

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GRV

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is GRV. My date of birth is 1974. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My mum's name was before she married my dad who was called. My mum had three children when she met my dad and they are called and. Then they got together and had me and my two brothers who are called and was the oldest.
3. We stayed in Ruchill in Glasgow. I was very young, and what I can remember my mum worked on the buses and I can't remember if my dad was working. It was good in Ruchill until my mum passed away. My older sister found her body and I saw her. I was only seven at the time. Life at home started to go downhill for us all and my dad was going crazy as he couldn't cope and the family split up.
4. My dad took me and my two brothers to live in the Milton area of Glasgow and and went to live with their own dad. My dad hit the drink and I don't blame him for that as he'd been through a lot. There was no-one to get a grip of us kids. I was going to Churnside primary school in Milton and I started dogging school. We were allowed to do what we wanted and we were running about the streets 'til all sorts of time in the morning.

5. Social workers got involved and I remember they came to the house every so often to check on things. The three of us were out of control and that was the reason for going into care. My dad was an alcoholic, he couldn't look after us and he was struggling badly. He was always there for us and didn't want us put in a home.
6. I remember an old woman called Miss IFG [REDACTED] came up to the house now and again, and didn't make things any better. She was a social worker. I remember her moaning at my dad and she wasn't supportive. My dad was upset. There was a children's panel at Mackenzie House in Glasgow about me and [REDACTED]. I was aged ten or eleven and [REDACTED] was a year older than me when we went into care. We got put in care the same day. They'd already dealt with [REDACTED] and he went in care first.
7. Miss IFG [REDACTED] took us from the children's panel in a taxi to Larchgrove. She sat in the middle of me and [REDACTED]. We were upset and we'd seen our dad upset. She was saying 'don't you worry, GRV [REDACTED] where you're going it's good'. I told her to shut up and she slapped me in the face for it. I was stunned. Then she offered us money, fifty or sixty pence, to keep quiet. She was saying sorry to us and that she didn't mean to do that. She didn't hit [REDACTED] it was just me.

Larchgrove Remand Centre, Glasgow

8. Before we went in, Larchgrove was a locked up place for hardened criminals. When I first went in there I wasn't in a wee boys room, it was like a cell with a wee thin window at the top. It had a big lock on the door. They didn't lock it. I was only eleven years of age. I remember a wee bed with a quilt or a heavy blanket and a cabinet and that was it in the room. I couldn't see out of the window as it was high up. This is where I spent a lot of time. The room I was in was very dank. I felt as if I couldn't breathe.
9. [REDACTED] was older and he was put in the Clyde unit and I was put in Arran unit that had cells. In Clyde unit you got normal bedrooms and it was a bit more modern. In Arran unit there were about twenty people in the old cells that got made into rooms. Everybody had their own room. The other boys in my unit were around the same age

as me. The unit was managed by a woman and I can't remember her name. Everyone got allocated a keyworker and mine was female, but I don't recall her name.

Routine at Larchgrove

First day

10. When we arrived, Miss IFG took us into the office. We met Mrs Tate who was the head of the place at the time. We were scared as we were only wee boys. We didn't know what we were walking into.

Mornings and bedtimes

11. We were up at 8am to go down for breakfast. We weren't allowed out at night. If you were out at night it was absconding. At night you were only allowed out of your room to use the toilet or for a fag. We were only eleven. The night staff let us out two by two for a fag. There were no problems with the other boys. We were in our own bedrooms.

Washing and bathing

12. There were toilets and sinks to go and wash in. I think they had showers and I can't remember how often we got one or if we used them by ourselves.

Clothing

13. I probably wore my own clothes that I went in with and I can't remember them buying clothes for us. I can't remember what clothes I had or how much I had, but I probably didn't have much. My dad couldn't really provide for me.

Mealtimes

14. From what I remember they fed us alright and the food was ok. Breakfast came from little boxes of cereal. You could have as many of those as you wanted. I can't remember anything bad about the food. There was no choice and you had to like it or lump it. I liked everything anyway.

School

15. There was a classroom, but I can't recall any spectacular education. We spent our day in the unit. In the unit we watched TV. It was more like a prison routine. During the day we got a game of pool.

Leisure time

16. In the daytime, if we weren't playing pool or in the gym we could go in the telly room and everyone sat in there. I can't remember what we watched. Sometimes they had money to take us swimming. That was rare. They had to apply for money to make that happen. I can't remember going out anywhere else in the van. They had a big gym and you could get a game of football. You couldn't go when you wanted and there were set times. I can't remember us having any toys or games or anything to read. It didn't feel like a kids place back then.

Religion

17. Religion wasn't a big thing in Larchgrove and I can't remember anything about religion in there.

Christmas and birthdays

18. I don't remember any celebration at Christmas or birthdays by the staff.

Healthcare

19. I can't remember seeing a doctor or seeing a dentist.

Chores

20. We had to keep our room tidy.

Visits/contact with family

21. Larchgrove was the first place I went into and I was missing my dad and it was hard to get used to the place. There were no phone calls to my dad or and I didn't send him any letters. I can remember getting one visit from my dad. I think that was because the social worker brought him up.

22. I don't think social workers came to check up on me. Miss IFG [REDACTED] was still my social worker. I didn't like her and my dad didn't like her. I don't remember anyone from outside coming in to check the place was being run properly. The place was a dump.

Sibling contact

23. In Larchgrove me and [REDACTED] were in different units and we didn't see much of each other.

Bedwetting

24. I never had any issues with bedwetting and I never saw anybody having any problems with that.

Discipline

25. I don't recall any problems with staff. There was a guy who was quite fun and tried to make you feel better. I think his name was Dougie. He tried to help you settle in and

make sure you got plenty of cereal and he'd fling the little boxes of cereal to you as a game. He was alright that guy. Some staff were good and some were bastards. I can't recall getting any bad discipline in there.

Leaving Larchgrove Remand Centre

26. I don't know how my time came to an end. They put us in Larchgrove for a three week assessment, that's what the panel had said. Me and my brother [REDACTED] thought we'd only be in for three weeks, but it didn't end like that. We went back to the panel and got kept in for longer.
27. I could have been at Larchgrove for six months or up to one year. I then got moved to Fairfield Children's Home. I don't know who made the decision for me to go there. I didn't go there after a panel hearing. When I was in Larchgrove someone came up to see me and told me I was moving to Fairfield.

Fairfield Children's Home, Sherbrook Avenue, Pollockshields, Glasgow

28. I can't remember who took me there. [REDACTED] didn't go with me as he moved on to Ballikinrain instead. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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50. At Fairfield they told me I was going to Ballikinrain. My keyworker, I can't remember her name, told me about two weeks before I went. She said how do you feel about going to Ballikinrain Residential School. My two brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], were

there so I was quite happy to go. I don't know who decided I should go. I went there by car and I can't remember which staff took me.

Ballikinrain School, Balfron

51. Ballikinrain was a big castle and it looked daunting, but a beautiful place. It was a high up building. There was a top flat unit and a bottom flat unit. The middle bit was offices, dining hall and kitchen area. The top unit and the bottom unit both had dormitories. I think I was in the bottom one at the start and then moved up to the top unit as that's where my brothers were. That happened not long after I went in. I was twelve or thirteen by this time.
52. I remember Ballikinrain was a really cold place, it was freezing all the time, because of where it was. I can't remember any heating being on and the place being cosy.
53. Ballikinrain was for boys only and there were twenty to twenty-five in each unit. It was a big place. The top unit had bedrooms and not dormitories. I shared with four boys of the same age and I wasn't in a room with my brothers.

Routine at Ballikinrain School

First day

54. On my first day I can remember being taken into the office. The Church of Scotland ran the place and **SNR** was called Mr **KKM**. He sat me down and told me about the school and what they required of me and the rights and wrongs. I felt alright about the place. He told me it was twenty-one miles from Glasgow and drummed it into me, not to abscond as there were hills around about and you could die in the hills and the weather could turn on you. It was very isolated.

Mornings and bedtimes

55. We got up in the morning and all went down for breakfast.

Mealtimes

56. There was no problem with the food. I can't remember anything bad about it. We had a big dining hall.

Clothing

57. They gave us equipment for the activities. They gave us clothes to wear like denims. They bought us all Adidas trainers, the same ones as each other. We had fleeces to wear and we had our own waterproofs.

Washing and bathing

58. There were toilets in every unit and showers. I can't remember any baths. I think we were allowed to use them when we wanted.

School

59. Ballikinrain had their own school. After breakfast we went to our classroom and we were in the same classroom for the day. We didn't move to a different classroom for different subjects. We had the same teacher for all subjects. I think someone came in to do science classes with us sometimes. My teacher was GOS, or something like that. He was alright. I wasn't the best at school. I liked art the best.
60. We were in the dining hall for lunch and then back in school for the afternoon. Then we had an hour for getting our dinner and having a cigarette, then back to school for a couple of hours.

Leisure time

61. After school in the evening you got your tea. There was no time for play before tea. After tea we'd go back to the unit. Then we'd all go outside and I remember this big wall and we'd all sit on the wall and we'd have activities. There were outdoor bikes and walks. They had motorbikes as well and a go-cart thing. They had canoes as well. That was for the outdoor activities and they took us canoeing, abseiling, caving. I loved the outdoor stuff.
62. Mr IGD was the teacher for outdoor activities and he was a tough guy, but not in a bullying way. I think he was just trying to make a man out of you. He was alright. He was involved in the Mountain Rescue service. He did a lot with us. We did hillwalking and they provided us with the waterproofs.
63. There were no holidays. I think they took us on day trips to swimming baths, to Kirkintilloch in the minibus. It was one unit at a time.

Chores

64. For chores we just had to wipe the tables after dinner and tidy our room.

Birthdays and Christmas

65. I can't recall any celebrations at Christmas and birthdays.

Religion

66. They had their own church in Ballikinrain and we did our hymns on a Sunday. I was alright with that.

Visits

67. At Ballikinrain you got weekend leave. I got to go home. I can't remember getting pocket money. They took you to Glasgow on the Friday and picked you up on the Monday. That was good. I went to see my dad in Milton. It wasn't every weekend, I think it was every four weeks and one group at a time went home. Sometimes I got home at the same time as my brothers and sometimes not.
68. There were no visitors that came in to see me at Ballikinrain and I didn't see social work. I didn't go to any panels and I think it was all done remotely through the home.

Running away

69. I ran away once and made it into Glasgow with another boy called [REDACTED]. I made it into Glasgow even though it was far away. We were away for a couple of weeks. We managed to get to Butlins in Ayr. A guy in Ayr sussed us out and phoned the police. A staff member called GOU [REDACTED] came to pick us up. He was a dog. He was shouting at us.
70. He took us back in the van from Ayr to Ballikinrain. He made us lie on the floor of the van. If there was a crash there was nothing to hang onto and we weren't able to look out of the window and he did that deliberately. He was really angry with us. I can't remember if there was any punishment when we got back. I think we lost our weekend leave as we were away so long.

Healthcare

71. I can't remember any issues with healthcare. I can't recall any check-ups.

Discipline

72. If you were in bother they took your weekend leave off you. That would happen if you run away or didn't go to school. I don't know if there was any record of punishment like having my weekend leave cancelled.

Abuse at Ballikinrain School

73. There was a lot of good staff in Ballikinrain and some really bad ones. There was a man on staff called GOU [REDACTED]. He was a dog. He was intimidating. He was a stocky, wee guy with a beard and a bald head. I've heard since I left that he'd come from working in a prison to looking after kids. He'd make us stand with our arms held out in front of us for hours and hours and shout at us if our arms dropped at all. If your arms started to go down, he shouted at you to put your arms up.
74. If you did something wrong he'd take you out in that wee yard. You'd have your shorts on. He'd make you stand there with your arms held out in front and they'd burn. He had us like that for a long time and your arms would go down. Then he'd be right into your face and yell 'get them up'. He did it to three or four of us standing in a line. There was this wee guy, [REDACTED] with a mental handicap and he was feeling it the worst after ten seconds and GOU [REDACTED] was shouting at him.
75. If you did anything wrong he'd get hold of you and say 'you're coming with me' and he wouldn't let you go. He'd make you feel terrible. If you'd do anything wrong, just minor things. He was very disciplined. He was in the wrong place. He came from working in prison to working in a children's home. He probably thought he was still dealing with adults, instead of kids with problems. He still had the uniform of a white shirt and trousers from prison with a wee pocket on them to hold a truncheon.
76. There was another guy who was called HTH [REDACTED]. He was also a stocky, wee guy with a black beard. He stayed in one of the wee staff houses in the grounds. He was just as bad. The two of them were pals because of what they were like. He'd be right

in your face as well. He didn't make you stand with your hands up and I can't remember what he made you do. He was intimidating as well. I can't recall any other member of staff who caused issues.

77. One time we were going somewhere in the minibus, I think it was our weekend leave. The guy who was driving the minibus drove far too fast down the driveway of the home. I can't remember his name. There was a taxi coming up the driveway and the minibus driver veered off the drive and crashed into a tree. He was going too fast and he was known for it. If he hadn't crashed into the tree we would have gone into the burn that ran through the grounds and that could have been a lot worse. I was shaken up but some of the other children were injured. There weren't any seatbelts in the van.

Leaving Ballikinrain

78. I think I was in Ballikinrain a year and a half and up to the age of fourteen. It was one of my longest stays. It was a good home, apart from the bad apples that were there. I enjoyed some of my time there.

Kibble School, Paisley

79. Then I was told by the staff that I was being moved to the Kibble. I don't know why my stay at Ballikinrain came to an end. I think I had about a week's notice that I was moving, I know it wasn't much. It was just me who was moving onto the Kibble. They didn't give any reason for why it was just me who was going. I didn't want to go there, I wanted to stay in Ballikinrain. I was sick of getting moved about.
80. Kibble was all boys. There were about ten of us in my unit and similar ages to me. The oldest in Kibble would have been fifteen or sixteen and some boys younger than me.

81. I was put in a single bedroom and everyone had their own room and the door wasn't locked. I can't remember any staff names. I had a bed and a wee cabinet. I didn't have much stuff of my own.

Routine at Kibble School

82. I think it was the staff from Ballikinrain who took me over to Kibble, but I can't really remember who took me. I absolutely hated Kibble with a passion, it was a horrible place and full of bullies. As soon as I walked in there people wanted to start bullying me. I can't remember if I got to speak to any staff before I met the other boys. There were three or four separate units. I was put in the Dunrobin Unit. I don't think they introduced me to any of the boys and I was just left to get on with it.

Mornings and bedtimes

83. I think we got up about eight o'clock and then had breakfast.

Clothing

84. I remember one time I asked them to take me out to get clothes and it was a fight to get them to do it. That was to the local shops. I think they had to get a grant to buy clothes for us.

Washing and bathing

85. There was a shower room that you could use when you wanted. The showers weren't supervised by staff.

Mealtimes

86. The food was ok. I can't remember a problem with food. They had their own kitchen and cooking staff for meals in the unit.

School

87. I wouldn't call it a school, there was a learning centre, and I went to the same class with the same teacher and it was the only class I went to. I had two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon in the learning centre. I can't remember what they taught us. I think I was fourteen and nearly fifteen when I went to Kibble and it was stuff for eight or nine year olds.
88. I missed out on so much education. I never got offered to do qualifications and never had a choice to go on to college like you would in a normal school. I never got options to do Highers because I was in Kibble.
89. They had a couple of workshops, I think it was metal work and woodwork. I loved the woodwork. We made tables in the class. A staff member bought a table I made.

Leisure time

90. After school you went back and got your dinner. They didn't have many activities in Kibble. There was a motorbike but there was someone always on it, and you never got a shot on it. They never took us out anywhere. They had a snooker hall and I liked that place. It was locked and you couldn't go in there when you wanted and they may be allocated you one night a week in there.
91. We weren't allowed out to the local shops. If you were going out the gate you had to tell them. You weren't allowed out when you wanted to go.
92. I can't remember getting taken anywhere for activities in the evenings. There was a TV room, but no books or comics that I remember. At night time we had toast for supper. There was one night shift staff for the unit.

Healthcare

93. I can't remember any healthcare. I can't remember any medical check-ups.

Christmas and birthdays

94. I might have been at home over Christmas, I can't really remember. I just don't remember anything about birthdays or Christmas, my dad couldn't do much for us and I don't hold that against him. I don't remember any celebration at Kibble either.

Visits

95. My dad didn't come to see me but I think you were given weekend leave every four weeks. I can't recall ever losing weekends in there. I think they gave us pocket money for our weekend leave, maybe six or seven pounds. There wasn't a tuck shop inside Kibble to spend the money in. I didn't see my brothers, [REDACTED] had left Ballikinrain by this time as he was the oldest and I didn't have contact with [REDACTED].

96. There were no panels that I was aware of and none of the social workers came to see me at Kibble. I couldn't remember seeing a social worker after Miss IFG [REDACTED] at the start.

Chores

97. Doing chores was about keeping your room tidy and clean. I think they did have a professional cleaner in the unit.

Abuse at Kibble School, Paisley

98. I hated being at Kibble and the terrible regime, I hated the whole set up of it. It was full of bullies. That was the bigger boys. There was one bigger boy who liked to bully me. He was called [REDACTED]. He was a big boy for his age. He'd torment me. He came in and tried to grab me one day and this other boy hit me with a belt or something.

99. I ended up going crazy and chased them out of my room I started flinging my furniture at them. The two of them ran and a staff member came in and grabbed me and wanted to know what I was doing them. I told them those two were trying to bully me and I chased them out. The staff never did anything to me about it and I don't know if they said anything to the two boys. I know they never came in my room and tried it again. They thought I was an easy target because I was wee and slim. I did make a couple of friends in there, but it was very unsettling getting moved all the time.
100. During the day there were three or four staff looking after us in the one unit. The staff didn't do much with us. I can remember getting pinned on the ground by them a couple of times. There was one guy called GRW and there was a big woman whose name I can't remember and the two of them got a kick out of putting you on the ground and putting you in a lock. He knew all that stuff. I didn't do anything to deserve that sort of treatment. Maybe I had a wee tantrum or something, but I wasn't going round hitting people. GRW pinned me to the ground and she sat on top of me as well. That happened a few times to me in Kibble. I can't recall any other incidents with staff.

Leaving Kibble School

101. I think I spent maybe a year in Kibble. I left when I turned sixteen. I felt terrible about that. I remember a staff member telling me that as I'd turned sixteen I had to leave but there was nothing planned for me. I think she was called Lisa Riley and she took pleasure in telling me this. I didn't go to the panel at this stage. I was just kicked out of the door because of my age.
102. I was just sent right back to my dad who still had an alcohol problem. Two days after they put me out I tried to go back to Kibble and the staff were having a giggle about it and were telling me I wasn't coming back in. I felt so lost and dejected, it was all I knew for the past five years.

Life after being in care

103. There was no aftercare. No-one from social work came to my dad's house to speak to me. As soon as you turned sixteen that's was you and the care system was finished with you. I started hanging about with the wrong people and doing silly things because I wasn't being pointed in the right direction. I didn't have any structure and didn't have anyone to help me apply for things like apprenticeships. My dad still had an alcohol problem. I started getting into trouble with friends very shortly after I got back to my dad's house.

Longriggend Detention Centre, Airdrie

Routine

104. I went to Longriggend and that was the very first prison I went to. It's a remand home. The first time I was there it was for three weeks and it was a bit of a shock. I was expecting it to be a bit like the children's homes, but it wasn't anything like a home.
105. I went there straight from the court. When I arrived I was taken into reception and had a medical check-up and got a shower and then they gave me prison issue clothes. Then I was allocated a hall and I went to my own cell. There was no toilet in the cell.
106. They woke you up early, like half-six, and you went to get a wash and then go and get breakfast and back to your cell. I was then locked up until about lunchtime, then you got your lunch and back to your cell, locked up again until tea-time and then you got to watch a video at night.
107. I think we got rec time, but not every night, maybe twice a week. When I had rec I could watch TV or play pool. Sometimes we got time in the gym, but not every day and we got outdoor exercise walking round the yard. I spent most of my day in my cell and we were allowed books, comics and papers. I had no possessions other than my fags.

108. You got phone cards so you could phone home. My dad didn't have a phone, but I wrote him wee letters, maybe a couple a week was allowed. He did write back a couple of times. He didn't come to visit as it was quite far away.
109. I was there for three weeks for background reports to be done. Because it was remand the social worker has to come to see you to compile a report. It was different people who came to see me. I can't remember any issues with Longriggend, it was just the prison regime and I accepted it and got on with it.

Leaving Longriggend Detention Centre

110. After three weeks I was back at court and that first time I got let out. I can't remember what sort of punishment they gave me, maybe community service. I went back to my dad's house. I went back there in the same circumstances later on and there was nothing different about the routine. I didn't get a sentence after the second time either and I was lucky the first couple of times.

Polmont Young Offenders Institution, Polmont

Routine

111. I got sent to Polmont when I was still sixteen and nearly seventeen. I think the first sentence I got was three months. In Polmont it was very similar, up at half-six and you had to go to work.
112. They had sheds for work. You went to work so you had your wee bit, it was called the work party. They had pallets and they were making them up and breaking them up. They were breaking old ones up and taking the good bits off them and making new ones again with hammers. I liked doing that. There was different work parties, but I was just allocated to the one. They had wood shops, sewing machines, laundry.

113. At Polmont I didn't get any visits from my family. It was a fast day in Polmont because you were working, then getting your tea then at night time you got some recreation and mingled with other boys.
114. There weren't any toilets in the cells and they had porta-potty things. That was the same throughout my time at Polmont. I didn't have any problems or issues with staff or inmates in my time at Polmont. I went back there on other occasions later on, maybe four or five times up to the age of eighteen or nineteen. It was the same routine whenever I went back.

Glenochil Young Offenders Institution

115. Sometime after that I ended up in Glenochil. They used to do marching in there, but that stopped before I got there. I was maybe eighteen or nineteen when I first went to Glenochil and that was after I'd been in Polmont.

Routine

116. It was the same routine. I was out of my cell and doing work at Glenochil. There was still slopping out as part of the regime at Glenochil. There was never a toilet in the cell at that time. There was no instances of bullying by staff or inmates. Staff just did their duties. I was only in there the once and I had a three month sentence.
117. I was back and forth in prison after the age of nineteen and through a lot of my adult life. In between sentences I found jobs in the city centre reps, got my forklift licences and I was packing for Harper Collins in a bookstore. Now, I've not been in prison for a long time. I've now been with my partner [REDACTED] for ten years. I have a son from a previous relationship and [REDACTED] has two children and lots of grandchildren.

Impact

118. It was difficult at first to find stability in my life and it took me a long time. I think that's because I was brought up in the homes. I had no structure in life. They never helped me at all and I was just kicked out of the door. I get some bad dreams from my time in care and in prison.
119. My education has suffered, either I didn't get any in the home or it was set for much younger children.
120. Being in care had an impact on how I behaved towards other people in the past, but not so much now. I used to get very nervous and when I first got out of the home I was paranoid. I didn't get a job because of it because I was too shaky and nervous. I'm alright now, but it took me a long time.
121. I used to get bad nightmares and it happens now and again and I'll be talking in my sleep. I've never gone to get help with that. It doesn't happen every night. It's better now that I have structure and routine in my life with [REDACTED].
122. I treated my own boy brilliant. I got him anything he wanted and he was spoiled and I wouldn't change that. There isn't any bullying me because of him, I would never do that to somebody. I used to be close to my two brothers and my dad, but not the other part of my family from my mum's side. I saw a lot of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] after I came out of care and up until the time that they both passed away.

Reporting of Abuse

123. I've never made any reports as an adult, to police or social work, about anything that happened to me in care.

Records

124. I've never got hold of any of my records about my time in care. I wouldn't know how to go about getting them. I'd be interested to see them, but I don't know if they would open up nightmares for me.

Lessons to be Learned

125. There should be a better structure for kids and make sure they don't get parked out when they turn sixteen. I know how it feels. There should be more checks on the staff and less of the bullying. An adult bullying a kid is wrong, but they were getting a kick out of that, some of them. In the home the routine was good, apart from them two. When they were on duty it was hell. They made it hard for us.

Hopes for the Inquiry

126. I hope things get better in children's homes and children have a better life in there and better things when they leave the home. I hope the staff that bullied me are not working with children now, they weren't fit enough.

Other information

127. I took my partner [REDACTED] to see Ballikinrain a couple of times and she really wanted to see it. We like going on long drives and we were passing by and we went in and I showed [REDACTED] where the home was. It's still a lovely big place. I came across the guy who bought it and I spoke to him briefly. I felt strange to see it again.
128. The caretaker took us inside and the place hadn't changed. I knew where everything was. The beds and furniture had all gone. I took a couple of photos inside. It's the only place I've been back to. I've passed by Fairfield, but it's not a children's home now and it looks different.

129. I look sometimes at a page on Facebook for people who were in Ballikinrain or worked there. People swap memories and stories on there. There's a couple of people there that I remember from my day.

130. 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.

GRV

Signed.....

Dated.....

21.11.22