

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GSJ

Support person present: No

1. My name is GSJ. My date of birth is 1955. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Lennoxton, Glasgow. My mum was and I don't know where the comes from. She died in 2021. I have a brother called who is younger but I don't know by how much. He died in 1982. I have a younger sister but again I don't know how much younger she is than me.
3. I did not know anything about my life before going into care until years later when my aunt told me parts of it. She said that as far as she knew my mother was living in the Linthouse area of Glasgow when things first started to happen, which was quite surprising to me as that is in the area in Glasgow where I live now.
4. My aunt went on to say that my mother had confided in her about me and said at that time my mother was unwell and that my mother was struggling so much as none of the family wanted to know her or me and that she was shut out from her family.

5. She told me that I was only two years old when things started to go wrong and take a bad turn for my mother. My mum had been in hospital after I was born and then again when I was about two. She said my mother had some kind of break down adding to that there is not a lot to tell.
6. It was all a bit confusing but she said that one day I had managed to get out of the place where we were living, get on to the streets and had been missing for a short while. I was eventually brought back by the police and then the following week was visited by a social or health worker or something like that. My mother had said that they told her that she was unfit to care for me and said that if she did not put me somewhere to get me looked after that they themselves would take me from her and that she would never see me again.
7. She went on to say that she had to give me up as she had no choice to do anything else as she had that much hassle from what was then Glasgow Corporation. She does not really know what happened then but that I was sent to Quarriers. They had told my mother she would have to pay something towards my keep on a weekly basis.
8. As I look at it now this was my first journey into hell. Although I do not remember this incident I believe that this was the start of things that were about to happen to me.
9. I did not know anything about Quarriers Homes in the sense of how I was sent there or how long that I actually had been in the care of the home.
10. Quarriers was never discussed or ever talked about in all my years, until after the death of my mother in [REDACTED] 2021. Before her death I had never asked my mother or her immediate family anything about Quarriers during her life time.
11. All I know was that I was there and never knew who I was as I did not know my surname at the time or where I was from. I did not know who my mother was as I never saw her during the years I was there. I also did not know who my father was either as my mother was never married and this was also something that was never brought up in the family circle.

12. It was as if everything about me was swept under the carpet, hidden and forgotten, and was like some kind of a taboo and a subject not to be talked about for all these years. I also never wanted to hurt my mother's feelings by asking her anything about the reasons of how I came to be in Quarriers, or who my father was, during her years on this earth.

### **Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir**

13. My earliest memories of Quarriers are from when I was around five years of age. I was there from when I was two and have no memories of that three years up until I was five. My first memory is being outside playing in the woods and soiling myself. That was when the only two members of staff I can remember from there abused me.
14. There was a woman there who called herself Auntie Lottie. I don't remember her and I only know of her because she came to my mum's house not long after I left Quarriers and left a present for me. I never saw her then and it was just my mum that told me she had been there. She later sent me a letter when I was at Dr Guthrie's and it turned out she sent it from an address in New York.
15. There was a person that was in the cottage, I only know that his name was **GSN**. I do not know what his surname was but his face haunts me to this day as I can see him in my mind as if it was yesterday and I can describe him in the way he looked and dressed. I don't know what age **GSN** would have been then. There was a woman who had white hair and she was older. I can't remember the woman's name. They both worked in the cottage and were there a lot. I don't think they were my house parents but were definitely workers in my house. I don't remember house parents being there but these two worked there. There was also a cook.
16. I couldn't remember the number of the cottage I was in but I later found out when I went back to visit with my partner that it was number 8.

17. All I can remember about the layout of the cottage from when I was there is that there was a living room with dark floors and I can remember a piano. There was a kitchen, then stairs and I remember my bedroom was up the top of the stairs and that is about all I remember. I was in a bedroom to myself the whole time I was there. I don't remember any of the other boys or girls that were there. I just thought I was the only one that was there. I think there might have been other children there but I don't remember ever seeing them. I just remember being shut up in that room.

### **Routine at Quarriers Village**

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

18. I think somebody probably woke me up in the morning but I can't remember what you did when you got up. At night time I would be put up to my room after I had my dinner. All that was in my room was my bed and drawers with my clothes.

#### *Mealtimes / Food*

19. I remember getting breakfast but can't remember seeing anybody else there either. I can't remember what the food was like. There was food I didn't like and I was regularly forced to eat it, not physically forced, just told you to eat it. **GSN** and the woman would be shouting 'Get that eaten ya little bastard.' I used to cry when this was happening. I used to cry quite a lot.

#### *Washing / bathing*

20. I can't remember anything about any routine we had for washing.

#### *Clothing / uniform*

21. I don't ever remember getting clothes there other than having the ones I went in with but I must've had some others as I grew.

### *Schooling*

22. I remember the first time going to school. Somebody took me in a car and the school wasn't that far from the cottage. I think it was a woman and I can't remember ever seeing her before. The car had 'running in' written on the back of it. I can still see the words in my head and remember that car.
23. I'm pretty sure the school was the actual Quarriers school in the grounds as I don't remember there being another school anywhere nearby. I don't remember much about school other than being punished when I got back to the cottage if I had got something wrong at school. It would be GSN that punished me when I got back. I never made any friends at school. I was always on my own.

### *Leisure time*

24. I don't remember there being any games or books or comics to read. I have no clear memory of things like that. After school I was allowed out into the enclosed yard at the back of the cottage to play on my own. I was always just myself. There was a gate out of it but you weren't meant to go out.

### *Work / chores*

25. The woman used to make me scrub the floors with the wooden brush after school and dinner.

### *Religious instruction*

26. We went to the church in the Quarriers grounds on a Sunday and that was the only time I heard any music. It wasn't GSN or the woman that took me it was somebody else but I can't remember who they were.

### *Trips and holidays*

27. I remember going to Greenock or somewhere like that with the Lifebouys for a concert that we were singing in. There was another woman who I think worked in Quarriers but I cannot remember her name. She was nice to me and was there waving to me when I was on the bus.

### *Fostered Out*

28. There were times I was fostered out maybe sometimes for a week. There was a couple called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who stayed out with Quarriers and there was another one Mr [REDACTED]. He stayed at Inchinnan in Renfrewshire. I think these were good times and I got to play in a wee toy car with pedals when I was at Mr [REDACTED]. I think there was maybe another family I went to. I'm calling it fostering out but I don't know if that is what it was called then.
29. I can't remember for definite how I got to these other places but I think they must have just come and picked us up in cars.

### *Personal possessions*

30. I never had any of my own belongings when I was at Quarriers.

### *Bed Wetting*

31. Bed wetting was very much an issue for me. I don't know when it started but I wet the bed most nights at Quarriers and it followed me through until I was fourteen. When I wet the bed it was the same punishment as always getting slapped on the face and shouted and bawled at by mainly the woman but sometimes GSN. She would discover it when she was changing the bed or if she came to get me up in the morning.
32. I never got any help to stop me wetting the bed. They never stopped me drinking anything on the lead up to bedtime.

### *Review of care*

33. As far as I can remember nobody from the social work or anywhere else ever came to speak to me or check on me to see if I was okay.

### *Family contact*

34. I never saw my mum whilst I was at Quarriers. My auntie told me that my grandmother did visit me quite often but I do not remember this. My grandmother had also told my aunt during a conversation about me that she was very worried about me at the time and when she visited me all that I ever done was stare into space and rock back and forwards. I've a vague recollection of her coming once to see me and it being in somewhere that was like a kind of community centre.

### *Running away*

35. I did runaway loads of time and I used to go down to the river and beyond but I didn't know what was beyond there. I always got caught and would get punished by either **GSN** or the woman who would slap and punch me on the face and kick me up the backside.

### **Abuse at Quarriers Village**

36. My earliest memories of the kinds of abuse that I received when I was at Quarriers go back to when I was about five years of age. The kinds of abuse consisted of physical, mental and sexual abuse. I cannot remember anything before that and do not know if any of these things happened before I was five years old.
37. My first encounter with the abuse that happened to me was physical abuse. I remember being in the woods at the back of the cottage where I lived and that I had soiled myself and was very frightened for some reason to go back to the cottage. **GSN**

must have been out looking for me and took me back to the cottage. I then remember having my hair pulled and my face slapped continually and kicked.

38. I was then thrown into a bath of water and scrubbed from head to toe with a floor scrubbing brush by GSN and the woman with grey hair that worked there. I knew it was a brush for scrubbing the floor because it was the same as the wooden ones with bristles that we had to use to scrub the floors. I can't remember for definite but I think it was a cold bath. GSN was slapping my face and putting my head under the water. I don't know how long he held me under the water. I just remember it going in the water. After that I was hit again then dragged up the stairs and flung into bed. I will say that this was just the start of the things that would happen to me throughout my stay in that cottage.
39. Other things were also happening to me in that cottage that today I still feel very disgusted and embarrassed and ashamed of. I actually feel it is very hard to talk about it or put it down on paper as it was sexual abuse towards me.
40. The man GSN sexually abused me on a number of occasions when I was at Quarriers. I cannot remember how many times it happened but I do know what he did was very wrong and evil. He would hit me, slap me and kick me and I would be greeting. He would then put me on his knee and then kiss me as if he was trying to comfort me but he had other ulterior motives. He would start getting me to touch his private parts.
41. I remember he was left to look after me quite a lot of times and this was when he abused me. When he was alone with me he would make me touch him on his privates and then other things started to happen to me concerning sexual abuse. At first he made me touch him over his clothing but then he would take his penis out, make me touch him and masturbate him. This went on quite a lot. The first time this happened was in the room I mentioned in the dark. That was when he first took my trousers down and put his penis between my legs. I don't know if he raped me but he had me facing away from him with him behind me and his penis between my legs.



42. This happened on quite a few occasions in the cottage and outside in the fields when we went out on walks when I was alone with him. I was always scared to tell anyone what was happening to me and what he was doing to me. He had warned me not to tell anyone about it or I would get hurt which really scared me. He said there were people up in the hills who would get me.
43. I don't know how long this went on but it was for a long time whilst I was there.
44. One time when I was about six or seven years **GSN** hit me and banged my head off a door. I still have a scar on my head from this but I never got any medical attention at the time.
45. He regularly battered me and it was as if it was so he could then pick me up, kiss me on the face and then cuddle me as if he was trying to comfort me. He used to regularly come up to my bedroom.
46. One time him and the woman came up and they put a blanket over my head and face and it felt as if they were trying to smother me. I was struggling for breath and had sweats. They weren't saying a word as they did this to me.
47. Nearly every day both the woman and **GSN** would make me stand in a dark space which was between two doors from the kitchen and another door that led to the back yard. There was no particular reason for this. I don't know if they used it as a punishment maybe thinking I'd been bad or something.
48. There was no heating and no light because there was no windows and the doors were shut over. I would have to stand alone there for ages, I don't know exactly how long I but it felt like a very long time. Sometimes I was in my pyjamas and stood in my bare feet and other times I had my clothes on but it was always freezing and I was frightened and crying.
49. When I was out playing in the yard I wasn't allowed to go out the gate into the grounds. If you did you would get battered, bawled and shouted at by **GSN** or the grey haired

woman. I'd then get flung up the stair and put in bed. The battering would be getting my hair pulled, slapping me and calling me a 'ginger heided bastard.' I had red hair at the time. They never called me by name. Never once did they call me [redacted]. There was one teacher who called me [redacted]. I never knew [redacted] was my surname until I left Quarriers.

### **Leaving Quarriers Village**

50. I would describe my life in Quarriers as horrible. I would sum up my time there as horrible and disgusting.
51. I don't remember getting any warning that I was going to be leaving Quarriers but I do remember the night that I left Quarriers. At the same time I did not actually know that it was my mother that had come for me to take me to my home. I did not know who she was or where I was going. I just remember a truck coming to pick me up and I now know that it was my brother and sister's dad's coal truck and he and my mum came and picked me up.
52. I just remember being in that truck and then stopping in a road and then going into a dark stair way and then going up a stair to where the house was. I didn't know where I was but again I now know it was [redacted] in Govan. I remember quite vividly that a bedroom door was open and a boy was jumping up and down on a bed. I later found out that the boy was actually my brother and this was something else that was very strange to me, as I never knew that I even had a brother. I just thought this was me getting fostered out again and didn't realise until later that this was my mum and her new partner [redacted].

### **Life after Quarriers Village**

53. For the first few weeks everything was very strange to me with the noise in the streets, the traffic and hearing music. I do not ever remember hearing music when I was in

Quarriers, the only time I heard music was in the church at Quarriers. When I look back on these times everything was a complete culture shock to me and I was completely confused with what was going on with my life.

54. We moved to 'Wine Alley' which was still in Govan but has been demolished since. This was actually Moorepark Housing Scheme but was nicknamed Wine Alley. I went to Broomloan Road School. It was the same as Quarrier's school I think. I was staying with my mum but [REDACTED] wasn't there and neither was my brother [REDACTED] for a lot of the time. I think he was maybe staying with [REDACTED] and his mum. They would sometimes come to us at the weekends. I think [REDACTED] was a drinker.
55. My granny would come to our house quite a lot. While I was at home my mum and I never really spoke to each other and not like how I speak and spoke with my kids. It was like she was a stranger to me and it might sound stupid but I can never remember her giving me a cuddle.
56. I can't remember ever getting a visit from the social work when I was back home. I had been dogging school and running away a lot because I wasn't happy at home and [REDACTED] was drunk and shouting at me. I'd never seen anything like that before. I was getting picked up by the police and taken back to the house. My mum's uncle was a chief inspector in the police and was telling my mum she needed to get me under control.
57. About a year later and I think I was nine, I went back into care. I was sent back because of a prank involving four or five of us at school and one of us taking a pound off of somebody. It would be classed as bullying now. I didn't take the pound but the police got involved and came to my mum's and said they were charging me. My mum was going off her head at me.
58. I was taken to a court in Govan for this incident with the pound and as far as I know I was the only one that went to court. There was somebody there saying to my mum she was unfit to look after me and a social worker asking me if I knew what the truth was. The judge asked me if I knew what the truth was and then he said something

about three years. At that time I didn't realise what he meant but I now realise that was him sentencing me to three years.

59. I was then taken to Larchgrove in Easterhouse but at that time I didn't know that was where I was going. I was put in there temporarily for a short period until they could find me a placement to do my three years.

### **Larchgrove Remand Centre, Glasgow**

60. Larchgrove was a secure unit with a big wall around it and a secure yard with big walls. I can't remember the names of any of the staff there other than Mr MKI a house parent or teacher or what we called a house screw who slapped me on the jaw. I do remember I was cheeky to them. I changed and started fighting and sticking up for myself.
61. There were boys from about my age up until about age sixteen or seventeen.
62. I wasn't there long albeit I was back and forward in there before going to Guthries and The Kibble.

### **Routine at Larchgrove Remand Centre**

#### *Mornings and Bedtime*

63. We slept in a dorm and I think there were about twelve of us in a dorm. We used to get locked in the dorm at night.
64. We would get up in the morning, have our breakfast and then everyone went to the yard. We were in the yard a lot. Some of us would just be kicking a ball about and others were sitting about smoking.

*Mealtimes / Food*

65. There were no issues with the mealtimes or the food, you sat at big long tables and just got on with it.

*Uniform / Clothing*

66. There was a uniform at Larchgrove where people who were on a detention there were wearing a brown uniform and the rest had blue. I think I had a detention uniform on the first time. I think that meant you were there for fourteen or twenty eight days when you were on detention.

*Schooling*

67. I can't remember going to school in Larchgrove. There must've been something as we wouldn't just be in the yard all day but I just can't remember it.

*Leisure Time*

68. In the evening after dinner we just went back into the yard again.

*Review of care / detention*

69. Nobody from the social work, staff or anybody else came to see me, check on my welfare or give me an update on what was happening. I never even realised I was getting moved elsewhere at that time. It wasn't until I was told by staff I was to go with them one day that I realised I was getting taken away elsewhere.

*Family Contact*

70. My mum never came to visit me there but I think my granny may have.

### **Abuse at Larchgrove Remand Centre**

71. The same things happened in Larchgrove that happened in Quarriers. I was made to masturbate several older boys in there. I don't know what age they were. This used to happen in the dorms and it was one boy at a time that I had to do this to.
72. I think the staff knew what was going on because one time when I was meant to masturbate a boy, I could hear somebody coming along the corridor that I knew was going to be staff. I ran back to my bed but before I could get into it there was Mr MKI coming in and touching my heart. He called me a 'dirty wee bastard' and gave me a skelp. I never told him or anybody else and have never told anybody since what was happening with me being made to masturbate them.
73. I tried to get out the windows a lot but if you got caught you would get a slap and kick and the belt on your arse over your clothing.

### **Leaving Larchgrove Remand Centre**

74. I don't know how long I was there and I couldn't understand why I was there. I got to know people my age from Govan when I was there. It was okay in there other than what happened with these other boys.
75. I do remember some people coming and taking me in a car through to Dr Guthrie's. I remember the road to Edinburgh and passing the big pits near Broxburn or something. It wasn't the M8 it was another road. There was no children's panel or anything, I just got taken straight from Larchgrove to Dr Guthrie's.

## **Dr Guthrie's Approved School, Edinburgh**

76. Dr Guthrie's looked like a big castle. You went up a drive and through a main gate that took you up to the school and on the inside there was a big square with doors all the way round it.
77. I don't know who ran Dr Guthrie's or what it was when I first went there. It was boys only and it wasn't until later that I found out it was an approved school. The boys were about the same age as they had been at Larchgrove which was between nine and sixteen.
78. It seemed like there were thousands of boys there. There were loads of dorms and they were all upstairs with about sixteen boys in each. You could walk right round and there were wings off of it. Downstairs there was the dining room, laundry and offices. I can't remember if there were showers there.
79. The staff that I can remember there were SNR [REDACTED] Mr GZP [REDACTED] and a guy called GVI [REDACTED]. I might be getting confused though because I was only there for a short time. I got sent elsewhere between the ages of nine and thirteen and then was back at Dr Guthrie's for another spell later. They might have been there the second time.

## **Routine at Dr Guthrie's**

### *First day*

80. When I first arrived I was scared. I didn't know where I was going and I didn't know who the people were that took me through or where they were from. I think it was the social work but I'm not sure. I think I got taken to meet the headmaster and was then shown about.

### *Schooling*

81. We went to school at Dr Guthrie's. There was a hall there and there were teachers that were separate from the staff there. We got classes with the normal subjects.

### *Leisure time*

82. You were free to go about your dorm or go outdoors in the grounds. There was games, board games and things to do.

### *Running away*

83. I ran away but I can't remember if that was the first or second time. As a punishment for running away you would get battered and belted.

### **Abuse at Dr Guthrie's Approved School**

84. The same things that had happened to me at Larchgrove started to happen with the older boys at Dr Guthrie's. It was just one boy at a time but there were several of them who made me do it. It was happening a lot and they would drag me into the toilet block or back to the dormitory to make me do it. I don't want to go into the details again. What was happening with me was also happening with other boys.
85. There was something else vulgar that happened that I can't talk about. I think the staff knew what had happened as they were always around me after that.
86. The staff used to call me names. They called me snotty because I was always crying and had snot running down my nose. This was because I was so unhappy about what was happening with the older boys. Nobody ever asked me why I was so unhappy.



### **Leaving Dr Guthrie's Approved School**

87. The minister came to see me and took me to his room. He asked me if I knew where I was going and I said I didn't. He said they were going to put me somewhere else. I think his name was maybe Mr Jones because I'm sure he gave me a new testament when I was leaving with his name on it showing who it was from. This was the first time I had ever met him.
88. He never said why I was getting moved but I think it was because of what the older boys were making me do to them and I think the staff knew what was going on. I was happy that I was going to be getting out of there. I'm not sure how long I had been in Dr Guthrie's. My mind said I was there a long time but it could have been six months maybe longer.
89. A few weeks later I got taken to another approved school, Dale School in Arbroath. I can't remember how I got there. It might have been the same people who took me from Larchgrove to Dr Guthrie's.

### **Dale Approved School, Arbroath**

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### Leaving Dale Approved School

115. I think I left Dale at the end of the sentence I'd been given when I went to Dr Guthrie's. I don't know if I did the full three years or I got out early. I don't think anybody sat me down and said that was me finished. I think I was just put on a train and sent back to Glasgow to go back to my mum. I was with somebody, an adult but I can't remember who.

116. I went back to my mum's and she was pregnant with my sister [REDACTED]. I don't know if my brother [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were there. I think they maybe just came at weekends.

I never really spoke with my mum about anything. We never had anything to say to each other. I went back to Broomloan school but started skipping school quite a bit.

117. My mum used to have to take me to the social work every two weeks or so. It was to see how my mum was coping with me and my behaviour. The social work arranged for me to go to a centre [REDACTED] once a week. It was like a sort of rehabilitation to teach me how to get on with people, to educate me and give me some guidance about how to get on with my life.
118. I was back getting into mischief and getting a clip round the ear by the police. They would just take me back to my mum's because of the uncle that was in the police. My mum used to get warned about my behaviour. I ended up back at court for breaking into my school and stealing the teachers' belts. I was always getting the belt from a teacher Mr [REDACTED] who we called [REDACTED]. He used to belt me on the hands for being cheeky in front of the class and ask them how many. Some would say two, some would say three and my pals would say six. So I broke into the school, wrecked the place and stole the belts. I got caught and sent to the juvenile court.
119. They referred it to the children's panel. I didn't know if I was getting a sentence but the panel said because I was unruly and my mum wasn't fit to look after me they were sending me to an approved school. My mum was going off her head and I was just taken away straight to Larchgrove by a social worker. I thought here we go again and I didn't even know where I was going until I got to Larchgrove.

#### **Larchgrove Remand Centre (2<sup>nd</sup> Sentence)**

120. I was only at Larchgrove for a short spell again. It might have been twenty eight days I'm not sure. I think I was maybe there on remand or detained for reports. I ended up going back to the sheriff court at Ingram Street, got found guilty and then got sentenced to two years in Dr Guthrie's.

121. I think I was about thirteen or fourteen when I went back to Larchgrove by this time and the boys who had abused me the first time I was there were no longer there. I can't remember any of the staff there. I was in dorms again and the routine was just as it had been the time before.
122. I was fighting a lot this time and used to get the strap on the hands as a punishment from the head of Larchgrove. It was usually three times with the same leather type of teacher's belt.
123. Nothing happened to me when I went back there that was abusive.

#### **Dr Guthrie's Approved School (2<sup>nd</sup> Sentence)**

124. I think Mr **GZP** was still **SNR** when I went back there. He was alright but  while we were there. The other staff I remember were Mr **GVI** and Mr **GFG**.
125. I was there for eighteen months and it was different boys from before that were now there. The routine was exactly the same as it had been when I had been there before. I went to school while I was there but never sat exams.
126. There was a big sport's centre, playing field and swimming pool. We did a lot of sport on the football field and did wrestling, boxing and trampolining in the evenings. We were also made to play murderball.
127. I never had any visitors or saw a social worker or anybody like that whilst I was at Dr Guthrie's. I did get to go home sometimes for the weekend or maybe at times in the holidays. I would get the train back through to my mums.
128. I ran away a couple of times whilst I was there this time. I got the strap across the backside over my clothes from the deputy headmaster who was called Mr Rush something. Maybe Mr Rushford. He would give us six of the belt. Other teachers would

send us to him if we did anything wrong and he would belt you. I don't think there was any record kept of how often or why I got the belt.

129. Mr <sup>GZP</sup> also used to make me sit in a room and do the alphabet all the time whilst the others were out doing what they wanted. It was a punishment but he was punishing me for nothing.

#### **Abuse at Dr Guthrie's (2<sup>nd</sup> sentence)**

130. When I went back to Guthrie's the same kind of abuse happened a couple of times where I was dragged into the toilets and made to masturbate an older boy again. It was just that one boy who made me do it twice. He hadn't been at Dr Guthrie's when I had been there before. I was about thirteen or fourteen and started to stand up for myself so it stopped. I don't know if this was happening to other boys. I never told anybody about what he had made me do.
131. Me and a guy called [REDACTED], who was also there at the same time and was a well-known guy who is now dead, ran away one time up to near where the ski slope is in Edinburgh. Mr <sup>GVI</sup> and Mr <sup>GFG</sup> chased us in a land rover and tried to knock us over. I don't know who was driving but we fell over trying to get away and they got out and chased us. The two of them battered us both whilst we were on the ground. They started kicking us to the body. We got taken back to school and the deputy teacher gave us the strap across the backside over our clothes. I can't remember his name. It was a usual teacher's belt with two tongs at the end. We got hit at least six times each with the belt.
132. We went swimming a lot and when we went in the swimming pool we always had to swim naked. I found this really strange and the teacher made us do lifesaving and it wasn't nice doing that naked. I don't know the teacher's name but we all called him by the nickname <sup>GIC</sup> [REDACTED]. He was in his fifties and was always shouting and pointing at you. He never came in the water himself.



### **Reporting Abuse at Dr Guthrie's**

133. After I got the doing from Mr GVI and Mr GFG I wrote to my mum because I had got the doing and my face was all bruises. After I wrote the letter, I sneaked outside the school to send the letter. My mum came to school a couple of weeks later and attacked one of them. I'm not sure which one it was. I was there and she was cursing and swearing at them.
134. I can't remember what the staff said I just remember my mum was bawling and swearing at them about what they had done to her boy. She said "look at the state of him". I still had bruises on my thigh and my stomach. I got told to leave and didn't see my mum again but she told me later she had got physical with them after I was sent out.

### **Leaving Dr Guthrie's Approved School (2<sup>nd</sup> Sentence)**

135. I left Dr Guthrie's at the end of my sentence and got sent home on a train. I can't remember who told me I was leaving but something had been put in place as I got a letter from my mum saying she was looking forward to me being back home again.
136. I went back to my mum's and my sister was there. was there sometimes and sometimes he was staying with . Home life was just the same as it had been before. My mum and I still didn't have a relationship.
137. I was meant to be at school but was skipping it again and getting up to mischief. There was a lot of police involvement because I was breaking into things and stealing out of vans. I would runaway for days on end. Pals would sneak me into their houses and I would sleep on buses and at railways.
138. I ended up at the children's panel a couple of times for both not going to school and stealing. I was given a warning to start going to school and behaving but I never did either.

139. I had a probation officer who I saw a couple of times at Govan Town Hall. It was just me that went on my own and he would question what my mum was doing and what I was doing but there wasn't any point to it.
140. When I was about fifteenish I ended up either back at court or a children's panel, I can't remember for certain and was sent to Kibble Approved School for two years but went to Larchgrove for a short period first.

### **Larchgrove Remand Centre (3rd Sentence)**

141. The set up was much the same as before and I was only in for a short period before going to Kibble.
142. The time I was in there, there were gangs and I saw people getting stabbed in the legs. This never happened to me though. By the time I went back I was bigger, stronger and more streetwise.

### **Kibble Approved School, Paisley**

143. Kibble was an approved school in Paisley and although I was meant to be there for two years I only did about one year or something there.
144. I don't know who ran Kibble but **SNR** was Mr **GHK** and we called him **GHK**. The other staff I can remember were Mr Anderson who was a painter and there was Andy who was a gardener. I remember them because they were both alright with me. Mr Anderson was from the Gorbals in Glasgow. He was the maintenance painter and I helped out with the painting at the new Kibble unit that got built while I was there. There were a few other staff that I can't remember just now.
145. It was all boys there who were aged from about thirteen or fourteen up to about eighteen years. I think there was probably about thirty or forty of us there at the time.

We all had separate cubes which were areas partitioned off in a dorm. We each had a bed and a chest of drawers for keeping clothes in. They took your own clothes off you when you arrived and then provided you with other clothes including a uniform similar to what I had at Larchgrove.

146. It was different and there were lots of older guys. There was lots of gang's stuff going on at the time with gangs from Carlton, Easterhouse, Maryhill, all these places. We'd get out at the weekend and I would go with people from the gang and get involved in fights instead of going to my mum's. It was just something different to do.

### **Routine at Kibble Approved School**

#### *Daily Routine*

147. We would get up in the morning get ready and then go and do whatever chores you were meant to be doing. We would do that all day.

#### *Chores*

148. We'd do painting or gardening and weeding at 'The Moss' which was the area next to the garden. The painter or gardener would pick who they wanted to help them. You didn't have to go but I always went because it was a good day getting outside and I always just did as I was asked. We never got paid for doing the chores.

#### *School / Life skills*

149. There weren't school classes but there were workshops for joinery and things to teach you the basics. We never got any other guidance about life on the outside.
150. At one stage they actually arranged work for four of us from Kibble to work at a five minute car wash in Paisley every day. We'd go and work there during the day and then go back to The Kibble at night.

*Leisure time*

151. We were allowed to go out of Kibble as it wasn't secure but you still needed to get permission to go. We would go to the shops and spend any money we had. You had to get permission to go and I would get money from my mum or my Gran when I was home at the weekends.
152. In the evening we just sat about in groups and read or watched the telly. There was table tennis and football outside if you wanted.
153. We were treated a bit better and had more freedom at Kibble.

*Social work / review of detention*

154. Whilst I was in there I never saw a social worker or had a key worker in the home.

*Visits*

155. My mum came to see me and brought [REDACTED] with her a couple of times. It wasn't far from the house to Kibble.

*Bed Wetting*

156. I had stopped wetting the bed by the time I went to Kibble and I don't know how they dealt with other boys who did.

*Discipline*

157. We would always sit in the gym room and usually on the Friday and Mr <sup>GHK</sup> [REDACTED] would decide and tell us who was getting home leave. It was dependant on your behaviour during the week.

### *Running away*

158. I never ran away or tried to run away from there because I got on well with all the people there.

### **Abuse at Kibble Approved School**

159. There were a lot of fights in Kibble. There was one time I was in a fight after somebody had slashed a boy and I got a doing from Mr GHK and another staff member who I can't remember. I got the blame and they were looking for the blade but it wasn't me that had the blade. They put me in a headlock, banging my head off the wall and shouting "where's the blade"? We were in the gym room, he then sat me down and told me that I was getting denied home leave and they kept me in for six weekends.
160. There were lots of fights that went on at Kibble but the staff didn't bother trying to stop it. I got my head split open by another boy who hit me with a table tennis bat and they just stood and watched it. There was the gang stuff going on in there with all the different Glasgow gangs and they would just fight. The gangs were decided by what area you were from. I was in a gang with mates and we would all look after each other. I was in the Govan gang but I ran about with boys from other gangs who I had got pally with and I'd go with them at the weekends.

### **Leaving Kibble Approved School**

161. I left Kibble when I was about sixteen. GHK told me I was free to go and see the social work, sign on the brew and get some money.
162. I went back home to my mum's and things were just the same. There was no conversation between us and still to this day I don't know why. I was sixteen or seventeen, was drinking a lot, was back fighting with gangs and getting in trouble with the police again.

163. I ended up at the Sheriff Court in Ingram Street charged with attempted murder that was dropped to serious assault. I got sentenced to three years at Polmont. I think this was 1973 and I was seventeen years old when I got sentenced for this. I was still at Govan High and met the girl who became my wife there. We got married in 1976 after I came out after that three year sentence I served at Polmont Young Offenders.

#### **HMP Barlinnie (Borstal)**

164. I got taken to Barlinnie first of all for a period and then got transferred to Polmont. It might have been three months, maybe less.

165. Barlinnie was an eye opener, being locked up in a cell nearly all the time. There was a few of us got sent there at the same time and we wore pin stripe shirts in there. The prison officers were working to rule at the time. We got our food brought to us and we were only out for about fifteen minutes a day for exercise although we would sometimes get out to polish the brass.

166. The staff in there were alright with us. They were working to rule and just wanted a quiet life.

167. There were no issues of abuse whilst I was in Barlinnie.

#### **Polmont Borstal, near Brightons**

168. When I first went to Polmont Borstal I went to the Allocation Centre for six weeks. I was in a single cell that had a bed and a chest of drawers in it. I can't remember whether there was a toilet in the cell or not.

## **Routine at Polmont Borstal**

169. We got woken up in the morning, the cell doors were opened and we got shouted out onto the landing where we were then shouted at to face our cell doors. We were then told by a landing at a time to turn right, march down the stairs and in to the dining area to get fed. After breakfast you had to go back to your cell, clean it out and make your bed up in bed blocks.
170. Our cells used to get inspected three times a day. They would check to see if there was any dust, that your cell was tidy and your bed block was made up properly.
171. We then got shouted out again, had to face the cell door and brought out again. We were then told what chores we were going to be doing. This involved jobs like breaking up the old Bakelite phones, gardening, cleaning and scrubbing the floors in the mile corridor which was the worst one.
172. We were out our cell most of the day and you couldn't go back to it unless you were told to. You couldn't do anything unless you were told. After tea we were allowed to sit about. People would be smoking and chatting and then we would be back into our cell for eight o'clock and that was us for the rest of the night.
173. After six weeks I moved to the north wing. It was a lot easier there and I had no issues because I knew the guy that was the main man in there. He was from Govan and was in for murder, he ran the north wing and he knew me. There was a snooker table there and because of who he was he could play snooker any time he wanted. He called me **GSJ** and he would get me in to play snooker with him.
174. At first in the north wing, we would get up at eight in the morning, do a bit of chores, do the floors, do your room and that was it. A few weeks later they were looking for plasterers for building Cornton Vale at the time so I volunteered. We got transported up to Cornton Vale, did the work went back down to Polmont, got our tea and then went to bed.

### **Abuse at Polmont Borstal**

175. There was a screw called GSM and if anything was wrong in your cell he would hit you with the bed stick. This was a piece of wood used to measure your bed block. It was about two feet long and was thin. One time my bed block was a bit loose and he hit me across the side of the face with his bed stick. When he did this I went for him but he over powered me. I was dubbed up in 'the cooler' for the night. That's where you got sent if you were fighting or did anything wrong. It was underneath the blocks and was a cell with just a bed in it.
176. GSM was one of these guys that if he didn't like you he would take it out on you. When we were in the mile corridor scrubbing the floor he would come up behind you, kick you up the arse with his big pointed shoes and call you a 'fuckin bastard.' We were all in a line scrubbing with a brush and water, he made you look at the ground in front of you and you weren't allowed to talk. We would shite ourselves that he was going to come back up behind us and kick us with these shoes.
177. Nothing happened to me at the north wing in Polmont. It was all very easy-osy because of the main man that I knew.

### **Leaving Polmont Borstal / Transfer to Cornton Vale Borstal**

178. Going back and forward to Cornton Vale went on for a while and then they shifted a few of us up to Cornton Vale because they had their own borstal there. We stayed in the rooms up there. I never thought about running away from there as I enjoyed it and was with a lot of people I knew from Govan. I liked the work and they kept us busy.

### **Leaving Cornton Vale Borstal**

179. I'm not sure what dates I left Cornton Vale but think I was about eighteen. One of the reasons I volunteered to go was because I was told I would get an early release from



my sentence. I kept my nose clean and I finished my sentence up there after only doing one year of a three year sentence.

180. I never had any issues or suffered any abuse at Cornton Vale.

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

181. After I was released from Cornton Vale I went back to my mum's again. I was again getting drunk and getting in trouble for breaches of the peace and things. I saw a probation officer a couple of times at Govan Town Hall but he was no help.

182. I couldn't get a job because of my convictions. My mum then put me out as I couldn't get work.

183. I stayed with a pal and then moved in with my now ex-missus. I think I was about nineteen when I moved in with her and we got married in 1976. We had a sub-let then and I did get a couple of jobs but nothing great. One was at Lyon's bakery and then nothing after that. I've not worked since. My wife worked in the laundry in the hospital but then nothing. We got a house in Drumoyne. I carried on drinking and my pal and I were always getting stopped and searched and got done for a few more breaches of the peace.

184. The years following my life in Quarriers and trying to put behind me the institutions that I had been in like Polmont Borstal was a very hard life for me and my mother with what was to follow after I left Polmont.

185. My mother's brother, my uncle, was found dead in a police cell at Govan Police Office during 1978. He had supposedly committed suicide by hanging himself but I have my own thoughts and reasons why and I have always disputed this.

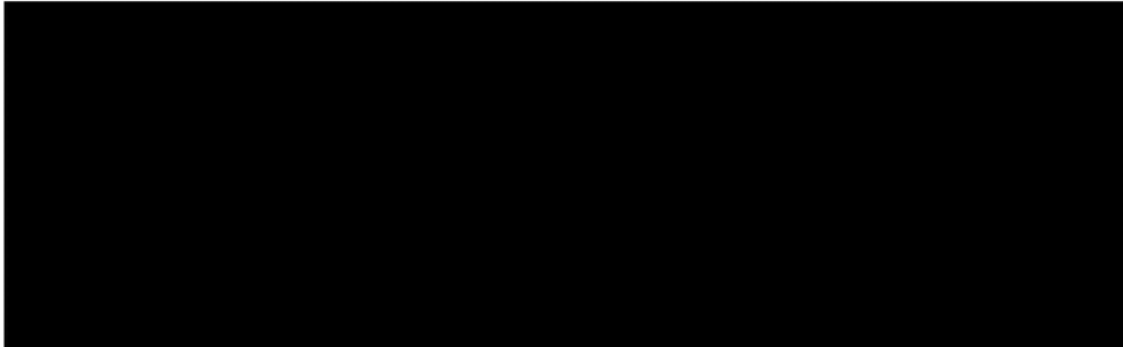
186. Then my brother was murdered during 1982. The person that committed the crime is still walking the streets today due to him getting a not proven verdict. It is well known

in the area where my brother was killed that the person found not proven is the person that killed him.

187. I had three daughters who are called [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and a son [REDACTED] that I love very much. My wife ended up in hospital with manic depression before my daughter [REDACTED] was born in 1991. I never knew that was what she was in hospital for. The doctors wouldn't tell me what she was in for.
188. When [REDACTED] was about six months old my wife just disappeared one day and that was the last I saw her for a while. I was then a lone parent and brought my children up on my own. We are a very close and loving family. Although I did try to give them a decent life, I did struggle by myself bringing them up. I did go off the rails a bit with drinking alcohol but I fought tooth and nail to try to make sure that nothing happened to them and that they were safe from any kind of harm. I also wanted to make sure that they did not end up having the kind of life that I had by being taken from me and sent to somewhere like Quarriers.
189. My wife reappeared a while later. I was staying in the Linthouse area in Glasgow at the time and my daughter said I'd be better getting divorced from her. About four years after she had left we did get divorced. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had both left and got their own places so it was just me and the two younger girls. I was bad on the drink and there was social work involvement for a while. They had been involved since before my wife had left because she wasn't well and I was drinking.
190. About 1999 or 2000 through the social work I got involved with Braendam Link and The Pearce Institute. Molly was the co-ordinator for the place and I ended up doing a lot of voluntary stuff with the group. We did kids camping and things and I loved it.
191. I went to the Govan Initiative who trained people back to work to try and help me get a job. The manager there was John Currie who was a Govan boy and knew quite a lot of us anyway. Everything I went for they were asking for a fully enhanced disclosure and I had no chance again because of my convictions. That was a waste of me going to the Initiative as they could've just told me that at the beginning.

192. Through Govan Initiative I went back to college and did an HNC in community development but didn't finish it. I met this person around then which was about 2004 and I seemed to fall back on it. I did well on it and I did get some certificates for the modules I did but just didn't get back and finish it. It was a year course and I tried to get back to it in 2005 but sadly on the [REDACTED] 2005 my son [REDACTED] was brutally murdered.

193.



194. This put more strain on me with my family commitments and I took unwell with heavy depression and did not know what was going on all around me. I could not go to the undertakers to even pick a coffin for my son and had to leave that up to my daughters to do so. During this time of bereavement I started to ask questions about why all these kind of things were happening to me and my family, as I think what happened to my son had sent me a bit off my head.

195. During this time one of my aunts came to see me accompanied by my sister. As we talked I brought up Quarrier's Homes in our conversations. I think she was quite taken a back and a bit shocked when I mentioned Quarrier's but she went on to say to me that she knew very little of it and also that she did not want to talk about it during this time. She did say that we should meet up after all the arrangements were done for [REDACTED] and that she could only tell me what she knew.

196. I left it at that and never mentioned it again for quite some time after [REDACTED]'s death. I had plenty of other things on my mind surrounding [REDACTED]'s death that I felt were never dealt with. I am still trying to get the answers to the questions that I have been asking

but they have always fallen on deaf ears that is why I do not have a lot of faith in our justice system.

197. The years following my son's death are quite muddled up just in the same way it was at Quarriers but it was as if it had brought it all back again about Quarriers. I finally met up with my aunt and got into the conversation about my mother and about Quarriers. The conversation that we had about it helped a little bit but as I have already said she did not know a lot about it.
198. My aunt did say that my mother tried many times to try to get me back but was never allowed and was refused many times to do so. It was the social work that stopped her getting me back.
199. My aunt also told me my father's name and where he came from in Glasgow. I never ever got the chance to talk or even meet him as he had already passed away but I did find some of his family on social media, did contact them and did meet up with them. At that time there was a man called [REDACTED] who as far as I know was married to my father's sister and her maiden name was [REDACTED]. He was the brother in law of my so called father.
200. His niece that I had met on social media tried to get him to meet me so that I could ask him a few things about my father but he declined a meeting with me as he said it was too long in the past and that he was too old to talk about it.
201. I did go to [REDACTED]'s funeral after he died and did meet up with other members of my father's family but since then I have not kept in touch with them and they too have never been interested in keeping in touch with me. The only person that showed any interest in me was [REDACTED]'s niece.
202. I've never worked in a paid job since [REDACTED] was murdered. I was still involved with voluntary work at the soup kitchen, helping the homeless, the poverty alliance and things like that and before Covid I was helping at the [REDACTED]. One of the reasons was to keep me off the drink.

## Impact

203. Over the years my thoughts played constantly in my mind, wanting to know everything about my life and also wanting to speak out about the things that happened to me while I was in Quarriers' care. Looking back I think that Quarriers had actually closed me down in such a way that I became very quiet. I found it very hard to talk and get on with people and could not trust anyone, that is why I keep my thoughts to myself and that is why I am still like this today.
204. My thoughts about Quarriers have never left me and it only takes the smallest thing to trigger my thoughts about this place. It will never go away. I still get flash backs and horrible thoughts about that place and the people there as it destroyed my life before I actually started living it. This has hung over me since, it will never go away as I have lived with it in my head for too long now and I will likely take it to my grave with me.
205. I hated that place so much as I feel that it destroyed my life. It turned me into something I did not want to be as I did rebel against the system after I came out of Quarriers and hated any kind of authority. I started getting into trouble with the police and these things that happened in Quarriers followed me into these other places that I was sent to.
206. I think I spent more times in institutions than I spent at home up until I was twenty years old and I would also say on a couple of occasions I was sent away for something I had not really done. I still resent today what happened to me.
207. The last time I was set to an institution was to Polmont Borstal and to this day can truly say that what I was supposed to have done, I had nothing to do with it at that time. I still know the people that were involved with the crime but that again was my mistake for not speaking up. I think that this was instilled in me with what happened in Quarriers and what the consequences were of being a grass.
208. At that time it was taboo to be a grass and the severe consequences that it could cost you. That is all I can say about that. I also knew what happened to someone that was

found out to be a grass either on the outside or in an institution of some kind. That goes back to GSN threatening me at Quarriers that I wasn't to tell anyone.

209. It did not matter with what I did in my young life as I was always seen as being an unruly person by the authorities and my mother was always seen by the authorities to be an unfit mother that was unable to look after me. If I look back it was nothing to do with my mother in the way I behaved as it was me alone that had decided to go down that path and that was due to what I was put through.
210. I have said that I did not know anything about Quarriers or why I was there and how long I was there for but I will say during my time there I felt a great emptiness, I felt a feeling of sadness, loneliness, fear and the despair of abandonment.
211. At the same time I have had to look deep into myself and have found it very hard to describe my feelings and the anger that I still have with my personal history. It was painful to me with the memories that I have from that place. I felt that I was unable to put it down on paper or speak about the true nature of what really happened to me in this place as it is disgusting and it causes me a very lot of pain to speak about it.
212. Quarriers turned me into someone that I did not want to be or even like. This is due to the trouble that I had with authority and authoritative figures. I was constantly getting into trouble but most of it was due to the aggression that I had inside of me which led me into getting into a lot of fights. This aggression that I had inside of me came from Quarriers as it had followed me from there even from an early age.
213. A lot of times when I got into trouble with the police I would be asked who my mother and father were but I could not answer who my father was. This led to many taunts from them about me being a bastard and this is something else that embarrassed me and hung over my life. I would get embarrassed if I had to fill in a form or go for an interview when I was asked for my father's name and it would stop me filling out a form that asked for it. It was my auntie that told me years later my dad's name was [REDACTED]. He has passed away now and I never met him.

214. I still bear the emotional and physical scars from this place. After being made to stand in the dark area between the door at cottage 8, ever since that time I have had problems with my feet. I have been hospitalised many times over the years because of these problems with my feet and still have to attend my doctor to this day because of this problem.
215. None of my immediate family even know of my history of Quarrier's Homes for the simple reason I wanted to protect them from ever hearing about my life and what happened to me there. I would do anything to protect them from ever knowing about it.
216. Things do change and I have lost the aggression that I talk about. The only anger that I have are the thoughts and the memories of the events of the past that are locked inside my head.
217. As for now I have a loving family of my own who are very supportive towards me and help me in many ways which goes two ways. I have been blessed with grandchildren of the best and I myself would do anything to protect them.
218. I started drinking as soon as I came out of Cornton Vale. I turned to drink because I was fucked up in the head from being in all these places. Drink has been with me the rest of my life. I went to alcoholic's anonymous after [REDACTED] died and was off it for five years but went back on it after that. I also took drugs for the same reasons and it was just an extension of the alcohol. I spoke to the doctor about it.
219. I'm not sure whether I would have had a better education if I hadn't gone to institutes and approved schools. The reason I say that is that when I was at Dr Guthrie's for maths we did algebra but when I went back to Govan High after that they were just teaching me simple stuff like one and one.
220. I never had a consistent education because of all the disruption and I think this affected me because I probably would have made something of my life.

221. I turned to crime and that is definitely because I was so angry after what happened at Quarriers. If I hadn't been put into care I don't know if I would have turned to crime. If I hadn't turned to crime, I wouldn't have had the criminal convictions that have held me back from getting jobs.
222. I think being in care has affected my relationship with family. My brother [REDACTED] ended up in borstal as well. My sister and my mum sometimes as well would push to talk about what happened in care and I didn't want to speak about it. I never felt we were a normal family.
223. I feel that I cannot explain these things in the right way, it always holds me back from saying what I want to say and how I feel about it. I feel that I am very much stuck in my ways due to the embarrassment and shame that it causes me to feel. That is why I find it very hard to speak about things that have happened. These feelings go back to over sixty years ago, which is a very long time and a thing that is very hard for anyone to shift from their life. I have a very long history of depression and have attempted suicide on a few occasions during my life before I had the kids. I remember waking up one day in hospital being told I needed oxygen or I would die. I did this because of everything I had been through. I have been on medication for most of my life to treat the depression and I am still getting treated for it.
224. I don't have a trust in authority and that goes back to my time in care and everything that the social work, police and system haven't done for me and did to me. I just don't trust any of them. The full system has let me down. People told lies about [REDACTED]'s death because they were scared to lose their jobs. I was young when my uncle died in the cell and I looked up to him quite a lot. I went to the police station after his funeral and challenged them about his death. The police came in behind me and put me in a head lock and after that I woke up in the morning. My view was they did the same to me as they did to my uncle. I woke after being unconscious but they went too far with my uncle.



## **Treatment / support**

225. I did talk to my doctor many years ago about what happened to me but I did not really go into much detail as I still felt very embarrassed about it. I did not like talking about it but he was very helpful to me. I was firstly referred to an art therapist for counselling. I was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress as there was that much stuff going on with the death of my son and also at the time, me and my two youngest children became homeless due to fleeing from violence.
226. At that time I owned my own house, which I lost but this was not my fault. My family ended up in different homeless units throughout Glasgow and because of us living in homeless units for about three years I was forced by Glasgow City Council to sell the family home.
227. What made things worse Glasgow City council took me to court because I had private property and tried to take the family home from me. So in one hand Glasgow City Council were saying that they were trying to help us by giving us temporary accommodation but on the other hand they were very much against us and trying to punish me by trying to take the family home from me.
228. My two daughters wanted to get their own houses as both of them fell pregnant during our time being homeless. I found myself in a one bedroom flat in somewhere that I did not want to be but I had no option as the council had told me and that this was my last offer of housing. If I did not accept it they would have no obligation to me and that they would stop their duty of care to me. I am still living at the property but have never been able to settle in it and hate the place. When I look back now this actually makes me laugh at these council morons as that is what they really are.
229. I was then referred to Brand Street Recourse Centre to a psychiatrist and a psychologist by my doctor which I still attend today but due to the Covid virus face to face appointments have been stopped. During my sessions with the psychologist I also spoke about what happened to me at Quarriers but at the same time I could not go into the full detail just in the same way that I could not go into detail with my doctor.

## Reporting of Abuse

230. I have not reported the abuse I suffered to the police.
231. In 2016 I contacted the National Confidential Forum based in Glasgow where the children's panel was situated at the time. The name of the contact that I had at the time was a person called Emma. I did not follow it up as I was scared and felt ashamed of sharing what had happened at Quarriers and it has taken me a lot of time to get my head around it and have the courage to speak out.

## Records

232. I got some of my records when I started going to Brand Street. Along with my CPN they got some of my social work records. It was a lot about me being drunk and not fit to look after the kids.
233. I do however have some information of my stay in Quarriers due to the Freedom of Information Act. There is not very much information about me regarding the time that I spent there. Some of the years to me seem mixed up and is quite confusing to me, due to what I have been told and what I received from Glasgow City council about the information about Quarriers from Glasgow City Council which made it more confusing to me.
234. I have a letter from The Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children to Quarriers homes dated [REDACTED] 1958. It is background about home conditions and the application for me to go into Quarriers. The inspector considers that the case is worthy of assistance and that the child should be admitted. An admission form shows that my mum was paying £1 towards my stay.
235. I have a copy of a Quarriers Homes Psychologist Report of <sup>GSJ</sup> [REDACTED] aged five from November 1960.

236. It says 'GSJ' is according to present exhibits one of the dull who it may be that mental ability is somewhat better. His severely retarded social and emotional development are probably having a detrimental effect on the development of his potential mental status. Very over dependant his whole behaviour pattern is that of a much younger child, perhaps about the three year old stage. Over dependant in attitude he frequently loses his belongings and needs an abnormal amount of individual attention. If more demands such as are commensurate with his developmental level are made upon him his present extreme immaturity should cease and his emotional status come within the normal range. There is no apparent reason why providing handling is suitable future mental and emotional development should not be satisfactory.'
237. Another record is a letter from The Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children to Quarriers homes dated 17 February 1961. It says that it was not suitable for me to return to my mum's address. My mother agreed that she had been stupid and she might possibly be persuaded to leave the child in Quarriers homes until after the birth of her second child.
238. Another record from Quarriers authored by the house parents says 'GSJ' was admitted to our care on [REDACTED] 1958 to allow his mother who was not married to go out to work and eventually make a home for him. 'GSJ' remained until he was discharged to his mother on [REDACTED] 1963. When we arrived to take over cottage 8, Quarriers Village in [REDACTED] 1962 our attention was drawn to 'GSJ' [REDACTED] Apart from his poor physique he appeared to be so pathetic. He was always crying, someone had hit him, he had fallen, he had lost some of his clothing, there was always something. He was continually late home from school and quite often walked in the river with his socks and shoes on. In the morning he took twice as long to dress as other children of his age. We felt that these little things must have led to frustration for those caring for him and this must have led to 'GSJ' getting into lots of rows. He certainly was an unhappy child. We decided to make allowances for him and spend more time helping him and to give him as much attention and affection as was possible, whilst caring for the other fourteen children. 'GSJ' was not very bright at school although he read well for his age. Over the fifteen months that we cared for him he was not visited by relatives. His mum took him out for a holiday at Christmas 1962.

*When he returned after the week he had a complete rig out of new clothing. On his birthday his mother sent him a knitted jersey. She never visited him or wrote to him until she visited him in [REDACTED] 1963 when she asked the superintendent of the home to discharge [REDACTED] GSJ into her care.'*

239. I also have a copy of a letter from Mr [REDACTED] GZP [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] at Dr Guthrie's to Mr McLeish the Children's Officer from The Children's department at John Street, Glasgow. It is dated [REDACTED] 1965 and Mr [REDACTED] GZP [REDACTED] says I was admitted to Dr Guthrie's on [REDACTED] 1965 and notes that I had been in the care of the children's department for about a year since I came out of the orphan homes. This means I was ten years old when I went to Dr Guthrie's.
240. I did have other records but I don't have them anymore.

#### *Revisits*

241. I did visit Quarriers, a few years ago with a friend, after I had been talking about it and was asked if I would want to go back to see the place. My friend and I went to Quarriers and to me it was as if I had been there only the day before. At the time of the visit I did not know the number of the cottage that I was in but I could remember exactly where it stood. I took my friend to the cottage. Straight away I felt it was as if I had never left the place and the last time that I had been there was over fifty years ago. I felt angry and upset.
242. I showed my friend the monkey puzzle tree that I used to try and climb up and had said that the tree that was now there was not the same tree as it was a larger tree when I was there and this one was much smaller.
243. I then showed her the back yard of the cottage and also where the back door from the kitchen into the yard was. It was now bricked up but you could see where it originally had been due to the difference in the brick work. There were two doors leading out into the back yard from between the kitchen, the door from the kitchen led into a dark space and then the door into the back yard.

244. The reason that I have a memory of this door leading into the yard is that this is the door where I was made to stand for long periods of time in the dark space sometimes with only my pyjamas on and in my bare feet in all types of weather. I felt angry when I went back to the cottage especially when I saw this part again.
245. I went on to show my friend where the woods were from where I encountered the first instance of abuse. I also showed my friend where the pond used to be but that too was also filled in. Just like the door into the back yard of the cottage. I remember it all as clear as if it were yesterday.
246. When we were there we met with this woman at some kind of information centre in the place. I told her that I had been at Quarriers as a child and was just trying to find out things about it. When I had told her where the cottage was she knew of it straight away. I remember asking her about the cottage and about the people that worked there. At the time I did not mention anything about abuse but I did mention the name **GSN** and described the way he looked and dressed.
247. She did say to me that most of the people that were there did dress the same way and she showed me some photos of people but it was when I described him to her, in the way he looked and his features and the description of him, to me, by the way she looked at me, she seemed to know the person that I had just described.
248. I thought she was being very careful with what she was telling me. She did say that most of the old records had been either been lost or destroyed. We then left to go back home and it felt as if I had never left Quarriers and never will due to the long and bad memories that I have of it.
249. I tried to find other places but couldn't. I knew Dr Guthrie's was in Liberton and wanted to see what it was like even though I could see it in my mind but I couldn't find it. One time when we were through in Arbroath I looked for Dale but couldn't find that either. I've passed Kibble loads of time.

## **Lessons to be learned**

250. The people that have suffered through the hands of these kinds of people are the real victims not the perpetrators of these crimes. These abusers think that they are victims by making some lame excuse that society has done this to them. Maybe some are victims and have also witnessed these kind of abuses on themselves but at the end of the day it does not give anyone any excuse or any right to commit these kind of crimes on a human being. If they do they must answer for their crimes.
  
251. My mother lived by her nerves and was never able to work as she was so scared. She lived in fear of the people that would visit to check up on her and to see what she was doing. She was always keeping her house spotless and watching her every move, as she was scared that my brother and sister would also be taken from her. Maybe the people in power should take my mother's example for what she had to do to survive. They should clean their own house first by getting rid of the people that cannot do the job they were entrusted with doing as it would have saved a lot of heartache in the first instance.
  
252. All these people that have been involved with me ending up in Quarriers at the beginning of my life and up until I was twenty years of age and what they did to my mother should all bow their heads in shame. These people that made my mother give me up to Quarriers would often visit my mother but not once did they ever visit Quarriers to find out how I was doing. I was just another statistic to them, I did not matter to them and was forgotten by them. As far as I am concerned my mother was contributing to my keep at Quarriers, trying to make sure that I was safe and that no harm would befall me. I was supposed to have been in a safe place where I would be protected from anything happening to me. Altogether I was failed, by the ones that were supposedly protecting me from any harm and I was also failed by the system.
  
253. I do not just blame the people that did these things to me, I also blame the system for letting it happen to me in the first place. By the system what I really I mean is The City of Glasgow Corporation or as it is known today Glasgow City Council. They are the ones that dealt with me in the first instance and used my mother for an excuse. I would

say that an inquiry or investigation should be held into the failings of Glasgow City Council and its leaders over the years. An investigation that should start from the top down.

254. Trying to make some kind of sense for what has happened to me and my family over the years, if I can actually call it that, does not make sense to me what so ever. That is why I have questioned myself over the years, why things happen to some people and not to others but I will say thank God that it does not always happen to others and saves the lives of many people of an uncertain future.
255. People may wonder why I have not one bit of faith in a system that is supposed to be protecting us all. My answer to this is and still is to this day that these things that have happened in the past are still happening to this day whether it may be child abuse, rape or murder or any other evil crime. They are still happening to people especially the most vulnerable. These things that are happening, go on day after day, week after week and year after year. All we hear from these people that run these systems is that they need to look at what lessons can be learnt but the only lessons that can be learnt are the lessons of their own personal faults and their dismal failings. They have failed people constantly over the years and it will still go on long after my time.
256. The people that run these systems need to take a good look at themselves. They need to quickly identify where they are going wrong, stop blaming people for the mistakes that they themselves have made over the years and are still making. They should stop passing the buck on to others and start to think how they might feel if it was someone from their own family that these things were happening to. There are a lot of people that go into these jobs as they do know that a high wage goes with their job. I am sorry to say that some are only in these jobs for the money, nothing else but that is only my personal view.
257. I would like to finish by saying the people that ran these homes should be made accountable for what happened in them and also the people that run these systems should be made accountable and that also includes our governments. Things have been covered up over a long number of years and for far too long. They will keep

covering things like Quarriers up, just to save the people in power, whether previous or present any more embarrassment.

258. I do believe that a proper inquiry or investigation should take place surrounding Quarriers Homes and all that it stands for. It might just come to light that it may not have been just a handful of people that have had a bad experience with mental, physical and sexual abuse. It may run into the thousands due to all the cover ups. Like me many people have kept it hidden as they do not want to hurt their families and also deep down themselves. They just might feel the embarrassment and the shame of what happened to them in the same way that I have felt over the years.
259. At the same time it is always there and never goes away. Like me they too will likely take it to their grave just like the many people that have already taken it to the grave. This may be the only way that the victims, as that is what they are, will ever get some kind of closure.
260. I would like to meet these politicians that put these policies in place and the people in authority like Glasgow City Council and their social work department that run these systems.
261. My personal experience of the people in these jobs is that they are arrogant and ignorant. They look and talk down to people, look at them as if they are the failures of our societies but they are not the failures of society. Many of them have been left out in the battlefield of life where the only winners are the people with the most power and that have the most ammunition with their arrogance and ignorance.
262. That is why the powerless are always left behind in the battlefield of life and left for dead as if they have never existed. They are only a statistic and are left with an uncertain future of what will become of them in the end.
263. If the truth be known, all these people in power are the biggest failures as they may have never been in the same position as many of the people that come into their system or even know what life is all about. Many that I have come across over the



years seem to me as if they and their lives have been wrapped up in cotton wool all their lives. They are very much oblivious to the hardships and the many issues that many people face.

264. I would like say to them when I go to my grave I will be cursing you all. No amount of apologies will ever put things right by a system that has destroyed so many lives due to the failures of the system. At the same time these same people will never accept their failures. They should all bow their heads in shame and let God be their judge when the time comes.

**Hopes for the Inquiry**

265. I hope that the Inquiry will ensure that there should be more vetting for people working in care. I also hope and think there should also be an independent body who come into care homes to speak to those in care to see if they are okay. It shouldn't just be once every six months either it should be constantly.

266. If somebody that was independent and who I could trust had come into the likes of Quarriers or Dr Guthrie's I might have spoken to them.

**Other information**

267. 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. GSJ .....

Dated. 8/11/2022 .....