

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GGY [REDACTED]

Support person present: No.

1. My name is GGY [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1956. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in the Gorbals area of Glasgow. My parents' names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We were living at [REDACTED] which isn't there anymore. I had three older sisters, [REDACTED] who was five years older than me, [REDACTED] who was seven years older than me, and [REDACTED], who was six or eight years older. I can't remember which sister was the eldest. I was the only boy at the time. My brother [REDACTED] was born about a year after me, then there was [REDACTED] but I don't know how much younger he is than me. I also had younger twin sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and my youngest sister, [REDACTED], who is about thirteen years younger than me. It's only me and my youngest sister left now.
3. We were in one-bedroomed houses. My parents would sleep on the couch and four or five of us would sleep in the one bed. I started school in the Gorbals, but I wasn't there for very long before we moved to Parkhead. I went to a primary school in Parkhead called Quarry Brae but I can't remember much about that. We then moved to Shettleston, but I stayed in the same school because it wasn't far away. We moved back to Parkhead again and then we moved to Maryhill, Oatlands, Kelvinhall, Anderston, Easterhouse and back to Anderston. I can't remember all the different schools that I went to.

4. I've been trying to count, but I think we were in about twelve or thirteen different houses when I was growing up. At that time, you paid your monthly rent to a factor. I don't remember my dad working when I was a child. He would tamper with the electricity and the gas. We would stay in a place for a year, a year and a half and then all of a sudden we would have to move. We would then be in another place for a year, two years if we were lucky. Because of that, I can't really remember one person from primary school or any teachers.
5. When I was six years old, I was in [REDACTED] because I had nineteen stitches. I didn't care about getting injured all the time. The article said that I had more stitches than a professional boxer and I was only six. I fell down a set of stairs and got five stitches, I got hit by a stone and got six stitches and then I was accidentally hit by a broken bottle and got five stitches. There was a picture of me with a guy that I thought was called Pat Roller. Years later, I went to the Mitchell Library and found the article. I realised that the guy in the picture was a patroller who must have gone about the scheme.
6. There used to be rats at the back of the tenements. We weren't afraid of them. I'd be terrified now, but in those days they were our pals. We had no inside toilets, no baths. We had to go outside at 2:00 am to go to the toilet. If a neighbour was in, you had to wait. There was no toilet paper. We used newspaper on a bit of string. When I was at secondary school, I used to go to the swimming baths once a week to wash my hair and bathe.
7. We didn't have any social work involvement at home. I don't remember going hungry at home. I think I was quite happy, but every year or so I was moving. I had to make new friends and then I would move and I had to make new friends. It's hard to remember any friends I had when I was younger. I didn't get into trouble with the police.
8. We moved to Shettleston when I was about eight years old. I started breaking into shops, bakeries and sweetie shops. I would steal cakes and biscuits and things like that and take them back home to my family. I got away with it for a couple of years, but I got caught just after I turned ten. I'm not sure which area of Glasgow we were

living in at the time, but I was taken to the Sheriff Court for a charge of assault and robbery. It wasn't me, it was my brother. He stole a boy scout's collection box and burst his face off the drinking fountain. My brother did a bunk, but I stayed. I didn't say anything to the police about my brother.

9. It was the first time that I'd been in any trouble. I remember being in the court, but I don't remember having a lawyer or pleading guilty or not guilty. I was given fourteen days detention in Larchgrove. It was the first time that I was taken away from my parents. I can remember my mother and father being at the court. I was grabbing onto my mother and I wouldn't let go. I can remember screaming my head off. I didn't want to leave my mum. I was taken into the cells. The cell was like the cells you get nowadays. There was a stone thing that you sat on and steel doors. They put me in with an older boy of about twelve, thirteen. He'd already been in Larchgrove and he was trying to calm me down. I was really terrified.

#### **Larchgrove Remand Home, Edinburgh Road, Springboig, Glasgow**

10. I was ten years old when I went to Larchgrove for the first time. I had never heard of it before I went there. I don't remember leaving the court or arriving at Larchgrove. I was there for fourteen days the first time. I went back there for a second spell of about five or six weeks when I was eleven. It was much the same the second time I went there. When I was ten, I think I was one of the youngest boys there. The oldest were about fourteen, fifteen. I think there were about a couple of hundred boys. All of the staff were male, but I can't remember any of their names. They just wore normal clothes.
11. Larchgrove was on Edinburgh Road. There was a driveway leading up to the building. There was a doorway at the front. When you went in the door, there was a big corridor that took you to the gym hall. On the left hand side there was a yard where you could kick a tiny ball about. The dormitories were at the end of the corridor to the left and right. They had names, but I can't remember them. The dining hall was upstairs, but that was the only thing. There were two or three dining halls because there wasn't enough space for all the boys in one.

## **Routine at Larchgrove**

### *Mornings/bedtime*

12. There were dormitories with about eight to ten single beds down each side. We had a steel locker next to our beds, but I've forgotten what we kept in them. I don't know whether I brought anything with me. We went to bed early, but I don't know what time it was. We would watch TV before bed and then go into the dormitory before lights out. Some boys would have a laugh and a carry on. Some of the older boys would be fighting, but I took nothing to do with that. Once the doors were locked that was it, we were locked in the dormitory all night. There were no staff around. Nobody came in until the next morning.
  
13. I can't remember what happened if we needed the toilet at night time. I can't remember any boys wetting the bed. I think a member of staff opened the door in the morning. We would go and brush our teeth. We would make our beds, get dressed and get ready for breakfast.

### *Mealtimes/food*

14. There were two or three dining halls. We went to whichever one had space and we could sit wherever we wanted. There were big long tables with separate seats. I can't remember what the food was like in Larchgrove. I don't think I had any problems with it.

### *Washing and bathing*

15. We had to get showered every now and again. I can only remember taking two showers the first time that I was there. We had to sit in the gym hall in rows and wait our turn for the shower. The staff would come and put this stuff in our hair for head lice. There was no talking in the gym hall. We weren't allowed to talk. The showers were communal, but I can't remember much about them.

### *Clothing*

16. The staff took your clothes off you and gave you clothes when you went into Larchgrove. We were given pyjamas and slippers. Everybody wore brown corduroy shorts and black sand shoes, which we called the penny blacks. I can't remember what top we wore.

### *Leisure time*

17. I can't remember doing any school lessons or things like that. I can only remember being in the yard, kicking a ball about. Thirty or forty of us would be chasing a tennis ball. At the back of the yard, the teachers would give some of the older boys a cigarette. There was a gym hall with benches around it. You could go in there and take part in basketball, but I would just sit on the bench and talk to other boys. I liked football but not basketball. We would watch TV at night. We would be taken into a room to watch TV and given a carton of milk and a jam piece. That was our snack before we were put to bed. We were never taken out of Larchgrove.

### *Healthcare*

18. I didn't see a doctor when I was at Larchgrove. We didn't get any health checks. I don't remember a dentist or a doctor being there.

### *Visits/inspections*

19. I didn't get any visits when I was at Larchgrove. I don't ever remember having a social worker attached to me so I didn't get any social work visits. I don't remember seeing any visitors at all at Larchgrove. The second time that I was in Larchgrove I must have seen someone for an assessment to take place, but I can't remember that.

### *Running away*

20. I can remember one of the boys threw his chair through the window of the dining hall because he was trying to escape. There was a drop from the window and he didn't end up doing it. I can also remember two boys escaping from my dormitory. They were caught a couple of weeks later and brought back in. They were put into a holding cell. There was a spy hole that we could look through when we went past. I don't know how long they were in there for, but I was never in the holding cell.
21. When we were kicking the ball about in the yard, people would climb drainpipes and try and get out. People managed to get away, but I was too scared to run away.

### *Discipline*

22. We just did what we were told. If the staff told us to do something we did it.

### **Abuse at Larchgrove**

23. When we were in the gym hall waiting for our showers, an older boy kept giving me a wee kick. I turned around and told him to stop it. The teacher saw me talking to the older boy and I got a couple of slaps. I got a slap on the back of the head. I told the teacher that the boy was kicking me and I was telling him to stop it. I was trying to explain myself, but then I got a slap in the back of the head. Five or ten minutes later, the pest behind me did it again. I told him to stop it and the teacher booted me in the side of my leg. I didn't expect that from a teacher. The teacher said that he had warned me to stop talking.
24. I can't describe the member of staff that kicked me. A kick or a slap didn't bother me. I saw that happen to other boys. They would also get a slap or a kick. It tended to happen to the younger boys. I never saw any boys injured as a result of the kicks and slaps. Eventually, I was moved away from that pest and there were no more problems.

The second time I went to Larchgrove I didn't have any problems. I knew that talking was not allowed and I knew to keep away from the older boys. I had wised up a bit.

### **Leaving Larchgrove**

25. I went home after my fourteen days detention. There was no social work involvement at home. We moved addresses and things at home were much the same. I got caught stealing sweets and biscuits from a shop in Parkhead. The police caught me hiding in the shop and I was convicted of housebreaking. I can't remember being back at court but about a year later, just after my eleventh birthday, I went back to Larchgrove for an assessment. I was there for five or six weeks for them to decide which approved school I should be sent to.
26. After Larchgrove, I was sent to Edinburgh. There were approved schools much closer than Edinburgh. I thought they sent me to Doctor Guthrie's because it was Protestant and I was a Protestant, but years later I learned there were Protestant approved schools much closer. I don't know why they sent me so far away. They didn't tell me how long I was going to approved school for. I'd never been to Edinburgh before. The only time I'd left Glasgow was to go to Saltcoats with my family.

### **Doctor Guthrie's, 10 Lasswade Road, Edinburgh**

27. I was eleven when I went to Doctor Guthrie's. I can't remember how I got there or arriving there. I went to see Doctor Guthrie's a couple of years ago. I wanted to see how far away it was and what it was like. It was massive. I didn't expect it to be the size that it was. I knew the address because I had written a letter to my father which had the address on it. I asked the bus driver to tell me when we reached Lasswade Road. It was the same bus stop as it had been all those years ago. It's fenced off now and being made into flats. When we were there as boys, it was surrounded by football pitches. I couldn't remember how big it was and how far away it was. I had

remembered the row of shops, which is still there, and fields where we used to do cross country running.

28. The building was built on more than one level, but I can't remember how many. I remember a lot of stairs. I know that the head teacher's office was on the ground floor. The big dining hall was also on the ground floor. The school was in a separate building next to the main building. We had a swimming pool, which was also separate. There were hundreds of boys between the ages of ten and fifteen. I was one of the youngest boys there. I can't remember any other boys from Glasgow. Most of the boys came from Edinburgh.
29. There was one female member of staff. The rest of the staff were male. I don't know who was in charge. There would have been a head teacher, but I can't remember any of the names of staff. The only teacher's name that I remember is the music teacher's, who was called GFG. We called all the members of staff 'Teacher' or 'Sir'. The teachers were different from the members of staff who took us to the dining hall and woke us up in the morning. The staff called us by our second names. I was never called GGY.

### **Routine at Doctor Guthrie's**

#### *Mornings/bedtime*

30. There were massive dormitories with names, but I can't remember the names or how many dormitories there were. There were at least forty boys in my dormitory. There were single beds in them. I don't remember having a locker or where I kept my clothes. There wasn't much space between the beds. You could reach over and give the boy in the next bed a slap after lights out if you were carrying on.
31. We were locked in after the lights went out until the lights went back on in the morning. Usually two staff came in to wake us up in the morning. We would get washed and brush our teeth before going for breakfast. If you were a bit late getting up, the staff

would tip your bed up and you would land on the floor. It happened quite a lot, but I can't remember it happening to me.

32. We couldn't go to the toilet during the night. Quite a lot of boys wet the bed. We had to make our beds every morning and the staff inspected them. The boys who wet the bed had to wash their own sheets. I don't know whether anything was said to those boys or whether there was any punishment for wetting the bed.

*Mealtimes/food*

33. There was a massive dining hall with long tables all joined together. It was like the film *Oliver Twist*. We could sit wherever we wanted. There was a serving hatch where we would get our food before sitting down. Breakfast was a nightmare. I never had any problems the two times that I was in Larchgrove, but the first time I got breakfast in Doctor Guthrie's it was porridge. I just couldn't eat porridge. I hate the sight of it. The staff would try to force me to eat it. If it was cornflakes at breakfast time it wasn't a problem. I would eat my breakfast as normal. I think the staff gave up because there was no way I would eat the porridge.
34. We were given soup with barley in it every day for our lunch. We got some bread as well. I couldn't eat the barley so the staff would try and force me to eat the soup. After a while, I got away with the soup. I remember that my granny used to make soup with barley in it. I would dip the spoon in and eat the gravy. That way, I didn't eat the barley or the vegetables. When I started to do that at Doctor Guthrie's, the staff were quite happy with that.
35. I can't remember what we got for our tea. I ate that and didn't have any problems with it. I don't remember seeing any other boys having problems with the food.

### *Washing and bathing*

36. The showers were open. We had a shower in the shower block about once a week. There would be three or four teachers watching us, having a laugh. We also got a shower when we went to the swimming pool as well, so it worked out as twice a week.

### *Clothing*

37. I can't remember what we wore at Doctor Guthrie's, but we didn't have our own clothes. We all wore the same thing.

### *Schooling*

38. I know we went to school at Doctor Guthrie's because I learned how to read and write. It was like a normal school with different subjects. I actually learned a lot in that school. I learned more in Doctor Guthrie's than in any other school that I went to. I was there for longer than any other school I attended at home. The teachers were okay. I think I quite liked school. We didn't get any homework.

### *Leisure time*

39. We would go swimming in the pool at Doctor Guthrie's at the weekend. About forty of us would line up. We would dive in and whoever got to the other end first got a toffee. I never got it. We learned how to play table tennis and chess at Doctor Guthrie's. I used to wonder where I learned how to play chess, but it must have been there. I think we played drafts and chess after school. There must have been a playroom, but I can't remember it. We also had a big yard where we used to play football.
40. I love football. I played football for the Doctor Guthrie's team. I scored a hat-trick when we played against a Catholic school. They came to play us on Doctor Guthrie's grounds. We were losing 2-0 and then I scored two goals. It was 2-2 at half-time. The head teacher told me I could get weekend leave if I scored another goal. I'd never had weekend leave. I got the other goal and we won 3-2. I think that was the only weekend

leave that I ever had. We must have played more games, but that's only game that I can remember.

41. There was a TV room at Doctor Guthrie's. We got to watch films, but not every night. I think I watched the 1966 World Cup final when I was in there. I must have been out by the time Celtic won the European Cup in 1967. I was at Parkhead to see the team bring the cup back to Celtic Park and I've supported Celtic ever since.

*Personal possessions*

42. We didn't get any pocket money. There was no tuck shop where we could buy sweets and we didn't get out to buy anything. I didn't have anything that belonged to me.

*Trips and holidays*

43. The female member of staff used to take us hill walking and rock climbing in Edinburgh. We also went cross country running. We would run through a park with the teachers. That was the only time we ever left Doctor Guthrie's. We didn't go on any trips or holidays.

*Healthcare*

44. I have no memory of seeing a doctor, dentist or optician at Doctor Guthrie's. There were no regular health checks.

*Christmas and birthdays*

45. I think I was at Doctor Guthrie's for Christmas, but I can't remember anything about that. We didn't get any presents. There was no religious element to Doctor Guthrie's and we didn't go to church or say prayers. I don't remember my birthday there. I didn't get a card and if other boys had cards I would have seen them.

### *Visits/inspections*

46. I didn't get any visits when I was at Doctor Guthrie's. There was a sports day not long after I arrived. It was when I was still being force fed the porridge and the soup. I wrote a letter home to my parents and told them about the sports day. On the back of the letter, I wrote that they shouldn't come. They didn't come. The next time I saw my parents I asked them why they hadn't come to sports day. They said that I had written on the back of the letter that they shouldn't. I had been slapped about the afternoon before I wrote the letter so I didn't want them to come. I don't think I even took part in the sports day. All the other parents were there, but mine weren't. Apart from sports day, I don't remember any other boys getting visits or any external inspections. I didn't see a social worker.

### *Family contact*

47. I wrote home quite a lot, maybe once a week. You didn't have to do it if you didn't want to. My father would write back to me. My parents didn't have a phone in those days. I only remember being given one weekend of leave, after I scored three goals for the football team. That was the only time I saw my parents and siblings when I was in Doctor Guthrie's. I can't remember much about being at home. I must have been given the fare but I travelled by myself. I think my family were staying in Parkhead at the time. I had to make my own way back on the Sunday. I don't even think my parents came with me to the train station in Glasgow. I got the bus from Princes Street back to Doctor Guthrie's. I was late getting back on the Sunday evening. I was only eleven.

### *Running away*

48. Doctor Guthrie's wasn't locked. Anybody could walk out and run away. Some boys did, but they always got caught. Boys that ran away got the belt over the backside. They had big welts on their backside. I saw the welts in the showers, but I didn't see them get the belt. They were taken to the head teacher's office for that. I never tried to run away.

### *Discipline*

49. There were rules because there were rules in every institution. They used to put a notice in the playground on a Friday. Everybody would run over to this window and the football team would go up. If I had done something stupid during the week, like arguing with another boy, I would be dropped from the football team. After a while, I didn't get into any trouble because I wanted to be in the team.
  
50. I don't remember bullying, but there were fights at Doctor Guthrie's. If boys were fighting, they would be taken away and locked up for hours and hours. If two boys were fighting in my dormitory, they would be taken away and dealt with. They would come back hours later or the next day. They wouldn't tell you what had happened or whether they got a doing.

### **Abuse at Doctor Guthrie's**

51. When I had only been in the place for a day or two, a teacher came up to me at breakfast time and told me to eat my porridge. All the other boys were sitting eating their porridge. I said that I couldn't eat it. Two and sometimes three of the staff would grab me, hold my mouth open and try and force the porridge in. I would try and bite them. I would be sick. I don't know how long that went on for. I would then be taken out of the dining hall and locked in a room. I didn't get any breakfast. I would be in the room for an hour, an hour and a half and then I would be taken to school. I would do my normal schoolwork and then be taken back to the dining hall at dinner time.
  
52. We were given soup for dinner. I had problems with that as well because I didn't like the barley in it. The same thing happened as with the porridge and they would try to force the soup down me. I wouldn't take it and I would spit it out. A lot of the boys were laughing. I was trying to bite the teachers. I don't know how long the staff tried to force feed me. It definitely happened a few times. They must have given up because I wasn't going to give up. I think it could have been a couple of weeks before it stopped.

53. I can't remember the teacher's name, but there was one female teacher who was quite pretty and in her mid-twenties. The female teacher had a private bedroom, but I don't know if it was hers or another member of staff's. It had a bed and a TV in it. On quite a few occasions I'd be taken out of the dormitory when the lights went out. A male teacher would come down and get me and take me into the female teacher's room. The first time it happened, I wondered what was going on. I was okay when I realised I was going into her room because she was alright.
54. I remember lying on the bed with the female teacher, but to this day I don't know whether anything else happened. I can't remember whether I was wearing my pyjamas. I would be there for a few hours and I would lie on the bed, watching the telly. I would get my sweets and my crisps and then another teacher would come and get me. I would go back to my dormitory and back to bed. No other boys were taken from my dormitory to that teacher's room. It's possible boys were taken from other dormitories, but I don't know. I quite liked it because I was getting sweets and crisps. It was the only time I got treats at Doctor Guthrie's. I would tell the other boys about it. I don't know whether anything untoward happened, but if it did I can't remember it.
55. When I was first in Doctor Guthrie's, a teacher pushed my bunk against another bunk at night time. It was in the first week or two that I was there. The boy in the other bunk was maybe about a year older than me, but I don't know his name. He put his hand under my covers and touched my private parts. I told him to stop it. He said he would tell the teacher when he came in the morning. It continued to happen about once a week. He made me touch him as well. For some reason, it stopped after a while. I don't know whether the other boy left. I don't know whether it happened in other dormitories, but I didn't see any other beds being pushed together.
56. I was late getting back to Doctor Guthrie's after my weekend leave. I don't know how late I was, but the other boys were in bed. Two teachers gave me a doing for being late. I can't remember their names. I was slapped in the face and I got a few punches to my stomach. I wasn't badly injured. A day or two later I had to write a letter to my

father. I found the letter years later, after my father died. I still have the letter. It's the only thing I've got from Doctor Guthrie's. It states:

*"Dear Father,*

*Just a few lines to let you know I arrived here safely on Saturday night but I was late. It is very stormy and snowy. We saw the film Rio Bravo with John Wayne and Dean Martin. It was good and we saw all of it. I got swimming on Sunday and it was very good. Five of the teachers have to play five of the boys football. Today it is dry and sunny but it is still windy. That is all I have to say. Tell the family I was asking for them. That is all.*

*Your loving son,*

**GGY**

When I found the letter, I wondered what I'd told all those lies for. We didn't play football that night. I didn't tell my dad that I got slapped about. My dad was a bit of a hot head anyway so I wouldn't have told him. There are commas and apostrophes and I don't know how to use them. I wrote the letter but a teacher told me what to write and how to do it. I don't know whether I wrote the letter the same night or a night or two after I had been late.

57. There might have been other instances when I got a slap here and there, but I can't even remember them. I saw other boys getting slapped if they were cheeky. Sometimes, the staff gave them a punch in the stomach. Boys who ran away got the belt on their backsides. It was like the teacher's belt that you used to get in schools. I would see the welts when we were in the shower.

#### **Reporting of abuse whilst at Doctor Guthrie's**

58. I never told anybody what happened to me at Doctor Guthrie's. At the time, I just thought that was what happened. I didn't know any different. We were bad and when we were bad we got punished. When there was the carry on with the soup and the

porridge, I told the staff that I was going to tell my dad. The staff told me not to say anything. They said I wouldn't be able to do this or that or get into the football team.

### **Leaving Doctor Guthrie's**

59. I was in Doctor Guthrie's for about ten or eleven months. I can't remember how I learned that I was leaving. I don't remember leaving the place or how I got home. My parents had moved when I was in Doctor Guthrie's. I knew they had moved because my father told me in a letter. When I got out, I went to their house in Oatlands, which was on the edge of the Gorbals. I had never seen it before. I think I must have been picked up at the station by my parents or my sisters because it was a different house.
60. I didn't get any support from social work or anybody else after I left approved school. I had started secondary school by the time I left Doctor Guthrie's so I went to Adelphi Secondary School, which was on the South Side of Glasgow. Things were alright, but I didn't have any friends. I didn't know anybody at school, not one person. Everybody else had been at primary school together and then went on to secondary school. I had just got out of Doctor Guthrie's, gone to my parents' new house and started at Adelphi. I wasn't there for very long, maybe a year and a half, before we moved again to the Kelvin Hall area. I went to a different secondary school, Finnieston. Finnieston closed down so I moved to St. George's Road Secondary School. That was my last school. I got papped out when I was fifteen.
61. It was tough times at home. My dad used to go and rake the middens during the night. We would sit up until 3:00 am to see what he found. My brothers and I would fight for some of the things he got. My dad used to hire a horse and cart. I used to go out with him when I was fourteen, fifteen. All the boys used to shout abuse at me and call me a 'dancing flea' because we were out looking for scrap. We would try and find anything that was metal. My dad took it down to the Gallowgate for money.
62. I still broke into places after I left approved school. I didn't get caught for four or five years. I started drinking when I was fifteen. By the time I turned sixteen, I was drinking

heavily. I was breaking into places to get clothes. I was from a big family. I was hanging out with a couple of boys who were the only boys in their families. They got good clothes that I didn't. I would kid on to my mum and dad that my mate had given me clothes. In reality, I was breaking into offices to steal money to buy the clothes. Sometimes, I would tell my mum and dad that my mate was selling me a pair of trousers for £5 and his dad had bought them brand new. My mum and dad would give me £5 and I would buy a bottle of wine. My mate would do the same to his parents.

63. Not long after I turned sixteen, I was given three months' detention. I was already on bail for breaking into a licensed grocer, a pub and a bakery. While I was out on bail, I broke into more pubs. I went to trial and was found guilty. I had a lawyer when I was sixteen. Before I was sentenced, I was remanded at Longriggend for reports to be prepared.

#### **Longriggend Remand Centre, North Lanarkshire**

64. I was remanded to Longriggend for three weeks before being sentenced. It was out towards Airdrie and there were fields all around it. There were houses nearby, the type of houses you get out in the countryside. There were massive barbed wire fences all around the place. It was quite intimidating. I was sent there for reports to be prepared. I didn't like it. I'd been out of approved school for five years. Going into Longriggend was a different kettle of fish. It was more like a prison, but it was for young offenders.
65. There were hundreds of boys on remand in Longriggend. There were boys of fifteen, but they were kept in a separate part from us. They had run away from approved schools and places like that. I was in Longriggend for a second three week period when I was still sixteen. The first time I was there it was for borstal and detention reports. The second time, I was remanded for reports again. I just had to get on with it. I made more friends in there than I did on the outside. It was all the same sort of faces that I knew. I got on alright with the staff. I didn't have any trouble in Longriggend.

## **Routine at Longriggend**

### *First day*

66. When I arrived, my clothes were taken off me and I was sent in for a shower. I was checked over by a doctor. You would take your clothes off and the doctor would search you in case you had crabs or anything like that. The first time I went to Longriggend I had scabies. I was locked up in isolation for three or four days. They painted me with white stuff. After a few days I got out of isolation and was placed on the normal wing.
67. I was terrified the first night I was there. I was crying. I thought I was a hard man and I could fight anybody, but being locked in that room was terrifying. I was on my own and there was a single bed. I didn't know what was going to happen. You were held in a block the first night and then put onto a wing the next day.

### *Mornings/bedtime*

68. We didn't get out of our cells to go to the toilet. We had to slop out in a plastic container. Sometimes, I was in a cell with another guy. There were two single beds. That was quite good because I had someone to talk to.

### *Mealtimes/food*

69. The food was alright. We ate it in a dining hall. I wasn't used to good food at home so it was probably better food than I got on the outside. There were a lot of fights in the dining hall, but I didn't get into fights.

### *Work*

70. I got a job with the cooks. I was out with them from early morning and stayed with them all day. I would serve the meals to the other prisoners. They would come up with their tray and I would put their food on their trays. Each boy would move along and then go

and sit in their seats. I'd move on to the next tray. I got to know everybody doing that. Other boys used to brush and mop the landings and corridors.

#### *Leisure time/work*

71. We were locked up most of the time. We didn't go to school or classes or anything like that. We got out for recreation. We could to play basketball, but there was no football. It was quite strict.
72. My door was allowed to stay open because I worked with the cooks. I could go into the cells of other boys who worked with the cooks. The coppers didn't care. They would be playing cards. The rest of the boys would be locked up.

#### *Visits/family contact*

73. The second time I was remanded in Longriggend, my sister and my girlfriend at the time came to visit me. There was a visits hall. Everybody sat at tables. There were a couple of prison officers walking around and a couple of officers sitting watching you, in case you were passed contraband. I was also able to write letters home.

#### **Leaving Longriggend**

74. A couple of days after you arrived you saw the governor. He would ask you questions and then he prepared a report for court. I can't remember what sort of questions he asked me. The Sheriff would read the governor's report before deciding what to do with you. My first report couldn't have been very good because I got sent to Glenochil.

#### **Glenochil Detention Centre**

75. I was given three months' detention, which was the short, sharp shock treatment. I was sixteen years old. I was taken straight to Glenochil from court. Five or six of us

were taken in a van. When we got out of the van, we were told that we had to run. We had to run forty or fifty yards. I had already heard all about detention from other people so I knew it was rough. It was army style treatment. When we arrived, there were people that looked like doctors wearing white coats and caps. Inside Glenochil, the officers wore denims, trainers and normal clothes.

### **Routine at Glenochil**

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

76. I had a cell to myself at Glenochil. First thing in the morning, we had to go out and run around the football pitch. We did that at around 6:00 am. After that, they made us shave. I was sixteen and I didn't have anything to shave. They gave us a razor with our cell number on it. The officer would come and check that you had done it. He would take the razor off me and shave my sideburns.

#### *Mealtimes/food*

77. I can't remember much about the food at Glenochil. We ate our meals in the dining hall.

#### *Work*

78. There was no education at Glenochil. I can't remember much about what we did during the day. I remember we had to parade during the day. After I'd been in for six or seven weeks I was lucky and got a job. I worked in the reception area. That was good. I did that every day. When new boys came in I would take their old clothes off them and give them their detention centre clothes. I would find the right size for them in the storeroom. They would then go and see the doctor.

### *Leisure time/training*

79. We got to watch TV at night. There were no other leisure activities that I can remember. We did circuit training and running every day. We had to run a mile outside. When you first went in, they took you to the gym the next day. You had to do so many press-ups, step-ups and weights in a minute. You had to better that the following week and keep bettering it. If you improved, you got a yellow grade which got you some privileges. If you worked through that you got a red grade, which got you even more privileges. I was lucky enough to get the red grade, which meant that I only did my two months eight days. If I hadn't got my red grade I would have to have done my three months.

### *Uniform*

80. We wore blue striped shirts and denim trousers. We also had best dress, which we had to wear for parades. We had to learn how to press our trousers and shirt and polish our boots. It was just like an army camp.

### *Visits*

81. I didn't get any visits at Glenochil.

### *Discipline*

82. Boys were fighting all the time in Glenochil. I got in a fight once. If it was *Top of the Pops* night and if you were fighting, you would miss *Top of the Pops*. There was a big corridor and we would be given a bucket and a bar of soap. We would be in our knees, scrubbing the big corridor. That was the punishment for fighting. There would be five or six of us going along the one corridor. We would be so fed up that we would start writing things in the soap. When the officers weren't watching we would write, "Fuck them, bastards."
83. Some of the boys were seventeen, eighteen. Some of them didn't care and some of them weren't right in the head. There were plenty of boys who couldn't handle it at

Glenochil. They would fight the officers and not do what they were told. The officers would shout at them. I heard a lot of boys being pulled out of their cells at night, screaming. They were taken down to what was called the 'digger'. It was down the stairs, but I never saw it. I was never in it. There was a boy two cells away from me who kicked off and wrecked his cell. I heard him getting dragged out and taken to the digger.

### **Abuse at Glenochil**

84. We had to march everywhere. When we were marching along the big long corridors, the guys at the front and the back of the queue had to say, "Excuse me, sir." If someone didn't say it, he got slapped. He would be hit anywhere but the face or get a punch in the belly. Some of the boys got a good kicking in Glenochil, but I never got a doing.
85. When I first went in, I had long hair. I did get a bit of abuse when I had long the hair. It meant that the officers knew that I was new and I was just in. They would say, "You with the long hair, you march right, you say 'Excuse me, sir'." Sometimes I forgot to say excuse me and I would get pulled out. They said things like, "Do you think you're fucking smart because you're from Glasgow?" I didn't get slapped because I was new. I loved my hair at that time, but I couldn't wait to get a haircut. The barber only came once a week. I wanted it all cut off so I didn't stand out. We called all of the prison officers 'Sir' so I don't know any of their names.
86. I was never in the digger, but I knew I didn't want to go there. Boys got battered in there. They would be there for two or three days and come back with black eyes. Some boys were there for a week or two weeks, it just depended how mad they were. They would say that it was murder down there. I often saw boys going about with black eyes and things like that. It was just part of the regime.

## **Leaving Glenochil**

87. Glenochil was a tough place. If you didn't screw the nut, you took the consequences. Nine out of ten guys screwed the nut to get out of there as quickly as possible. I stayed out of trouble so I only had to do two months and eight days of my sentence. Nothing was done to prepare me for getting out. I was dropped off at the train station and given money for a train ticket. I got the train back to Glasgow.
88. When I'd committed the offence I was sent to Glenochil for, I'd been out on bail for a different charge. When I was released, I had to go up to court for the old charge. I was on bail so I went to court myself, from the streets. A couple of my mates came with me and were waiting for me to come back out again. I was found guilty and remanded back to Longriggend.
89. The second time I was remanded to Longriggend, I saw the governor again for borstal reports. You could only do detention once and you could only do borstal once. He got in touch with the governor of the detention centre and I got a good report from him. I got a great report and he recommended me for deferred sentence. Usually, the Sheriff goes with the governor's report but the Sheriff gave me borstal.

## **HMP Barlinnie, Glasgow**

90. They only did a drop to Polmont once a week. After getting sentenced to Polmont, I had to spend a few days in Barlinnie until the weekly drop to Polmont. I was examined by a doctor and checked for crabs. I was held in the top flat, which was for borstal boys. We were kept separate from the adult prisoners. My cell was horrible and I had to slop out.
91. We went down a lot of stairs to get our food. We passed the older prisoners, but we were taken for our food separately. We would get a tray, collect our food and take it upstairs to our cells. The food in Barlinnie was rotten. We got an hour a day exercise.

We would just walk about or go outside. Apart from that, we were in our cells for 23 hours a day. There were no TVs or radios or anything like that.

### **Polmont Borstal**

92. I think I was still only sixteen when I was sentenced to borstal. I was there for four to six weeks. While I was there, they were assessing me to see where I would go next. The staff didn't wear uniforms. We called them all 'Sir'.

### **Routine at Polmont**

#### *First day*

93. We had to get another medical when we arrived at Polmont. None of us had crabs when we arrived at Barlinnie, but by the time we got to Polmont one or two of the boys had caught them. They had to get their hair shaved off everywhere. Thank goodness, I didn't have them or I would have been given the same treatment.

#### *Mornings/bedtime*

94. At first, I was in a single cell. You did a few weeks in a cell so the officers could find out what you were like. If they thought you would be okay, you were moved to a dormitory. I then went into a dormitory with about ten boys in it. It was okay in the dormitory. I already knew people from detention so that helped.

#### *School/assessment*

95. When I first arrived at Polmont, I went into what was called allocation. We didn't get out for football or anything like that. I can't remember leisure time and I didn't get any visits. It was mainly classes. I went to school there, even though I was sixteen. We were tested on our reading and writing in a classroom. They would then decide

whether to keep you there or send you to an open borstal. Castle Huntly was an open borstal near Dundee. It was supposed to be for people who weren't very clever. We said it was for 'dafties'. Noranside was supposed to be for the clever people. I was sent there, even though I wasn't very clever.

### *Discipline*

96. I didn't see the officers being rough at Polmont. I think maybe by that time people were too scared. There would have been a digger, but I can't remember people being taken there. I didn't see any abuse at Polmont.

### **Leaving Polmont**

97. I was taken to Noranside in a mini-van. It was like a minibus, but it had bars on the windows. That was how I got transported to Glenochil and Longriggend as well. There were others going on the same day. We dropped some people off at Castle Huntly on the way.

### **Noranside Open Borstal**

98. I can't remember arriving at Noranside, but I was sixteen or seventeen. Noranside was near Forfar. I'd never been anywhere like that before. It was for boys under the age of 21. I was there for twelve or thirteen months. You could be there for anywhere from twelve months to two years, it just depended on your behaviour. It was an open borstal and it was alright there.

## **Routine at Noranside**

### *Work*

99. I got a job on the farm, which was one of the worst jobs going. Some people worked on sewing machines or painting and decorating, but they told us where we had to work. I worked on the farm for the whole time that I was there. The farm was about two minutes down the road from the borstal building. It was owned by the farmer, but two boys from the borstal worked for him. I got to know the farmer because I worked with him every day. I got to drive the digger and the tractor. I picked tatties, cleaned out the barn and did everything you do on a farm. I delivered a calf. It was hard work. We were the smelly ones at the end of the day. We used to take some abuse from the other boys.

### *Cells/personal possessions*

100. I had a single cell at Noranside. It was basic, but it was alright. Everybody had a job in Noranside so everybody got a wage. We had a canteen so we could buy shampoo and sweeties. We had shampoo and aftershave in our cells. It was alright. Nobody ran away when I was there.

### *Leisure time*

101. The other boy who worked on the farm and I went grouse beating on 12 August. We went with outsiders. We went away up the mountains and the men had shot guns. We got paid for it and it was good. It got us away from the borstal and the farm all day. It was completely different. There was a big football pitch and we played a lot of football. We didn't play against other teams, just amongst ourselves. We watched television and played snooker, darts, table tennis and drafts. There was a big hall which had a lot of games in it.

### *Visits*

102. I got one visit from my mum and dad. There were other people in the visiting room as well, but it wasn't like a visiting room where all the officers were watching you. It was more relaxed and there was a boy going round, serving tea and biscuits. My parents gave me a fiver. It was an open borstal and you could walk out. Some of the boys got to go out for the day into Forfar. They could buy stuff and bring it back in for you. I asked a boy to get me things in Forfar.

### *Leave*

103. I was allowed to go into Forfar for a day. I had a suit and tie so I wore that into Forfar. I was taken in a minibus and dropped off in Forfar town centre. I met my sister and brother-in-law there. They took me for a Chinese curry and then we walked about Forfar for hours and hours. I had one pint with my curry. If I had any more than that, the prison officers would have noticed. We weren't supposed to drink or bring back any contraband. They picked me back up in the minibus. I didn't get any home leave.

### *Discipline*

104. I remember a boy called [REDACTED] from Dundee. He had a reputation for being a hard man. He could have been released, but he was in so many fights that he had been there for at least two years. Not long after I'd arrived, I was with a couple of boys from Anderston, waiting to play table tennis. When it was my turn, I went to get the bat and [REDACTED] told me to give it to him. I refused because I had waited my turn and my friends were with me. I wasn't afraid of him. We started fighting. I got two weeks in the digger and he got four weeks. You were there 24 hours a day. Other prisoners would bring you your dinner. You got a *Readers Digest* to read and that was it. When [REDACTED] got out the digger, we were the best of pals because I hadn't been afraid of him.

## **Leaving Noranside**

105. I don't remember much trouble at Noranside. There was nothing that I would describe as abusive there. It was hard, hard work. I'd never worked a day in my life and it was a year that put me in my place.
106. Not long after leaving borstal, I kicked an office door and two police officers saw me. I was steaming drunk. I bolted and the officers chased me. One of them caught my mate and the other one hit me with a baton on the back of my head. I fell and I was knocked unconscious for a few seconds. By the time I came to, I was handcuffed. The officer had handcuffed me really tight and I asked him to loosen the cuffs. He was on his radio and the more I asked him to loosen the handcuffs, the more he would pull on them. I gave him a left hook and he had to get five stitches on his chin.
107. I had to get more stitches in my head than the police officer so I was kept in hospital overnight. I was taken to court the next day. I plead not guilty I was remanded to Longriggend for three weeks again. I then went back to court for trial. I was acquitted of the housebreaking and was convicted of the police assault. I was then remanded for another three weeks at Longriggend for reports before going back up to court. I was sentenced to three months in a young offenders' institution. That was my last sentence and I served it at Barlinnie.

## **Barlinnie Young Offenders' Institute, Glasgow**

108. I was sent to the young offenders' hall in Barlinnie in 1973. I was seventeen. I didn't serve the full three months. I did about two and a half months in Barlinnie. I got a wee job sewing mail bags. I was working with young offenders convicted of murder and attempted murder. I was going about with a guy who was serving a life sentence for a double murder and a guy from Paisley who was serving eight years. They were my mates because we worked together in the sewing room. Our pay depended upon how many mail bags we made. I didn't know how to use a sewing machine, but they showed me and it was quite easy.

109. I didn't have any problems in Barlinnie. I made good pals there. I went to work every day, did my sewing, went for my dinner and then back to do my sewing. At night time, we got a bit of TV and then we were locked up. We had to slop out at night time. There was a big dining hall, which was used by young offenders and adult prisoners. I always seemed to be in institutions for Christmas and I was in Barlinnie over Christmas. It was alright. We got a bit of chicken and a half decent Christmas dinner. The tranny was blaring the Christmas songs out.
110. I didn't have any issues with the prison officers or see anything that I considered to be abusive.

### **Leaving Barlinnie**

111. My father and my brother-in-law met me from Barlinnie. The first place we went to was a pub in Alexandra Parade. I ended up steaming by the time I got home. I was arguing with my mum, my dad and my girlfriend. I nearly got arrested the day that I got out. After leaving Barlinnie, I never went back to prison.

### **Life after leaving care**

112. I met my girlfriend when I got out of Barlinnie. I was eighteen and she was fifteen and a half. She had been brought up in care and was just out of Smyllum. She stayed in the Anderston area and came from a big family. She and her sisters have given evidence to the Inquiry and been in touch with the police and Procurator Fiscal about abuse in Smyllum. We came from a similar situation.
113. When my girlfriend was sixteen and a half, she fell pregnant. We got married before my daughter was born. My family then moved to Barrhead. To me, that was out in the country. I stayed in Anderston with my wife and baby daughter. I got a job in a book factory for about a year. We then moved away. We did a bit of squatting in old houses, which was legal at the time.

114. Eventually, we got a council house in Possilpark. My son was born there in 1980. I got a job as a bus conductor and I did that for about five years. They did away with conductors and I got a job emptying the money boxes on the buses. I worked nightshifts, taking full boxes out and putting empty ones in. There were a lot of us doing that, working in bus depots all over Glasgow. We found a way to get into the money boxes and we helped ourselves. For about a year, I was helping myself and then we all got caught. I got convicted of opening a lockfast place and was fined £140. I lost my job.
115. I then got a job at the Glasgow Garden Festival for about six months. I worked on the old Glasgow trams. We had moved to Pollok by that time. After the Garden Festival, I got a job in ██████ Cleansing Department and I was there for about six years. I cleaned back courts, brushed streets and emptied bins. I loved that job.
116. My wife and I fell out and she left the house. I've never stopped drinking. I've been drinking all my days since I left prison. It got worse after my divorce. Around that time, I got convicted for a breach of the peace, which is the last conviction on my record. I lost my house and ended up homeless. I lost my job in the ██████ Cleansing Department. I was in a bed and breakfast and then I got a furnished flat. I was then offered a flat in Cowcaddens, where I live just now.
117. I haven't worked for the last twenty years. I was signing on for Job Seeker's Allowance for years, but they knew that I couldn't work. I've been on sickness benefit for the last five of six years. I've got quite a few illnesses. I've got COPD. I take all sorts of medication for my chest and my blood pressure and I take painkillers. I take a lot of tablets every day. I have two different inhalers. I have to go for a medical at the benefits office every two years.
118. Other than my youngest sister, all my siblings have gone. I've lost count of all the funerals I've been to in the last twenty years. My mum, my dad, my aunties and uncles, all my siblings and nephews and nieces, who died of drugs overdoses. I don't know how many coffins I've carried. At one point, going to a funeral was like going for a cup of tea. It's not stopped to this day.

## **Reporting of abuse**

119. I didn't tell anybody about what had happened to me for years and years. My ex-wife knew that I'd been in approved school from day one. She told me all about the nuns in Smyllum battering her and I told her what had happened to me at Doctor Guthrie's. Doctor Guthrie's had never been mentioned anywhere until I saw it last year in the *Daily Record* newspaper. There was a big spread about two guys who had been there in 1964 and 1965. There was a photograph of it. It brought a lot of things back and that was why I contacted the Inquiry. The Inquiry's contact details were at the bottom of the article.
120. I think it on the same day that I read the article, I went to the police and reported what had happened to me at Doctor Guthrie's. I'd been drinking and I kept looking at the article and thinking about it. I went to Stewart Street Police Station and spoke to the desk sergeant. I told him roughly what had happened at approved school. He wrote it all down and told me to leave it with him. I don't know what he did with the information I gave him. I never heard anything else from the police after that.

## **Impact**

121. I don't really think about my time in care, but I started thinking about Doctor Guthrie's when I saw the article in the *Daily Record*. I must have read the article about twenty times. I started greeting when I was reading the article. I never greet. I've been to so many funerals and I've never cried at any of them. I spoke to my son about it when I first contacted the Inquiry team. I told him all about it.
122. My son thinks that Doctor Guthrie's must have messed me up. He thought that was why I was in and out of the jails, ended up an alcoholic and fought with his mum. Sometimes I blame my parents for moving me to so many houses and taking me here and taking me there. They were very poor and life was hard at home.

123. I didn't know who to talk to about the things that happened to me. I thought that nobody had ever reported what happened at Doctor Guthrie's so it must have been alright. If I hadn't read that article in the *Daily Record* I still wouldn't have said anything. I'm glad I've spoken to somebody about what happened. Sometimes I blame myself for breaking into places, but then I ask why I was breaking into places? I was getting things that I needed. Maybe if I'd been born into the next family I wouldn't have got into any trouble.
124. I met a lot of people in borstals and young offenders. I could go to areas of Glasgow like Drumchapel or Easterhouse and I wouldn't have any problems. Even though I was from Anderston, I always knew somebody from borstal, detention or young offenders whose dad would be a hard man in the area. If I got pulled up by somebody, I would mention the name of somebody I'd been in borstal with. I'd met heavy boys from heavy places so I could go anywhere in Glasgow. I felt safe wherever I went.
125. I still hate the sight of porridge. I wouldn't have it in the house. I hate the sight of it, even if I see it in the supermarket. I would never feed my children porridge when they were growing up. I didn't know what approved school meant. I don't know why I was sent to Edinburgh. It was just strange. For years, after I left approved school, I wanted to go back and kill the staff at Doctor Guthrie's. I was only ten or eleven when I started to feel like that. They were supposed to be looking after me. I still don't know what it was all about, being in there. I missed my family.

### **Records**

126. I don't have any records from my time in care. I'd like to get them. I don't have any photographs of myself when I was younger. I know they took a lot of photos of us playing football in Doctor Guthrie's. I wonder if any of those photos are still about. I don't have any photos of my family. I took my grandson off my daughter seventeen years ago. She had problems with drink and drugs. He was seven at the time so I had to get a disclosure form, which gives me the dates of when I was put away to approved school and the other institutions. I'd forgotten a lot of things.

**Lessons to be learned**

127. I don't think that children should be force fed. If you want to eat something, you should eat it but if you don't want to eat something, you shouldn't be forced. I wouldn't eat something that I didn't want to eat and nobody could force me. No child should be force fed. If my children or grandchildren didn't want to eat something, they didn't have to eat it. Nobody should be allowed to batter a child either. That shouldn't happen to any child. I never got any support when I was in care. It might have helped me if I had.
128. 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. GGY .....

Dated. *15/12/2001.* .....