had come from Craigerne with me. Every single thing was new and I had to make new relationships. I knew it was not a normal school and obviously I knew there was going to be some violence for me to fit in. I tried to avoid it to my best ability but I couldn't always.
64. When I arrived I was handed over at reception as a new admission. I sat outside the office for about ten minutes probably while they did the paperwork and then I was

taken down the stairs. I think it was Ann, my keyworker, who met me up in the office and she took me down. She told me where I would be sleeping and where the classes were. She explained that sort of stuff before the other boys came in.

65. I was feeling scared and anxious. Meeting the other boys was not too bad. It wasn't the worst but it wasn't great either. No-one was really friendly, it was a bunch of boys who had all kinds of behavioural issues. I would say the atmosphere in the place was tense. It was chalk and cheese to Craigerne and for me it was a bit of a culture shock.
66. I wasn't told what I could expect from staff and I kind of thought it would be just like Craigerne. No-one said this is how you will be treated and what would happen if staff didn't treat me that way. No-one explained how to complain if I wasn't happy although I now think I could have probably complained to the head staff or my social worker but who would believe a boy over an adult? Thinking about it I feel that there was a imbalance of power between staff and boys with the staff having much more.

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

67. We were up around 'eightish' and got ourselves ready before going for breakfast on the middle floor. After breakfast you would go back down and then into the classrooms.
68. Bedtime was ten, I am sure it was. It felt quite late to me anyway. Before you got into bed everyone had to brush their teeth and get a bit of toast and cup of tea or something like that. The lights, including the communal lights, went out when we got into bed. It would just be the TV room and the hallway outside that would have the lights on. There certainly wasn't any bedtime story here.

#### *Mealtimes/Food*

69. Dinner was around half four or five by the time they got everyone back into their units and done a head count to make sure no-one was missing.



70. The food was good but there would probably be times that I didn't eat the stuff. No-one went mental about it they would get you something else if there was something else available. If not they would probably get one of the cooks to make you a sandwich or something like that.
71. At meal times they would have these big metal catering trays and put it on a table. Each table would go up one at a time to get their food. It was always supervised by staff. Sometimes you would have fights at the tables and the boys would get separated and taken to the other end of the room or one out of the room. They would be kept separate until they got to the bottom of whatever it was that caused the problem.

#### *Washing/bathing*

72. In the morning we all went in and it was four sinks together where we would get washed. The showers were on the left. There were about four stalls that had doors and a urinal on the left. It was a narrow room. You could have a shower in the morning if you wanted but you were always encouraged to go in and wash your face and brush your teeth. You could take a plastic chair into the shower if you wanted where you could put your clothes so you could get dressed in there. That made sure no-one could throw your clothes in the shower after you.
73. You couldn't have a shower whenever you wanted but if you were mucky or had had an accident they would allow you to have a shower within reason. There were no baths.
74. You could shower with privacy because they were all cubicles but there was always a staff member waiting in the main body of the toilets supervising everybody. There were quite a few fights went on in there.

#### *Clothing/uniform*

75. I can always remember wearing my own clothing but I don't know if we actually wore our own in school or not. I think we got help with a clothing grant or something for

personal stuff plus I think we maybe had two outfits for wearing in the school and those were supplied by the school. I think you put them in a washbag with your name on it so you always got your own stuff back. Generally because they were not doing vast amounts of washing you could ask staff to take you along to the laundry and you could pick out your own stuff.

### *Leisure time*

76. We had free time after dinner and there was a communal area with a pool table, table tennis and later on they had a computer. We ran about in the grounds and played football. We could go into the gym and play what we called long shots because it was a tiny gym with parquet flooring and basketball hoops at either end. There were wee hockey goals painted on the wall. It was big enough that two boys could play football and try score goals against each other. They had what looked like a tennis lawn at the side of the gym. It wasn't painted with any markings but I called it a tennis lawn because of the quality of the grass. Then there was another lawn that came off the back of the building with a row of fir trees and it was all forest at the back of them. Half way down the driveway you had the stream and that was where you could jump into the big pool. You did get free time that you could go away and explore or get lost as I did a couple of times. They had to come and find me by searching the woods. I was told not to be so stupid and not to get lost again.
77. There was a TV room next to a wee bit of a corridor where some of us hung about and smoked. We could open the fire escape and open the other door so that allowed us to smoke in a wee tunnel type of thing. The staff would have a fag with us.
78. Sometimes the places we could hang about in our spare time were supervised by staff but a lot of the time they weren't.

### *Trips and holidays*

79. We did do a lot of trips with outdoor education and we did orienteering, canoeing, abseiling and things like that. It was a lot of physical stuff. I think we did that at least

once a week usually on a Friday morning but we could do it twice a week depending on the weather, transport or staff availability. Two or three staff would go and it was probably about half the boys on these trips.

80. I can't really remember any other trips but I think we went to Aviemore for a holiday. I was a teenager then and it was at least one minibus full of us. I can't remember specifically but it was three or four members of staff who went with us. We stayed at Badaguish camp which were log cabins. It was good. There was bother on that holiday but not with the staff, it was between the boys and involved them taking solvents and stuff like that.

### *Schooling*

81. The classrooms were situated in a separate building. One classroom was in a building attached to the big building. In a wee courtyard the woodwork was in a separate building and painting and decorating was down the stairs from that. It was down a wee ramp the way it was built into the hill. On the other side you had science, maths, English and subjects like that. There was also the wee gym.
82. A typical school day was you being in there until lunchtime. I think it was two classes with the first finishing mid-morning then you would have a break and either continue with that class or go to another before going for lunch in the dining hall. After lunch you would go back to classes until about four o'clock.
83. I don't think we got much of an education. We didn't really do much, we were sat down in a classroom but we didn't get made to do anything. As long as we sat there I suppose we were doing what they wanted us to do. Some of the teachers did try to teach us. I enjoyed woodwork, painting and decorating and science. I think I found these classes therapeutic and the teachers were good. The teachers were all right with us.
84. I didn't sit any exams at Ballikinrain and there wasn't any opportunity to sit any.

85. We were all at an age where we were trying out smoking, glue sniffing and drugs. There wasn't any education to try and steer any of us away from that sort of stuff. It would have been difficult because there were some staff who smoked with us.

*Healthcare / medication*

86. There wasn't any sick bay so if you didn't feel well you would be told to go and lie in your bed. I know there was a medicine cabinet with things like plasters and ointments. I don't remember being significantly unwell however I got my knee burst and had to go to the doctor down in Fintry. They stitched my knee cap up. If you needed a dentist you would go to the local one as well.

*Religious instruction*

87. One of the ministers would come in to our assembly on a Friday and we would have to sing a couple of hymns.

*Work*

88. I think maybe we had to mop some floors in the corridor but I think it was whoever was in the most trouble that day got told to do it. There was probably a bit of discipline involved in that.

*Pocket Money*

89. We did get pocket money which was probably about a fiver every Friday when we left.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

90. Birthdays were celebrated with a wee cake but no presents that I remember.
91. I can't remember if we went home at Christmas. I know not everyone would go home because some boys just didn't have parents or parents who were capable of looking

after them. It was open over Christmas. I think we got a selection box after the hymns by the choir in the assembly hall. The kitchen staff were always good so I am sure we would have got a Christmas dinner.

#### *Personal possessions*

92. Any valuable personal possessions were kept by the staff. Valuables were kept locked away. Things like my Walkman I could keep in my room but staff would probably want me to give it to them so it didn't get damaged or stolen. We did have a wee dresser with four drawers in it beside our beds and I think on the other side there was a wee cabinet with a door but they weren't locked. I kept nothing in them other than a toothbrush.

#### *Bed Wetting*

93. I didn't wet the bed but there were one or two boys who did because I can remember them getting ridiculed for it. Most of the staff were all right about it but a few of them were less sympathetic and were good at telling people, calling them names and stuff like that. He liked to think he was one of the boys and show off to us.

#### *Culture*

94. A lot of stuff happened early after my arrival and that made me keep my back to the wall, try not to take any shit so would try not to get into fights or arguments with other boys. There were always groups of boys in tiers and [REDACTED] would have been the top tier of the bottom flat and another guy was the top of the top flat. [REDACTED] was the most dominant.
95. I am not going to deny I was cheeky to the staff, I know what I was like and I did push the buttons but every boy did. I suppose if you have fifty or so boys and six staff to look after them the staff are going to get pissed off. I can understand why some of them lashed out or went a bit too far with their punishments. It couldn't have been easy spending a day with fifty boys pushing their buttons.

96. Other staff would know about the boys being made to box each other. They might not have been there every time but they would have seen it at some point. They all knew about the pokes and prods we got from GOU. I don't know if it was just his way. I don't know if he meant it maliciously or aggressively but he did do it. It was just part of being there and staff didn't hide how they behaved towards us. I wouldn't say the staff were vindictive or spiteful I just think that sometimes it would get too much for them to deal with. That was just the way it was back then. You didn't get touchy feely, it wasn't all pillows, cuddles and candyfloss. I didn't get the impression the staff were well trained as they all had their own way to treat and punish the boys. There were procedures but they didn't bother to follow them and just did it their own way. I know some of them would take a big drink at night because you could still smell it in the morning.
97. I can only remember sitting down with Ann Woodhead twice in the four years I was there. Those were times I would be in the headmaster's office with my social worker and my mum. I didn't feel I could go to Ann because it was a different culture there. You would get picked on for doing that and you would be bullied. It was a big cultural switch from Craigerne.
98. I knew some boys were there through neglect because you could tell with some of them as there were boys there who were badly self-harming and that doesn't come from a good place.
99. There was probably some sort of chat with me after a couple of months to see how I was settling in but I cannot remember it.
100. I would have been thirteen when I started buzzing solvents or glue at Ballikinrain. I am sure the staff probably saw us. I progressed to temazepam and 'jellies' and I was able to get them off one of the boys who brought them in. Staff were aware of that because I can remember the person being told to stop bringing his drugs in. I don't remember which member of staff warned him.

101. I think it was parents or guardians who could authorise a boy to be allowed to smoke at Ballikinrain. You could smoke from fourteen years and older. We could smoke in an area near the TV room and staff would come and smoke with us. You could take your cigarettes in on a Monday and staff would hold them and give them out. My mum would make sure she would give me twenty or ten on a Monday and would give me a pound note in the back of the packet to get another twenty or another ten when we went out through the week with the staff. It was probably five smoke breaks a day but you could go and have one whenever you wanted provided you had cigarettes. You were not meant to carry your own but we did.

*Visitors/celebrities*

102. I am pretty sure there were people who came in to inspect the place. Periodically people would come and I can remember people who worked in there would introduce them and say 'this is my boss' kind of thing. I think one of them spoke to me at least once although I don't remember anything about it.

*Family Contact*

103. I got home every weekend and would be dropped off in Glasgow where I would meet someone from the family or a friend and I would make my own way home. You would have to meet the staff back again on the Sunday. I can't remember if I got weekend home leave straightaway or not but eventually not long before I left I got to be a day boy where I was going home after school. I think this was because I stayed so close so I would get a taxi there and back with another day boy from Kilsyth called [REDACTED]. I also think this was to try and get me integrated back into home life away from residential school.
104. Eventually my support worker would pick me up on a Friday and we would go away and play a game of golf or something like that. Then he would drop me off back home. His name was Andy Martin and I think he was employed by East Dumbartonshire Council rather than social work. He was quite an important guy in my

life back then and was someone I could look up to. I am not sure if he had any link with the school but perhaps he linked in more with the social work.

### *Running away*

105. I did run away and made my way over the Campsies to Kirkintilloch. I think I had a fall out with somebody or someone was picking on me so I thought 'fuck it I'm away' and left on my own. I think I left in the afternoon. I think they counted heads at lunchtime, dinnertime and bedtime so that gave you a couple of hours you could disappear. I got picked up about quarter of the way back to Kirkintilloch. I was kind of conspicuous as one wee guy walking along a country road himself hiding behind walls if anything was coming. One of the staff picked me up and when I got back I was told not to do it again. I would have been kept under a watchful eye for a couple of days and not allowed to go out and roam. I was asked by staff why I ran away but it was like 'what the fuck did you do that for, don't be stupid do you know how dangerous that could have been for you?'. I am sure they were worried but maybe because if I got lost they might have got into trouble. Staff didn't seem concerned about our welfare. It didn't feel like they were however with hindsight I am sure they were concerned about us. Ann did try but she was busy. I am not saying she wasn't doing her job. I think she had quite a few boys on her caseload although I couldn't say how many.

### *Review of detention/hearings/external inspections*

106. There would have been an annual review with my social worker although I can only remember one of them happening. It was my mum, social worker and head master in the office talking but I wasn't paying attention to be honest. I would be happy that my mum was there though. When my mum came for this she would go to the reception and I would be sent for. She would have gone into the headmaster's office and probably had a chat before I arrived. I think I would have been told to take my mum to show her the classes or something like that.
107. I wasn't aware of the plan for me in Ballikinrain unlike I was in Craigerne. I just knew I had to go to another school. Maybe when I was admitted there might have been a chat



in the headmaster's office but I don't remember it or maybe when my mum was at the meeting. I don't have any memory of being aware of the plan for me but that doesn't mean it wasn't there and I just haven't logged it in my head. I suppose it was difficult for me to sit in meetings and take in what the adults were talking about. I don't think things were geared at my level at these meetings but the social worker would do their best to try and explain what the situation was and they wouldn't go into technical terms because I wouldn't understand them anyway. So it would be like 'you need to go to this school, you need to behave and that's what will get you back to your ma' and stuff like that.

### *Discipline*

108. Discipline depended on who was on duty. The longer you were there you learned not to misbehave in front of certain staff. I remember being told basic guidelines about where you can go and where you can't go but not you will get punished if you do this or that.
109. There were no video cameras or anything when I was that age so nothing was recorded. I don't think they wrote down details of any day to day punishments you got but if it was something serious that merited getting put in your file they would record it.
110. I am not aware of there being any cell or place that we could be put if we did do anything serious but they would put you out in the corridor if they restrained you. That would get you out of the way of everybody else and remove you from the group.

### **Abuse at Ballikinrain School, Kilearn**

111. Not long after I arrived at Ballikinrain and before I had found my feet two of the boys took me into one of the rooms in the bottom flat. They just said to me to go into the room with them. I didn't expect anything and went in willingly. I had no preconceptions anything was going to happen. It was the second room past the TV room and across from the pool table. They got me to sit in between them and masturbate the two of

them. They were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There were quite a few boys around but they were outside the room playing at the pool and table tennis tables in the main hall. I did it because I didn't know any better. I was twelve years old and I hadn't had any sex education or biology or anything like that because I had been taken out of mainstream schooling in primary one. I didn't know it was wrong at the time.

112. I had heard the term 'wanker' but I didn't know what it was about because I didn't have any experience of it. It was one night one of the staff said it was 'wank time' and I caught one of the guys doing it. I asked him something like 'what the fuck are you doing?' and he told me he was having a 'wank'. I just didn't have any clue. The second time it happened I kind of had a feeling I shouldn't have been doing it. It was a couple of days later and it was in a different room. It was my bedroom which was the end room and I was already in there. It had a window looking out onto the side of the building. The two of them got me to masturbate them before they pushed me onto bed and one of them tried to have sex with me but they didn't succeed. When they pushed me on the bed I kind of lifted my legs up to my chest and I was all tensed up. One of them tried to penetrate me anally but it didn't work and I let out a scream. The two of them jumped over to the door. The two of them had their penises out so I couldn't tell which one it was but I had a wet smudge across my arse cheek. These were the only experiences I had involving sexual contact. I don't know if they targeted anyone else.
113. It was a very frightening experience. They threatened me about two days afterwards that if I told anyone they would take me and leave me down the woods. I had already been lost in the woods so I shat myself. It was a real fear they would take me there and no-one would find me. After that I was totally paranoid but they never came near me again.
114. [REDACTED] was from Govan. He had a nose like a big strawberry, black curly hair which was kind of greasy. He was well built with a wee chubby face with a ruddy complexion. [REDACTED] was from Drumchapel and was much more slight than [REDACTED]. He had a slim frame but was quite a bit taller than me and heavier. He had black hair with a pointy nose and thin face. I know that he had relatives in the home with us. I remember [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and there might have been another one as well.

115. I don't know if any of the staff knew about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but it was a kind of open joke that [REDACTED] was having sex with [REDACTED]. It was said in front of staff so everyone knew. Staff must have had an awareness of the relationship between them. I think after they sexually abused me my behaviour changed. I would be much more wary of people so wouldn't trust them or allow them to get close to me. It is hard to say if staff should have picked up on that because I don't know if I would have noticed it with someone else. I guess I was just new there so they didn't know me anyway.
116. I was always kind of small and later in my development than the rest of the boys. One of the care staff called HHZ [REDACTED] used to pick on me quite a lot. He would steal my towel when I was in the shower and things like that and then shout 'stumpy' and things like that at me whilst pointing at me. It was always derogatory names about the late development of my genitals. He would get all the other boys to ridicule me which was really hard to deal with. They thought it was hilarious. It felt to me like it was happening all the time but it probably wasn't. I don't want to say anything that isn't accurate but to me it felt it happened all the time even if it didn't. I was basically getting bullied for not having developed private parts like the other boys did. It was totally humiliating and made me feel ashamed. It also left me feeling isolated and a bit scared as well. It certainly made me feel vulnerable and probably made me vulnerable to the other boys. I wasn't big enough to do anything about it although I probably did give HHZ [REDACTED] a piece of my mind every now and again but it was just words and would just bounce off him. I think once I threw a bucket at him in the shower room because I was really angry and blew up at him.
117. Sometimes you would get a slap over the head or arse or a kick up the arse. I knew that wouldn't be in the official handbook about what they could do to us. It was HHZ [REDACTED] who would mainly do this and he would also twist your arm sometimes. It was mainly HHZ [REDACTED] who would be quite physical and I think he just wanted to humiliate you. He wanted us all to know he was stronger and bigger than all of us. He would do this openly when other people were around so it was accepted behaviour in fact I would say expected behaviour. All the boys experienced this kind of behaviour from him. It was random, you could never tell when it would happen and I think it would depend

on what was going on in their personal lives how he and other staff would behave with us. I think that also influenced how short their temper could be. I noticed **HHZ** temper got really short and someone said he was having problems with his missus. It was something about her not being able to have weans and it was going round the school. He got really pissed off and it was that sort of thing that influenced how staff could behave.

118. **GOU** who was one of the care staff had a bit of a taste for punishment. He used to put a dot on the wall with a pen and tell us to stand two paces away with our head on the wall and watch the pen mark. There were so many pen marks because he had done that so many times. He would come and slap you over the back of the head even if you had kept watching it. He would say something along the lines 'I fucking told you to watch the spot' and he would point to one of them. You couldn't keep an eye on the dot anyway because it was out of focus. My back would be killing me. I know it happened to me but I am pretty sure it happened to others as I could see from the smoking tunnel.
119. Another thing **GOU** would do is get us to stand with our backs against the wall, our heels against the skirting board and sit right down so our legs would burn because it was painful to hold that position for any length of time. It was agony, our legs would be on fire and you would get cramp. It was like he was trying to get us to sit on our haunches. You had to hold that position until he told you to move. Sometimes it would seem we were standing there for between twenty minutes or an hour but it might have only been five minutes. Time is not the same when you are a kid. It seems like an eternity sitting like that
120. **GOU** had told us he was a third Dan in Tae Kwan Do and he used to poke and prod us making us curl up on the floor with the pain. He would squeeze the soft tissue at our necks, near our collar bone, the trapezius muscle, the tendon at the back of your leg, arm pit and ribs. Some of the stuff would give you shocks. I think they were pressure points. It would disable you and you can't stand up to someone squeezing these areas because it is too sore. He would also bend your wrists and thumbs too. I think he would put you in what they call a 'three locks' or something like that. I know they do it in jail

as well when they would be restraining you. He would do this stuff when you were misbehaving or pissing him off. It would be when we were boisterous or taking things too far, kidding on dummy fighting. I suppose just being annoying. I think this behaviour was a bit extreme especially with the size of him as well. If he had kicked us up the arse it would have been more appropriate. He was probably 6' or that is what I think as he seemed big to me at that time. He was about fourteen stones. He was a big guy. Sometimes he did this stuff like he was carrying on but it wasn't pleasant at all to the person who was getting it so we all knew how painful it was for the guy that was on the floor.

121. GOU told us he used to be in the police and he used to tell horror stories and things like that. It was hard to judge his age because he had a full beard but I would say he was maybe in his mid-forties. I think he told us all these things to make us afraid of him but that doesn't work when you have behavioural issues. I felt like picking up a big stick and whacking him over the head with it but I never did. There was no point as I wasn't big enough to do it and I couldn't have lifted a big enough stick anyway. When he was around you had to be careful about misbehaving and not get caught. He used fear to control us.
122. If you had a disagreement with someone some staff would tell you you had to get the boxing gloves on and fight them in the gym. That wasn't any fun because I was very small. I had to do this three or four times in the time I was at Ballikinrain. The first time was after I had been there about six months and I was shitting myself. I was well skelped. You couldn't refuse because you were in a male group. Dominant and macho kind of thing and I would rather take a black eye than a red neck if you know what I mean especially when you are starting from the bottom of the totem pole. It was not easy. Other boys had to do this as well and everyone was invited to watch. They would sometimes do it in the main hall. There would usually only be one member of staff there or maybe two. It was usually HHZ who made the boys fight but all the staff were aware. It's hard to judge what age HHZ was because he was a fitness fanatic. He was really big built and obviously trained in the gym a lot. I would say he would have been in his late thirties when I first got there. He did look young but I think he was older than he looked.

123. IGD [REDACTED] was the outdoor education teacher. He would take us hillwalking, gorge walking, abseiling, rock climbing and stuff like that. If you gave him any cheek he had a big bit of rope which was really thick with a big knot on the end of it and he used to whack you over the head with it. He would also make you jump in a big peat bog when you had all your gear on. He would make you walk about for the rest of the day and call you a dipstick. This all started not long after I went to Ballikinrain and I was still finding my feet and learning my boundaries. I hadn't worked out how much cheek I could give staff and I was probably pushing their buttons too. It was agony to jump into the peat bog because it would be freezing. It didn't happen in winter when it was snowing or anything like that, it would probably be in the autumn. He didn't put anyone's life at risk of anything like that but he would certainly give out a good punishment and show you up. It was horrible having to walk about wet all day. He wouldn't have given any support. They didn't do that sort of stuff in those days, they didn't do soft and cuddly. You were more likely to get a kick up the arse or a clip round the ear and told to get on with it. You could get changed when we got back to the van and we were either out all day or for a half day.
124. I don't want to be unfair and single out the staff I have mentioned. All of the staff had their own way of dealing with punishments and the boys' behaviour. It felt extreme because I was a kid at the time. I think looking back it was seen as acceptable at the time even if now it isn't. I don't think it was malicious but it felt that way when I was young. I don't want to make out like I was persecuted as all the boys were pretty much treated the same.

#### **Reporting of abuse at Ballikinrain School, Kilearn**

125. I never told anyone about the sexual abuse by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I was too embarrassed, ashamed and frightened. I haven't reported anything else and this is the first time I have spoken of it.

### **Leaving Ballikinrain School, Kilearn**

126. I left because I was sixteen and went back to my mums for a while. After about six months I went to live with my aunt as my mum kicked me out because she couldn't take it anymore and I am not surprised. My aunt stayed in Lenzie and I think they thought my two big cousins would be a deterrent for my behaviour but they weren't. I fought with them when I was taking drugs and stuff like that and I wasn't scared of them. I went to Glasgow Sheriff Court at the juvenile court and the Judge asked that I be sent back to the panel to get me taken off the supervision so he could sentence me. They sent me back and the supervision was removed.
127. I thought it was great to be leaving Ballikinrain and felt relieved but I didn't realise I was going to YOs (Young Offenders) which is just a young jail. I went back to the court after the supervision was removed and I got two years probation I think. I had to be of good behaviour and report in if any of my circumstances change. I was involved with the criminal justice team quite a lot.
128. I was still sixteen when I got my first remand and was sent to Longriggend. I had been in the pub with my pal and he was smashing the mirrors so I backed him up when he was fighting with people. I think I got community service again and I didn't do that and then I got more probation. I was quite lucky as each time I went to court I wasn't getting much of a punishment and they were not joining things together. That didn't last forever and they started sending me to jail. After that I kept getting bigger sentences.

### **Longriggend and Polmont Young Offenders Institutions**

129. There is nothing much to say about the YOs and there is nothing positive from there. I went to the gym a lot.
130. From the age of 16-21 I was in Longriggend several times and Polmont. These were the only young offender jails at that time and they took boys from 16-21 years old.

131. I can't remember much from the YO's. It was much the same as Ballikinrain but the next stage, like a natural progression. For me it was like going from a good home to a bad home to a worse home if you see what I mean? In some ways Ballikinrain didn't prepare you for the YO's as they were much worse. They were starker. It is hard to explain but in Ballikinrain it was staff working there but in the YO's it was 'screws' so it was nothing like a care establishment. That was the big difference I saw. You were there as a punishment and the 'screws' were the people making sure you toed the line. It was more regimental, disciplined and stark and it was a case of 'this is how it is done and you will fucking do it' kind of thing. There wasn't any kind of backchat and if there was you would get a doing.
132. There wasn't much went on in the YO's. You were locked in your cell and if you were lucky you got out to do some weights for an hour. That was it. The YO's were all right and just like any other jail.

#### **Life after being in care**

133. I did work in the local community centre making meals for the pensioners at lunchtime who would go to the bowling club. I also had a job working in the kitchen of a nursing home as well.
134. I ended up in Lowmoss, Barlinnie, and Saughton after I reached 21 and that went on until I was about 32. It was mainly petty theft and dishonesty. It was things to fund my drug habit. I had started taking most drugs which I think I started to help me cope with my emotions and stuff like that. Stuff I didn't want to deal with in real life which included the stuff that happened in Ballikinrain.
135. I don't drink alcohol anymore but my first experience was as a really young kid aged six or seven. I stole some of my uncle's cider. I continued to drink when I was able and if it was available. I became violent, argumentative, destructive and aggressive with alcohol as a teenager. I didn't drink so much in the care homes because it wasn't



readily available but when I was older there was usually one of my friend's parents would have a drinks cabinet. My mum didn't drink so there was never alcohol in my house. My mum tried alcohol once and she said she didn't like the feeling it gave her so she never touched it again. I think alcohol lowers your inhibitions and lets you speak your mind without any conscious repercussions. You have no afterthought of the consequences of what you do or what will come later, you don't care. It helped in the same way the drugs did. It put you in a different state of mind so you don't need to deal with what you should be dealing with. Its masks whatever you are feeling. I also gave up the alcohol just before my son was born.

136. Once I started taking the drugs I didn't work again which was for over twenty years. I met my partner close to twenty years ago. We have always known each other's families. It was one of my neighbours who said to me that they knew someone who liked me. I was 23 at the time and she was eighteen. I told my neighbour to tell her to come and see me which she did. We went out on a date and that was it we have been together ever since and we have a ten year old son now. My partner's name is [REDACTED] and my son is [REDACTED]

137. We had discussed having a family and I had had kids before with someone and it didn't work out because I was still taking drugs and going back and forward in and out of jail. I have two daughters who I don't have any contact with. I had contact with my oldest daughter for the first five years of her life. It was a major argument to have kids with [REDACTED] and obviously I did realise that I had to change. [REDACTED] said that we wouldn't be starting any family unless I stopped taking drink and drugs, going to jail and hanging about with certain people. I realised it was my life that had to change rather than changing my son's head.or [REDACTED] mind. I think it saved my life and without doing that I probably wouldn't be alive today. I'd like to think I have done good by my boy.

138. Since we had [REDACTED] I stopped taking the drugs and I have not been back to jail since my release ten years ago.

## Impact

139. I was always very small and late in my development and because of my own son I have read a bit into this. I question if this was caused by childhood trauma from getting taken into care especially the way it happened which was traumatic for me. I don't have the qualifications to actually to say if this is why I was small and late in developing but it makes sense to me that it was or it at least contributed.
140. I didn't take drugs until I moved to Ballikinrain but I may have ended up taking them anyway even had I not gone there. Knowing my personality and psychological make-up I reckon I would have still been drawn to it. If I had been in the community I would have found some way to do something I was told not to. I do think, however, that what happened to me in Ballikinrain did influence my drug addiction. Heroin will help you forget about things and it was a bit of a coping mechanism to assist me forget. When I wasn't taking drugs I had horrible anxiety and I couldn't trust or get close to anybody until I met [REDACTED]
141. I think my time in care has had a big impact on relationships I have and how I deal with and treat people. I just don't let anyone get close to me. It is only really [REDACTED] I have in my life. I don't have any close friendships and I think that is because I just don't trust people. That probably stems back to the abuse by the boys and staff at Ballikinrain.
142. It has had a big impact on how I bring up my son as well. It is probably positive from what I can tell my son and let him learn from my experiences but it wasn't very positive for me personally. It was very negative but I can try and turn that around and make it positive to make sure my son gets the benefit out of it. I know that a lot of people who were abused can turn into abusers and I was never going to let that happen. I knew what it felt like.
143. I have never told anyone about what life was like in the homes but over the years a few pals have asked me what it was like just in the same way they ask what it was like

in jail. I tell them it was tough and it wasn't easy. I have not gone into specifics or gone into any personal information.

144. I didn't really have a good relationship with my mum until she was diagnosed with dementia and that was when I started making the effort and going the extra yard to care for her. The impact of me having to go away to residential school and leave my mum was terrible and it must have been horrendous for her. I resented her because for a while I thought she had given me up. At some point I have come to realise that it wasn't her decision. I try to make amends for the shit I gave her. It's a bit late but I have tried. I still feel a lot of guilt around that.
145. I guess there was probably a lack of relationship with my sisters. They probably resented me coming in and out of the house being so disruptive, hyperactive and argumentative. I was a bad influence and I brought chaos.
146. I think had I not been in care I would have had a much better education. I would have had a normal education or at least had an education. I would say I got no education in Ballikinrain. There was effort put in as there were classes put on but there wasn't any great incentive for someone who had the lack of attention and behavioural problems I did. There was nothing like the incentive I had at Craigerne at Ballikinrain. If there had been it would be difficult to say if it would have made a difference though because it was a totally different environment.
147. Had I not been in care I reckon I would have still had my issues and behaviour. I would have been a bit socially awkward, an extrovert who would be loud and obnoxious so perhaps I was always going to end up in YOs. It was not like these days when people would recognise that behaviour as a disability and if they had it is hard to say if that would have prevented me going into the criminal justice system. It is fair to say though I have met most of the boys who were in Ballikinrain with me in the jail.
148. I have read about ADHD and it pretty much describes me but so do a few other conditions like bi-polar, and people who are manic or paranoid.

149. I have had flashbacks but not very often maybe a couple of times. I didn't get them when I was taking drugs but they started when I stopped and after [REDACTED] was born. It felt really uncomfortable and I felt paranoid as if everybody knew and was looking at me. I was thinking they could see what was going on in my head. I think once I was in Glasgow a couple of years ago and I just got pure paranoid like a panic attack, sweating, heavy breathing and palpitations.
150. I have lived with the fear that someone would find out what [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] did to me. I live in fear of what that would do to me when people see me as a victim. That is not a good thing to be in the life I have led.
151. I think I have suffered because I never had what I would call a 'father figure'. In Ballikinrain there were no role models and no-one to try and bridge that gap.
152. On reflection I do not believe that being sent into the care system was the best way to treat my behaviour. I think there would have been a better way to do it. A bit more support for my mum keeping me in the community or maybe more time for me and my mum to be apart but in the community rather than taking me away into residential care. I know how hard she tried to look after me but she was just there herself so I guess it would have been difficult for her. I think nowadays children wouldn't be sent away if they were going through what I was. They might get support workers and get medication to help adjust mood and behaviour.

### **Treatment/support**

153. I have not had any kind of psychological support since the appointments my mum took me to. I have never thought of discussing things with my doctor or a psychiatrist as I just want to bury it. I didn't want anyone to know and I still don't.
154. I am in touch with Future Pathways but I don't really think they are helping me but I do think they will be helpful to other people. I can see how other people would use it but I don't have any call for going to the Open University or that.

155. I checked out Craigerne on Google Maps as I was thinking of taking my son there but it is not there anymore. I could go anytime if I wanted to see Ballikinrain but I don't want to.
156. It wasn't until after I contacted the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry a pal told me about the redress scheme. I have applied for it.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

157. I have never reported any of the abuse.
158. I think it must be the same guys [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that I heard about when I was in jail probably twelve years ago. I was in Barlinnie but they were in a different part from me, they were in protection and segregated. The only reason I knew it was them was that people were shouting abuse at them calling them 'beasts'. I don't know what they were convicted of but it was obviously something sexual. I was extremely uncomfortable being in the same jail as them in case they said anything. That would have been the end of my life. I would have hung myself probably. It preyed on my mind all the time that they would say something then I am going to be this victim. That wouldn't be a good thing for me with how the other inmates would view me. That is just prison culture. I am pretty sure I am never going back to jail now so I feel more able to talk about it.
159. I have never heard anything of any of the care staff at Ballikinrain and I couldn't tell you if any of them are dead or alive.

### **Records**

160. I have never tried to get my records from either of the places I was in however I do need to get them for redress. I phoned up Barnardo's head office just a couple of

months before the pandemic just to see if they still had my records. They said they would probably be kept in Edinburgh. I am now trying to get them through my local council because I don't know if Ballikinrain was Barnardo's or not. I think it was a local authority place so I am doing it through them. That was something Future Pathways told me about as they said I had to get a subject access form so I got one of them.

161. I have now managed to obtain some of my records from Ballikinrain onwards. I have read some of them which I found a bit emotional and difficult. They pretty much do reflect my memories and have made my memories a bit clearer. It is good to have that validation that I remembered things accurately. I need to be fair as well as they are objective and my memories are from my point of view.

### **Lessons to be Learned**

162. I think there needs to be closer supervision of children in care and by that I mean being able to form an actual relationship with the child rather than just an official face. As far as I was concerned it was just another social worker or another 'arsehole' telling me what to do, what I can't do and stopping me from doing things I wanted to do.
163. I think social workers, key workers and support workers need much smaller caseloads. They need much less people to work with but I don't mean a one-to-one. I mean that they can form a much better understanding of the kid's background and what their needs are if they are dealing with more manageable numbers. They would be able to establish what they might be lacking at home and what they might need support with to go forward. It is like getting to know the person and not just doing all the paperwork. I say this because when I think of Ann Woodhead I don't think she was bad at her job when I hardly saw her I just think she was too busy.
164. I think if you look at the practices at Craigerne they were really good. They had smaller groups and got to know you.

165. I think there has to be more oversight as well, meaning more involvement from people above the hands on staff. There needs to be more accountability.
166. They need to get the right people. You can read all you want about addiction but unless you have been an addict yourself you have no idea what they are feeling. You need to have people with life experience because without that you can sympathise but not empathise.
167. I would guess that the staff need more support. I think they need to take care they don't over stress the staff because they are still human as well. I appreciate that now but I didn't in the past. I think in my day they were very short staffed and overworked. They could have been doing with more care staff. I think they also need to have someone they can talk to if they are having a particularly stressful week.
168. I couldn't tell you what happens these days but back in my days they could have done with more training. I couldn't fault Craigerne one bit but the staff at Ballikinrain didn't seem to have the same level of training.
169. I think the staff should have a good salary because basically they are surrogate parents for so many other kids that no-one else might be taking an interest in. People who will have a genuine understanding of what they need to do to help kids and who will hopefully set good examples. If they get it right maybe these kids will have a future and they could potentially be the next generation of care workers.
170. It is hard to say all that needs to change as that was so long ago when I was a kid and it has probably all changed from then. I think things are different now because people are much more open to things like homosexuality or being gay. I think there is a more softer and accepting approach to life now. It is not all polished boots and wooden bats now. There is a lot more understanding of the psychological or emotional issues people might have.
171. My nephew is in the care system and I think you have got to remember the human factor on both sides for the child and for the staff. There has got to be a basic bit of

humanity. If you are going to do that work then fair play to you but you need to be prepared for kids who behave similarly to I did.

**Other information**

- 172. For me I want to get on with my life and get that thing that is in my head gone. I feel like I want it dealt with and I don't need to keep repeating it. I want to cover it and squash it. I definitely feel that I have achieved that today. Just saying it to the Inquiry is like taking the lead shoes off.
  
- 173. I have tried to be fair using my life experience and particularly my experience as a father when making this statement. I am sure that had I made this statement when I was sixteen it would be much different however I have had time to reflect and have the benefit of hindsight. I know that my behaviour was challenging to say the least and it must have been difficult for the staff to deal with me and another 49 boys who also had behavioural needs. I can see now how their job was and how important it is to have the right training and temperament.
  
- 174. It is also important for me to say how much I appreciate all the things my mum did for me. I know now how hard she tried.
  
- 175. 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. IGC .....

Dated. 22-9-2022 .....