

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

[REDACTED]

Support person present: No

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

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow. My mum was fifteen years old when she met my dad, and my dad was married with two children. My mum was a thief and was constantly in trouble. I don't know why my dad had me with my mum because before she was pregnant with me my mum had my stepbrother and left him outside a supermarket in Pollock. I don't know anything about my stepbrother.

3. My mum used to take me to biker's places. One time when I was two years old, she was fighting with my dad, and she threw an open tin of beans at my dad, but it hit me and cut my scalp open right across my head. She scalped me. My dad ran out and took me to hospital in a taxi. After that, my dad fought my mum for custody of me. My dad had left his wife and my stepsisters.
4. My mum would disappear when people were looking for her for stealing. Biker gangs and the police would be looking for her. She would come back and take me away from my dad, thinking that having me with her would protect her. My dad got fed up with it [REDACTED]. However, my dad was schizophrenic, and my dad battered me my whole life. His condition was diagnosed but not treated. I didn't meet my mum again until I was 21 years old. She was just still just as bad.
5. My dad and I lived in Easterhouse and he had his own business in the East End of the city. He never made any money from it, but he worked all the time. He stole the electricity for the house from someone else, so until he came home there was no electricity in the house for heating or for cooking. I would have to climb up the veranda and go through a window to get into the house because my dad would lock the house and I didn't have a key. I would just have to sit in the house until he came home, and I would pray that he didn't come home drunk.
6. I never got fed when I was growing up. My friend's mums would feed me. If I didn't go to my friends' houses, I wouldn't get fed.
7. My dad was involved in crime, and I saw him fighting a lot. He would end up in jail. My dad was only in his twenties when he had me, and he took me to parties all the time. I remember one night waking up, terrified. The roof in the corner of the living room had caved in. My dad had gone to the pub and locked me in the house alone.
8. My dad had people back to the house who would touch me under my nightie. I told my dad about this, but he didn't believe me. When I was growing up, there were no adults in my life who cared for me.

9. My dad had girlfriends over the years when I was growing up with him. He would have sex with his girlfriends in front of me. He never sexually abused me, but he would have sex with his girlfriends when I was in the same bed. Then he would batter his girlfriends and they would leave him, and they would leave me.
10. My dad had a girlfriend called [REDACTED] and she got pregnant. My dad kicked the baby out of her, and it died. [REDACTED] came back and she got pregnant with my younger stepsister, [REDACTED], when I was ten years old. My dad kept going to see [REDACTED] and my stepsister and that's when they had my stepbrother, [REDACTED]. When [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would come to stay for the weekend, that was the only time I didn't get battered by my dad. My stepbrother [REDACTED] didn't come to stay at weekends because he didn't like my dad. I would take [REDACTED] out for a walk. It was the only time I was allowed out of the house. It was a very strange situation.
11. My dad got me an air rifle for Christmas one year. It was the only present he bought me. Every other year he would wrap up a packet of ten cigarettes to give me something to unwrap, then he would take the cigarettes from me. On my birthday I would wake up to nothing. I got the air rifle when my dad started going out with [REDACTED], but I had wanted a doll and a pram. I sold the gun for £25 and bought a doll and a pram. Three weeks later my dad smashed up the doll and the pram with a hammer because I had stolen 20p.
12. My dad took me on holiday to Ireland. We stayed with a friend of my dad, [REDACTED], in Belfast. He started sexually abusing me when I was about seven or eight years old. I told my dad about it, but he didn't believe me. When we got back to Glasgow, I told my dad's girlfriend [REDACTED]. She stopped me from going back to Ireland.
13. I had been getting sexually abused by someone in Govanhill, near where my granny stayed. I went to a teacher in my school to report it. My dad found out about it and battered me. My dad demanded that I tell him what the man had done but I was terrified of my dad. Eventually I told my dad that the man had touched my breasts. That was a lie, he had done much more to me than that. My dad battered me again and took me

to the police station. My dad made me give a statement and then took me home and battered me again. I never told anyone about that sexual abuse again because I was made to feel that it was my fault. Nothing ever came of that report of sexual abuse.

14. The person who abused me was IGJ [REDACTED] or IGJ [REDACTED]. As well as having a black taxi he had a furniture shop on [REDACTED], Glasgow. The home I was in allowed my abuser to come up and visit me, and to take me away in his taxi. He just got a two-year sentence for abusing his sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I would freeze when I saw him about. He would tell me that he loved me, but I was only twelve years old when he was abusing me. Every time I tried to go to Aitkenhead Road Police station to report it, I just froze. I think I would be able to report it now because I have been speaking to a psychologist.
15. My abuser IGJ [REDACTED] knew I had nothing. He would buy me clothes and buy me food because there were some days when I didn't eat. I was seriously underweight. My bones were showing. I felt like it was my fault. I would keep quiet about the abuse because I knew I would get money or shoes. I know now that's how he got to me, and to other girls. A lot of young kids would go into the furniture shop IGJ [REDACTED] owned [REDACTED].
16. I was the black sheep of the family because my mother was mixed race. My Granny and my Aunt [REDACTED] helped raise me and I would write to my granny asking her to help me because my dad was battering me. I would let my tears drip on to the page and smudge the ink. My granny would then ask my dad if I could come over because she said that she needed help with something. My granny and my Aunt [REDACTED] knew what was going on, but they were scared of my dad as well.
17. I used to wet the bed when I was younger, and my dad thought I was doing it on purpose. My dad would make me walk about in front of my stepbrothers and their pals with my soiled pyjamas or my nightie tied round my neck. He would hang my bedsheet out of the window.

18. I was in eleven different primary schools and four different secondary schools. My dad would take me out of school because he was constantly moving house. Even my neighbours knew my dad was abusive. I met one of my former neighbours a few years ago and she told me that everyone knew what he was doing but the nearest phone box was at the other end of Easterhouse.
19. When I was thirteen or fourteen years old, I took the last doing from my dad that I was going to take. It was New Year and he had been drinking. It always happened at New Year. He put my head through a window one year and knocked me out. My dad's girlfriend also got a bad doing from my dad that New Year and she was the one who told me to get out. She said that she would come and find me and look after me, even though she ended up going against me in court. Her telling me to get out was what made me speak to the social worker.
20. I went to see a social worker at St Leonard's school in Easterhouse and said that I just couldn't put up with it anymore. The social worker was based in the school, but I can't remember his name. The school and my doctor, Dr Fiona Begg, knew what was happening. I had bruises and things.
21. The social worker I told wanted to take me home and speak to my dad, but I was terrified, and I refused to go home that day. I just sat in the school. The social worker took another social worker and went to see my dad. My dad was furious and kicked the social workers down the stairs. The social workers got an emergency order to take me into care. I remember being in a taxi with the social worker, going to the home of a Justice of the Peace to get the order signed. The social workers put me into a care home that I think was in Easterhouse. I can't remember the name of the home. My dad was later found guilty at court but I don't know exactly what the charges were because I didn't have to give evidence.

Unknown care home, Easterhouse, 1986

22. I remember being terrified when I went into the home in Easterhouse. I knew I needed to be careful at the care home because people had said to me that my dad was driving about looking for me. I just wanted to sit inside, in the staff office.

Routine at Unknown care home

First day

23. Luckily, I knew a few of the people in the home because it was in Easterhouse where I had stayed but it was just a blur because my dad was looking for me and he was going mental. I was terrified that he was going to come and get me.

Leaving Unknown care home

24. I think it might have been the next day that they moved me to Wallacewell. It might have been after a couple of days that they moved me.

Wallacewell Children's Home, 70 Wallacewell Quadrant, Balornock, Glasgow 1986 to 1987

25. I was about thirteen or fourteen years old when I went to Wallacewell, and I was in Wallacewell for about fifteen to eighteen months. I remember people getting a lot of things signed. I was kept on a Section 44(1)(b) order, which meant that I couldn't go anywhere without being accompanied by an adult.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions . They were going to put me Loaningdale, but it shut down. The social worker took me took me up to Loaningdale Children's Home for a visit. I remember when we were going there, I kept looking at this light in the social worker's car. The light would go on if the child locks were off and I was looking for it to go on so I could jump out of her car and run away.

80. I can't remember where Loaningdale was. I don't think it was in Glasgow, it was miles away. There were farms then nothing. It was out in the middle of nowhere.

81. Loaningdale was highly abusive. I was terrified of going there. I knew about fifteen people, boys and girls, who were in there and they hated it. It was just like a huge orgy. I walked into a room and there must have been about twenty people all lying under covers. They were clearly having sex and doing sexual things. The smell when you walked in was vile. There were things going on in there that would make your toes curl.

82. It was like walking into your worst nightmare. I don't remember seeing one staff member, but I remember seeing boys and lassies shouting and bawling, chasing each other, fighting, pulling each other's hair, and biting each other. It was just like a zoo. I wasn't scared of the other kids. I knew people in there so I probably would have been fine but there was no way I was going in there, it was like a jungle.
83. I went mental about the situation in Loaningdale. I told the social worker, "You're not leaving me in here. If you leave me here, I'm going." Luckily, she didn't leave me there, but I think the intention was to transfer me to Loaningdale that day, even though I didn't have any of my stuff with me.
84. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**. That's when they said they weren't taking any more new people at Loaningdale because it was shutting down, so they sent me to Cardross.

Cardross Assessment Centre, Cardross, Dumbartonshire 1987

85. I think I was fifteen years old when I went to Cardross. I was told that Cardross was just an assessment centre, but I was there a long time, about six months. I was told that you were only supposed to be there for six weeks, but they kept resetting it every time I ran away. There was another wee boy who had been in there for years.
86. Cardross was a beautiful building. The main building was a big white building. The school was over to the right and it was an older building, it had clearly been there for a long time. There were all different units at Cardross, all going in different directions from the main building. I was in a unit upstairs and you couldn't open the windows. They were bolted shut.
87. Cardross looked lovely but it was terrible. It was strict and nobody cared. **Secondary Institutio**
Secondary Institutions - The people were madder and older. You couldn't go to a member of staff and tell them you were having a bad day, nobody cared.

88. Whenever I think back to Cardross, I can't remember any staff being there, apart from fag time. You got four cigarettes a day and you had to smoke in a specific place. Some staff member would have to sit with a bunch of smokers. You were only given a specific time to smoke your cigarette.

Routine at Cardross Assessment Centre

First day

89. It was an on-duty social worker took me to Cardross. She picked me up from the police station and took me in a black cab. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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Mornings and bedtime

90. I had my own room at Cardross. If you were in your room during the day, the door had to be open. It did have a lock on it that the staff could use if they wanted to, but I couldn't lock my door. I don't remember the staff actually using the lock to lock me in my room.
91. Nobody woke you up, you just got up yourself. I didn't eat breakfast so after I got up, I just stayed in my room. About 11.00 am the staff would come and take you over to the school.

Mealtimes/Food

92. There was a huge dining room at Cardross. The food at Cardross was brilliant. It was like restaurant quality. They would have a Chinese night, or an Indian night, to make it different. I didn't eat much back then. I was tiny, I only weighed seven stone.

Pocket money

93. I can't remember how much pocket money we got but anything that you bought, you had to give to the staff. You were able to go to the shops to buy things but if you bought sweets or cigarettes, you couldn't keep them, you had to give them to the staff so they could dish them out.

Schooling

94. We went to school in the school building at Cardross. The school was the most fun part of Cardross because it was such a lovely place to be. We would make things.

Trips and holidays

95. I think we did go to places in Cardross. You weren't allowed out in Cardross **Secondary In**
Secondary Institutions - to be publ. Most of the time we would just sit about but if we were good, they would take us out.

Personal possessions

96. You would just keep your personal possessions in your bedroom. When someone got moved the staff would just put their stuff in black bags and store it somewhere so they could re-use the room. I never got my stuff back each time I moved, and I saw that happening hundreds of times to other kids.

Review of care / detention

97. There were Children's Panels when I was at Cardross. Every time they move you, they had to re-assess you. I can remember sitting in the panel and everything was going on around me. I would sit there and let them decide my fate.
98. It was a stressful time going to the panel hearings. My dad was still coming to the panel hearings. My dad was a narcissist and denied everything. He denied hitting me,

he denied having a drink problem, and he denied having a drug problem. It was chaotic at the panel hearings. I was scared and my social worker was scared because my dad had kicked a social worker down the stairs when they took me into care at the start.

99. The social worker would come and pick me up in the car to go to panels, but I don't remember her ever speaking to me about the panel and what was to be discussed. It felt like it was just a process they had to go through.

Discipline

100. For discipline they used restraint. That's how they controlled the situation. It was mostly male staff who would restrain you, the only female member of staff that I can remember was a big, enormous woman. It is kind of a blur when it comes to remembering staff because I was in so many places.
101. If you did something after they kept telling you not to do it, they would restrain you and drag you into your room. Then you wouldn't be allowed to come out of your room.

Running away

102. There were times when I ran away at Cardross. There was one member of staff who was huge. I don't mean she was fat, she was big and tall. If she was on duty when I tried to run away, she would chase after me and drag me back with her hands on the back of my neck. She would drag me like that all the way from the train station to Cardross, which was about ten minutes' walk. The people in the village were used to seeing delinquents getting dragged back to Cardross.
103. If I felt at all uncomfortable about the behaviour of any of the staff, I was off straight away. Every time I was caught, I was taken back, locked up, and I wasn't allowed to wear clothes. I had to wear a dressing gown because the staff thought I wouldn't run away in a dressing gown. As soon as I got my clothes back, I was off. Sometimes I would get clothes off other people.

Abuse at Cardross Assessment Centre

104. There was one member of staff at the school who would take me and another lassie to the shops so we could smoke. Nothing happened with me and that member of staff, but I know something happened between him and the other lassie. He would take her round the back of the shop, and she had oral sex with him. The member of staff had short strawberry blonde hair, he was skinny and not very tall. He was about 25 or 30 years old. I didn't witness this abuse, the girl told me about it. The girl told me about this when we ran away together. We would walk from Cardross to Dumbarton central station, which is a long way.
105. At the time I thought that member of staff was a pervert. I wasn't familiar with the term Grooming at that time. His behaviour made me want to run away. I'm not saying all the male staff in homes were like that. Some of them were just grumpy, they weren't interested in young girls. Some of them were interested in boys, you could see it. You didn't mind going to the swimming with them.
106. There were kids in Cardross that were clearly mentally unstable and restraining them was clearly making them worse. When it's happening to you, you are fighting against it but when you are watching someone else being restrained it is horrible. You would see staff restraining kids by putting their knee in the kids' backs, with their arms up their backs, and their faces flat on the ground.
107. You would see people pushed up against a wall with the staff holding on to the back of their necks. There would be three or four staff doing that to one person and it wasn't needed. That treatment made people worse, it made them kick off even more.

Leaving Cardross Assessment Centre

108. I had run away to London to get drugs. The police caught me, and I gave a false name. A boy called [REDACTED] from Springburn who had come with me to London gave his real name and because his mother had reported him missing the police took him. Because I was with [REDACTED], the police took me to a police station, and they found out who I was. I can't remember if I told them, or it was fingerprints. I don't know what happened to [REDACTED], but the police took me to Heathrow airport, and I stayed there for a day until police flew down from Glasgow and took me back on the plane. The policeman said to me, "Try and run away from me and I'll break your fucking legs." But I was out of it. I was so high I had been sick all down myself. It was also my first time on a plane. Then they took me to London Road police station and from there, to Kerelaw.

Kerelaw Secure Unit, Kerelaw road, Stevenston, Ayrshire 1987 to 1988

109. I was still fifteen years old when I went to Kerelaw, and I had been told I would be in care until I was old enough to leave. I was known as an absconder, and they didn't know how to deal with me, so I didn't know how long I was going to be in Kerelaw.

Routine at Kerelaw Secure Unit

First day

110. When I arrived at Kerelaw they put me straight in a room and locked the door. It was just a cell. I had been in cells before, when the police lifted me, and this was just the same. There was a bed and a desk which were both bolted to the wall and the window had bars on it. People in other cells were screaming at the top of their lungs. It was terrifying.

111. The next day I think they opened the door, but I was still high from all the drugs I had taken in London. The day after that they opened the door and let me go down to the Rec room. It was pandemonium. There was a boy and a girl having sex under a jacket while other people were just running about. There were people in there who were there for murder, and I didn't think I should have been in there.
112. I said to the staff to just let me go home. I would rather have dealt with my father than deal with Kerelaw.

Leaving Kerelaw Secure Unit

113. I think I only slept three nights in the cell at Kerelaw before they had a Children's Panel and I asked to go back home. I said it was worse at Kerelaw than it was at home.
114. By that time, I was nearly sixteen years old, and I thought I could just run away if I went home and my dad hit me, although I thought he wouldn't hit me with all the attention of the Children's Panel on him. By that time my second wee sister, [REDACTED], had been born. I thought that I would be able to protect her. Eventually they let me out of Kerelaw. They released me to my dad straight from the panel meeting.
115. I left care just before my sixteenth birthday. That's when I decided to go home to my dad because I would rather put up with him than put up with care.

Life after being in care

116. I was just about sixteen years old when I went back to my dad's house. My dad didn't hit me when I went back home but he did keep me locked in the house. I was so past caring at that point. If he had tried to hit me, I would have seriously hurt him.
117. I still had social work involvement after I went back to my dad's house. I told the social worker that my dad was locking me in the house and taking my mail. My dad wasn't

hitting me, but he was abusive. I could just feel that it was all going to start again so within weeks I put myself back into care and I didn't see my dad again until 2009. I just wanted to feel safe and there was nowhere I could go. My granny and my Auntie [REDACTED] did love me, but I was the black sheep of the family. They knew that I had been sexually abused by [REDACTED] IGJ [REDACTED], but they thought it was my fault for being around him.

118. When I was back in care, they put me in Wallacewell. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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119. I ended up getting a job. [REDACTED] IGJ [REDACTED] got me pregnant, and I had a termination. I was terrified of what my dad would do if he found out I was pregnant. [REDACTED] IGJ [REDACTED] dropped me off at the hospital and then picked me up and took me to my dad's.

120. I ended up leaving my dad's house and moving in with a boyfriend called [REDACTED]. He was abusive too, but I had no choice, I had nowhere else to go. I ended up pregnant with my daughter in 1993. When I had my daughter, I must have had Post Natal Depression although I didn't know it at the time. [REDACTED] was taking drugs at that time, and he started giving me five millilitres of Methadone. It made me come out of the depression a wee bit.

121. Then we moved house and my addiction to Methadone got worse. [REDACTED] raped me a couple of times and I left him. I went into withdrawal and that's when I realised I was addicted to Methadone. I ended up taking another drug to come off Methadone because I didn't have access to it.

122. I went from guy to guy. If I was treated nicely, I just went. I was with another guy who was also a drug addict. We couldn't get any Methadone and he gave me some heroin to smoke. One day he said he didn't have enough heroin for me to smoke it, so he was going to have to inject me, but I hated it. It was like a crutch. I was taking small amounts, so I wasn't getting high, but I was still addicted. I took drugs for a year, and it took me seventeen years to get off them.

123. I got married to a guy called [REDACTED] and we had a child, but [REDACTED] killed himself. I had another child with another partner. My life has been pretty stable since I met my new partner [REDACTED] about seventeen years ago. [REDACTED] has adopted my two youngest children. One of my daughters lives round the corner and has her own children.
124. I feel a lot of guilt that I didn't raise my two daughters myself. [REDACTED] stayed with her grandparents and [REDACTED] stayed with her dad until I took her when she was five years old. I was definitely not a good mother when I was on drugs. I didn't have people round at my house like it was a drugs den, I have always been a loner, but it can't be good for a child when their mother and stepfather are on drugs.
125. I feel that I am responsible for problems in my daughters' lives because I didn't raise them properly, but I wasn't in a position to do it when the girls were young. I think that is why I have overcompensated with my sons. They are so mollycoddled and protected.
126. When I found out I was pregnant with my first son I stopped taking drugs but my partner at the time drifted back into them and so did I. After my first son was born I wanted to get sterilised. I went to Wishaw General Hospital for the procedure, but they told me that I was 24 weeks pregnant with my second son. He was born prematurely. That was the end of my drug use. I wanted to bring my sons up properly. We used to go everywhere together but when we bought the boys an X Box, they didn't want to go anywhere. They have good memories of their early childhood, but I don't think my girls have the same type of memories.
127. I still try to control my daughters, but they are older, and they don't listen to me. I still like to be in control. When I was younger, I had no control over my life but when I got my own house, I started to become very controlling. I tried to control every situation.
128. I think that I went on to drugs to mask a lot of things and to make myself feel better. Even after I stopped taking heroin I was still taking prescribed medication which was still masking things until I started to reduce my Methadone prescription. These days

doctors don't take you off Methadone all at once because they say it causes drugs deaths. They only reduce your prescription when you ask for it. I was ready to get off Methadone, but the doctors were still worried that I was coming down too quickly, which annoyed me. I got my tablets weekly and I ended up reducing my prescription myself.

129. I still know people who are on drugs but if I see them in the street, I cross the road because I have nothing in common with them. If they see me, they will tell me that I am looking great but then ask if I want to get some heroin with them.
130. I have mental health problems. My doctor calls it high functioning anxiety. He has also said I have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. If I hear certain songs it takes me back and it's horrible.
131. I have an underactive thyroid and I also have something called an Essential Benign Tremor. It can be embarrassing, and people must think I am an alcoholic when they see my hands shaking, even though I don't drink. They can cut something in your brain to deal with that, but I don't want that. I don't take medication they gave me for it either.
132. I feel that going into care had an impact on my education. I am dyslexic and I wish that someone had realised that a long time ago, when I was younger. I wish I had someone to help me, like I do with my children. I never got any encouragement about anything from the homes or from anyone else. I was just looked on as someone being there.
133. I didn't know anything at school, and I still struggle with high numbers. I am still trying to learn, and I am a whiz kid on computers, but I am largely illiterate. You wouldn't get that in this day and age if a kid wasn't at school. The authorities are all over you if that happens.
134. I am undergoing tests at the moment to see if I have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or Autism. I just stay in my own wee bubble. I am a talker, I overcompensate with talking. I don't like silence.

135. I don't really get on with people although it hard to explain. I don't really have female friends to go out with, I get on better with guys. I find it hard to let people get close to me. I talk to my neighbours next door and if they are having a party then I will go, but there is only a certain amount of people that I will let in. Mostly when people invite me to things, I will say no. It is safer to just stay in the house. There is a comfort in it, and I also think it is a control thing.

Impact

136. I was on drugs for years. I still see an addiction doctor even though I am no longer on drugs. He has explained to me that some people took jobs in care homes so they could get close to children.

137. I think about my time in care constantly. My brain does not shut down, it is constantly on the go. I find it very hard to sleep. I have tried exercise which helps. I have tried meditation and I am now trying to listen to self-hypnosis during the night.

138. When I was in care, I wasn't given proper dental treatment. I had very bad teeth growing up and I would always try to cover my mouth so people couldn't see my teeth. I have had to spend a lot of money getting my teeth sorted out.

139. I have suffered from panic attacks in the last few years. The first time it happened I thought I was having a heart attack and called an ambulance. The ambulance crew told me it was a panic attack, but they couldn't get my heart rate down, so they took me to hospital.

140. I think when you are younger and you are constantly being blamed by your family for causing situations, when you are being abused and you are going back to the abuser, then it is viewed as being your fault. That made me feel dirty and ashamed, but it was not my shame.

141. I would imagine that my time in care has impacted on my ability to form relationships, or on the relationships that I have had. When I was a child there was no one who I could turn to, nobody who loved me. Apart from my husband I have no one in the world I can go to.
142. Up to a certain age I would just go from guy to guy. I imagine that my time in care, and my dad, has messed my head up.
143. If I had had someone who cared I might be a different person. I had so many dreams and things that I wanted to do when I was younger. But nobody cared.

Treatment/support

144. Because of my drug use my GP referred me to a psychologist. I have been seeing a psychologist since September 2022. The psychologist is the first professional help I have had. The minute I sat down with her, I burst into tears. It was like a release.
145. I have a good relationship with my GP. He is very down to earth, someone I can talk to. He always brings in new pharmacists or trainee nurses to my appointments, so they can see the difference between someone who is no longer on drugs, compared with someone who is.
146. I have never sought any apology from any of the places I was in. I don't even think I realised it was the council who were responsible for me. I haven't sought any compensation either. Money isn't going to make me feel better. Money isn't going to get these thoughts and feelings out of my brain.
147. I have never returned to any of the places I was in care. I have driven past Cardross when we were going camping, and I took a panic attack. I don't know if any of the homes I was in are still there or if they have been knocked down.

Reporting of Abuse

148. I haven't made any report about my time in care until I spoke to the Inquiry.

Records

149. I have never made an application for my records.

Lessons to be learned

150. There should be a bit of care for each person in care. Even to sit down with them for five minutes, to make them feel that they are safe and cared for.
151. There should be more pushing with education. If someone is struggling the staff should help them out and find out why they are struggling and help them. My schooling only really went to secondary two and I really regret that. I could have been so much more.
152. People get taken away from their parents because they don't get fed or they get battered and then they are put into a strange environment and some of the staff are grooming them. Some of the staff just don't want to be there. They don't want to deal with rowdy kids so they make you kick off so they can lock you away.

Hopes for the Inquiry

153. I really hope that if they are taking kids into care that they look after them and make them feel safe. Lots of people I knew who were in care are dead now because they were drug addicts, alcoholics, or they killed themselves due to depression. That needs to stop.

154. It really hurts me to think that other children could be going through what I went through. I wish I had someone who worried about me when I was younger and told me that I was loved.

Other information

155. 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..... 4/4/23