

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HUU

Support person present: No

1. My name is HUU. My date of birth is 1983. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My mum was and my dad was. My mum had a family from her first marriage. From that I have a stepbrother called who is in his fifties and two big sisters, in her fifties and who is in her late forties. I have my two wee brothers and and there is four years between each of us.
3. Life was good when I was younger and my mum and dad did everything for us. They have always been loving. My dad was looked upon in the area as a hard working straight businessman who worked for everything he got and was not involved in any drugs or other dodginess. He always provided a good life for us. I used to get goaded about my dad and called a snob by other kids because he was a businessman who was suited and booted, had grey hair and spoke properly due to being well educated. He has no criminal background and that reflected how the other weans were with me.
4. I was football daft when I was younger and played for the school team. They used to encourage me in into it. My dad got me to a gala football day and scouts were there. I didn't know at the time but my dad told me after it that I was getting watched and the scout had asked if I would be happy to have a trial with. My initial

thought was no because I wanted it to be Rangers as that was who I supported. Dad persuaded me to get my foot in the door and go so I ended up agreeing. We missed the bus to get to Hampden Park for the trial but they gave me another chance when it was explained what happened. I scored in the trial and they told me they would be contacting Rangers about me.

5. Word got round about me being good at football and an old guy called [REDACTED] asked if I wanted to play for [REDACTED] but I just laughed at him. I was pretty impatient as a wean and I expected a game the next week for Rangers but I was waiting to hear from them. My dad said I should play for [REDACTED] until I hear. I signed for them and was hanging about with boys from the football team in that area which was near where my sister stayed.
6. My dad was protective and didn't want us out playing in certain areas because of the drugs and the way people were in these areas. I was about eleven years old at this time. I started hanging about with a boy called ^{KJS} [REDACTED] from the Tollcross area. He wasn't part of the football team and he was getting into trouble. He was always going on about his social worker and how they would get him new tracksuits and other things and would take him here and there.
7. I wanted that so I said to my mum and dad that I wanted a social worker. My dad said to me that I got everything from them even although I didn't always get it instantly. He told me if you brought these people into your life, it's not going to be the same. I always looked at my dad as 'Mr too goody'. My dad's side were all from money and working and my dad would make more money than my mum's family but he used to work harder for it.
8. My mum's side were all criminals. I used to see the money they used to make and it was just thrown into their hands. I kind of idolised my mum's side of the family because everybody used to be wary of them. It's one of my biggest regrets now.

9. I kept at my mum and dad so my mum took me to the social work office at Burger Street, Parkhead, Glasgow and told them she didn't understand it but I was asking for a social worker. The social work asked me questions and said they would give me a befriender.
10. His name was Graham Lafferty but he later changed his name to Graham Lindsay. One day a few months after he had been appointed to me and he was in my house my dad challenged him about why he had changed his name. He said the truth was he was trying to avoid debt. I always used to say to my dad that he was too suspicious and that he thought he knew everything but looking back everything he did say he was right. Graham Lindsay told us he was in debt to companies but I know he was in debt to drug dealers and dodgy car dealers from the local area.
11. He came into the house one day and said he was taking me out for the day. I always remember my mum and dad were taking my wee brother to the Time Capsule that day and I wanted to go but Graeme said we were booked to go to Laser Quest. My dad said to me that as I wanted the social worker that I had to go with him.
12. I always remember he had a wee white metro car that was a disability motor for his wife. We drove to Laser Quest which I think was in Argyle Street, Glasgow and parked in a car park near there. We got out the car and as we were going there he told me to go into a hardware store with him. Once we were in he was looking out the door but I didn't think anything at that point. After a couple of minutes we walked out and as we went towards the door to go into Laser Quest three guys grabbed him. They were from the area near where my sister stayed and I recognised one of them as [REDACTED] whose name was [REDACTED].
13. At first I thought he was getting a doing as one of them had him by the throat against the white door but then I heard them saying to him you better get the money paid, we better get our money. He said he would but [REDACTED] kept at him until one of the other guys saw I was with him and pulled [REDACTED] off him. He threatened him again to pay up and Graham Lindsay agreed he would sort it out.

14. He then took me into Laser Quest. The staff weren't going to let us in at first because of what happened at the door but when he said who he was they let us in. When we came out we got a bag of chips and went back to his motor. When we got in he said to me that I needed to keep it to myself what had happened with the three guys. I asked him why and he said he just need me to keep it to myself. He said that if I did the next time he came to take me out he would give me money but would still take me out as well.
15. I did stupidly keep it to myself at first but weeks later I was playing football in the street outside my sister's place when a car drove up and it was [REDACTED]. He called me over and said to me to jump in. He was looked at as one of the older ones from the area that you wanted to be in with, so I jumped into his motor. He told me he needed me to do him a favour and said he was taking me down to the social work. I was to go in and ask for my social worker, get him out to the reception area and then just walk away. When I asked why he said just do it and he'd give me money later on. I didn't want money but I did it to try and get in with him and the older ones.
16. We drove down to the social work at Burger Street. He stood in the space between two doors that was outside the area that led you to reception. I went to the desk and asked for Graham Lafferty and told the receptionist he was my social worker. I was told to take a seat and that Graham Lafferty would be through to see me.
17. I turned round and signalled to where [REDACTED] was. When Mr Lafferty came through he must have sensed something as he didn't come right through like he usually did but stayed behind the reception desk. He was looking passed me at [REDACTED] who had come through and was now shouting and swearing at Mr Lafferty that he better get the money. [REDACTED] had been on probation and Graham Lafferty was his probation officer. Mr Lafferty had bought a ringed car from [REDACTED]. He was meant to be paying it up in instalments but had stopped paying when [REDACTED] finished his probation and was still due him money.
18. The receptionist was trying to calm him down and say it was a private matter that couldn't be dealt with there but he wouldn't listen to her. [REDACTED] kept saying he needs

to pay him as he has to pay others. He told her he wasn't leaving until he got the money for the car and if he didn't he would find the car and smash it up. When we eventually left [REDACTED] drove me back to where he had picked me up and gave me a fiver.

19. Graham Lindsay later came and took me out to the park. As we were walking round he asked why I had gone to the social work and asked for him for [REDACTED]. I told him I just did what I was asked and he said that I couldn't do things like that because it was putting him in danger. I told him I never put him in danger but he had put me in danger at Laser Quest. He turned on me and changed his attitude towards me. He was calling me a wee bastard and I was to keep my mouth shut.
20. I went back and I told my mum and dad. My dad wanted to sort it but my mum said to him not to until they had found out what the bigger picture was. My dad was saying that they were letting that man take me out, that they wouldn't let me go out with a drug dealer so why were they letting me go out with him? My mum still said to hold on and find out the bigger issue first.
21. Graham Lindsay asked me to go down to sign something to get £15. When I got there he said I wasn't getting it. He started being really nasty to me and told me I better not have told anybody about Laser Quest or what happened at the social work and nobody would believe me if I did. I said my mum and dad would and he said they didn't even want me, didn't love me, that they'd had enough of me, they preferred my wee brothers and wanted me put into care.
22. I got emotional and started greeting. We were at reception and I always remember there was a big white phone which was the same as the one we had in the house. I picked it up and put it on loudspeaker. My mum answered, asked where I was and what was wrong. I told her where I was and what he had said. She was going off her head, asking where that 'fucking idiot' was and he replied he was there. She had a go at him asking why he was saying that, calling him a liar and saying I was only a wean. Graham said I was a pain in the arse and it was just to shut me up. I got angry, picked a chair up, threw it and kicked the tables.

23. They phoned the police but when they arrived the social worker said they didn't want any charges brought but that was because he didn't want the bigger picture brought out. The bigger picture was that he had given his disability car back because he needed the money instead. He was then driving a stolen motor that was a 'ringer' that he had got from [REDACTED]. He was [REDACTED]'s probation officer or community service officer and that was how they got to know each other. He was signing off on the things [REDACTED] was meant to be doing but wasn't and [REDACTED] gave him a car, a wine coloured Ford Orion.
24. Graham Lindsay told me that he was going to get me put in to care for being "a grassing wee bastard"
25. I didn't really go to school as the guys I was hanging about with wouldn't go either. The school phoned the house and I got grounded and I refused to go to school. My dad used to keep me in to do schoolwork and I was trying to avoid that. He had a bell that he would ring when he heard the bell go at the school over the road. He would give me a break but wouldn't let me out to play. He made sure I did every subject and wrote everything down. He would then mark my work to make sure I was understanding everything that I would have got a school. I think that the education my dad gave me was every bit as good as school. Even though I don't have the qualifications I believe I can sit next to those who have and sit a test and I'll do just as well if not better.
26. I got to the stage that I would sneak out the house to go and play. That's why Graham Lindsay started getting the children's panel involved. I wasn't going to my football because the ones I was jumping about with weren't into it and were into stealing motors. I started going down that path and my dad told me I was going to ruin my life, I would end up like my mum's brothers and be in and out the jail which wasn't a life. He tried to steer me and asked if that was the kind of life I wanted. I didn't want to say to him it was but it was the kind of life I wanted because of the way you were looked at in the area.

27. In these days if you were from an area there was always arguments about what gang you were in and if you walked through another area you got attacked. When I was in first year at Eastbank Academy a boy called [REDACTED] who was in second or third year stabbed me because of the area I came for and because of all the gangs. It wasn't a bad stabbing but I got a fright at the time. The social work were aware of it because my mum and dad told Graham Lindsay.
28. I then got locked up in police stations for stealing motors around the Tollcross area of Glasgow. That was before I went to Balrossie. My parents would come and get me. It wasn't really a deterrent as you would get put in a cell and get out two three hours later. Some of the older ones used to encourage me and [REDACTED] KJS to commit the crimes as we were the two youngest ones and told us that it didn't matter what happened as we couldn't get into trouble because of our age. We would just get flung in a cell where they would get flung in the jail.
29. That was when I went to my first ever children's panel. My social worker Graham Lindsay said I was going into care, was laughing and made it out that the panel would be sending me there full time. My mum and dad explained I wasn't and that it was actually a three week assessment I was going in for and I'd be coming home after the three weeks. I had it in my head that I was going in for good as that was what Graham Lindsay had threatened me with for being a grass. My mum and dad tried to take me to the panel but I ran away.
30. I was in a close with [REDACTED] KJS and our girlfriends and the police went past with Graham Lindsay in the car but I got away and went home. My mum said the police were going to get me so I may as well go and hand myself in. The police were coming to the door, it was affecting my brothers and was embarrassing for my parents with the neighbours. I agreed to hand myself in so my mum and dad took me to Shettleston Police Office. I started to panic because I knew that I wasn't getting to go home and see my mum, dad and wee brothers.
31. They put me in a cell and then in the early hours of the morning two emergency social workers came and took me out the cell. I got put in the back of a car and the woman

from the social work explained to me that I was going to Balrossie. I went into panic mode because that wasn't the place I got told I was going to. I got told I was going to Cardross so I asked why I was going there and how far away was it from my mum and dad. I was greeting and said I didn't want to go.

32. On the journey when we stopped at traffic lights I plucked up the courage to try and open the door to run. It wouldn't open and the driver said the doors were locked. I was pleading with them to let me go and that I would behave and be good. A car had pulled up beside us and I was banging on the window and shouting for him to help me. The guy rolled his window down and asked if everything was okay. The woman told him they were social workers and that I was just upset. He just shrugged and looked as if to say there was nothing he could do and drove away.
33. It seemed like they drove me for about an hour until we got to the place. It was dark so I had no idea where I was. The woman went in, got the staff and two guys came out and took me in.

Balrossie List D School, Kilmacolm

34. I don't know who ran Balrossie and don't know how many kids were there. Even although I was a wean at the time the building was massive and kind of reminded me of Tollcross Park Mansion House. I think there were two different units in it, maybe more but only two that I was aware of. It was all boys, aged ten up to about sixteen.
35. In my time there you didn't really see much of the staff. They were in the office most of the time and we were just left to get on with it. I don't remember how many staff were there but I remember HWB because he assaulted me. There was a woman there. She used to pop her head into say hello when I was left in the TV room.
36. I can't remember the structure or the routine at Balrossie. I should be able to remember them from when I was there but I just can't. As time went on I remember the names

at other units but I was in shock when I was at Balrossie. I have no real memory from there other than the bad things that happened.

37. I hadn't ever been away from my family overnight and had never experienced that happening. We were a really close knit family and still are to this day

Routine at Balrossie

First day

38. The night staff that took me in showed me to a room that I was sharing, told me just to go to sleep and said the staff in the morning would speak to me.
39. The room had two single beds and there was a boy in the other bed. When I woke up I felt like I hadn't slept because there were hundreds of thoughts going through my head about needing to get home. The boy woke up, was called [REDACTED] and it turned out he was from the Tollcross area.
40. He asked why I was there so I told him about not going to school and the panel. When I said I was only there for a few days he said he got told he was going there for six months and had now been there two years. That set panic into me and I asked him how could I get away from there. He said if I was running away the train station was miles away but he told me about a fire door down the stair that I could get out.
41. He told me how to follow the stairs to the fire exit. I was nervous as I was expecting security to be there but they weren't so I ran down the stairs and out the door. It was snowing and I only had a pair of tracksuit bottoms on. The snow was deep and I ran without a plan and hid behind a big tree.
42. The nightshift staff came running out after me, shouting my name and telling me to come back in. They shouted that they knew where I was and I thought they were calling my bluff until they said my footsteps were leading to the tree. I just stayed there and

they said you're not going to get anywhere so we'll leave the door open and you'll come in because of the cold.

43. They came out a couple of times to shout on me again and I timed it to run when they weren't there. I cut round the side a different way from where I had originally been running and went through the fields that faced onto the front of the home. The snow was a way up and I was knackered and cold from running through it in my wet tracksuit bottoms.
44. As I was going through the second field I saw a guy coming towards me. I initially thought it was a farmer and as he approached me he said morning. I asked him where the nearest train station was. He asked where I had come from and when I told him the home, he asked why they weren't running me to the train station. When I told him I had just run away from it, he told me to about turn and get back because he worked there. That was just my luck. He was the wrong person to ask.
45. I found out later this guy was called HWB. He was about five foot eight inches. He had long, straggly shoulder length dirty blond hair and always wore a green anorak. He was about late forties or fifties at that time.

Abuse at Balrossie Detention Centre

46. When I ran away from the home that first morning and HWB found me in the field I tried to run away from him but I couldn't because the snow was far too deep for me to manoeuvre in.
47. He kicked my feet away from me and I fell down. I was trying to get up and run but he held the back of my head and pushed my face into the snow. I remember he had rough hands and I was panicking and trying to get out the snow. He pulled me back up then put me back down face first in the snow again. I was struggling and trying to break free. I thought he was killing me because I was struggling to breathe. It sounds stupid but the front of my face was numb but behind my face was sore and he shouted 'rap

it ya wee bastard.' He eventually let me up when I gave up struggling. He had me by the back of the neck and he marched me all the way back up to the home.

48. At first I pleaded with him to let me go but he said no. I started arguing with him and said I was going to get my dad and my uncle [REDACTED] to him. When we got back to the home I said I wanted to phone my mum and dad to tell them what he had done. He told me that I could phone and tell them what I wanted. He said he would get [REDACTED] to batter me. [REDACTED] was one of the other residents who was actually younger than me but had a slash mark on his face and everybody was wary of him because of that.
49. I don't know if it was rage, emotion or anger but I said 'fuckin get [REDACTED]'. They were all standing in groups and because I was a new boy they were all staring at me and I tried to go out the office to get to the boy he threatened me with. That wasn't me at that time. It wasn't my character at that time but I think I just thought if I do him he can't then threaten me with him.
50. There was another member of staff in the office with HWB [REDACTED] and they restrained me on the floor and held me down. I don't know what his name was or what any of these other members of staff were called. HWB [REDACTED]'s name sticks in my mind because of what he did to me. The other guy had short black cropped hair and he was pretty stout. He wasn't bad and didn't do anything other than restrain me when they put me on the ground. It was mainly HWB [REDACTED] and he had his knee on my back with my arms up my back. The other guy was just standing at first but then he sat at a table.
51. It felt like a lifetime he had me down but it could've been two minutes or could've been two seconds that they let me go because emotion had kicked in. I was crying and wanting my mum, dad and my wee brothers.
52. The other staff member told me after that if I was going to be in these places I was going to have to learn that my family weren't going to be there. The people that were in there were going to be my family and would be until or if I got home. I always remember that he said 'if' and that was my fear.

53. They said I could get a phone call, so I phoned my mum and told her what had happened. She started swearing and asked if I was kidding her on. When I told her I wasn't she asked where the place was. I said I didn't know and put her on the phone to the other guy in the room. I couldn't hear what she said but he told her to take it up with the social worker. He then gave me the phone back and my mum told me not to worry as she was going to get her way to there. She said she was going to bring ^{KJS} and some of my other pals and we would see what they threatened then.
54. It gave me a bit of strength and I went out into the big room and the boys were all sitting there. They were all saying that I better watch cause was going to stab me. wasn't his actual name and I can't remember his name so I am just using the name for the example. I was in the room thinking to myself what is happening here. The staff were walking in or popping their head's in every now and again and were aware of what was being said and going on but never said or did anything.
55. I got a phone call again to my mum and she said she had been on the phone to the social worker. She told me they were coming to get me in a few days. She told me not to think I was alone and that they would get to me.
56. I don't know if it was a wind up or if he was trying to intimidate me but the boy was always telling me that this one was saying this and going to do this to me and another was saying that and going to do that. In all my time there I was just focused on having to get out of there.
57. I used to have to stay in the TV room because the staff wouldn't let me play football with the rest of them after I had run away when I first arrived.

Leaving Balrossie Assessment Centre

58. My mum came to visit about five days into my stay at Balrossie with the social worker. My dad and my uncle were meant to come but the social worker refused to let them come.

59. My mum was really vocal and asked to speak to the guy who had done it to me but he wasn't on shift. She asked Graham Lindsay what he was going to do about it and he said a complaint would go in. She was swearing at him and telling him something better get done, that I wasn't staying there and he better get me moved to the place he had said or she was taking me out of there and home. He said they had a place sorted and that I would get moved in six or seven days. My mum told me I could do it, that I would be at the other place for a few weeks and then I would be back home.
60. I remember when they came to move me I was standing at the big bay windows waiting and watching down onto the car park. I used to go there every day to see if they were there as that was where the motor had parked when my mum came to visit. It was stupid but I was seeing my mum there. When she did come days later with the social work they took me to Cardross.

Cardross Park Assessment Centre, Dumbartonshire

61. It was Graham Lindsay, a female social worker and my mum that took me from Balrossie. My mum insisted on being there to make sure there was no more marks on me.
62. They took me straight to Cardross but I can't remember whether it was on the way to there or once I arrived at Cardross that I went to see a doctor. I remember him asking me to blow into a tube because of my asthma. He talked to me about my health, measured my height, weight and examined my body for scars. They had a piece of paper with the outline of a body front and back and if there were any marks or scars they would mark them on there. I can't remember if I had any scars or not.
63. About ten or eleven days after I got there they held a panel in the office in the building that was the old school. They told me that I was to be at Cardross for a three week assessment. They were extending it to let the twenty one day order I was already on finish before they put me on the three weeks. So it was five or six weeks I was there.

64. The staff that I can remember are [REDACTED] and HWA [REDACTED] and I still to this day get them mixed up. I think [REDACTED] was the shorter one and was just a normal staff member. HWA [REDACTED] was the unit manager and was a big heavy lady. I was sentenced to Cardross twice and she wasn't there the second time I was there. She was nice and wasn't cruel or nasty to you. She was alright and so were the other staff.
65. I think there were four units in Cardross and I don't think there were any more than twelve or fourteen people in each unit. There were some units that had more than others but I don't know the layouts of them. I was in Carman Unit but there was also Fruin, Atom and Endrick.
66. The age range was from eleven to sixteen or seventeen. A boy called KJU [REDACTED] was the oldest there. I think that most kids were there because they weren't going to school or not doing what they were told but a lot of them never had parents. There was some there that were unruly and others had been put in for their own protection.

Routine at Cardross Assessment Centre

First day

67. When I arrived at Cardross it was like driving into a big estate. There was a big driveway and the building was shaped like a back to front number seven. There were big glass windows and a door and when you walked in you were in the dining hall. A woman took my mum and I into a wee interview on the right and explained about the place. She asked if I smoked and even although I did, I said no because I thought if they knew I smoked I wouldn't get home. My mum made a disbelieving face and I told her I didn't. The woman said that if I did I had to hand over any cigarettes I had as there was no smoking in Cardross.
68. The woman showed me around the dining room and then took me upstairs. When you went along to the right there was a door into the shower rooms and on the left the bedrooms started. After the shower room there was a living room and after that a

lounge area. Along the left and all the way round were other bedrooms and I got put into Carman Unit. I've always had it in my head that it was room eight but I could be wrong. I remember the woman saying it was a room with a double bed in it.

69. We got taken into the sitting area and I wasn't really listening to what she was saying because I was focussing on what was around me. There were people going past and looking in and I was trying to see if there was anybody I knew. I was thinking about how to get out if I was going to run away. I kept going to look out the window to get landmarks. My dad has always told me to look for them so that if I ever got lost that was how to get home.
70. My mum then had to go and I was sitting there with some of the staff. One of them said to me that there was somebody there that knew me but he wouldn't be there until later on. It turned out it was a guy called [REDACTED] who I had been at primary school with. We used to fight a lot because he was too greedy with the football.
71. I got in another fight with him later at Cardross when he started laughing at me when I fell through a seat. I got up and asked him why he was laughing. He jumped on me and started punching me. We started fighting, I was throwing punches back until the staff separated the two of us and put us into our rooms to calm down.

Mornings and bedtime

72. We got up about 8 am and had breakfast. We would then get ready and go to school.
73. At night we were in our rooms for about half past nine and that was you. You weren't allowed to just come out. If you did need to come out you had to chap the door. If you didn't get an answer from chapping the door you had to shout to the night staff.
74. There would be two nightshift staff who just sat about. They were meant to sit in the hallway but most of them just sat in the lounge area. One of them, we called big Davie, did sit in the corridor because he caught me trying to run away a few times.

Bed Wetting

75. I never had any issues with bed wetting other than when a member of staff nearly strangled the life out of me and I urinated as he held me against the wall by the throat. I got slagged by the other boys and the only way you could deal with that was through aggression because you were getting demoralised and pushed about. It wasn't just being aggressive to one person it was to everybody to try and break the cycle and get out of what happened.
76. Others did wet the bed constantly. The way it got dealt with was wrong because they got called 'pishy' or 'pishy bastard' by the staff and the rest of the weans would slaughter them. That was never going to stop them doing it because there was obviously a psychological reason why they had a problem like that. The wet stuff would get left outside their rooms and they would just get embarrassed, shouted at and shamed.

Washing / bathing

77. We weren't allowed to use the showers during the day but in the evening the staff would start sending us for one at about half past six. It was single showers in a room and the staff were in a room next door. They would chap the door if they were coming to see if you were alright but if they thought you were smoking they would just walk in. My family provided me with toiletries because it was rubbish sachets of shampoo and cheap toothpaste that they gave you. After you had your showers everyone then had to be in their nightwear.

Clothing / uniform

78. If you had your own clothes you could wear them and my family provided mine for me. Others that didn't have families had clothes so I don't know if they got them from other weans who were there. A lot of the weans did try and help each other. I gave a wee guy who was there my Walkman and stuff when I left.

79. There was also a poor box that pupils could take clothes out of but they would get slagged if they did.
80. We got pyjamas from Cardross that looked like something out the old age with all these colours and patterns and a pair of old man slippers. If you came back from running away they would take your clothes and trainers off you and you would only be allowed to wear pyjamas and slippers to try and stop you running away again.

Mealtimes / Food

81. At first we used to go down to the dining hall for meals but it ended up that it changed to us just eating our meals in the units. I don't know for sure but I think it was to do with money and cutting back on staff. In Carman Unit where I was, there was a kitchen with a toaster and a fridge area just off a mini sitting room.
82. For breakfast we would get cereal or sometimes toast. At lunchtime we would come back from school to the units then go to the dining hall for lunch before it changed to meals in the units. We would then go back to the unit, there would be a staff changeover and then we would be sent back to school for the afternoon. We would be back to the unit then go for dinner.
83. The food at Cardross was alright. It was a young guy who was the chef and he was a laugh and a joke. One day I bit into something and it looked like a bit of skin with hair coming out of it. I shouted that we couldn't eat it as there was a bit of head in it. No-one ate the meal because of that and we ended up getting a takeaway that night.

School

84. We got education in rooms that were underneath Carman, Atom and Fruin units. I generally behaved when I was there. The actual education in all the places was the exact same. Some of the boys couldn't tell you what a single letter or digit was. It was all childish, basic stuff like A,B,C and 1,2,3. I wasn't interested because it wasn't

benefitting me and the others that already knew it. That meant that you ended up just sitting about talking and laughing and it became like another lounge.

85. There were some classes that I liked. Home economics was one with the teacher Fiona and we got to cook cakes. There was a PTI but I can't remember his name and I liked the gym because you got to play football. There was a woman called Dorothy or Dot and I liked her class. She taught us sowing and my brother still has a picture of Daffy Duck that I sowed. The teacher had said it would take a week to do but I was determined to finish it in a day because I decided I was making it for my wee brother [REDACTED].

Leisure time

86. After dinner we would just be sitting about chatting and it was just like a university for crime as we would all be swapping stories. You would learn something from others and they would learn from you.
87. There was a room with a TV and sometimes they would bring the Nintendo out the cupboard.
88. At the weekends they sometimes took you down to the beach for a walk along the water. If they didn't take you out you ended up just sitting in the unit.

Trips / Holidays

89. I don't remember going on any other trips other than walking down to the local beach.

Work / chores

90. We had to tidy up the wee kitchen area but there were cleaners who came in as well so there wasn't always chores to do. It was just common sense really like if you used it, you cleaned it and put it back.

Healthcare

91. There were no nurses or anything like that. I never experienced being unwell so never saw any nurses or doctors or a dentist. I don't know what would happen if you were unwell, probably they would just take you to a surgery that they could take you to.

Religious Instruction

92. Religion never played any part in Cardross or any of the places I was at.

Birthdays and Christmas

93. When it was my thirteenth birthday the staff had asked my mum what they could get for me because I was private. I wouldn't open up to them and wouldn't speak to them about these kinds of things. My mum said that I loved football and played for ██████████ ██████████ so they got me a ball and a Harley Davidson shower gel.

Family Visits / Contact

94. My mum came with my wee brother ██████████ on my birthday to see me. Everything about ██████████ at that time was dead cool and I said to him he could have the shower gel but my mum said no because it was mine.
95. I asked the staff to let me and my brother go outside just the two of us so that we could spend some time together and they agreed. My mum came out and we sat down at the picnic tables. My mum asked if anything like what had happened to me at Balrossie had happened there and I told her it hadn't.
96. We were allowed phone calls home three times a week but it all depended on if they got through everybody because there were so many boys in each unit. There were designated times where your family could phone in or you could phone out and my mum used to say she would phone between seven and quarter past seven. You were

allowed ten minutes but sometimes the staff would let you stay on if there was nobody else waiting to make a call.

Home Visits

97. We would get home visits but I only got them the first time I was in. They wouldn't give me it the second time and that was one of the reasons I was running away.
98. It was ten weeks before I got outside from Cardross. At first you would go for a walk with staff around the grounds or down to the shop or the beach. It was as if they were testing you to see if you were going to run away before they allowed you to get home leave. They then tested you by sending you to the hairdresser and telling you to go there and come straight back after. They would give you money for the haircut, then give you a couple of fags and money for a can of juice. This was to emotionally blackmail you so you would feel guilty if you ran away.
99. Not everybody got home leave and if you did anything wrong they would stop you going.
100. The staff would drop you off and pick you up at certain points in Glasgow if there were a few of us going. If there weren't many going on leave they would either take you down or let you go down to the train station in Cardross. You would get a travel warrant instead of money to get you on the train to and from Glasgow or Carntyne which was my local station.

Inspections

101. I never saw anybody coming into Cardross to inspect what was happening in there.

Social Work Contact / Visits

102. Graham Lindsay never came near me or kept me updated as to what was happening whilst I was there. My parents were in touch with the social work and they would tell me what was being said.
103. The staff would never sit and speak to you and there was never any meaningful talk. I never had a key worker as such but occasionally one of the staff from the unit would sit you down and say that they had to do a report about you for going back to the panel.
104. Once when I was on home leave the sweetie machine from the local shop in Cardross got stolen and the man from the shop put my name in as having done it. The police appeared at my sister's and she told them I had been at her house so it wasn't me. I got taken back to the home and they were saying that they knew what I had been up to. I was getting the blame for something I hadn't done and nobody was believing me.
105. I challenged the shop keeper later and he said that he knew that if I hadn't done it I would know who had so he put my name in for it.

Personal Possessions

106. You were allowed your possessions but not things like a hi-fi, just a Walkman and earphones. You would get a shot of a TV in your room about once every three weeks but that only went to certain ones.
107. We got pocket money, maybe about £3.50 and if you were going on home leave they would give you it in a wee brown envelope like a pay packet. If you ran away they would take it off you or you wouldn't get any. There was no shop in the school but they sometimes took you down to a local shop after school or at the weekend.

Discipline

108. The main way of keeping discipline in Cardross was the threat that you wouldn't get out to see your family. I don't think they realised what that threat meant to me.

Abuse at Cardross Park Assessment Centre

109. Everything was fine and there were no real issues in Cardross the first time I was there. There was something that at the time I just viewed as a carry on as HWA did it to everyone there. She would grab us by the nipple, twist it and tell you to whistle. She would grab the inside of your thigh and squeeze it and grab you by your private parts and say 'hoor's grip.' It wasn't a massive squeeze but it was enough to lift you out your chair and she would tell you to say you loved her before she would let go.
110. Looking back now a woman of her age touching a boy there was wrong. Even grabbing the nipple hurt but you took it as a carry on. When you were trying to whistle she was laughing as she was doing it but she would then twist it even more so you couldn't whistle and she would say 'I telt you to whistle.'
111. As soon as they threatened that I wasn't getting a home visit, I would be of the mind that I was not being kept from my family. When they took me away from my family and put me there I went into autopilot mode thinking how can I get out of there and back to my family.
112. As an adult you can process that threat by saying I might not get home this week but if I behave I will get home the next weekend. However when you are a wean you don't get that. I was close to my dad and I was a mammy's boy. I wanted home to see them and not getting home to see them was the end of my world.
113. It was a carrot and stick but it was evil in a way because a lot of weans weren't going to get it. A lot of them had parents that weren't interested or were junkies so weren't allowed to get home because of the risk. The staff used to build their hopes up that

they were getting out knowing that it wasn't going to happen. That's earth shattering for a wean. I think they could've dealt with the family thing a lot better.

114. I would say that every wean in these places self-harmed because of the way the system was. There was nobody there to support them when they did this.

Leaving Cardross Assessment Centre

115. I was on the phone to my parents three times a week from Cardross and they kept me informed about what was happening about me leaving there. I remember the night before I got out my mum telling me that I was leaving and I couldn't sleep. I had butterflies, was anxious and nervous.
116. I was having a panel in Cardross and that made me nervous because all the other residents were saying that if the panel was held in there it's not good news and you would get kept in. If it was to be held at the local children's panel office then that was good news and you would be getting out. I was panicking about that.
117. When I went to the panel the next day my mum was squeezing my hand and reassuring me it was going to be okay. There was somebody that was the head of Cardross sitting in the middle of a big desk with a social worker at one side and other staff from Cardross at the other. My mum and I were sitting on seats in front of them. I felt as if it was going on for ages. They were talking about what they were putting in place for me like going to go to day care and I was to agree to that to get out. I would have said aye to anything just to get out.
118. They all came to an agreement that I should be getting out and I always remember walking out and the air feeling different. I know it sounds stupid but the air felt fresher and better. It was a relieve as I knew I was going to my home unit of my mum, dad and wee brothers.

119. It felt different when I got home and it sounds stupid but I felt out of place because I hadn't been there. My mum and dad kept trying but the more they tried the more something didn't feel right and I think they picked up on my unsettledness.
120. The social work were trying to get me a placement at John Street Day Care Centre but there was a period of time before they could get me a place. I was back with the same pals, not going to school and doing my own thing during the day, like football. When a place became available I decided I wasn't going.
121. I told Graham Lindsay and my family I wasn't going because it wasn't a real school and there wasn't anything they could teach me that I didn't know. In my head that was because my dad had home taught me. It wasn't as if we were running feral as my dad was strict with education. They tried talking me into it but I refused to go.
122. I was running about with KJS, stealing motors, breaking into vans for tools and I was smoking hash. I stole a washing machine for my sister as she kept breaking hers. My dad was at me and saying he regretted teaching me how to drive when I was young because I was now getting caught for stealing cars and that would delay me getting my licence. He was just trying to get me to see reality.
123. I was always getting the jail from the police and felt they were always on my case. It wasn't as if I was stealing every day and I realise what I was doing was wrong but it was because of who I was hanging about with. Once after a crowd of us stole a motor, I got caught and there was a panel. They told me I should be going to the day care centre and I agreed to go just to get out and not get sent away to a home again. I never had any intention of going.

Return To Cardross

124. About five months after I had originally left Cardross my parents sat me down and said that Graham Lindsay had been in touch to say I was getting sent back to a home

because I still wasn't going to the day care centre and that I hadn't done anything they had asked me to do.

125. My biggest crime that I got punished for was not going to school as that was why I got put in these places. My dad still blames himself saying he shouldn't have educated me but I tell him it is not his fault. I've not got any qualifications but give me a job and I can do just as good a job as someone who is qualified.
126. Because I wasn't going to school they sent me back to Cardross. I thought it was actually going to be okay because by this time my pal [KJS] was in Cardross and you got to go to the beach and things. I didn't think it was going to be as hard this time but when I actually thought about going to the panel and them saying I was going back I decided I wasn't going.
127. In my absence the Children's Panel put an order in place for me to return to Cardross. They never said how long I would be going for. I went on the run and was trying to hide so I wouldn't go back but the police caught me and took me to Cardross. As I arrived in the car park I remember thinking I couldn't believe I was back there. The thoughts of it not being bad and [KJS] being there went out the window.

First day

128. I got put into either Atom or Fruin unit. It was at the other end of Cardross, through the dinner hall, upstairs through another unit and there was just a door separating it. I just did not like it. I was in the same unit as [KJS] but it was if he had developed a different personality. It was as if he had been there the longest, these other guys were his pals and I was having to fight for his friendship. I kind of just gave up on it.

Running Away

129. About ten days into my stay there I decided I was going to run away. My mum had said my stepbrother and his girlfriend were coming to visit me so I decided to wait and runaway then because he had a motor. I knew they wouldn't leave me if I said I was

going to run away and knew they would make sure I got home safely. I sat at the window waiting all day for them to come but they never turned up.

130. You weren't allowed out for the first couple of weeks until you were settled or the staff got to know you and trusted you enough to take you out. I used to think if I ran out the building by the time I got down to the main road I would be caught as they had a minibus and either that or the police would be waiting on me so it didn't make sense for me to run then.
131. Then one day when I had been there for three weeks my first outing was to the beach. There were about three or four staff members with us. One of them was called Derek who worked in Fruin unit and he asked if I was going to behave and not run away. I told him no but that was what my intentions were.
132. We were playing on the beach and there was a wee guy called [REDACTED] who stayed near where my mum and dad stayed. He asked who wanted to 'do the off'? I said I did and because he was from the same area I thought it would be safe for us to do a journey together. The staff were smoking so we decided to make a bit of distance between us before we ran so that we had a bit of a start if they tried to chase us. They kept shouting at us not to go far so we would stop for a bit and sit down but gradually move further away.
133. We never went to the local railway station so we wouldn't get caught but followed the beach and then cut up to the railway until we came to another station. We checked with a woman if the train was going to Glasgow and hid from carriage to carriage from the conductors once we were on. We never got off at Carntyne near my house because the police would look there nor Shettleston as that was where the police station was. We got a connecting train to another station where we could walk home from but as I was on my way home I saw the police and decided to go to my sister's house instead.
134. When I got there she said she couldn't believe me, that it wasn't a game and did I not understand what I was doing to my mum, dad and the weans. The way she said it was

like they didn't want me there but it wasn't the case as she was just trying to get me to open my eyes to what I was doing.

135. Usually when I was on the run it was for about a week and half but this time I lasted six weeks. My parents were telling the social work that I was okay and that I was getting fed and getting a wash so they wouldn't be too worried. I was going between my mum and dad's and my sisters and would hide from the police when they came.
136. I was breaking into motors daily with my pals. There was this policeman called [REDACTED] who used to tell my mum to tell me he was going to break my legs. One day he saw us in Tollcross Road and shouted at us to stay where we were. The boys all shouted run but I never, I just gave up and just stood. I threw away a chubb screwdriver as he came across the road and he found mine and the others screwdrivers some of the boys had thrown away. He cuffed me to the close door. The rest of the boys bolted when they said they were lifting everyone and they couldn't catch them.
137. I got taken to the police station and felt as if I was there for days. They then took me back to Cardross. My mum had said to me when I was on the run that if it was the unit I didn't like then she could get me moved back to the unit I had been in the first time. That was what happened but when I got there it wasn't the same as it had been. The staff had all changed and I bolted again days later. I got caught and I got taken back at night again by the police.
138. I got taken into the Carman Unit and everything was fine at first. They told me to put on my pyjamas and slippers to stop me running away again. The staff were speaking to the police and everything was still fine until after the police left and I got assaulted.
139. I was on the run on another time and got caught by the police. Graeme Lindsay and another social worker came and got me and were taking me back to Cardross. When we were on Stepps Road at the traffic lights I jumped out the motor and ran. I ran round the corner and hid in a garden. I heard a voice saying they could see me. When I stepped out I clocked it was the CID. I gave them a story that it was my dad that had dropped me off but they had seen the whole incident and I told them the truth.

140. They took me back to Easterhouse police station and on the way they were shouting at me calling me a “wee fuckin arsehole” and saying they were missing a good car chase because they were having to take me back to the station. They contacted the social work and I said I was refusing to go with them. They told me I had no choice but I still refused. They got a policewoman to speak to me and she asked me what the problem was and why was I running away. I told her what I thought about social work so they got my mum. She came to the station and they ran me back to Cardross.

Abuse at Cardross

141. After the police left I was back in the bedroom of the unit. I then got shouted out into the hallway by Derek and another member of staff who was heavy stout guy, bald but cropped in hair at the sides and a moustache. I think his name was ^{GUF} or maybe ^{GUF}. He asked for my trainers and when I asked if I could keep them I felt his hand grab me by the throat and he slammed me against the wall. He was holding me off the ground and my heels hit the wall. It was so quick and unexpected. He was squeezing my throat and shouting I was “a wee bastard.” He was spitting as he was shouting and his face was going red. He was screaming that he’d break my legs if I ever ran away again, I’d never be able to walk let alone run by the time he was finished with me. I was telling him I couldn’t breathe and he was screaming and telling me that I wouldn’t be able to breathe once he had finished with me.

142. I thought he was going to kill me as I was struggling to breath harder and harder by the second. I remember I wet myself with fear and was greeting. It could’ve been two minutes, it could’ve been five minutes but it felt like it was a lifetime he held me up against the wall. He was shouting and pointed out that I had pissed myself. He then dropped me down in front of everybody. He still had me in a choke on the floor and had his forehead pushed against mine. He was then screaming at me to go into the room, get my housecoat and get showered.

143. I remember standing greeting in the shower and another one of the staff members shouted to ask if I was okay in there. I just said I was, got washed, dried and walked back into the room. I was terrified of him after that.
144. The next day the door just opened up as normal and we went to education. After class I had gone back to the unit and GUF came and told me and another boy KJW to come out to the hall. He told a member of staff to keep us there and then minutes later we had to go down to the dinner hall reception area. He took us through a door to a corridor that took you behind the cookhouse and out the back of the building. There was a big car, a red Rover that was GUF's car and it had golf clubs in the back of it.
145. We asked GUF why we were there. He told us that if we wanted to misbehave in his school he would show us what would happen. He also had KJS and another boy from another unit.
146. There was a bit of harled wall between the back of the education and the cookhouse and his car was parked near to it. He made us all stand against the wall whilst he changed into a pair of white golf shoes. He then put a glove on and made it look like Iron Fist.
147. He pulled a club out of a Wilson golf bag, took balls out as well and flung them down. He said 'this is what happens to bastards that don't do what they're told.' I could see what was happening and it felt like this wasn't going to happen. He said don't flinch and then hit the golf balls at us. It was automatic to flinch when he hit the balls at us. Some of them would miss but I got hit a few times on the legs, side and stomach and one hit me on the right shin.
148. I had a lump on my shin and I got a fright because it was a big, massive lump like the ones you see on a cartoon. It went down after a day or two so it must have just been swelling or fluid.

149. He did this to us a few times, maybe five times. It felt like he always picked on **KJW** and **KJS** and I. Without fail we'd be three of the ones that were up against that wall. There would always be another one or two added to this but us three were always there.
150. I was terrified of **GUF** and the staff knew what was going on. You knew what days it was going to happen because you would see the clubs lying on the back seat of the motor.
151. He would tell us that the teachers had said we had been misbehaving and that's why we were there. He said Dorothy had told him we had misbehaved. I asked her if we had been misbehaving and she said no you're always good so he was making it up.
152. In behind the area where the car was parked there were dense bushes and in behind it was a golf course. One night when he had us out there in the dark he said he could murder us, throw our bodies in there and the rats and the foxes would eat us. He would just put us down as absconders and none of us would ever be found.
153. That frightened me because what he said to me made sense to me at that time and what he'd been doing to us with the golf balls shocked the life out of me. I believed what he said as he didn't care and I knew he was capable of that.
154. **KJS**, **KJW** and I used to sit in education and say to each other that if we steal his clubs he'll not be able to do it to us. The fear of getting caught stop us from doing it because the consequences would have been so bad. What he did to us for misbehaving at school, even when we hadn't, with the golf clubs and balls was brutal. Imagine what he would've done if he caught us stealing his clubs?
155. We used to discuss trying to split and runaway when we got taken out by him for the golf ball treatment but the only way you could really go was past the old Cardross building which had burnt down and was all boarded up. The staff used to take us there a night and tell us it was haunted to put the frighteners on us. That terrified us so we were all scared and wouldn't go past it to get away.

156. GUF would slap me whenever he got me. He would just lash out at me and never hit me in any particular place. I used to smell drink off him. He said it was aftershave but I knew what drink smelt like from when I used to go to the football with my grandad and he would drink. I'd experienced alcohol myself at that time as well.
157. He would come into the unit daily and when I heard his voice I used to panic. Even if he was there for a legitimate reason he was so unpredictable that you never knew what he would do. He never just did it when it was just him and us. The staff were well aware of his temper and them being there didn't stop him.
158. He would spit when he was shouting and one day when he was shouting at KJU KJU said to him I asked for the news not the weather because he was spraying him with spit. GUF punched him when he said that. I didn't see this as I was at school and KJU was in the unit but I saw the injury to his eye later and he told me what had happened.
159. The mixture of things with him grabbing me, shouting at me, the golf balls and belittling caused a lot of mental issues for me. He would go on about being Irish and from Donegal and because of what he did to me I hated Catholics. I was brought up in a civilised household. My mother was a Catholic and my dad was a Protestant but after this I hated Catholics because of him.
160. Still to this day, I hate that GUF and I would like to take revenge on him but he is an old man now. He was in his fifties then so if he is still here he is an old guy. Even if he is, I was just a wean then and he was wicked to me. So me being that wean and him being that old man now evens it out. I've not got it in me to do it but if I was going to go after somebody it would be him.
161. He was SNR He was definitely in charge of Carman Unit and I think SNR. He was really powerful. He couldn't run and he had a bit of a belly on him. His face was red from the drink. I know he was originally from Donegal because I had been telling one of the staff that I used to go to

Belfast with the flute band and that I had relations in Donegal. She told me that this was where GUF was from.

162. The first time I realised that things weren't right in Cardross on my second time there was that there was something going on with a teacher called HUZ and this older lassie, with dark hair. I can't remember her name for definite but it might have been as that sticks in my mind. I think she was about fifteen or sixteen.
163. His classroom was up the stairs past the pool tables and the class was facing you. He was tall, maybe six foot or just under. He wasn't fat but had what I'd call a 'daddy belly.' He was always smartly dressed in suits with a shirt and tie. He had an overcoat and his shoes were always spotless. He had black hair going grey and brushed forward a wee bit over the forehead. I think he was probably late forties, early fifties back then. He was creepy.
164. HUZ would take this girl on hill walks, just him and her. He would come up to the unit after school nearly every day to get her. Normally it had to be two members of staff who had to go out with anybody.
165. She used to walk back through the unit with her top button and the zip of her denims undone and her knickers showing. The staff would tell her to fix herself, that she couldn't walk about like that because it was a mixed unit. Everyone used to ask her why is it only her that goes out with him and she would say it was because she was sixteen, he took her out and gave her fags.
166. We would ask her why she was still there because she should be leaving when she turned sixteen. She said they could hold her until she was eighteen. Stuff definitely wasn't right between them.
167. When you went to his class you didn't do any work. He would pull the curtain down, turn the light out and put a film like Braveheart or something else on. The chairs would be arranged like a cinema and he would always sit with her. Their seats would have their backs against the door so that if anybody tried to get in they couldn't open it

properly and would need to wait until they got up. He would sometimes put a cover or cloth over them both.

168. When the movie finished you were never allowed to stand up until he got up and turned the light up. Even once the film was finished he would make you watch all the credits and there was no need for us to wait through all that. Sometimes he would tell us to sit where we were until he rewound the tape to the start. He said this was so it was ready for the next class and he said that every time you watch a film you should rewind the tape.
169. There was always talk they were going with each other and I didn't know if it was true or not but it was just a vibe you got. The girl never said what they were doing while the film was on. When I was in Fruin with her ^{KJU} said to her the teacher was grooming her but she never denied it and just shrugged her shoulders.
170. There was a fifteen year old girl called [REDACTED] who was really tall. Everybody was scared of her because she would slash people and she was the bully. She used to say to the girls that she was prostituting herself to the guy ^{HUZ} for fags but she didn't care.
171. It must have been horrible for her not to have any family. There were people in there who never had any family or visits so I was lucky in that way. I don't know if she was just doing it because she never got sweets or fags from family. He used to give her money as well even although she wasn't entitled to pocket money because she was sixteen.
172. She used to self-harm. In the unit everything with her was sexual. She used to use that to get what she wanted.
173. I don't know if it was because something happened that made people suspicious of what they were up to. She said to somebody that when she left she was going to stay with him because she didn't have a mum and dad and he was going to be looking after her. She used to tell us they were in love and they were going to live together when

she left the home. I don't know if that actually happened because I was out of there by the time she left.

174. When the staff restrained you they were over the top. It was like the way the police would restrain someone that was fighting with them and we were just weans with carpet burns all down our faces. It was just whatever staff member that was there that would be doing these restraints. There was always two or three of them involved when they were doing this.
175. They would put a restraint on if you were refusing to go to your room, if you were trying to run away or if there was a fight between two weans. It would even happen if you didn't want to do something they wanted you to do and it escalated from that. It was mad and this wasn't just at Cardross but they antagonised you to get you angrier. Then they would say stop it but by then they had antagonised you and you couldn't just stop. They would put their whole body weight on top of you or knee in the back with your arms up behind you. It was just exactly the same restraint you would go through as an adult in jail.

Leaving Cardross

176. Whilst I was on the run my mum and dad sat me down and asked where this hatred of Catholics was coming from. I told them about the golf ball getting hit at me and they asked why I never said anything at the time. I said because nothing ever got done and because I got slapped, grabbed by the throat and nobody believed me. I just got called a liar. It happened all the time and when you did speak up you were a grass. They would get other boys in the unit to pick on you. My mum asked if that lump I had on my leg had been because of him hitting me with a golf ball and I said it had been.
177. She took me down to the social work where she demanded to see Graham Lindsay and he and his senior Brian McKenna came out. They said none of that had happened. My mum was swearing at them and was insisting it did happen. They were telling her

all the weans say this to try and manipulate their way out of these places. My mum insisted she wanted something done.

178. After that Graham Lindsay phoned my mum and said to tell me that I would be happy when I got caught because he had got me a new place to go to. He told her he was relocating me to Ballikinrain near Balfron. He painted this big picture of a beautiful place with the structure, the architecture and all the on sight facilities. He was describing it like a leisure kind of place. What he didn't realise was that my dad was fully aware of this as he had family connections there and he used to run through the fields at Balfron as a boy. My dad knew it was just an old sandstone building, who had built it and when he told him, Graham was taken aback.
179. I decided to go there and the two of them took me up there with the social work. I got a tour round it and I didn't like the place. I had been in Cardross long enough to know that things weren't right there either.

Reporting of abuse at Cardross

180. I told my mum about the incident where **GUF** grabbed me and slammed me against the wall and she phoned to ask to speak to him. He told her I was a liar and that it didn't happen. I told her to speak to Derek as he had been there but had just stood there. I don't know what he said.

Ballikinrain School, Balfron, Stirlingshire

181. I can't remember if there was a panel before I went to Ballikinrain but if there had been I wouldn't have gone because I knew that if I went to one I would get kept in and taken away from my family. I don't know how long I was sent to it was just part of a residential order. I think it might have been a straight transfer from Cardross and it might have been that Cardross was just a holding place before I went there. Obviously though I never went straight from Cardross because I was on the run.

182. To a wean from Glasgow it felt like going to Ballikinrain was like going to the other end of the world as it seemed so far away. At Ballikinrain you were surrounded by sheep and cows, people speaking a different lingo and because you are that far from home that affects you mentally.
183. It affects you because if you're nearby to home you know that your mum and dad and brothers are just along the road and if something happened to you they could be there quick. If they are miles away then it's going to take them ages to get to you.
184. When I got placed there I thought this was part of the punishment to place you that far away. I don't know if everybody else is like this but my family are my utter world so getting moved that far away was the end of my world. It was constantly in my head when I was there that I was such a distance away. There wasn't a second of the day I wasn't emotional about being away from my mum, dad and brothers. I wanted to be with them and not in there. That was one of the things that led to me trying to take my life further down the line.
185. Ballikinrain was a big red sandstone building. It was where there were airfields during the war. Looking at it from the outside it would make a good hotel or bed and breakfast. You went up a big road and passed some of the staff cottages to the car park. There were stairs that you could take down to the ash football pitch and a couple of stairs that took you up to the entrance. When you went in there was an office to the right.
186. The headmaster of the school was a nice man. I can't remember his name but he was older with a bald head and a beard. He wasn't cruel, was pleasant and never harmed you. He would speak to you and listen to you but when things were reported to him nothing ever happened.
187. The staff that I remember from there are the key worker **HVC**, a residential care worker **GOZ** who was in a different unit from where I was, a student **HZE**, and a couple of teachers **GOQ** and **GPB**.

188. The school was split on two levels with the older ones on the upper level and the younger ones below. I think the under thirteens were below the over thirteens. The weans were in there for all sorts of reasons. A lot of people don't want to talk about why they were there because it can be a weakness that could be used against you. A lot of them it was obvious that they had been abandoned and a lot of them had behavioural problems. A lot of others had families who were addicts that couldn't look after them. Others were the ones that weren't going to school and getting into trouble. Even from an early age you could sense what people's situations were.
189. There were spiral stairs that took you up to the units. I can't remember the names of them other than the Drumgoyne Unit that I was in. When you went into Drumgoyne there was a mini pool table, a table tennis table and some low seats as soon as you went in. There was a room on the right hand side that was used for smoking and only had a round table and chairs. There was a sitting room next door then a corridor to the office where the staff went and then a door into the next unit.
190. On the left hand side of the table tennis and pool table as you came in there was a shower room and a door to the dorms. I was in a room with four beds but it was only me and a boy called ██████████ in there. It was just the two of us because they wanted to separate me from a lot of boys who were there for more serious crimes. I was kept away from them because they viewed me as a dafty and they wanted to fight with me because of where I came from.
191. I didn't like ██████ as he and his pals attacked me while I was there. I got a bit of justice later though. I had once played a Tracey Chapman CD that my sister had given me on the ghetto blaster in the room and my thoughts were constantly on my family. He was lying there and I could hear him snuffling and realised he was greeting. I asked if he was alright and he said aye but when he kept greeting I asked him again. He eventually told me that the song Fast Car made him sad as his mum used to listen to it all the time.

192. After an incident where him and [REDACTED] had been getting wide I played Fast Car again. That was to hurt him as I knew I would never get to fight him one on one because of his pals.

Routine at Ballikinrain

Daily Routine

193. There wasn't much of a routine at Ballikinrain. You woke up and went out for a fag before breakfast. You would be allowed another fag and then you went to school about nine o'clock. You were there until lunchtime and then went back to school from half one until about half three. After that we went back to the unit and got our tea.
194. In the evenings we just sat there and nipped the staff's nut to take us out a run in the minibus or down to the spar shop. That was it, there was nothing other than TV, fighting and smoking. We went to our beds about half nine.
195. At the weekends we just hung about and a couple of times I went out in the car with a member of staff.

Mealtimes / food

196. As far as I can remember there was no dining hall in Ballikinrain. There certainly wasn't one in the top half where I was. I don't know if the bottom half where the younger ones were had one. I think they used to bring you your meal in a box from a trolley and you just sat anywhere in the unit to eat it.
197. For breakfast you got given a wee box of cereal and there was a big jug of milk. I didn't really eat breakfast as I was used to a hot breakfast. At lunchtime you got a roll or something and at teatime you got your food in boxes again.

198. I don't even know if there was a kitchen there or where the food came from. I'd be lying if told you what the quality of the food was like or even whether we got enough of it. Every place I was in my mum and dad would bring me bags of food like shortbread, biscuits and crisps when they came to visit so that I had stuff if I was hungry.

Clothing

199. There was no uniform and you just wore your own clothes. My parents supplied my clothes but as in most schools I was in the clothes that were then handed down to others who couldn't afford it. I think again as in most schools there was maybe a clothing grant but you didn't have to buy clothes with it. Some kids bought games with it if their parents had already bought their clothes.

Schooling

200. Some of the classes were in portacabins down in the grounds but some of them weren't very safe. They were just up on bricks and one even had a car jack holding it up. We sometimes went behind them into the woods for a fag and some teachers never bothered but others did. The woodwork workshop was a stone building and next door was **GOQ** the art teacher's class.
201. There were staff there that they classed as teachers but I don't know how they got payments for teaching as they were no better than the staff in the unit.
202. We only got two proper subjects at school and one was science where they showed you how to make a bomb. They taught us how to make an explosion with black powder and a grey powder that you put into a glass. You then put a flame in which caused it to ignite and explode.
203. I liked **GOQ**'s class because I liked drawing things. In the art class **GOQ** used to draw a bottle of Buckfast on bits of plywood and write on it ' Drink your wine, do the crime, fuck your fine, do the time.' As I grew up I thought where was his mindset encouraging weans to drink, do crimes and not pay fines.

204. Another teacher gave us something to read and then we had to answer questions in our jotter about it. As long as you did five or ten minutes a day and put something in writing that was it.
205. We had a woodwork class and there was a workshop. They had wood and tools to use but we never did anything with it because GPB the teacher was always just working on his red ford fiesta and left us to just sit about or do what we wanted. If you wanted to use the machinery he would say no even although I knew how to use a lot of it. My dad had a factory so I knew a lot about how to use machinery and it was of interest to me.
206. I think I only got to use machinery twice whilst I was there. I asked to make a vase or a fruit bowl out of wood and GPB said to me that I didn't know what I was doing. I just grabbed the chisel and set up the lathe and got on with it. He asked how I knew how to work it. I explained that my dad had taught me. He wouldn't let me make either but said you can make a baseball bat key ring and I couldn't understand why.

Healthcare / welfare

207. There weren't any nurses or doctors or dentists at Ballikinrain.
208. There was never anything done to try and help these children that were there because of emotional needs or behavioural problems. There was no structure around anything like that in any of the places I was in.

Chores / work

209. The only work we really had to do was hoovering the floor at the room where the pool table was. There wasn't really a structure at Ballikinrain and it was just common sense to clean up after yourself.

Visits / family contact

210. My family used to come and visit a lot. That was one of the things that some of the others didn't like about me because it would always be the same families that would be there and because families were there they couldn't get to play pool as the visits were in that area. They were angry about that and because they weren't seeing their families there was backlashes.
211. There was no privacy as although the others were meant to stay in the smoking room they would come out and you would get threatened in front of your family. My family used to worry that I was going to be okay when they left.
212. My mum said to HVC and Graeme Lindsay about it but they never did anything. The staff were never about during visits other than HZE. She was the only one of the staff that would speak to my family. HVC was meant to be there but he refused.
213. One day my mum, my brother and my sister came to visit and I remember HZE telling my mum that I wasn't any bother other than when I was running away. She said she knew there was bullying going on and that the staff were aware of it.
214. I would never have told my mum or dad about any of the abuse during a visit. You just wouldn't do that with the others being about.

Home Leave / pocket money

215. I never got much home leave when I was at Ballikinrain. I was told I wouldn't get much home leave and because of that I ran away a lot. When you did get it you would get taken back to Glasgow in the minibus, dropped off and picked up near the passport office at Port Dundas. If you weren't back for a certain time they would just drive away.
216. We did get pocket money and they would give you it when you went on home leave or even if they were just taking you down to the Spar shop. You were only allowed two into the shop at the one time to stop us stealing.

Personal possessions

217. I did have a Walkman when I was there but you couldn't have valuables in places like that as they would get stolen.

Social Work / Inspections

218. I never got any visits from social work or any other official bodies. The only way I could get anything reported about what was happening at Ballikinrain was by me telling my mum or dad on the phone, them telling Graeme Lindsay and him telling the staff at Ballikinrain.
219. I don't think I actually had any children's panels whilst I was at Ballikinrain. The social work were meant to keep my parents informed of any developments in my case but it was Graham Lindsay and he was useless.

Holidays / trips

220. There was a member of staff from another unit who once asked me if I wanted to go out for a run in the school car as he'd heard I liked cars. I said I would but there was a method behind it for him. It was so he could use it to go and see another staff member who he was having an affair with. He told me she owned her own garden centre and took me to the garden centre. I genuinely believed that she owned it but it was called Dobbie's and it wasn't until later I realised what it was and she was just working there. When we got there she said 'I didn't think you were bringing HUU'. She sent me away in a different direction to get me out the way and then he came back looking for me a while later. He then let me joyride the car back to Ballikinrain and I skelped a pheasant on the way back.
221. HZE was alright and she also took me out in the car once but we ended up going to see her pal during working hours. She went in, left me in the car and a while later came and took me into the house. It was a weird set up.

222. Another time we were out in the minibus with HVC and we went down to the crossroads to go to the shop. On the way home HVC slammed on the brakes and we hit a pheasant. It was still mobile but HVC jumped out and got it, came back in the bus, threw it to me and told me to hold it. It was flapping about and doing the toilet everywhere. We never knew how to handle it because we were all city slickers and he was calling us pussies.
223. He stopped at the art teacher, GOQ's cottage, took us all out and round to the back of the cottage with the pheasant. GOQ came out with a shotgun and asked how are we going to kill it. We were all asking if he was going to shoot it. HVC told GOQ to show us how a man does it. GOQ asked if we had ever killed with our hands. He then grabbed it, slammed it's head off the corner of a wooden kennel and twisted its neck. He said there you go that's it ready for the soup.
224. I was taken aback and it might sound stupid but that affected me as I was brought up as an animal lover. That was the first time I had ever seen something cruel happening to an animal and I didn't feel comfortable with it at all.

Bed wetting

225. I never wet the bed there but others did. You always knew if someone had because the sheets were always lying outside their doors and they would be stinking. The staff used to humiliate them and tell them off in front of everyone by saying 'You need to stop that, what age are you?'

Running away

226. I ran away from Ballikirain and got caught. The social workers graham Lindsay and Jim Rooney that picked me up said there had been an emergency panel earlier in the day and my mum and dad were at Ballikinrain waiting to see me. I thought they were at it as I thought they would've told me. When we got back to the home as soon as I got out the car I ran away. They were shouting at me that my mum and dad were there.

227. The headmaster came down in a car and persuaded me to speak to him. I kept my distance and he asked how I was and when I last had anything to eat. He said that my mum and dad were at the school. I didn't believe that and refused to go. He asked what I was going to do. I said I was going to get on the train and skip the fare. He said because it was miles away he would take me to the station and give me the fare. I agreed and he gave me a can of juice. He never had any money so I jumped over the fence and got the train. When I got home I found out my mum and dad had been at Ballikinrain.

Discipline

228. The big threat they used as discipline was stopping your home leave if you misbehaved. It was blackmail to control you. The ones that didn't have families were more feral as that threat couldn't be held over them.

229. They used restraints in Ballikinrain but it didn't happen very often. It was usually just if they caught somebody trying to run away. It never happened to me but I did see others being restrained especially younger ones. I remember seeing them with carpet burns on their faces in particular a wee guy called [REDACTED].

230. The restraints were the same as any other places and the same as in adult establishments. Your arms were put into locks, your thumbs were pulled back, you were laid down face front and one of the staff would kneel on your back and push your head against the floor. Another one would bend your legs back and cross them so your heels were basically touching your arse. It was all pressure points.

Abuse at Ballikinrain

231. One day not long after I went in to Ballikinrain, I was waiting to get on the pool table and was sitting playing with a rubik's cube. There were three staff in the room, [REDACTED] GOZ from the other unit, [REDACTED] HVC the so called key worker and wee [REDACTED] HZE the student. All of a

sudden I felt a boot in the face from [REDACTED] who was one of the boys in care. I was startled, didn't know what had happened and the staff just said "Stop it [REDACTED]."

232. [REDACTED] was a lot older than me, maybe sixteen or seventeen and the other boys and some of the staff said that I shouldn't mess with him because he had been to Glasgow Sheriff Court before for slashing somebody. Straight away I felt miles away from my family, he's with his pals and my back up is miles away. I had a red footprint on my face for a couple of hours, a burst lip and I was stunned.
233. Wee ^{HZE} [REDACTED] was the only one of the staff that asked if I was alright and she said to me just to watch [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and a couple of others as they used to do that to all the younger ones. [REDACTED] was a year older than me I think. Some of the other weans told me later to put pool balls in a sock and cosh him when he was sleeping. I didn't but it was the best advice they could give because that is what you had to do to survive in these places.
234. There were cliques in there and you had to work out how much to take. You had to think who had a bigger gang so you could assess how bad it would be because you knew the staff wouldn't do anything to stop it. Sometimes though you would just snap.
235. I got attacked by a group of four boys once in the area where the pool table was. It was [REDACTED], [REDACTED], a boy called [REDACTED] and another a guy whose name I can't remember. [REDACTED] and the other guy were sixteen the same as [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was from Greenock or Port Glasgow. [REDACTED] was from Possil but I don't know where the others were from. [REDACTED] wasn't there all the time.
236. The staff were in the office and never did anything about it. It wasn't as if it was silent as they were shouting at me and stamping on me. The boys were dragging me by the feet to try and get me into a dormitory and out the way in case the staff came out. They dragged me over the metal strip at the door between the carpets and ripped my Rangers strip. They burst my nose and my mouth and blood dripped onto my Rangers top. My side and my back were scraped or scratched but hadn't broken the skin. I think ^{HZE} [REDACTED] came walking through the unit and they stopped. She didn't actually see

what had happened as [REDACTED] was aware of her coming and told the rest of them.

237. I went through to the office, they were fully aware of what had gone on but they just looked at me and told me to go and wash my face and clean myself up. My mum phoned that night and I told her what had happened. I told her not to say anything as she would make it worse.
238. When I ran away my mum and dad saw the marks I had on me. I showed them the top it had catch marks and blood on it.
239. I told her then I had gone into the office and showed her the cut in my mouth. My mum phoned the social worker to complain and went off her head at Graham Lindsay. He said he's in a 'Ressie' (residential home) and boys will be boys, what do you expect. She went off on one and demanded to speak to Brian McKenna his boss. She threatened to get the police involved if they didn't do anything so they agreed to put it to the school.
240. When I got back the next morning I found out she had phoned later the night before and went mental at them.
241. Brian or Graham contacted Ballikinrain and it was reported to the headmaster. The investigation was given to the guy ^{GOZ} [REDACTED]. They denied it and nothing came out of it. They were told that there was blood on my Rangers top it from the incident. They offered to pay half for a new Rangers top but my dad said they could ram their money and he would buy me one. He said to them it wasn't about the top, it was about what went on.
242. When I got caught and taken back to Ballikinrain I was in the smoking room with two other guys when ^{GOZ} [REDACTED] came in and said to me 'See you, you're fuckin dead, what are you sticking people in for.' I was thinking he's staff why is he saying that? He got other guys to turn on me after that. He called me a grass to them and see when they saw a staff member turning on me they knew he wasn't going to do anything to stop

them. He told me he fuckin hated me and although nowadays I would say well that's your problem, it hurt at the time. I always thought then that hate was a horrible word so to get it said to me wasn't nice.

243. It wasn't just me that got treated like that. These doings were a daily occurrence and the staff never bothered. Most of the boys got it apart from [REDACTED] and his pals as they were usually the ones handing it out. Drumgoyne seemed to be the worst unit and the unit next door to us seemed to be quiet compared to ours.
244. The keyworker ^{HVC} [REDACTED] would slag you and was heavy handed with you. If he said something and you didn't turn round and acknowledge him right away he would grab or yank you.
245. At weekends if you weren't away on home leave and you were stuck in the school, ^{HVC} [REDACTED] and ^{GOZ} [REDACTED] from the next unit would organise fights by pairing you up against somebody else. They would move the chairs and tables in the smokers room for the fight. Whoever won would get a takeaway and a couple of extra fags. Whoever lost got sent to their beds early.
246. I don't know why they did it but looking back that was wrong. It wasn't normal outside but it was normal in that environment and you had to get on with it just to get through the other end of. You either went in and got punched and kicked about or you went in and defended yourself. There were boys that couldn't fight back but I wasn't like that. I would just take it to certain extent until they broke me and then I would tear a strip off of them.
247. I don't know what ^{HVC} [REDACTED]'s second name was. He was a big guy probably in his forties at that time, with long black unkempt hair. He had a son that he used to bring into work with him if his wife wasn't there. The wean wouldn't be near you though as he would be kept in the office. ^{GOZ} [REDACTED] was a big, tall skinny guy in his late thirties or early forties with short dark hair that was thinning on top..

Leaving Ballikinrain

248. Before I left Ballikinrain I was on the run. I decided I was never going back there. I tried to kill myself because of it. I got found in a close by somebody who stayed there, taken to hospital, got staples put in and kept overnight. I was to see a child psychologist. My mum persuaded me to stay overnight but I knew that once I'd seen the psychologist the next day the police would come and take me back to Ballikinrain. So when she came in the next morning I persuaded her to take me away without seeing the psychologist.
249. Graham Lindsay and Brian McKenna used all sorts of threats towards my parents that they were going to be putting my face on the milk cartons and other things to try and get me to hand myself in. My dad was well known and respected in the area and my brothers were still at school so I didn't want people and their pals seeing that. Whether they would've done it or not I don't know but the threat was enough so I agreed to hand myself in.
250. When we went to the panel, my dad was there. His pal from the lodge was the chair and he spoke to him. Graham Lindsay had already said I was going to Kerelaw but I was thinking my dad's pal is here, he's not going to put me in there. The other two in the panel said they wanted to follow the social work advice and put me in secure accommodation but said it was up to the man in the middle, my dad's pal.
251. I was still thinking he wasn't going to put me there but he said after consideration he had agreed to go down that road and sent me to Kerelaw Secure Unit. I screamed at my dad 'you said he was your fuckin pal' and I flipped the table and ran but got caught.
252. The problem there was that the panel members were doing what they thought was best for the child but didn't know what was actually going on in the homes. They just based their decisions on what the social work told them. The weans at panels never got a say, I wasn't listened to, it was the same as everywhere else in that they didn't believe you and thought you were lying.

Kerelaw Secure Unit, Stevenson, Ayrshire

253. I was sent to Kerelaw twice by children's panels. The first time I went I was there for about three months when I was fifteen and I got taken there from the panel in handcuffs by the police.
254. When you drove off the main road to get to Kerelaw Secure Unit, Kerelaw Open Unit was just down from it. The secure unit had a big grey wall and there was a set of stairs leading up to a door into the secure unit. You went in that and there were five or six steps up to the big wide grille barred gate. There was a doorbell at the side which you had to press to get in.
255. There was a black key that opened that gate and there were only two members of staff at a time that were on that had that key. We used to all talk about snatching it off of them. Once you were through there was another two doors that were locked but all the staff had keys to them. These doors took you through to three individual units called units 1,2 and 3.
256. Unit 1 was on the left hand side, the doors that took you up to education were right in front of you, the staff office was on the right hand side and unit 3 was just next to it. The pool table was in the middle of that area.
257. The staff structure was that there was a manager always on duty and he would have a radio. There would be three staff on duty in each unit and one from each unit would have a radio so they could contact the manager. Pat Sweeney was the guy in charge of the secure unit. The other staff I remember are IDE [REDACTED], FST [REDACTED], HWC [REDACTED], HUX [REDACTED], HUX [REDACTED], Elaine Graham, Tommy Bryce, GUW [REDACTED] and HUV [REDACTED].
258. In unit 1 there were about seven or eight of us but there were more in units 2 and 3. Unit 2 was a bigger unit and they had a lot more people in there. In total I would say there was anywhere between twenty and thirty five people locked up in Kerelaw Secure Unit at a time.

259. I was in unit 1 the first time I was there. When I went back the second time I was in unit 3 but because of the things that went on with staff there I went back to unit 1 as I felt safer there. The staff in unit 1 weren't like that. Unit 1 was all boys but units 2 and 3 were mixed boys and girls.
260. I don't think the units were split by ages. There was wee [REDACTED] who was eleven or twelve and there was [REDACTED] who was coming up for twenty three or four. He was in for murdering a nine year old [REDACTED] in the nineties. There were others that had been in Longriggend but social work had managed to get them moved to Kerelaw and also ones who had been sentenced as adults by the courts.
261. There may have been some in there for care and protection but the majority were in there for committing crimes like drugs, prostitution, bag snatching from old women and murder. Some of them had committed gruesome crimes. The place was just a breeding ground for criminality.
262. Wee [REDACTED], who was in for murder, would fight with everyone in there. His co-accused was a guy called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s younger brother [REDACTED] was in Kerelaw. [REDACTED] was trying to get [REDACTED] to take the blame for the murder as he was only on a children's panel order and [REDACTED] was on remand in jail through the court. [REDACTED] started terrorising [REDACTED] to try and intimidate [REDACTED] into taking the blame for the murder.
263. The staff could keep them in separate units but what they couldn't keep them apart all the time because they needed to go to school together and into the compound together. Several times a day they were going to bump into each other. What should've happened is they should've been in different establishments.
264. The most pain I had was not being in amongst these people but being away from my family. See anything after that, it couldn't harm you the way that it hurt every second being away from your family. However you had to be prepared to go to extremes to defend yourself.

265. To be fair though if there was anything happening in Kerelaw staff were on it. They had to be because some of these people were dangerous and they would put them on the ground, restrain them and then put them in their rooms for forty five minutes to calm them down. It didn't always work though.

First day

266. As soon as you came through the gate you got taken into the reception room. You were searched, had to take your socks and shoes off, asked who you were and what age you were. They explained who they were and what was going to be happening. They just had a quick chat with me and said that my parents had arrived and they would explain everything to them.

267. I then got told I was to go into the unit, have a shower and leave my clothes and belongings on the sink area. They said a member of staff would come in to search my property. They took my clothes to give them a wash as I was getting clothes that my parents were bringing. After that I just went and sat in the unit amongst everybody.

Daily Routine

268. On a normal day we would get woken up, one at a time because we were all locked up in individual cells. It was just a wee square room. It wasn't like an adult cell but it did have a metal re-enforced window on the door. It was just a room with a small single bed, a set of drawers and a plastic window. They would send you one at a time to get a shower, back to your cell and then down for breakfast which was either cereal or toast.

269. Fags were limited to six a day and you would then get out for your first fag of the day. After your fag you would be back in, get your shoes on and then you would be taken upstairs to the classrooms until lunchtime. You would spend so much time in one classroom then the other but there was a lot of people moving between classes to sit with their pals or to get off with a lassie. There would be ones sneaking off to have sex in the toilets, it was mental. It was meant to be one person in the toilet at a time and

there was a staff member outside who was meant to take names of who was going in. Boys and girls weren't meant to be in the toilet together but it was happening all the time.

270. After two classes you would be sent back to your unit. They would line you up with the others from your unit and send one unit back at a time. You would get your lunch, be taken out for another fag and then back to classes until about three or half three. It was then back down for another fag at the fire door from the unit.
271. It was then dinner and you got to relax for a wee bit after that. You then got another shower and would be back in your clothes but with your slippers on. You always had your slippers on in the unit but you could wear your trainers if you were going to the middle area where the pool table was. We would go to the pool table for an hour. The last time for a game was at half seven and after that it was back to the unit.
272. You were sent to your room about half eight, nine o'clock and that was you locked up until the morning. You would chap on the door window if you needed the toilet or out for anything. Other than that you never got the door unlocked until the next morning. That was the same in every unit.
273. Sometimes the night shift would open up your room and let you watch television. I only got that twice. It was usually the same people that got it and one of them was a bit strange. I can't remember his name but he once said to me that a night shift worker Chris was a homosexual and that he used to give him drink. He never gave him any drink when I was there so it is just a rumour from the strange guy.

Food / mealtimes

274. The food wasn't great portions and you were always hungry. I can't remember that much about the food to be honest other than that. They sometimes had a carry out where you would pay half and they would pay half or a curry night where they would pay for it.

Schooling

275. You got sent to education and if you never turned up the staff there would phone your unit to ask where you were.
276. There wasn't much education. There was woodwork but the only thing he ever taught us was how to do a dovetail. He usually just set up a computer and let you play games.
277. The PTI ^{GVN} got you to do stuff in the gym and would kind of force or push you into doing it if you didn't want to. You did get taught cooking at home economics but at the rest of the classes you never got taught or learned anything, you just did what you wanted.
278. It was just as if the staff at the unit just sent you there to get you out the way for the day. I don't think the teachers were qualified because if they had been they would have taught us stuff. The only things I learned at Kerelaw was how to do other criminal offences and more about drugs. I learned to be less trusting of people and more uncaring.

Weekends

279. Sometimes on Saturday or Sunday they let you stay up until half nine, ten o'clock. If you had enough money in your account they would let you buy a takeaway but if you never had enough they would club everyone's money together. If there was not enough money they would use a fund or something but it would only happen if the full unit could get one.
280. They would sometimes hold bingo, get a game like connect 4 out or one of the staff would teach you card games.
281. During the day at the weekends we just hung about the unit. You would sometimes get out into the compound which was just a big yard with a fence round it. There was a five a side AstroTurf pitch and a slabbed area.

282. There were gates up at the top of the yard and I had a bet with a member of staff called [FST] when he said nobody had ever escaped over there. I said I could get over the fence and bet him two weeks pocket money. I grabbed two toothbrushes and put them into the spaces between the hinges and the posts to help me climb up. He grabbed my feet and said I'd won my pocket money. After that they put vandal grease right up the posts of the gates.
283. They also had lampposts in there next to the fence and I told him anybody could climb up there using them and swing over and jump down the other side. It was a big drop and you would have to be desperate but in these places you were always desperate. They then got vandal greased as well.
284. There was a girl from my area who was at the open unit of Kerelaw and she used to come up and speak to me at the fence.
285. The open unit was just a 'Ressie' school and there were some bad things that happened there as well involving a member of staff called George. I was never in the closed unit and I only came across him once or twice when the open unit came up to the secure unit to play against us at football. I heard what was going on though and saw the state of the weans. There was chronic alcoholics at twelve years old in there because of what was going on with him. Years later I ended up in Saughton Prison and he was put in a cell a couple of doors away from me.

Healthcare / welfare

286. If you weren't well at all you just said you were ill and you got stuck in your room. I did see a doctor once when I was there the second time to get staples out my arm.
287. When I was there the second time I had a heroin addiction and was withdrawing. I was never offered any help with my drug addiction when I went in there despite me asking for it. I asked for something to get me off the heroin but they said I was too young. My mum and dad travelled the length and width of Scotland for me to get help later but they were all saying because I was under sixteen I couldn't get prescribed anything.

Social Work / Inspections

288. I think over my two stays there Graham Lindsay never actually came through to speak to me by himself. He only came to Kerelaw when there was a panel being heard for me but he never even spoke to me to discuss what might happen at the panels.
289. He had threatened me right back at the start after the carry on with [REDACTED] at Laser Quest and after that he didn't really talk to me or keep me up to date with what was happening.
290. My parents would say as well that he would tell them one thing and then the paperwork would actually be completely different. The only thing that was ever the same as what he said was that he said I was only going to Kerelaw for three months and that turned out to be right.
291. The children's panels were held in the office in Kerelaw. People coming in for the panel went in through the barred grate or grille, would get searched and then put into a room with a table. You would be in there with your parents, social work and staff from the home.
292. I was never aware of anyone coming to inspect or look around Kerelaw to see how it was being run. There was once a girl with a shaved head who had been a pupil at Kerelaw before, getting shown round as some sort of tour. I think she was working for some company by that time but I don't think it was anything like an official inspection.

Family Contact / Visits

293. My mum and dad used to visit me. There was no visiting area or facilities and there was no privacy as you were sitting in the unit with other pupils and the staff all around. Sometimes they would let you go in the conference room or took you up to a classroom but it all depended what staff was on or who you asked to go in there. Pat Sweeney and [REDACTED] were okay about giving you privacy but others weren't bothered.

294. If you went up to the classroom they just left you there with your visitor which was mad because some guys had their girlfriends visiting and they were left alone with them.
295. If you had no privacy you wouldn't be able to tell your parents or visitors what had been going on. The staff used to listen to our phone calls as well from the staff room. You got about two phone calls a week and when there was a phone call they would answer it in the staff room and then connect it through to the unit but would listen in to the call still. They were open with us that they were doing this though but again that meant you couldn't speak about anything that happened there.

Restraints

296. I only ever got restrained once at Kerelaw. This was because a boy called [REDACTED] waited until my back was turned and he punched me on the back of the head. I turned round and cracked him and the staff grabbed me. It was HWC from unit 2 but I don't know who the other one was. They had my arms up my back with my thumbs pulled back. It was another member of staff called Tommy Bryce that stopped it from happening. He took hold of me and asked if I was going to behave. When I said I would he just held my wrist and they let me go.
297. I saw others getting restrained. There was a wee guy called [REDACTED] and you could hardly see his face because it was all scabby from carpet burns when they had done restraints on him. It was common practice to push their faces into the floor and kneel on the side of their heads. I saw restraints used every couple of days but sometimes it would happen a few times a day, it would depend on what was happening in the units.
298. It wasn't just Kerelaw, its every one of these places it happened in and it doesn't matter what children do they should not be putting you on the floor like that. They did it the same way as they did it to an adult in a jail. There used to be what we called a 'pile on' which was staff on top of staff. You were face down with one at your arms, another on your head and another with your legs crossed behind you and pushing your heels to your backside. Your body was under heavy pressure. As an adult I was under them

and in that position for forty minutes before I could move. You shouldn't be getting that as a child.

Abuse At Kerelaw Secure Unit (first stay)

299. The first time I was in Kerelaw it was alright. I never suffered or saw any abuse that first time. It was the second time when I was in unit 3 that everything happened.

Leaving Kerelaw (first stay)

300. I left after I had done the three month sentence that I had been given.
301. I was struggling to cope with life when I came out because of what I had been through in the care system. I was taking Valium and heroin to try and cope and got addicted to them.
302. One day I was in a close taking heroin with my pal and two wee lassies. There was a door off the close and we didn't know it but the CID were in it doing surveillance on drug dealers in the street. They radioed and got other officers to come and get us. My sister told them I had a panel at two o'clock that day but the police kept me in so I would miss the panel.

Return to Kerelaw Secure Unit (second stay)

303. An emergency panel got held and I got sentenced to another three months at Kerelaw secure unit. The police took me there and my parents followed us down in their car.
304. When we got to Kerelaw, we went through the usual procedure. Strip search, into the office and then I was sent to unit 3. I was told that I would get a key worker.

305. Unit 3 was a mixed unit and there was a lot of bullying going on. It sounds mad but I preferred unit 1 as it was all boys. If you were in a unit that was mixed with lassies they always caused grief. Don't get me wrong there was trouble in unit 1 with boys challenging each other.
306. Most of the staff knew me from the first time. My grandad's cousin was [REDACTED], the well-known Glasgow criminal and Tommy Bryce a member of staff knew about that. He said to everybody else in unit 3 about the relationship to [REDACTED], that he knew from my last time there that I could handle myself so they better watch themselves and not try anything with me. He was trying to be helpful to me but it wasn't like that.
307. After I had been back in Kerelaw for two days a lassie called Elaine Graham came in said she was going to be my key worker and that we would get a chat. Elaine Graham had a different surname that I can't remember when I had been there the first time but must have got married and changed it by the time I went back. She was about twenty seven or eight years old. She dressed and looked like a hippy and was a mad stoner. She always wore tight fitting woman tops and loose, baggy, camouflaged, combat trousers.
308. A couple of days after that Elaine came into the unit and took me out for a fag and had a chat. I got upset and she took me upstairs for time out away from the rest of them. We ended up having sex and then a few days later we did sexual things in another area of the unit.
309. She started trying to build a friendship over the next few days. She said she was going to try and get leave and we would go to the local town for something to eat and make it like a date. I know now it was wrong but back then it made me feel as if I was older, she had picked me over the rest of them that were in there. I was fifteen but I felt twenty five.

Change of Key Worker

310. About a week and a half after I had an argument with Elaine as she was adamant that I wouldn't be going home after three months and said I was likely to be there for six to twelve months. Elaine spoke to me about it and said that I needed to calm down. I was still rattling and withdrawing and they were telling me I couldn't get prescribed anything because I was under sixteen.
311. I spoke to my mother and said I wasn't getting home leave and not getting out after three months. She said she didn't care what they were saying, she would come and take me home. She told me she was right the last time and she said I wasn't just in there for not going to school, that I was in there to get off the drugs. It was a set three months and was assuring me I was getting home after that three months.
312. I kept telling Elaine I was getting out after three months and I was only there to deal with my addiction. I called Elaine a smelly cow and that got me sent to my room and locked up. She came up to the room and I had kind of put it to her that I was going to say what had happened with us if I didn't get to go on home leave. I wasn't going to actually say it because I thought I would get into trouble. To stop me saying what had happened she said to me she would get me on a holiday. There was only meant to be five people that got picked for this and she said she would make sure I got to go. She kept saying I shouldn't be getting it but she was going out her way to get me it.
313. Not long after I got told by Pat Sweeney that **GUU** was going to be my key worker now. He said Elaine would effectively still be my key worker but **GUU** would be my official key worker. **GUU** was an older woman and was quite strict. She was alright and said to me that I wasn't getting home leaves and wasn't getting home after three months. I decided I needed to get an escape plan as I felt I was getting lied to by the social work saying I was getting out after three months.
314. Elaine told me I was going to Wanlockhead and it was ringing a bell with me. When I spoke to my mum and told her I was going on a holiday she said I couldn't go because

they haven't asked for our permission and you have to have a home visit first before you get anything like that.

315. You had to be in the place at least six weeks and be of good behaviour, trusted and have it passed by a panel before a key worker was even allowed to take you into the town. .
316. It was fast tracked for me to get to go on a home visit so that I could then get to go on holiday. They got that home visit arranged and I got to stay for an hour and a half and then that was me clear to go to Wanlockhead. I never even had to do the visit to the town. That never happened until after I'd been away at Wanlockhead. This was all done so that I wouldn't say anything about what Elaine had done to me.

Holiday to Wanlockhead

317. The staff that went to Wanlockhead with us were Pat Sweeny, IDE and GUU. The other pupils were , an animal who had killed a wee laddie , and .
318. The reason Wanlockhead had stuck out in my head was because my dad had taken me there before as he had family links but the staff didn't believe me. We weren't to say to any locals we were from Kerelaw Secure Unit in case the press appeared. We stayed in a community centre and we were told to act like a family who were there with our mum, dad and uncle. We were to call them that but I refused as I only have one mum and dad.
319. Whilst we were there Pat and IDE took and away fishing and and I went into the village. I stole vodka from the local shop. She bought ginger and mixed it with the vodka. I ended up kissing and getting off with but then she fancied one of the locals and went off with him.
320. When I went back GUU panicked because wasn't there and didn't know where she was. She phoned Pat and IDE and we all went out in the minibus looking for her.

321. I got sent into a derelict cottage to see if she was there and found her with her drawers at her ankles and with another one of the locals. She warned me not to grass on her. I went back and said to the staff she wasn't there. I did tell [REDACTED], who told [REDACTED] who told the staff. She got dragged out by the staff and she came out shouting at me for being a grass. We went straight back to the community centre, got our stuff, the holiday was cut short and we went back to Kerelaw.
322. When we got back to Kerelaw I was told my home leave was getting stopped because of what had happened in Wanlockhead. I said that wasn't fair as I hadn't done anything wrong and [REDACTED] wasn't getting his college stopped.

Return to Kerelaw - Unit 1

323. I got moved out of unit 3 and back to unit 1 after that and it was as if Elaine panicked and tried to get rid of me. If I was out the unit it would mean she wouldn't see me and that I wouldn't say anything. I was relieved when I got moved back to unit 1. When I went back the withdrawals weren't as bad.
324. I was meant to get an older woman called Mary as my key worker but there was a member of staff called ^{KAI} [REDACTED] who was really strict and I decided I wanted to get him onside. He was really hardball but if I got him on side he would give me good reports and I would get out after the three months. I said to him I knew he was hardball and asked him if he would be my keyworker. He said that I was the only one who had ever asked him that in all the years he had worked there. He spoke to them but they decided to keep Mary as my key worker but he used to speak to me and put a good word in for me. He got me my home leave back he would pick me up and drop me off and the others were shocked that I got on with him.

Abuse at Kerelaw Secure Unit (second stay)

325. You couldn't be your own age when you were in Kerelaw. You had to be an older person, a hard person and had to be everything other than what you actually were.

Throughout my time in care I don't think I was ever allowed to be a child. The only time you were a child was when you were getting told what to do.

326. Kerelaw was by far the worst out of all the places I've been for the sexualised behaviour. The way staff were and the way they spoke it was like a whore's den basically. They would touch the children, say innuendo and joke.

Elaine Graham

327. A couple of days after Elaine told me she was going to be my key worker I was in the unit and I was rattling and withdrawing from heroin. I was emotional and teary and although it sounded bad all I wanted was my mum. Elaine came in and said to go outside for a fag. You were only meant to get six fags a day and I was getting an extra one.
328. She asked me what I thought was going to happen and what I wanted to happen. I said I was only going to be there for three months and she started laughing saying no I wasn't. I started arguing with her and she said she wasn't being bad to me but said that nobody went in there and got out within three months. She told me that others had been told that and were there eighteen months. She said that she would try and get me into the town and get me a burger.
329. I was greeting and she asked me if I wanted time out and go up the stairs out the way of everybody so they didn't see me upset. Time out was something you could ask for and you would get usually forty five minutes away from the others. I asked if I could phone and speak to my mum. I couldn't get her so she took me upstairs. I asked her if I could see a doctor to help with my withdrawals but never got one.
330. She went away and came back about twenty minutes later. I was lying on the bed and she stood against the wall near the door and asked how I was. I was all over the place and needed the drugs my body was craving. I wanted my mum and my body was all sore. I was lying down on my side and she came over and sat down beside me. She said she knew what it was like and knew what a comedown was like because she had

smoked hash and had taken eccies (ecstasy) at the weekends. I told her she never knew and I wanted my mum. She took my hand and was stroking it and saying I was alright.

331. She asked me about [REDACTED], a lassie I was going with at the time, and what age she was. I told her she was a year older than me and she asked me if we had ever had sex. I'm quite shy with that kind of thing but she put me at ease. I didn't want to say no and I didn't want to say aye but when she said she wouldn't tell anyone I said aye. She then asked what I liked and asked had I been with a more mature older woman. She asked if I liked a good chest or good arse but I told her I had never thought about that as I always went for looks. We touched knees, she put my hand she had been holding on her breast and asked if I liked it. She leaned forward and kissed me. I didn't know what was going on. It led to us having sex over the chest of drawers in the room.
332. She told me not to worry as she wouldn't tell anyone and asked me if I enjoyed it. She asked if it was really my first time with an older woman because I was good. She said she would sort something better and more special for when I was allowed out to the town for a burger or something.
333. If I have sex now it was nothing like that. It was sex but it wasn't sex and I'm not being derogatory in any way, shape or form when I say this but there was no feeling. I was only a wee boy and she was a woman. The best way I can describe it without being rude is that it was more messy than anything. She left, went downstairs, came back and sent me downstairs again. When she came back in after she just acted normal. There was nothing and she wasn't being like a girlfriend would be. It was just as if nothing had happened.
334. A couple of days after this I was in the area where the PlayStation 1 was. This was an area just near where you went out to the caged compound unit. There were originally two single seats put together for the people to play the PlayStation but there was also a two seater sofa in the room. She came in and was doing the hoovering. She moved the two chairs and put the two seater sofa in front of the PlayStation. I think she just did the hoovering so she could move the chairs. The way everything was positioned

other people wouldn't be able to see us because of the shower room and toilet as well as the lockers.

335. She asked me to sit down and play a racing game on the PlayStation with her. She said she was cold, closed the window and put a blanket over the two of us. She touched me and told me to touch her over her clothes. She then took her combats off and then told me to touch her and we were skin on skin.
336. I knew it was wrong for me to do these things with folk my own age and I know this sounds mad but in the room I didn't really get the feeling but in the unit it was different. It wasn't normal for her being with somebody my age.
337. This happened two times. She would open her zip and get me to put my hand in and rub her privates as well as putting the tip of my middle finger just slightly inside her and move my finger back and forth. She'd sometimes put her hands down my trousers and would touch, stroke and squeeze my private thing between my legs. I had a pair of tracksuit bottoms that had buttons down the sides from the waist to the ankles. She always told me to wear these ones with no shorts on underneath so that it was easier for her to touch me.
338. We never ever went out to the bowling or for a burger like she said we were going to. She was meant to take me to get me clothes but at the very last minute ^{IDE} [REDACTED] stepped in and took me.
339. I saw her in front of the PlayStation with a blanket over her and [REDACTED] who was from Stevenson and was resident in the school.
340. After I left that unit I used to see her at the computer with a blanket over her and another pupil [REDACTED].

FST

341. There was also a wee fat old guy called 'FST' who could not speak without using innuendo. FST was his nickname but us and the staff called him FST. Even when families were there, he would cut it back but he would still make inappropriate remarks.
342. FST was alright. He would never do bad to you, would never hit you or hurt you and was never involved in restraining you. He wasn't abusive to you but it was just the way he talked that was wrong.

HWC and HUX

343. HWC was staff from unit 2 and HUX was staff from unit 3 and she was a pretty woman. She was always dolled up and HWC and her were always out for fags. He would always mimic having sex with her as they were walking out for a fag. If you were walking behind them he would shout "look lads" lift her dress up and slap her arse in front of everybody. He'd then say "C'mon then it's that time again, you're going to exhaust me HUX".
344. At that time because you were in that environment and that's what happened at the time, that was normal and acceptable but when I think back about what actually went on I actually say 'holy fuck' to myself.
345. One day HUX had a bike with her and in front of us all HWC said something about sniffing her saddle. He said something like 'better still, get in that toilet, get them off and give them over here for a sniff but I can't promise you'll get them back dry.'
346. HUX was just as bad though and would say things back to him. She would carry on with the boys saying things like "How big's your chopper ? Well come back when it's grown". Everybody was laughing but looking back that was wrong. It was mental because half of these people were married. The way they spoke to pupils shouldn't have been the type of conversations they were having. I was discussing this with

somebody the other day and they were saying that this was acceptable back in these days but that is not something I would do. Chatting to thirteen year olds about that wasn't right as far as I'm concerned. It wasn't just to the children it was to other staff as well.

347. HWC was in his late forties, maybe older. He wasn't a supervisor but he usually had a radio for speaking to other staff. He was usually one of the only two members of staff that were on that would have the black key for opening the main security door when he was on.
348. He would always cut through our unit to go for a fag or to see HUX and other members of staff. He was always one of the first ones there if something was happening. He used to make sexually inappropriate remarks to pupils and staff and was sexually active with HUX. HUX used to tell us she had something going on with him.
349. I also saw HUX put her hand in [REDACTED]'s pocket and feel his private parts. She even admitted that she had put her hand in his pocket to mum when she checked his pocket thinking he was carrying nail varnish that he used to buzz in his pocket.

G UW

350. GUW the art teacher used to do stuff with the lassies a lot. He had grey receding hair and was in his forties or fifties. He would say things like "nice baps" and "they make your top look nice" "what you having for your meal? Not indulging on any raw sausages today?"
351. There was a lassie called [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. I'm not sure what age she was but she was under sixteen. He used to take her up to the education department to his classroom and she was the only one that was allowed in his cupboard. The two of them used to do stuff in the cupboard. By that I mean touching. I can't say exactly what he used to do but you could tell what he was trying to do. He would be standing right

behind her with his arms around her like an intimate couple would do. If you moved forward or near them you got moaned at.

352. I saw him once with his hands down her denim trousers. He had an artist's stand with paper to draw on up on it. He was standing behind her with one hand on his shoulder and from where I was at first that was all it looked like. When I moved closer to them I could see that he had his other hand down the front of her trousers. He didn't even react when I walked towards him.
353. We used to ask her what was going on and she would nod to confirm things we asked her. She wouldn't say much but she did used to say they were going with each other and that when she left they were going to be together. I don't know if they ever did.
354. What he did to her though always stood out to me and it was always her that I remembered it was her he was with. The staff all knew what was going on but they would still let him take her up to that classroom unsupervised.
355. He also encouraged boys and lassies to do stuff in the class. It's hard to explain what it was like in there but all that sort of stuff, I can't use the word encouraged but the way things were done it was acceptable if you fancied a girl and she fancied you, you would just go under the table.
356. He would touch other lassies behinds as well. He would draw cartoon characters of the lassies and make them have big breasts and be wearing suspenders and high heels.
357. Tommy Bryce was a staff member as well. He knew what **GUW** was doing and threatened **GUW** that he was going to get him for it. I assumed it was for what he was doing to the lassies in the class. Tommy was a big heavy guy with a big nose who liked his drink. He was a pure gentleman, he would never harm you and was protective of the weans. He used to argue with **GUW** and **GUW** used to try and belittle him about his weight and nose. He would draw pictures of him being drunk with a pint and try to get other people to laugh at Tommy.

358. I was just outside the education department one day and GUV was just coming out or going in when Tommy flew in and shouted he wanted a word with him. There was quite a fracas and other staff came and broke it up. Tommy got told to go outside to get some air and calm down. He was shouting that it wasn't him that should be getting sent outside.

359. Another time when we were at recreation GUV was leaving and was carrying his folder that he carried his stuff in and Tommy said something, having a dig about what material he had in his folder and GUV turned round and said that it was leaflets for Tommy for Alcoholics Anonymous. I can't remember exactly what was said but they had words.

HUV

360. It was the same in HUV class as well. He was a baldy, fat dude and was a computing and maths teacher. He would let boys and lassies do things with each other in the class. There was a lassie called [REDACTED] who was in for a gruesome offence. She used to go with a guy called [REDACTED] from Drumchapel and I was in the class with them when he used to let them openly have sex in his class. They'd be standing winching and then be on the worktop and everything. He knew what they were doing. He had a small room and people going passed would be able to look through the door window and see them up against the wall.

361. When he first arrived he was a nice guy. It was as if he was feared and would just let things happen instead of stopping it. He was never violent and never hurt me. Nobody would do what he asked them to do in class.

362. He would brush past you and rub himself against you. That used to creep me out. He invaded your space and it was horrible. You could feel his parts touching your body but to be honest I don't know if he was aroused or not. He would try and get the lassies to sit on his knee.

IDE

363. Wee IDE who was a staff member was brutal to me at first. He would grab me and rub my head with his knuckles but he didn't mean it in a nasty way. I hated him but it turned out he was my pal's uncle. One day when my mum was visiting he said his name and my mum said to him that she knew his brother and that his nephew was one of my pal's.
364. My mum saw his brother after she went back from the visit and said that IDE was always moaning at me at Kerelaw. then phoned IDE and said to him I was his pal and that our dads were pals so he was to stay off my back. IDE done a three hundred and sixty degrees turn and changed his attitude towards me completely. After that he was always saying I was a good boy.

Leaving Kerelaw Secure Unit

365. I never got any preparation for outside life whilst I was at Kerelaw. I was getting back to the house more and more for days at a time. Just over the three month period and just before my sixteenth birthday I was at the house and went to a children's panel from there at Bell Street. They took my panel order off me as they said I had done everything asked of me.
366. I had to laugh though not long ago when I saw my record whilst in jail that the social work had stated that they had exhausted themselves silly with me and that they just signed me off to get rid of me.

Reporting Abuse at Kerelaw Secure Unit

367. There was too much going on in Kerelaw. For one person to report one thing or other there was just too much shit going on. It was more impactive on you because you were a wean.

368. There was no use in reporting anything that happened. The best way I can describe it is that if you threw a ball in the water you would get the ripples but then the ball would be allowed to float away. Nothing would ever happen if you told anybody. It wasn't just Kerelaw, it was the same in all these places.
369. Even telling your mum and dad there was nothing they could do to stop it happening. They had spoken to my social worker and the supervisor before at other places and nothing ever happened it just made it worse when you went back.
370. If anything Graham Lindsay would throw you a tenner or something to try and shut you up and that maybe worked to shut other people up but I used to get more than that a day off my parents so it didn't work for me.

Life after leaving Kerelaw

371. I never had any further involvement with Graham Lindsay or social work after I left Kerelaw. It was as if they just washed their hands of me.
372. I had been taking drugs before I went into Kerelaw and whilst I was on home leave from there. When I left Kerelaw I went back to my mum and dad's and I fell back into my old lifestyle of drugs and getting in trouble with the police.

Longriggend YOI, Airdrie

373. I was sixteen years old and hadn't been out long when I got locked up for a 110 day remand and sent to Longriggend.
374. I got bail after the 110 days but whilst I was there I never suffered anything that I would consider to be abuse. The screws were hardball but I had no issues with that. If you weren't a problem they had no issue with you.

Polmont YOI, nr Brightons

375. When I was seventeen years old I got sentenced to eleven years for two separate five and six year sentences and was sent to Polmont Young Offenders. Again the prison officers there were the same as Longriggend but again I don't feel any behaviour towards me whilst I was still under eighteen was abusive.

Life after care

376. I got moved to other jails after I was eighteen and I have spent most of my time as an adult in prison.

377. I was in and out of prison and had various relationships with woman. I am married now and also have a child from a relationship with a previous partner.

Reporting abuse to the police

378. The only times I reported any of the abuse I suffered in any of the institutions to the police was once when I got caught for running away and got taken to Shettleston Police Station. They were being brutal to me and I told them they would run away if they were in these places. They weren't interested when I was black and blue and they told me "fuck off your lying" and "you're a trouble making wee bastard." I can't remember their names.

379. There was also the time when I told the policewoman at Easterhouse when the CID caught me after I had jumped out the social work car. She never did anything.

380. I would tell them if they came and asked me but there is no use.

Impact

381. You leave these things behind you. It's like a graveyard in that you try and leave it behind but you still go over what went on. You try and bury so much that you don't remember all of it. I was speaking recently with my dad. He mentioned the times he had come down to see me when I was in care and he had taken me with my brothers to Irvine beach yet I couldn't remember that. It's because it's from an era that I try to forget.
382. I was addicted to drugs since I was eleven years old. My body craved it and that played a large part in it. The other part was that the people I associated with took drugs as well so I was exposed to it. I never got any help whatsoever going through the care system. Them locking me up and keeping me away from drugs wasn't solving my addiction.
383. Social Work always stated there were no services available for somebody my age. As my parents always said to them they were letting the addiction get worse and by the time he is old enough for treatment it will be too late. They just said it wasn't up to them, that's just the way it is and that was no help.
384. My parents ended up having to lie about my age to get me into a place called Detox Five in Yorkshire but that was private and they had to pay for it. I wasn't able to stay off the drugs after I came out of there though.
385. I was on methadone for thirteen years and it helped numb the thoughts of past events such as what happened to me in care as a child. I had massive heart attacks so I got taken off it. I was then put on Subutex. I went from living in darkness and being numb to everything that happened to me in childcare to feeling like someone was shining a full beam right in my eyes and I was back to having the raw emotion and pain overwhelming my whole body.
386. My relationships with my family were affected because I couldn't understand why my own parents who were, good, honest, stable, loving and caring couldn't just tell the

social workers that they were not taking their son. I felt failed and my social workers words stuck in my head when he told me my parents didn't love me or want me. I used to wonder if it was true and that would make me rebel because I was always full of hurt and numb with raw pain and confusion.

387. For a lot of years I blamed my parents for what I'd experienced in care. It wasn't until I was a lot older that I realised just how powerful and evil social work were. They were not held accountable and still aren't. Even when they are in the wrong no one like me is listened to or believed. As an adult it still affects me as instead of speaking out and saying they ruined me, I sit and bite my tongue when speaking to them as I feel like I am still a child in fear of speaking out against them.
388. As weans my brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] couldn't bond with me because they didn't know how long I was going to be there or when I was getting whipped away and it was ripping the hearts out of them. So they were suffering as well.
389. There has been an impact on my relationship with my brothers. They have an unbreakable bond because they were never separated. They were used to me getting dragged away and they were unsure of how long I was going to be about so I never had that bond with them. I don't feel at ease with the bond with my brothers even now. When I say anything about it not being as strong because I was in care they tell me to get that out my head but I think they are just saying that to make me feel better.
390. Ever since I was in care if I am arguing with [REDACTED], it means I am arguing with [REDACTED] as well and the same if I am arguing with [REDACTED] it means I am arguing with [REDACTED]. I feel they are my brothers and the two of them are against me but they aren't and it's because of what has happened to me that makes me feel like that. When I say it's them against me they get riled and angry and say I'm off my head.
391. To this day there's a difference between us. [REDACTED] got a house bought for him, [REDACTED] got thirty grand and I asked my dad where's mine. Not that I'm looking for it but even back then if I asked for a pound he'd break it down and ask what I wanted it for. I'd say a can of juice and he'd want to know what I was doing with the change. I asked

how they were getting that money and I wasn't. He said that they weren't running about taking drugs.

392. It's different now in later life but back then my dad was trying to protect me because he didn't want me taking drugs. There was a drug dealer who used to cut you a bit of drugs for £1.30 but if I asked dad for the money he would go and buy the juice or whatever I made out I wanted rather than give me the money.
393. Being in care didn't just affect you when you were in the home but also when you were out or home on leave. Other parents didn't want you involved with their weans because you were from a home and you were trouble. They didn't want you painting a picture to their weans that homes were a good place. So in the grand scheme of things you were isolated. It wasn't just the people in the home that weren't listening to you it was the wider spectrum of things like you were singled out and isolated out with the home. The people that were committing the abuse were aware of this and exploited it.
394. Then you had others looking at their child going to school and there is a wee brat from a home in the class because that is what they thought we were. What chance do you have. There was a lassie that I used to go with. We grew up as family friends and used to be boyfriend and girlfriend and hold hands as weans. The minute I went to a home and her mum saw her with me she would be screaming at her to get away from me just because I was in a home.
395. You've no idea the impact that this has on weans in care. I don't think there is anything that could've been done to change that because it's like they say, mud sticks.
396. The police had an impact as well because they used to refer to you as a "wee bastard" in the street and when the police are referring to wee weans like that it paints a picture of a badness. If people who have had no dealings with the police or social work hear that being said they are thinking he must be a bad one.
397. My education suffered being in these places and not getting the right support. I think if it had been different I could have got a decent job as I think I am clever enough. My

dad has always said that I was more than able to do things. I now have a share in a buying and selling company and I just want my eighty six year old dad to see now that I am a success at it.

398. I do get flashbacks to how I was abused in care. Just a few weeks ago I had a dream I could see his face in front of me. he wasn't angry or anything it was just the fact his face was in front of me. It freaked me and when I woke up I was actually sweating and shaking. I couldn't get back to sleep and couldn't get him out my head. I was really angry that he was still affecting me like that.
399. A couple of days later I was watching a programme American Pickers where they go and do house clearance type stuff and they went into a house and picked up a Wilson golf bag and that brought ^{GUF} right back into my mind because it was the same make as his golf bag.

Treatment / support

400. A forensic psychologist called David Marshall tried to delve in about what had happened to me in care but I just shut him down and said no. He did say in his report that he had no doubt that stuff went on with me because of my reactions but I wasn't willing to open up about it.
401. Whilst I have been in the jail I have been to see psychologists but I don't like having to open up to them. They probe and probe and I just don't want to go to some of the places they want to take me to. They want to deal with addictions and things that you wanted to put to bed and don't want to go back to. For me the road is forward and forget about what has happened.

Records

402. I have made a subject access request to see what records the prison hold on me and I got the paperwork served on me recently. It mentioned when I was a child I was a loner and slaughtered me for being proud of my family name. I wasn't a loner but because of the gang culture and them all fighting with each other if they weren't from where I was I was in no-man's land so I didn't associate with them.
403. Of course I was proud of my family name but they were going on about how I went on as if it was so unique and so important. I don't think it is anything special but it is important to me and it is unique. You won't find another **HUU** in this country that isn't related to me. Most of the weans in the family were girls so it was important to have a boy to keep the family name going and I was getting slaughtered for it.
404. The same paperwork said that I tried to kill myself because addiction got the better of me. I don't know where they got that from because that never came out my mouth. Again it is now written down as fact. It's crazy because never once was I sat down and asked any of this when I was in care or as an adult.
405. City of Glasgow Council are refusing to admit that I was in these places. I have asked for the documentation and they have said no. Thompson's solicitors are trying to get them and the records are meant to be in Mitchell Library. It angers me with what I went through that they won't give me the verification of it. They are refusing to take any responsibility.

Other action taken

Compensation

406. When I was in Saughton Prison I was speaking to another prisoner when we were waiting to see our lawyers. He told me he had been in care and I said I had as well. He was seeing his solicitor to tell him about it. After the solicitor spoke to him he asked

to speak to me and asked me about my time in care. When I told him where I had been he asked if he could represent me and make a claim for compensation on my behalf as he was doing so for others as well.

407. When he was asking me stuff I was trying to tell him what happened and he was trying to stop me and he was saying no this is how it was. I was saying no that wasn't what happened and I'm not going down that road.
408. I don't know if I want to go through with it because no money in this world is going to make up for what I went through and what happened. The money is going to be tainted so it's not going to better anyone's life.
409. I am no longer till registered with him.

Lessons to be Learned

410. They are not all bad but I despise the social work because of the impact they have had on my life. I despise and distrust them and it is not about me being paranoid it is through events that have happened. They always say one thing and then do the total opposite.
411. It was all logical stuff that they should have been doing to better it. I personally think social work shouldn't have been so quick to snatch weans away from where they are living with loving and caring parents. They are clean and fed so why take them out and put them in a home.
412. If a child has a safe family home, even if it's not the mum and dad, if it's a next of kin or a relative and it is safe, drug free and the child is not at any risk then I think that child should stay in there. There is a better chance of that child thriving than it would if they are taken out and put into care where nothing will go right for them after that.

413. There should be certain criteria of when there is a risk to the child that must be met before social work step in. It should be an independent organisation that makes that assessment before social work step in. As I said most of these weans never self-harmed until they went in there and that tells a story in itself.
414. Social work to this day have still got far too much power and it is wrong. They can take your wean and you don't have a say in it. I understand that they need some power to take away a wean that is getting neglected.
415. When you were going into these places the social work would tell you it's okay you are only going in for three weeks for assessment. Then you actually found out you had a three week place of safety order as well so you were actually going for six weeks.
416. It happened to me every time. I used to go into these places and I would say I'm only here for three weeks and the staff would laugh at me and tell me otherwise. You'd then get other weans saying I've been here eighteen months or I've been here four years and said they'd only come in doing three weeks.
417. That messes a wean's head up telling them one thing, it not happening and them getting held in a home for much longer than they have been told.
418. The psychologists and the social work speak to both people who have and don't have problems when they are in institutes and prisons and it deteriorates them. They are forcing people into these groups and that is creating further victims. They then open the door and just kick them out. That shouldn't be happening. That's not just my opinion and if you check the stats you will see that.
419. If you are getting put into care it should be somewhere near your family so they can come and give you support when you need it.
420. When I was sixteen and a panel in Glasgow released me from Kerelaw, Graham Lindsay asked me if there were any lessons to be learned now that I was leaving the system. I brought this up about getting sent far away from your parents. He said to me

that the reasons they sent boys far away was it was a deterrent because of the distance and 'to try and prevent wee bastards like you from running away.' I told him that wasn't going to prevent anything as it made me more eager to get home.

421. I would actually do away with social work and replace them with another organisation who would be fully scrutinised and trained to do what social work are meant to do.
422. I think that staff that work in institutions should be assessed all the time. They should assess how their lives are going but they wouldn't like that and would probably rebel. People are human and things happen in their personal lives. They should check whether they are in debt, have marriage issues and how the job is affecting them. They need to be in a good place in their own lives to carry out their duties as expected.
423. There are some nice people who work in these places, they are not all bad. It must be hard for these nice ones as they are dealing with weans who have emotional problems so that might affect them. It shouldn't just be about checking bad staff it should be to check all staff's wellbeing and help them. It's in the best interest to look after staff because if they are on top of that things will run smoother.
424. There should be proper medical staff in these homes instead of an old woman who has retired coming in to top her pension up. There should be somebody on site who can pick up on weans being unhinged so that they can help them. They didn't do that in the homes I was in.
425. They just had folk who were all neighbours or friends of other staff and they were always up to some skulduggery ordering stuff through the school to get repairs or jobs done at their houses. It was all about getting something for nothing at the cost to the school. The staff educated the weans how to be manipulative with their behaviour.
426. I think if I hadn't been taken away and put in a home and they had concentrated on giving me a proper education I might not have continued to offend. Their idea to put me in a day care centre didn't work. It was no use whatsoever. There should be more structural, beneficial stuff available like a mini course or like a pre-college where you

could get educated in something specific like a mechanical or joinery course or any kind of trade. They need to try and make something of the weans that go in to care. You don't need to get qualifications in everything but just some sort of structured and beneficial learning is needed.

427. Weans go in to care homes lost but they come out lost souls as their souls are getting taken out them whilst they are in there.
428. The things that you are interested get stopped when you go into these places. I was a promising footballer but social work got involved and started scrutinising everything. They even scrutinised the coach and that was interfering in his life and I feel I missed out on my football promise when I went into care.

Hopes for the Inquiry

429. I was reluctant to come forward to the Inquiry at first but then I saw a lassie on TV talking out about the abuse she suffered and I thought she was brave to speak up about it. Then I heard more and more people were coming forward and I thought the more people come forward the better chance it has of helping even just one wean in the future. If by me coming forward it makes sure they don't get treated how I did when I was in care then I think it is right I should also come forward.
430. My mum also went through care in Nazareth House so that was another reason for coming forward.
431. If some of these people that abused me are alive I hope they face justice. I will go to court because I'm not that wee boy anymore who was scared and easily led. I could look them in the eyes and it would give me closure.
432. I hope that the Inquiry can do something to stop the social work taking weans off of their parents without the parents having a say so.

433. I want the Inquiry to ensure that these bodies like Glasgow Council and social work that were happy to snatch weans out of safe environments and put them in care admit that they put us in there and that there is paperwork that shows we were in these places.

Other information

434. 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..... 

Dated... 23/2/23