

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GCV

Support person present: Sandra Toyer, INCSS

1. My name is GCV. My date of birth is 1956. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. A lot of the places I am going to talk about in this statement have bad reputations. I stayed in most the places for short spells. It is difficult for me to say exactly how long I was in each place, when I arrived there or when I left. My memory isn't great on that sort of thing. I am very forgetful. I remember all the places I was in but I don't always remember some of the detail.

Life before going into care

3. My mother was called. My father was called. I have an older brother called and an older sister called. I have a younger sister called. I was brought up in Maryhill in Glasgow. We all lived at. We lived in a wee single end. It was a ground floor tenement flat. The six of us slept in the one double bed. There wasn't enough room to swing a cat.
4. Life in the house was horrendous. I had a mother and father who were never there. My father worked in a bookmakers marking the boards. If he wasn't there he was in the pub. He drank and gambled. I remember the electricity and gas at home being cut off. Because there was no gas my father had to do all the cooking over a coal fire. The chip pan and teapot were thick with soot. I was made to break into coal

bunkers to steal coal for the fire. I remember trying to break padlocks to get the coal out of people's bunkers. My mother used to buy candles to light the place. It got to the stage where she couldn't afford to buy the candles any more. My father had gambled all our money away. There was no light in the house. I was sent up to St Charles Chapel to steal candles. I had to go out and steal clothes off of washing ropes because I didn't have any clothes. We had nothing. I was only a wee boy when I was doing these types of things.


5. I went to a school in Maryhill called Shakespeare Primary. When I got home from school there would be no one in the house. I was left to roam the streets. I can't recall where my brothers and sisters went but I remember being out all hours. I was like a starving fox roaming the streets looking for something to eat. I recall going into pubs and shouting for my father. I remember opening pub doors, leaning in and shouting "I'm starving. Come on dad, come on out. I'm starving." That was a regular thing.
6. I remember a time when me and another wee boy ran back to my school and broke a window to get into the dining hall. We took the glass out of the window and crawled through it. We did that because we were looking for something to eat. We were starving.
7. My mother was always away with her fancy men. She was never at home. She wouldn't be around for weeks or months on end. She would suddenly come back with a drink in her and think everything was alright. She would bring back her fancy men. We witnessed violence between my mother and father when my father came back. We heard the shouting and the screaming.
8. I remember being stripped naked by my mother when I was seven or eight. That was in about 1963. She picked me up, stood me on a chair and beat me with an old fashioned carpet beater. I was beaten from the ankles to the neck. I was squealing blue murder. All the neighbours came running out when they heard me. They tried to help me. The police and social workers became involved. That was when I was

taken away from the family home. I can't recall whether that was the first time social workers became involved.

9. The next thing that I remember is leaving the entrance of Glasgow city council and being put in a big black car. The man driving the car was in a big green suit and wore a hat.

Haggbows Childrens' Home, Hamilton Avenue, Pollockshields, Glasgow

10. Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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14. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Haggbows

32. I can't remember how my time at Haggbows came to an end each time I was there. I don't know whether I went home. I could have done though.

Time back at home with parents, [REDACTED], Glasgow

33. There was a guy called [REDACTED]. He lived three closes down on the same street as my parents. He lived at [REDACTED]. He was a big guy. I think I came into contact with him either before or after going to Haggbows children's home. He would take me into his mother's house. He'd take me into his bedroom. I remember there was a trapdoor. He would take me down makeshift ladders 'under

the dunny'. 'Under the dunny' was kind of like a basement under the tenement. There was a mattress with a blanket. He made me do dirty things to him. He also used to take my hand and take me along [REDACTED]. He took me to the river Kelvin and got me to do dirty things to him. He got me to do gobbles. I was just a wee boy.

Larchgrove Remand Home, 1212 Edinburgh Road, Glasgow

34. The next place I remember being is Larchgrove. I was nine or ten years old. It was an assessment centre. I was sent there to be assessed for my next approved school. I was maybe there between five and eight weeks. There was a fair number of people in Larchgrove. I think there were maybe over a hundred people there. It was a busy place. There wasn't anything that was good in Larchgrove.

Staff

35. I'm not sure whether they rotated the staff. I think it was the same staff every day until a certain time at night. Mr GWD [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED]. He was a wee baldy guy. Mr MKI [REDACTED] was my classroom teacher on the education side of things. He wasn't in charge of Larchgrove. He was one of the residential staff. He had red receding hair. He wore thick bifocal glasses. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Routine at Larchgrove

Sleeping arrangements

36. There were quite a few dorms. There were seven or eight people in each dorm.

Washing / bathing

37. You had showers before you went to your bed at night. That happened around about eight o'clock. I can't recall whether we were all lined up for showers.

Mealtimes / food

38. There was a dinner hall. It was all sectioned off into dining bays. Each bay held about twelve people. The cook house was next to the bays. The food was brought out to each bay.

Abuse at Larchgrove

39. Mr ^{MKI} was a perverted man. He stuck out like a sore thumb when compared to the other staff. I was molested whilst I was in Larchgrove by ^{MKI}. I was his pet in the classroom. His hands were never off me. He would touch me in class and in the corridors. He was always into me with his hands when I was in the shower room. ^{MKI} was well known for doing that in the showers by all the other residents. He'd touch you up. He'd touch your bum and all that. His paws were all over you. He'd also say dirty things to you.
40. Mr ^{MKI} held a soft toys class at night I think between six o'clock and seven o'clock. It was held upstairs. We made the toys. ^{MKI} always picked me to go to that. There'd be maybe eight or ten of you that were picked. He would talk dirty. I can't remember whether he touched me during those classes.
41. Mr ^{GWD} leathered me with a belt. He took me into an office and hit me with the belt over my backside. I don't know what that was for. I had probably done something. I think it was because I had been caught smoking. You weren't allowed to smoke until you were a certain age. We would all go out in the playground at the same time. The guys who could smoke would stand in the corner. I must have been caught then.

42. Mr ^{GWD} got me out of bed in the middle of the night. I don't know why he was picking on me. He took me to his office. He molested me in there.
43. I remember that someone was murdered whilst I was in Larchgrove. It happened up in the kitchen. It was one of the residents who got murdered. One resident put a big knife through another one. I never saw it. I wasn't far away from it though. I was in the dining bay right next to the kitchen when it happened. The guy who did the murder was from the Gorbals. I can't remember his name but he had a funny name. It was like a big long Polish name. I can't remember why he did it.

Leaving Larchgrove

44. I went straight from Larchgrove to Balrossie. That's all I remember.

Balrossie School, Kilmacolm, Inverclyde

45. I was between nine and eleven years old when I went to Balrossie. I don't know the exact time I went there. It could have been as late as 1968 or 1969 that I went there. I don't know whether it might have been Renfrewshire Council who ran the place. It was an approved school built like a big castle.

Staff

46. Mr ^{GKF} was ^{SNR}. Mr ^{GSY} was ^{SNR}. He was also a teacher in the classrooms. I was one of his pupils. Mr ^{GJF} was a teacher. He was the physical education instructor.
47. There were night watchmen in the building. The night watchmen were never there at night. They probably were in their beds or in another room in the building. They weren't interested in what was going on.

Routine at Balrossie

First day

48. On my first day I was taken around and shown the full building. I was then issued with a kit which consisted of my pyjamas and other pieces of clothing. I was then taken to a dorm downstairs. I took my clothing off. I was then shown the shower room by a member of staff. Something not nice happened in the shower room. That happened on my first day.

Sleeping arrangements

49. I was put into a dorm downstairs. That dorm was where they put boys who had just arrived. You were put in there before moving up to the other dorms up the stairs. I think you were in that dorm for between a couple of days and a week before you were moved upstairs. It had between twenty and twenty four beds in it. There were beds up the sides with lockers in-between. I was moved upstairs to one of the other dorms later on.

Washing / bathing

50. The shower room was just one wall with showerheads along one side. There were maybe about twelve showerheads in there. It was maybe more. There were no shower cubicles. It was all open. I think there were sinks in the middle.

Running away

51. The abuse I suffered made me run away. I ran away a lot. I was running away through fear of the bullies. I didn't know where I was going when I ran away. I'd run over fields and across rivers. I remember climbing hills, crossing railway lines and walking into Bridge of Weir. I remember trying to get on trains to get away from the home. I was just trying to hide. Sometimes I would be away for a couple of days. Sometimes it was for a week. Other times I was away for a couple of hours.

52. Sometimes I got back to the family house in [REDACTED]. If my mother was there, which was very seldom, she would hide me. If no one was in I would hide 'under the dunny'. It felt like a hut. There was a mattress on the floor and candles on the wall. I would break in and hide there.
53. If my father was there he wouldn't take me in. He'd never been in trouble with the police and didn't want to get in trouble for harbouring me. He did eventually get caught one time when I was there. He got prosecuted at Glasgow Sheriff Court. It was called Lanarkshire House back then.
54. I can't remember whether someone would come to collect me or the police took me back after I got caught. As soon as I got back to Balrossie the abuse would continue.

Abuse in Balrossie

55. When I went into the shower room on my first day there was no member of staff in there. No one stayed in the shower room to supervise. There was a guy in there who was another resident. I would later learn that his name was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] came from Paisley. His family came from there. That was his territory. He was dark haired and hairy. He had black hair and a hairy chest. He was under the shower. He came over to me swinging his private parts about. He said things to me. He told me to do this and that with his private parts. [REDACTED] then imposed himself on me. There was nobody there to stop [REDACTED] doing what he did to me.
56. I later on got moved upstairs into a dorm. [REDACTED] was in a different dorm. I had to meet [REDACTED] at night in the toilet. I had to give him wanks and gobbles. He would make me turn up at a certain time of night and make me do that. [REDACTED] had a hold over me. Part of his hold on me was that he said that he would tell the bullies what I was doing to him if I didn't carry on doing it. I was terrified of him.

57. The residents were jumping in and out of each other's beds and dorms. I saw what was going on. Older kids were taking younger kids. They were bullies. I got bullied in Balrossie. The bullies were horrendous. I know their names but I don't want to mention them. The older boys bullied the younger boys. A group of them would hit me. I wasn't liked for some reason. The abuse continued right through my time at Balrossie.
58. The first two or three times that I ran away and got brought back I got the belt on both hands. Mr **GKF** did that. I remember him asking me why I was running away. He wanted to know why I was doing that. I didn't tell him what **██████████** and the rest of the bullies were doing to me. I was scared what might happen to me if I did.
59. The next time I ran away I was again caught and taken back to Mr **GKF** office. Mr **GSY** was there. Mr **GSY** told me to take all of my clothes off. I was naked. I was made to bend over a stool. Mr **GSY** put my head between his thighs underneath his privates. He pressed down on me whilst Mr **GKF** gave me the belt on the back, buttocks and thighs. I was squealing blue murder.
60. When they were finished with me they man handled me across to a wee room opposite Mr **GKF** office. The room was away from everybody. They opened the door and slung me in. They then threw a pair of pyjamas into the room. In that room was a metal hospital style bed, a locker and a white ceramic thing to go to the toilet in. I'm quite sure there was a wee slat on the door with a glass window. The door was locked. I was kept in the room until my injuries cleared up. I would have been in there for days.
61. Later on still I was caught again after running away. I was taken again into Mr **GKF** office. Mr **GKF**, Mr **GSY** and Mr **GJF** were all in there. They went through the same procedure. I was stripped naked and bent over a stool. I was held down over the stool by Mr **GSY** and Mr **GJF**. I was given the belt again on my back, buttocks and legs. I was then slung into the same wee room again. I couldn't do anything about it. I reckon I was in that room for maybe a fortnight.

Reporting of abuse whilst in Balrossie

62. After the first time I was locked in the room opposite ^{SNR} office I just ran away again. The marks were still visible from the beating when I ran away. I got to and my mother was there. She'd the cheek to take me back to Balrossie. My older sister, , came with us. When we got off the train in Kilmacolm we went straight to the police station. My mother took me in alongside my sister.
63. My mother got me to turn around for the police officer to show him my injuries. She pulled my trousers down and lifted my shirt right up to my neck. She showed them the marks. The police didn't want to know. They did nothing. I remember my mother shouting that she was going to take things further to higher authorities when nothing was done. I was only a wee boy but I remember my mother saying that to the police.
64. My mother then took me up to Balrossie in a taxi. My mother, my sister and I were taken into Mr ^{GKF} office. There were three chairs laid out. Mr ^{GKF} sat on the other side of his desk. My mother lifted me up and told me to turn around. She lifted my shirt and showed him the marks. She tried to get Mr ^{GKF} to say how I had got them. Mr ^{GKF} apologised. All I heard from my mother was that she was "going to take matters further". I was then left in Balrossie. My mother and sister had to leave. I don't know what went on then. I don't know whether she actually did take matters further. I don't know whether she reported it elsewhere. I don't know whether she took things to "higher authorities".
65. Nothing changed in Balrossie after my mother and sister left. I just continued to run away because of what was happening to me. Mr ^{GKF} went off his head trying to work out why I was running away. He wanted answers but I never said anything. I was too frightened to tell him what was happening with and the bullies.

66. Mr ^{GKF} eventually called in a psychiatrist to find out why I was running away. The psychiatrist's name was Dr Vallance. He took me to his office high up in the building at Balrossie. I was mentally examined but I didn't tell the psychiatrist anything. I didn't tell him about the staff, [REDACTED] or the bullies. I don't know what his thoughts were on what was happening. I don't know whether there was a report written up by the psychiatrist. I don't think there is a record of the consultation happening.
67. After I saw the psychiatrist, [REDACTED] was moved away to a place called Thornley Park. I only discovered that he was moved there later on. I don't know why he was moved. I was still bullied by the bullies after he left.

Thornley Park Approved School, Paisley, Renfrewshire

68. After Balrossie I was moved straight to Thornley Park. Thornley Park was just up the road in Paisley. I wasn't there all that long. I think I was there maybe for a couple of months. There is nothing that I can remember that was good there. I think I was eleven or twelve when I was there. I'm not sure when exactly I went there.

Visits

69. I can't remember anyone coming to see me whilst I was there. I don't remember Dr Vallance coming to see me. I think the last time I saw him was in Balrossie. It could be that people did come to visit me but I just can't remember.

Running away

70. After arriving at Thornley Park I just started running away again. I was running away because of the abuse I was suffering. The fear was there again. I remember smashing a window so that I could escape. I crawled over broken glass to get away. I ran towards Glasgow to my mum and dads'. I don't remember always getting in there when I arrived. I was quite often hiding 'under the dunny' and sleeping on the

mattress. None of the staff really caused me any issues when I came back. I got the belt on the hands but there was nothing like what happened at Balrossie.

Abuse at Thornley Park

71. I didn't know [REDACTED] had been moved to Thornley Park before I was moved there. When I arrived I discovered that I was to be put in beside [REDACTED]. As soon as I clapped eyes on [REDACTED] I knew that that would be me running away again. I dreaded my time at Thornley Park because of [REDACTED]. The same things started up again with [REDACTED]. He started his 'carry on'. It started as soon as I arrived. It was just him doing these things to me at Thornley Park.

Reporting of abuse whilst at Thornley Park

72. I can't remember speaking to any of the staff about what was happening. I don't remember reporting anything. I don't think I gave myself enough of a chance of settling in at Thornley Park. I think that was because of [REDACTED].

Balgowan School, Dundee, Angus

73. Balgowan was in Dundee. I think I went there straight after Thornley Park. I don't remember going home or going anywhere else in between. The only reason I can think of why I was sent all the way to Dundee is maybe because I had started running away again. I was only there for a short time. I think it was only for a couple of months. I think I was between twelve and fourteen when I was there but I am not sure. It looked like one of the big long private schools you see in Edinburgh. It was a building like that. It had a football park at the front of it.

Staff

74. Mr LUP [REDACTED] was the physical education instructor. He walked with a limp. He was bald. He had a big long nose with a point. It made him look like a witch.
75. There was a night watchman but he was never ever about. He was supposed to be covering the whole building but he was never there. He didn't do his job properly.

Routine at Balgowan*Sleeping arrangements*

76. There were lots of dormitories. We all slept in dorms. The dorm I was in had maybe about twenty four boys in it

Visits

77. I can't remember any visits from anyone whilst I was there. I can't remember any social workers being involved. I don't remember any children's hearings or things like that.

Running away

78. I ran away regularly from Balgowan. I ran away because of things that were getting done to me in the dorm. I was trying to get away from that. I wouldn't tell anybody why I was running away. If I had said anything to anyone I would have just said that I was getting bullied. I wouldn't have said anything about what was really happening.

Abuse at Balgowan

79. Mr LUP [REDACTED] molested me. He was like MKI [REDACTED] was at Larchgrove. He was much the same in the way he acted as MKI [REDACTED]. He got near to me through me going to the gymnasium. He did what he did in the gym. There were outside toilets next to the gym. You could use those toilets if you were out in the playground playing games or whatever. He would touch me up, feel my bum and all that carry on in there. He'd say things to me. I think he was known for all of that in Balgowan.
80. There was no one there to look after you. When I was in the dorm I saw residents jumping in and out of each other's beds. They were doing it to each other. There was always a level of bullying. There were hardcore bullies in there. It was the bullies who picked on guys like me. The bullies picked on me to do dirty things to them.
81. One night I was told by one of the boys that I had to start in bed one giving the guy a wank and a gobble then I had to work my way round the dorm. I remember bolting out of a fire door at one o'clock in the morning because of that. I went out the fire exit and down the stairs with another boy from my dorm. We wandered into the middle of nowhere in the centre of Dundee.
82. I got caught by the police. They took me back to the home. I don't think I said anything to them about why I was running away. That again was out of fear. I got leathered by the staff when I got back. I got given the belt on my hand. It was the guy who was second in charge who did that. I can't recall his name.

HMP Barlinnie, 81 Lee Ave, Glasgow (the first time)

83. I was the youngest boy in Scotland to have ever been sent to Barlinnie prison. I think I was told that by prison staff. I think I was younger than thirteen when I was first went there. I could have only been twelve years old but I may have been as old as fourteen. I was placed in D Hall. I was in amongst the main population of adult

prisoners. I was still a young boy. I was kept on the top landing. They kept people in that area who would go on to places like Longriggend. They had me there for a wee while. I think I went there before the first time I was in Longriggend.

84. I remember an inmate called Johnny Ramensky when I was first in Barlinnie. I was in Barlinnie the same time as him. He was a safe cracker. During the war he was dropped behind enemy lines to crack safes for the allies. He was the first prisoner to escape Barlinnie. I remember speaking to that man in there. I mention Johnny Ramensky because it may provide an idea as to when I was first in Barlinnie.

Longriggend Young Offenders, Canmore, North Lanarkshire

85. In between all these approved schools I was always in Longriggend. I was there when I was a young boy. I was in and out of there. I was the youngest to have ever gone there. It was the sixties that I was in there. I don't think I should have been in there at that age. I was only a wee boy. I was underage. I was maybe only twelve the first time I went there. I am not sure. I was only in there for one or two weeks. I went back to Longriggend a few times after that. It was always for assessment and reports.

Routine in Longriggend Young Offenders

Daily routine

86. I would get woken up at six o'clock in the morning, taken into the gymnasium for about an hour then taken back to my cell. I then got washed and whatever. I then had my breakfast at about 8:00 am. I was taken back to my cell just before 9:00 am. I was then made to clean my cell. I had to polish the floor of my cell until it was like glass. I had to dust above the doors and the window ledges. I remember that I walked around with cloths on my feet so as I wouldn't make marks. You had to make your bed like a bed block. You laid out all of your kit on top of your bed.

Visits

87. I remember my mother coming to visit me in Longriggend. She would hand me big parcels with cigarettes, fruit and things like that in them. I was only a wee boy. I remember looking around the visiting room. All the inmates were like big men to me. I was in there with guys who had big beards.

Work

88. They wouldn't allow the prisoners in Longriggend to work because they were juveniles up to the age of twenty one.

Abuse in Longriggend Young Offenders

89. Longriggend was a bad place. During the day you weren't allowed to use your bed. You couldn't go on your bed and lie down. You had a wooden chair in the room. You had to sit on that chair reading a book from nine o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night. I couldn't read then. I didn't even know what I was reading.
90. I remember lying under my bed one time because I was so tired. I got caught. I got dragged out by the staff and given a horrible doing. I was assaulted quite a lot in Longriggend. It was all to do with things concerning your cell or being cheeky to the prison officers. I saw guys getting dragged along corridors. There was nothing you could do because you were locked behind your door. You would hear the guys squealing.
91. As time went on I continued to return to Longriggend. I returned there a few times before I became an adult. It became a better place. I remember being in the cook house and it was great.

Oakbank School, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire (the first time)

92. I was sent to Oakbank in Aberdeen. I think they sent me to Aberdeen because I was running away. There was a headmaster but I forget his name. We slept in smaller rooms. They were bedrooms with maybe only five or six boys in them.

Abuse in Oakbank School

93. The bullying in Oakbank was horrendous but that was all that was happening. There were no problems with staff or sexual abuse.

Running away and leaving Oakbank School

94. I agreed to run away with a boy who was in the bed next to me. At about 2:00 am we went out of the window and down a pole. We found that the office in Oakbank had its window open. I said to the other boy that if he pushed me up I could reach in and open the window fully. He pushed me up so as I could climb in. I thought that I knew where the keys to the safe were in the office. There was a glass cabinet on the wall which held the keys. I knew the number to that. I opened it, took a key and found that the key opened the safe. Inside the safe was a wee green cash box. I took that and went back out of the window.
95. Me and this wee boy got a good bit away from Oakbank. We found a wee lane and smashed the wee green box with bricks to try and open it. We managed to do that and got to the money inside. I remember our pockets being full of money. We then went to the bus station in Aberdeen. We then got on a bus. I remember getting off at Falkirk and seeing that there were two policemen standing waiting for us. The policemen took us straight to the police station. We handed back all the money. We hadn't had a chance to do anything with it.

96. I'm not 100% sure whether the headmaster came to pick us up or we were taken up to Aberdeen by the police. We went back to Oakbank though. The headmaster had a word with me in his room. He didn't punish me or anything like that. He gave me a choice. He said I could either be sent to the closed block in Rossie Farm or I could be kept at Oakbank. I chose to go to Rossie Farm. I took the option of being sent to the more secure place. I was then taken to Rossie Farm.

Rossie Farm School, Montrose, Angus

97. I'd say I went to Rossie Farm when I was fourteen or fifteen. Rossie Farm had a closed block. That was called the McDonald wing. The wing held twenty four to twenty five of the unruliest kids in Scotland. There were bars on the windows. It was surrounded by big tall fences. There were combination locks on the doors. It was a wing that was impossible to run away from. You were never allowed out. You were closed in. The shortest period of time you could do in the McDonald wing was nine months. That's how long I was there. I was a good boy so they let me out after that time period.

Staff

98. Mr ^{GWC} was a member of staff. He wasn't in charge. He was a big man.

Sleeping arrangements

99. When you were first admitted to Rossie Farm you got put into a single cell. You were in there for maybe about two or three months. There were about five single cells. After that you were moved into the dorms. There were five boys in each dorm.

Visits

100. I can't remember seeing anybody or having any visits. I don't remember going to any children's hearings.

Discipline and punishment

101. There were two cells which had no windows. They were dark. They were different from the other cells. Boys would be put into them as punishment if they did something wrong. The cells were for bad boys.

Abuse in Rossie Farm School

102. When I got to the McDonald wing I discovered that [REDACTED] was there. He'd arrived there before me. He saw me in the gymnasium. He told me that he was going to get me into his dorm after I left my single cell. He managed to do that. He must have spoken with the staff to get me into the same dorm as him.
103. At about two or three o'clock in the morning I was woken up. I felt my pyjama bottoms being tugged down. I discovered that it was [REDACTED] who was doing that. He was pulling down my pyjama bottoms to do dirty things to me. He was trying to interfere with me whilst I was sleeping. He was doing that whilst the other boys in the dorm were sleeping. He took me to the window. We were standing by the radiator. [REDACTED] got me to play with him. He made me do dirty things to him.
104. It became kind of a regular thing. He knew when to pick his moment to get me to do things to him. I knew the other boys in the dorm. One was from Paisley and the other two were from Glasgow. They never woke up at any time whilst [REDACTED] was abusing me.
105. [REDACTED] was another resident who was at Rossie Farm at the same time as me. He came from Bridgeton. He's passed away now. The last I saw of him was later on when I was in Barlinnie. I saw [REDACTED] being physically dragged by Mr ^{GWC} [REDACTED] from the gym hall right up to the end of one of the hallways. I think another member of staff joined in. I saw [REDACTED] being booted and flung into a cell by Mr ^{GWC} [REDACTED] and this other member of staff. I don't know why they did that to him. I don't know

what happened after [REDACTED] was put into the cell. I think I saw [REDACTED] after he got out of the cell. He was not mentally well when he came out.

Reporting of abuse whilst in Rossie Farm School

106. I never spoke to any of the staff about what was going on. I was frightened. I was in a closed environment.

Oakbank School, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire (the second time)

107. I went back to Oakbank after Rossie Farm. The headmaster of Oakbank came down in his car with his daughter to collect me and take me back. He took me straight back. My second spell at Oakbank was ok. I was only there for a short time. I'm not sure exactly how long I was in there during my second time. I can't say what my age was. I don't know dates when I was there.
108. The staff were alright to me. The bullying stopped the second time when I came back. The place felt different. I don't know whether the bullies had been moved on or they had just gone to different places. I didn't run away. This was the first spell, other than the secure unit at Rossie Farm, where I didn't run away.

Returning back home to parents, [REDACTED] Possilpark, Glasgow

109. I was released after I left Oakbank. I think I would have only been about fifteen at that time. When I was released I went back to stay with my mum and dad in Glasgow. My family had moved by then to Possilpark. They stayed in a place at [REDACTED]. I think I stayed with them only for a short period of time.
110. It was still horrendous when I moved back in with my mum and dad. My mother was still the way that she was. She would disappear with her fancy men and not come

back for months on end. That was her life really. My dad was still the same. He would say to me that I should get out and try to get work. I didn't get on great with my brothers and sisters.

111. Up until that point I had never really been around my family. I had always been away. I'd grown up in homes and my family were back at home. I had missed out on family life. I was institutionalised. I wasn't used to the outside.
112. When I was out I ran around with older guys. Those were the type of people I associated with. I never ran about with younger guys. I was used by these older guys. I got involved with petty crime through the people I was hanging around with.

Larchgrove Remand Home, 1212 Edinburgh Road, Glasgow (the second time)

113. I think I ended up in Larchgrove for something that I did. I think I was put into there before Geilsland for stealing. I think there was social work involvement. I was only there a short time before I was moved on to Geilsland.

Geilsland School, Beith, Ayrshire

114. Geilsland is in Beith. It was run by the Church of Scotland. It was like a big mansion type house. There were two parts to the school. I was in the front part. The other part was at the back. The back part wasn't attached to the main building.

Staff

115. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] in Geilsland. He was the person who was [REDACTED]. He worked for the Church of Scotland.

Sleeping arrangements

116. We all slept in dorms. My dorm was next to the toilets. There were six or seven of us in the dorm. There was another dorm next to the dorm I was in. It was bigger and longer. I think that there were other bigger dorms. The dorm I was in maybe held fifteen or twenty boys.

Running away

117. I continued to run away whilst I was in Geilsland

Discipline and punishment

118. There was a marks system in there. All the marks were put out on a chart type of thing. You had to iron your own shirts and lay all your clothes out on your bed. There were inspections. You could be deducted marks if you didn't do that right. I always had the highest marks that you could get. I never went below a certain mark. I was always going up and up.
119. There was a boot room where everyone put their boots and shoes. EZD made me polish every single pair of boots and shoes. I was even made to polish the soles of the boots and shoes. Back then I just did it. Looking back though I think it was psychological abuse. Why did he have me polishing the soles of boots and shoes? There was no purpose to that. He could have done that to other people as well as me.

Abuse in Geilsland School

120. When I arrived I discovered that ██████████ was there. He was in a separate dorm. The same carry on happened all over again. He just carried on where he had left off. He made me do things in the outside toilets. It was at any time really.

121. I ran away through fear and what was happening with [REDACTED]. I think I ran away a couple of times. I got brought back. The second time I was brought back I got given the belt by EZD [REDACTED] in his office. His office was like a big boardroom. He gave me the belt on my hand.
122. EZD [REDACTED] was an evil man. He picked on me. After the second time I had run away I decided to knuckle down and keep out of trouble. Sometime later EZD [REDACTED] got hold of me and took me into his office. I think it was after tea time. It was 6:00 pm or 7:00 pm. When I got into his office he told me that he was going to take me home to visit my parents. That was the first I heard that I was going to go and visit my parents. I don't think, looking back, my parents had asked for me to visit. He then told me to go and get changed into my suit. I don't know why he told me to put on my suit but he did. I put my suit on then he drove me to my parents' house in Possilpark. I think that the reason I got taken back might have been because my marks were good from all my ironing and kit being laid out. I remember [REDACTED] helping me to do that.
123. I think we arrived at my parents' house a little before nine o'clock. My father and one of my sisters were there. My mother wasn't there. The gas and electricity was cut off. My father had a teapot on the coal fire. He was sitting in a pair of pyjamas. We all sat down. We sat for about an hour talking with my father. EZD [REDACTED] saw the situation and background I had come from. Nothing had changed from the time we were in Maryhill. It was the same situation. There was no electricity or gas and so on. That was the only time that I was taken back to my family home.
124. EZD [REDACTED] then took me back to Geilsland. We got back between ten and eleven o'clock at night. He took me into his office. That's when he started doing dirty things to me. He sat me on his knee and winched me onto his lips. I could tell he was gay. He fondled me. He molested me. I couldn't say nothing.
125. Later on I ran away again. When I was brought back I was taken into the games room by EZD [REDACTED]. There was either a snooker table or a table tennis table in there. EZD [REDACTED] stripped me naked. He got me to run around the table with no

clothes on. There were these sticks that used to hold the daily newspapers. They were there to keep the newspapers flat. Each of the sticks had the name of the newspaper they held written on them. EZD hit me on my bum with one of those sticks every time I got round to him when running around the table.

126. Up the stairs in the toilet there was a shower. There was no bath. It was next to my bedroom. EZD would make me take off my clothes in the toilet. He would tell me to bend over. He would tell me to sing a song. That's what he put me through. That was a regular thing with him.
127. EZD picked me to go away and work in Millport. I was one of the boys who was selected to turn an old church into a holiday home for underprivileged children. I was one of his workers. We stayed over there for maybe six months. The abuse continued in Millport.
128. I didn't see other kids being abused by EZD. The only reason I know that other kids were abused was because I learnt that from the police in later life.

Leaving Geilsland School

129. I think I was allowed out on leave from Geilsland towards the end of my time there. I don't think I got released after Geilsland. I remember breaking into a bingo hall alongside two other boys whilst I was on leave. I think we all went to Glasgow Sheriff Court. After that I was sent to Polmont with the two other boys.

YOI Polmont, Polmont, Brightons

130. Polmont was used as an assessment centre. They put you there whilst they decided where they were going to put you. I was about sixteen or seventeen when I went to Polmont. I was in there for nine months. That was the least you could do in there. You could do up to two years. I was so well behaved they let me out after only nine months.

131. When I got there I was put in a part of Polmont called the allocation centre. You got put there for your first couple of months. After that they can either keep you in Polmont or send you out to open prisons like Castle Huntly or Dungavel. I didn't get the chance to go to an open prison because of my background. I was kept in Polmont. There were four wings in Polmont. North, South, East and West wings. I was placed in West wing.

Routine in Polmont

Chores in the allocation centre

132. There was a big long corridor in the allocation centre. I remember being down on my knees with a big scrubbing brush and pail washing that floor. That was a chore they handed out. Two boys would do that. One boy would start at one end and the other would start at the other. You would meet in the middle. It wasn't a nice chore because the corridor was so long and the floor was made of rough concrete. The corridor must have been about a mile long.

Abuse in Polmont

133. When I was in the allocation centre I was assaulted by a man called Mr **GSM**. His nickname was **GSM**. He came into my cell and physically assaulted me. I think he did that because I wrote my name on a wall with a felt tip pen. All of the other boys were locked up at the time. It was during the day. He was on his own. He definitely did that sort of thing to other inmates.
134. I heard and witnessed other people being dragged out screaming by Mr **GSM** and other prison officers. They would get dragged off to North wing. North wing was a bad wing. That was where all the evil people went. There were a lot of violent people in North wing. I remember that the floor was slabbed and there were stairs that went down to a basement underneath the hall. In the basement there were

cells. For some unknown reason I remember being in North wing. Seeing people get dragged away was horrible. It is possible that the boys were getting dragged away because they had done something wrong.

135. When I got to West wing I discovered [REDACTED] was there. He was on a different landing though. He couldn't get near me in the wing itself. There was an automatic gate in the way. [REDACTED] told me to ask to get into the welders. I asked to get in there and got in there. I couldn't get rid of this guy. He was always around me. The sexual stuff all started again with [REDACTED] in the toilet cubicle that was actually inside the workshop. He'd make me go in first and then he would go in behind me. He'd make me stand up on the toilet pan seat. He did that so nobody could see two people in the cubicle. He made me do dirty things. That happened every single day. I think I was in the welders for a couple of months. I ended up asking to get out of there.

136. I got into the cook house. I had a great time in the cook house. All the people were great to me. There were no problems there. Working in the cook house kept [REDACTED] away from me during the day. The only time I then saw [REDACTED] was during mealtimes in the dining hall. I could see him and he could see me but he was sitting at a different table. There was no interaction between us. That was the last time I came into contact with [REDACTED] until I came across him again in prison in Perth in adult life.

Reporting of abuse in Polmont

137. I was too frightened to tell any of the staff what was happening to me. [REDACTED] had a hold over me. He told me that if I told anybody he would tell all the other boys what was happening. [REDACTED] told me that he would tell everybody that I was someone who dished out wanks and gobbles. If other people had heard that then they would have wanted to do the same to them. I was frightened. I would have been slagged by the other boys. I didn't want anyone knowing what was happening.

Leaving Polmont

138. I did as I was told in Polmont. I was "yes sir, no sir, three bags full sir." That was the way I was. I would class myself as a model prisoner when I was in there. I was allowed to go at the earliest opportunity. I was released.
139. I ended up getting into trouble after leaving Polmont. I got what is called "a recall". When you get a recall you aren't sent to Polmont. You are sent to Barlinnie young offenders.

HMP Barlinnie, 81 Lee Ave, Glasgow (the second time)

140. I was seventeen or eighteen when I got my recall. I was put into E Hall. That was where "recalls" went to. We were all young offenders. We were all placed on the bottom landing. We were kept separate from the other inmates.
141. I was in a single cell. Everybody was in a single cell. I was locked in my cell a lot of the time. You used to hear people squealing when they were dragged away but you were behind your door. You didn't really see it. I didn't really have any problems in Barlinnie. I wasn't abused or anything like that. None of that went on. There were no issues with the staff.
142. Looking back Barlinnie was great. I was a good prisoner. You only had to do ten weeks on a recall. I don't think they could keep you much longer than that. I got out after ten weeks.

Returning back home to parents, ██████████, Possilpark, Glasgow

143. I went back to my parents after my ten weeks in recall. It was horrible. My mother was there but she wasn't there. It was like it was before. My father was there. He was still drinking and gambling. My brother was a drug addict. It wasn't nice.

Reporting of abuse whilst in care

144. I don't think I told anybody about what was happening to me whilst I was in care at any of the institutions I was at. I didn't tell any social workers or any staff. The only person who suspected anything was my mother. That was in and around when I was in Balrossie. That was why she went to the police station in Kilmacolm. That's the only time when anything was reported to the police. I think it was all brushed under the carpet.

Life after being in care

145. I'm sorry to say but Barlinnie became a second home to me after I left care. It was like a revolving door to me. Up until twenty one I was in and out of E Hall. After that I ended up in other Halls. I ended up in the mainstream prison system. I was in and out of prison.
146. I remember that I became what they called a 'trustee' in Barlinnie. I was a very trusted prisoner as an adult. I was allowed on all the landings. I kept myself clean. I think that's why the staff liked me. I remember making the staff tea and coffee and things like that. I got all the best jobs.
147. I was married in 1981. They allowed me to leave HMP Perth to attend my wedding. I later on got divorced. My wife was called ██████████. I had ██████████ and ██████████ to her. I also had a daughter called ██████████. I was never there for them. I have no contact with them at all now. They're all in their thirties and forties now.

148. I lived in Edinburgh with a woman called [REDACTED]. I lived with her in Granton for ten years. She is mentally not there. I think she has got mental health problems. I had two wee girls to her. They would be in their early twenties now. They are called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
149. We had [REDACTED] when I was addicted to shoplifting. I was concerned about [REDACTED]. I didn't know what would happen if I was away. [REDACTED] had already had two children placed in care. I didn't know why that had happened. She wouldn't tell me. I was worried. The social worker was right on top of us. I went up to the social work department and reported things. I told them that I was worried about [REDACTED]. I told them that I wasn't going to be with [REDACTED] and might be away at times. I told them about my shoplifting problem. After I explained all that to social work [REDACTED] was taken away from us. She got placed in care.
150. [REDACTED] and I moved to Glasgow. She got pregnant with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] gave birth to [REDACTED] in the hospital. There was a nurse right on top of us as soon as we went into the hospital. Just after [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] a social worker who worked for the hospital spoke to us. The social worker took the baby straight away from us. [REDACTED] was placed in care. I don't see either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] now.
151. I have two children to a woman called [REDACTED]. They are called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They are in their twenties now. [REDACTED] kept me out of jail. She kept me away from it all. Everything she told me to do I did. I had a great wee life. I was close to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the longest I have been close to anybody in my life. I see [REDACTED]. I also still see [REDACTED]. I don't see them that often though.

Impact

152. It's hard for people even to imagine what I have been through. I have been damaged psychologically, physically and sexually. Mentally and physically I am not well. I've had to live with this for fifty seven years. It's all been brushed under the

carpet. Nobody has wanted to know about what happened. My life has been ruined because of all of this. You can't imagine the damage that has been inflicted on me.

153. [REDACTED] is still around. He lives in Paisley. He comes from a family that are well known for crime and doing sexual things. That family has been all over the papers. I know from speaking to other people that [REDACTED] is not a liked man. I still have a fear of him. I'm worried what might happen because I have reported him for what he has done.
154. Throughout all my time in care I can count on one hand the number of times I was visited. Everybody else got visits. Nobody wanted to know me. It made me feel as if I was an orphan being placed in orphanages. That hurt me. It wasn't nice not getting visitors. Not having visits wasn't the main reason why I ran away though. There were always reasons like the bullying and abuse that made me run away.
155. The kind of people I went around with were always older than me. They used me. They have used me to line their pockets. I have had doings off of certain individuals in my life. I've been left feeling frightened to say "no". I am still not able to speak my mind to this very day. That's horrible.
156. My life has been all about being passed about. I have been institutionalised. I quite liked my prison life. I always got all the good jobs. I was always polite and gave the prison officers respect. I did as I was told. Growing up I didn't really have an outside life to compare to my time in care. I think that is why, although I was in institutions and prisons, I sometimes had an ok time. All I had was other prisons and institutions to compare my time with.
157. I would never have turned out the way I have today if I hadn't had led the life I had. I think I would have been a normal person if I hadn't been in these places. It's left me unable to hold down conversations. I can't hold down a relationship. I can't communicate. There is nothing in between my ears. All I talk about is my past. When I'm out and about all I want to talk about is jails and prisons. Nobody wants to hear about that sort of thing. I've been told that by people in pubs. They tell me to

keep my mouth shut, speak to other people or get out. It's a horrible feeling to be told that. I'm speaking about these things because it is all I know.

158. I'm on my own now. I don't bother going out to pubs and places like that. I've been on my own for years. I stay in the house now. I don't go out. I just lock myself away. All I can think about is these places.

159. I've been bullied all my life. That's from my family and from other people in the places I went to. I've become a very nervous type of person. I've become a "yes man". I'm frightened to speak my mind. It is horrible.

160. I was never around my siblings growing up. [REDACTED] lives in Glasgow city centre. She was in care as well. We're not talking at the minute. We're not always on good terms. I've been closer to my other sister, [REDACTED]. However, I've been used by her and her man for years. I haven't been able to stand up for myself because I'm nervous and frightened. I don't see my brother, [REDACTED].

161. I've never been a drug person. I was never even happy with smoking cannabis. I never liked it. It never did anything for me. I recently took crack cocaine. I'm off it now. A part of doing that was blocking out things. That played a big part in it. I don't know why I turned to that at my age. I think it is because things are all coming back now. I realise now I was being used for my money and was trying to escape things.

Reporting of Abuse after leaving care

Making contact with the Glasgow Association for Mental Health (GAMH) and reporting abuse to the police

162. I ended up getting help from GAMH. I think I went to them direct. I think someone had recommended them to me. GAMH got me assessed and took me on in 2003.

That was the first time that I had approached anyone for help. It was the first time that I had received any help or support in my life.

163. It wasn't until 2004 that I opened up and told a couple of the GAMH mental health workers what had happened to me. I just came right out with it all. That was the first time I came out with what had happened to me. The mental health workers then went away and spoke to their bosses. I was then taken by GAMH to Aikenhead Road police station. I believe that is the police station that deals with child abuse.
164. My experience of giving a statement to the police the first time was horrible. I was taken into an office with a couple of women. It didn't feel right. I felt as if I was missing out on things. I felt very uncomfortable. I didn't like talking about the things I was talking about in front of women. I don't believe that I ended up telling them anywhere near as much as I have said in this statement. I was stopping and going outside and crying all of the time. I remember standing outside smoking cigarettes with my mental health worker standing beside me. After giving my statement a constable by the name of Shona Beattie became my liaison officer. She works for Maryhill CID. Nobody ever spoke to me after that.
165. I also reported what happened with ██████████ in Stewart Street police station. That was on either 1st or 3rd January 2017. The constable that I reported it to told me that somebody would come to see me at my home within a couple of days. It was Shona Beattie who eventually came out alongside a male colleague.
166. I think the colleague was the guy who dealt with the child stuff. They came into my house and sat down with me. They took a statement from me. Shona Beattie then told me that she had good and bad news to tell me. She said that the bad news was that EZD ██████████ had passed away a couple of months before she had come out to see me. She said that the good news was that three other people had come forward regarding him. I took from that that I had been the first person to come forward to report him all the way back in 2004. All I said to her was "well there you go. Do you believe me now?" She wouldn't tell me anything further.

167. About four months later in 2017 I had a telephone conversation with Shona Beattie. She told me that nine people in total had now come forward to report **EZD**. She told me that he was "one who was definitely going to court." I said to her "a lot of good that is now." The police had the chance to get **EZD** done in 2004 for what he did to me. They had thirteen years to try and get him charged before he passed away.

Instructing solicitors

168. I spoke with Cameron Fyfe and told him to start a claim. He was the solicitor who dealt with the compensation side of things. He was granted legal aid in my case. Part of my claim involved a psychologist seeing me and writing a report on me. The report talks about how the things that have happened have affected me. At the last hurdle things fell apart with my case. My case was ready to go to the High Court and it all fell apart. Cameron Fyfe was struck off with the highest of sanctions. I feel as if he let me down.
169. I got in contact with Joanne Lamont MSP. She wrote to the law society complaining about the way in which Cameron Fyfe had treated me. She also came out to my house alongside her secretary. She sat and listened to what I had gone through. She told me that she found out that I had abandoned my case. I told her that I hadn't. Why would I want to abandon the case? As far as I was aware I was suing Glasgow city council for £50,000. In the end the law society said that they couldn't do anything because Cameron Fyfe had been struck off with the highest of sanctions.
170. Joanne Lamont MSP advised me to go to Thompsons Solicitors. They are dealing with cases like mine. I believe that my files have now gone to them. They are nice people and are helping me. They are not doing it for profit. They are directing me to organisations who can help people like me. The organisations help me to talk about what I went through. They listen to me. They are the people who put me in contact with the Inquiry.

171. I didn't instruct lawyers because I wanted the money for myself. If I get any money I will give it all to GAMH or the Scottish Association for Mental Health. They're the only two organisations that have ever helped me. That's where the compensation would go.

Records

172. I was left with a lot of paperwork as a result of dealing with Cameron Fyfe. I got letter after letter from him. I ended up with a big pile of them. I remember that I took half of the paperwork, put it into a rucksack and took it to Springburn park with my wee boy. [REDACTED] would have been about seven or eight at the time. I went into the woods there. I scattered the paperwork about so that I could take a light to it. I remember my wee boy asking questions. He was trying to quiz me about the paperwork. I broke down whilst speaking to my wee boy. I burnt a lot of the paperwork.
173. I had difficulties getting hold of my records when Cameron Fyfe was struck off. They had been lodged in the High Court when Cameron Fyfe was dealing with my case. I couldn't get my records back because of that. Throughout all of that I felt as if I hadn't been represented properly by Cameron Fyfe. After I met with Joanne Lamont MSP I signed a mandate that allowed her to go to the High Court to look into my paperwork. The mandate gave her permission to look into obtaining my records. She went there and looked through my records.

Lessons to be Learned

174. These places were not nice. Sexual abuse was rife in those days. The residents were all in and out of each other's beds. These things should never have been allowed to have happened. [REDACTED] dogged my institutional life. I think if any of the establishments I went to had known what he was like and what he was doing to me they wouldn't have sent me to the places where he was. I think that they would have kept me away from him.

175. I don't want to see what was going on in these places going on now. If they had cut out the bullying in these places then it might have been easier to report things. The bullying should have been stamped out. There should have been more supervision at night from night watchmen.

176. Looking back I know that any staff who were doing things should have been reported. I bottled it all up though. I should have been able to feel that I could report things. I shouldn't have kept it all to myself. That's what I did. All I did was run away. That was how I got rid of it. I felt that running away helped me. It didn't though. It just got worse when I came back.

177. I have never had my day in court with any of the people who have abused me. I don't know whether some of them are still living. It angers me that none of them have been brought to justice. I should have got my time in court with [REDACTED] EZD. I don't know why the police were holding back. I don't know why they didn't change him.

178. 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..... [REDACTED] GCV

Dated..... 5/9/18