

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

ITB

Support person present: No.

1. My name is ITB. I have middle names, but I don't remember them or use them. My date of birth is 1956. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My mother was , and my father was . My dad died when I was about fifteen years old and my mum when I was about sixteen. My mum and dad were firm but good people, and my childhood was a happy one.
3. I am one of fourteen children. Starting from the oldest there was who passed away with cancer, , , who we called , , , , , then myself and . We also had kids staying with us. All my older siblings were married, and their children were always around on a Saturday, the house would be chock-a-block. It was a three or four bedroom house in Royston, Glasgow. My mum was always in the kitchen. I went to St Rochs Primary School and St Rochs annex for high school, but I didn't get much of an education. You had to stand up for yourself as it was all big families and gangs where I lived.
4. I had a few accidents when I was a kid and banged my head. I had concussion and was in hospital when I was around five or six years old. I always ran away and didn't

want to tell anyone when I was hurt. I don't know if there is any permanent damage there.

5. Through the friendships I had, I used to get into trouble. I also wasn't going to school and because of that I was taken to some children's panels. The first time I was arrested was for playing football in the street and I was remanded to Larchgrove Remand Home in Glasgow for two weeks. I was given a fine after that. I was about ten or eleven years old, and I remember it was around [REDACTED] time.
6. The second time I was remanded was for eight weeks and I was about thirteen years old. I think that was around [REDACTED] time just before my fourteenth birthday. I had been stealing cars this time. I wasn't stealing them for any financial gain, it was to run away from all the scars of being in Larchgrove the first time.

Larchgrove Remand Home, Glasgow

7. The first time I was there, when I was young, I remember arriving straight from the panel and going along this big, long corridor. It seemed like there were thousands of kids in there and it was like an asylum to me. I think there were maybe around two hundred boys, and they were aged between five years old and sixteen years old. Some young kids were in there for just dogging school.

Routine at Larchgrove

First day

8. On my first day I was taken to my dorm by a guy called [REDACTED] LQT. He showed me where I would be staying, and I was given clothing. [REDACTED] LQT put his hand on my knee and moved his hand up to my testicles. He touched my testicles, but I moved away after that as I felt uncomfortable. There were three or four other boys in the dorm when he did that. I stayed in my dorm the first few days crying and didn't leave. When I did

eventually leave, I was sent to the gymnasium. I saw a guy who I thought was a member of staff and I said to him I wanted my mum. He asked if I had any sisters and I told him I had five. I thought he was going to try and get me home.

9. He must have then gone to my mum's house as the next day I got called up to the office and heard him getting a 'bollocking' for not going through the right procedures. I couldn't hear the arguments and was told to leave. I never got to see my mum and dad and I do not know what he did at my house. I am sure his name was Quigley. He used to always wear dark sunglasses and a chain. The only thing I think he did wrong was go to my house to get my sisters, but my mum and dad didn't tell me what he did.

Mornings and bedtime

10. I was in a dorm with lots of other boys. The staff would shout us up about 7:30 am – 8:00 am and sometimes that ^{LQT} [REDACTED] guy would have his stick and hit the ones in bed that didn't get up. We just got up and dressed and then we were sent to that assembly room. They would count us all in there. I remember it being all the younger ones in there and I didn't see anyone as old as fifteen or sixteen.
11. There were no windows in the dormitories. They were all smashed with kids trying to escape. I didn't know my way around otherwise I would have got off myself. I couldn't sleep as there was these emergency red lights on in the dorms all the time. We went to bed about 8:00 pm or 9:00 pm, it wasn't any later than that.

Mealtimes/Food

12. I can't remember much of the food in there, I just remember sandwiches. I don't remember getting breakfast or dinner or sitting around a table.

Washing/Bathing

13. In the middle of the night staff would get us up and tell us to strip in the dorm. They would shout "Get your hands off your penis and tell us to go for a shower". We were

only young kids and didn't understand what was going on. Quigley would do this the second time I was in Larchgrove as he was the night staff then. We were told to do this if someone had wet themselves or just for anything. I got left in a cell naked for a day the first time I was there because I wouldn't go for a shower. I wasn't given clothes until the next day.

14. It was down to the staff when we went for a shower at other times. I think there were about four to six shower cubicles, and I am not sure if there were any baths.

Clothing/Uniform

15. It was corduroy shorts and a t-shirt we were given to wear when we went in. The clothes were just in the dorm for us to put on when we arrived.

Leisure time

16. We were just in this big gymnasium hall all day. There were no classes, and we weren't separated into groups or anything like that. People were just hiding away from LQT and screaming most of the day. We never got exercise outside or any free time to do what you liked, I never even saw any books or a TV in there.

Bed Wetting

17. If someone wet the bed LQT would pull the bedding off them and tell them to strip. They would just get a doing while they were in the bed, and he would hit them with a stick. It happened to me once the first time I was in there and wet the bed. I never saw much of the laundry getting cleaned, so I don't know what happened to it.

Culture (Gangs, Fighting, Bullying, Smoking, and staff awareness).

18. The older kids would hit the younger kids and you couldn't trust anyone. They would slap them and give them doings for giving cheek and stuff like that. That happened to me both times I was in there. You very rarely saw the staff.

19. The cell that I was put in the first time was still there when I went back the second time, and it led out to an exercise yard. I was allowed out there the second time and the staff let me smoke. All the others couldn't smoke, and I don't know the reason for that.
20. I remember a couple of guys from when I was in there, but I think they are dead now. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and a guy called [REDACTED]. I saw them all getting battered with sticks too and I think they then just took their anger out on the younger ones. That's the way I saw it anyway.

Family Contact

21. I knew my mum and dad were up that time to complain about Quigley, but I did not get to see them. I got told to get away from the office when they were there. I never saw my family at all when I was in Larchgrove.

Running away

22. The cell that I was put in naked that time, a guy ran away from there. I don't know how he did it, he escaped from the cell and then the home all together. I don't know if he was then sent to approved school. I think his name was [REDACTED], but I called him [REDACTED].
23. I saw other kids run away over the fields, but they never got very far. I never got outside to run away the first time but the second time I got out to play football and saw kids running away then.

Discipline

24. You just got a doing for everything in Larchgrove. It was ^{LQT} [REDACTED] that gave most of the doings with his stick. You tried not to look when other boys were getting doings as

you got into trouble for that too. If we were in the dorm I would just lie with my covers over my head.

Abuse at Larchgrove

25. LQT [REDACTED] used to randomly hit kids with a stick, that's how he controlled them. We were in a big gymnasium all day and the kids would all climb the bars and ropes to get away from him. I was hit by him a lot of times and we were all in constant fear and shaking. I saw some kids getting really battered and we all just wanted our mums. It mainly happened in that gym hall, but I also saw kids getting battered in the corridor and dragged out of bed and battered with a stick. You would hear it at night. I never knew what the reason was, and I found it shocking. I can't think of any reason I was hit as I was always too scared to do anything. I would be hit over my clothes and mainly on the body, like your back or sides. It happened to me three or four times and was the same for other kids probably because they weren't doing what they were told.
26. LQT [REDACTED] was still there the second time I went to Larchgrove but I didn't see much of him then as I was a bit older. He was still walking about hitting people with sticks, but he was also using his hands this time and slapping people. It was still happening in the assembly hall and that's mainly where he got everyone. He would wait on kids coming down off the ropes and bars.
27. Quigley was nightshift the second time and it was him still doing the shouting at night getting us up for showers and telling us to get our hands off our penis. I think he would watch us because those emergency lights were on.
28. You just weren't allowed to do anything in there. There was nothing to do and you just had to do what you were told. I felt like punching out sometimes, but I always stopped myself and thought of the consequences.

Leaving Larchgrove

29. I went to a children's panel after my second stay at Larchgrove and I was given a sentence of twelve months to five years residential training. I then went back to Larchgrove after the panel and a wee minivan took me to St Andrew's approved school in Shandon by Helensburgh. I don't remember who took me.

St Andrew's Approved School, Shandon, Helensburgh

30. I think I spent about ten months in St Andrew's when I was fourteen years old. It seemed alright and was a big fancy house, maybe a bit creepy. It had two sections built on to the main bit, which was called Shandon and where I stayed. I think one section was called Fruin and I can't remember the other one. There were maybe about forty boys in each section. We were all aged thirteen to seventeen years old.
31. When you went into Shandon there was a big hall on the left where they would invite people in from the outside and we would maybe have a disco or something. They did that at Christmas. There was a cook house on the other side where they made and served all the food.
32. We slept in two dormitories away at the top of the building. There was a big middle section with stairs and the dormitories were up on the second floor. On the first floor I don't know what was on the left but on the right was a big door that was always ajar and three or four wee sets of pews. You couldn't see them until you opened the door. To me it was like it was used for a chapel, but we never got any chapel.
33. I am sure the governor's name was McDermott and the only other chap I know was the one that hit me, **HILL**. I don't know his second name, but he was a big stalker man about six foot two and maybe in his late fifties or early sixties.

Routine at St Andrew's

Mornings and bedtime

34. The governor took assembly every morning at this wee bit at the back of Shandon. Each section had a different assembly room and ate separately.
35. In the mornings we would get breakfast first then straight to the assembly room about 8:30 or 9:00 am. The governor would tell people where they were working that day and I got put into the builders. I just worked away there all day building a house for the governor. I would go back to the home for lunch and dinner but sometimes they would keep me there until six at night and I would miss dinner. I would maybe get a sandwich then or something but nothing hot. Bedtime was about 9:30 – 10:00 pm
36. There was a chap that did nightshift and made sure everyone was in their own bed and not out jumping about crazy or whatever. I never noticed any issues with him.

Mealtimes/Food

37. I found the food ok. I got to know the wee cook, ^{LOA} [REDACTED] we called him, and he was alright. He cooked for Shandon and took trollies through to the other sections. There were no issues if you didn't eat anything.

Washing/Bathing

38. The showers were up near the dormitories. We had showers mainly in the morning and were told to go.

Clothing/Uniform

39. I was given working clothes and that was denims and a jumper or something. We then wore our own clothes at the weekend.

Leisure time

40. We had free time at the weekends and just sat about talking to the other boys. I would walk about and see the other halls. Sometimes I would work overtime building the house on the grounds for the governor.
41. There was a swimming pool at Faslane, but they didn't like us going down there. I think I maybe went there once.

Trips and holidays

42. We were taken to the Highland Games, and I did gymnastics in the summer. I liked that.

Healthcare

43. I never saw any doctors or health visitors or anything like that. No one from outside came in to check up on me.

Work

44. The job that I got was building this house for the governor on the grounds. He already had a house next to the football park. I was working with a builder guy, and it was too much work. They had me in a trench for two hundred yards just to find this water mains to put into the new house. They had me there until 9:00 pm sometimes. It was in a wee forestry bit. When I finished my work, he would come up to see how we were getting on and tell me to go over to his house and speak to his stepson. He was getting old and would forget he told me this and then send me back to Shandon when I got there. I did go back and visit years later, and the house is now still there fully built. I think McDermott's stepson now stays in it.
45. Other people could be working in Faslane at the naval base. At that time there was no security there and it was just all open. There was no fence or anything like that.

Birthdays and Christmas

46. At Christmas the home would get people from outside communities together and bring them in to have a disco or something. I remember it because girls would come along. There was nothing done for our birthdays.

Culture (Gangs, Fighting, Bullying, and staff awareness)

47. I saw a lot of boys fighting with each other and a lot of bullying. There was no security in there. As I had been locked up in Larchgrove I liked to go over to the other halls a lot. There was this guy in another hall that everyone was afraid of, and I hit him. He was older and said he was the leader of the wing. He was bullying all the other boys so after I hit him all the boys then got on with me and I could talk to anyone. There was a lot of bullying in the other sections but not in my bit as I wouldn't allow it.

Visitors

48. There was a social worker that would take us out a wee run in her car that was about it. It was a lady called Miss Smith that took us out around the area, and we didn't discuss much with her. She would tell us about other establishments that we didn't want to go to after St Andrew's, but I never told her about my abuse. She was a nice person.

Family Contact

49. My dad and family came up to this open day where we were doing running and gymnastics. I enjoyed that.

Running away

50. The first time I ran away was when I was allowed a visit into the town one day. A few friends came to meet me in town and there was a fight with the locals. I just went home with my brother and got lifted at the train station. I was held at the police station and

my brother was sent on his way. I was taken back to St Andrew's and when I got back this HLL [REDACTED] guy put me in a cell away from the rest of Shandon. It was a wee separate complex bit where I think the social workers were. I was in there overnight and then he took me back to Shandon the next day.

51. When we got back to Shandon, HLL [REDACTED] took me up to this room with pews on the first floor. I must have heard he belted you on the backside from other boys as I had put books down my trousers to try and stop the pain. In this room I was belted with my trousers down on my bare backside six times. When I pulled my trousers down the books fell out and I looked around. I could see these four guys masturbating.
52. I didn't recognise these guys at all, and I never saw them again after that. They were like travelling monks with big, long overcoats. I didn't see them when I walked in, it was only after I turned around, I saw them tucking themselves away and fixing themselves. The governor Mr McDermott came in as well, but I thought he was alright. I think they tucked themselves away because I saw them not Mr McDermott, but he must have seen them too. He just said get it done with or get it over with or something like that. This only happened this one time and I never told anyone as I found it a bit embarrassing.
53. I ran away a second time after my dad died and because of the abuse the first time. I knew my dad wasn't well and in hospital then staff told me I would be getting out for his funeral. I remember being in the car going home and one of my family members saying you need to go back to St Andrew's, and I didn't want to go. That night I ran away about 10:00 pm. I remember someone telling me to go through the fields and not to follow the railway as the cops were always waiting there. When I got home my mum just called the home to come and get me. I didn't get to my mum's until about 9:00 am. I was tired and fell asleep and when I woke up one of the staff were there to take me back. Nothing happened to me because of that, I think maybe because my dad had just died.

Discipline

54. HLL was the main man and dealt with all the punishments. You never saw him or any of the staff in these places really, only when you were getting punished or a doing.
55. There were no regular beatings and doings from the staff like you got in Larchgrove as far as I was aware, but there must have been as someone must have told me about putting the books down my shorts. I wasn't aware of anyone else being put in that cell beside the social workers.

Abuse at St Andrew's

56. I thought St Andrew's was ok apart from the abuse from that HLL. He disappeared and I don't know where he went after that. It was just a hard place and you had to stand up for yourself.

Leaving St Andrew's

57. I remember being in the assembly hall and McDermott said to me he had good news, and I was getting out the next day. I think because I was a hard worker, he let me leave earlier. I was shocked when he told me. They just used to spring that on us and we were never told when we were getting out.
58. I went back home after I was let out and was still fourteen years old. I started hanging around with the same people again and continued getting into trouble. When I was sixteen years old, I was remanded to HMP Barlinnie.

HMP Barlinnie, Glasgow

59. I did between two and three weeks in Barlinnie [REDACTED] 1972, [REDACTED] 1973, but I did not know how long I was going to be there for when I went. I knew a lot of guys there already, so it was alright. I was put in this wee section for young offenders and separated from the cons, the older ones. I think it was the top flat and it was a wild place. There was a lot of bullying and people fighting with the screws. The screws would come and drag people out their beds at night, you never saw it you just heard people screaming. There was always an atmosphere that something was going to happen, something was going to explode. You could feel the fear of the place.
60. You were in your cell most of the day and didn't get out for much exercise at all. Even your meals were brought to your cell. There were two of us to a cell and you were always wary but the guy I was in with was ok. We maybe had a wee argument, but nothing came to blows. We slopped out and used a pan for the toilet. I saw people throwing that at other people it was disgusting.
61. I think when I went back to court I got out after reports and then ended up back in Longriggend again. I am sure the prison social workers completed the reports for going back to court again. I didn't get to see the reports, but I got released this time and ended up back in again for borstal reports.
62. I was mainly always getting arrested for stealing cars. I was still getting flashbacks from Larchgrove and was just doing it to get away and escape from it all. I don't know where I was going.

Longriggend Detention Centre, Airdrie – Aged around sixteen

63. I went to Longriggend straight from court for a few weeks for reports again. I think that was in 1973 when I was still sixteen. I was there a couple of times for a few weeks at a time like Barlinnie. The first time I went there I spent five nights in HMP Saughton in first because I was caught in Edinburgh. I don't think I was supposed to be in there at

that age. Just by chance my brother in law was in there and when I saw him I shouted on him. I was ushered away quickly, probably because I wasn't supposed to be there and taken to a big bath. I was told to strip and get a bath and then taken to a cell. I then spent five days in that cell and did not get out at all. I think I was then maybe then taken to Longriggend.

64. Longriggend was worse than Barlinnie. It was ex-army guys, and I had a few boots from them. I don't remember any of their names as I was only ever in there for short periods. I think I was still sixteen and one of them kicked me up the backside right on my coccyx for standing out of line. They were rushing us all to go down for dinner and rather than bump into the person in front of me I stood out of line. It was that sore it watered my eyes, and I turned around and wanted to punch him, but something stopped me. I thought of the consequences. I don't know his name, but he was an officer and I think it was my first day there.
65. In all of these places when I was getting doings I would be bruised and sore, but I never needed medical attention or was given it. You had to just get on with it. They always used their sticks and truncheons to give you a doing. I never saw any social work or anyone that I could tell what was happening to me. My whole time in care I probably only saw a social worker a few times. You did not have anyone you could trust.
66. On my first day I got to the dining hall and there was only one seat left so I sat on it and started talking to the guy next to me. For no reason he just spat in my dinner. There was a tea pot with hot tea on the table and I felt like hitting him with it, but I held back. I always held back because I knew what the staff were going to do to me, either put me in a cell alone or come into my cell later and give me a doing. It was horrendous that place and there was a lot of doings from the staff. It could be at any time, and I had a couple of beatings in there.
67. There was a bit for detention and there was another bit for young offenders where I was. We got the same treatment as the detention part. It was dead physical, and they

just wanted to batter you all the time. You were just picked out of a line, and it was maybe just because they didn't like you.

68. I shared my cell with another guy there and we got on well. It was just the staff that were horrible, trying to cause fights and test you all the time. We were in our cells locked up a lot again in here and I never saw any exercise or anything like that. There was no free time either, you just had to get on with it and wait until your court case.
69. When I went back to court, I got borstal for twelve months and was sent to Polmont Young Offenders.

Polmont Young Offenders Institution, Brightons

70. At Polmont I did what they called ally cally for the first eight weeks. That's an assessment to tell you what borstal you are going to and for the young offenders. There was another building there for the ones doing sentences.
71. There was a big corridor between the sections that was a mile long and you had to scrub that on your knees with a toothbrush. The screws would walk past and kick the bucket of water over you were using and tell you to wash it all again. That was horrendous, I just did that every day and scrubbed that thing so much. We only stopped for dinner and were sent back to our cells at the end of the day.
72. You also had to do bed blocks with sticks, and I went through a nightmare with that as I couldn't do it. I just kept getting doings. They would throw your bed all over the place and shout do it again. The governor would come around and check your cell for dust. If he found any you would get a beating from the screws for it after he left. That went on every day, and they always found some excuse to batter you. You had to sit on the chair in your cell all day and were not allowed to lie on your bed. If you got caught on your bed you got battered.

73. You only got shouted out your cell to be counted in the mornings and at dinner time. If you weren't outside in time, you got a doing, you got battered. Anytime an officer passed you if you didn't shout excuse me sir you got a punch in the face.
74. I didn't like this place it was the worst of them all. It was more violent from the staff, and I think they were all ex-army again like Longriggend. I got moved to Castle Huntly after the eight weeks, which was a borstal back then. I think I was about seventeen years old then.

HMP Castle Huntly, Dundee – Aged seventeen

75. It was a bit better here as I got a job on a farm and was outside. The first day I had to push a wheelbarrow over some fields, and I couldn't do it, so I got into trouble for that. I got told to go to the governor and got a fine on my wages or something like that. They always took the staff's side, so you didn't argue.
76. It was a bit more relaxed here with the staff and not like the old ex-army staff in Polmont. At first, I was out in a dormitory with others but then I got a cell to myself. I was there for eighteen months. I ended up playing football for the prison team as I liked my football. There was one officer that I always used to take a loan of and dribble past him. One time he put his arm out and broke my nose and eye socket as I was going past, but I didn't report him. He just did it because I was dribbling by him all the time and he said it was an accident, but it wasn't. He was [REDACTED]. All the other boys wanted to batter him after it, but I never saw him again after that. He used to stay in [REDACTED] the farm.
77. There was more freedom at Castle Huntly. After I worked on the farm, I would feed the chickens and then come back and get some dinner. I used to get visits from my girlfriend at the time, but not often as it was too far to come. I thought about running away from here a few times, but never did it as it was too far away from home.

78. I never saw much badness in here. The odd guard would sneak drugs in, but I never took any of that. An officer called ITC [REDACTED] that I later saw again in Barlinnie as an adult, was really strict and battered me a few times. I never deserved it when he did. It ended up I got on alright with him in the end and he would take me out the prison sometimes to play with his football team. That was good.
79. You would get your wages suspended if you refused to work or you weren't allowed in the canteen. The food was alright in there, it was not bad soup and dinner. I had the odd day where I refused to eat but nothing was said about it.

Life after being in care

80. I went off the rails a bit after care as my mum and dad both died in their fifties and close together. I worked as a carpet fitter for a short period, maybe about six weeks as an apprentice and I did the odd labouring job on building sites. I couldn't keep a job as I was committing crimes so kept getting short sentences in prison. I would get six months here and four months there for stupid things. That went on for years and years, most of my life. I was sent to Loss Moss prison as an adult and that was a really wicked place for short sentences. I saw a lot of stabbings in there.

Impact

81. I got no schooling at all in any of these establishments and sat no exams, so I have no qualifications. I have irritable bowel syndrome now as a result of all the different establishments I was in and different food I ate. I didn't have this problem in the places, but I did after.
82. I don't like lies so if friends lie, I can't trust them after that. I find it hard to trust anyone and keep relationships. I have a family now, but I don't see them. I have three children to three different women, and I have never seen one of my daughters. I just left when her mum told me she was pregnant. My first relationship I was let down badly as she

went with other men and that affected me a bit. We just argued all the time and I would bring it up, so it never worked. That was my first girlfriend from school, and we got married when I was nineteen.

83. My second relationship was just casual so when she told me she was pregnant I left. My last relationship was good, but I ruined it by messing about. I messed about with the wrong lassie because she was a good one.
84. After care when I was going out and committing crime, it was because of when I was in care, I would see people being bullied and having their clothes stolen off them. That made me go stealing just to run away from it all.
85. All of the friends I have that were in these places, they are all either dead now with alcohol or drugs. I know it was all to blank out the fear of being in there. The only thing I have done has been a smoker and I now have COPD. I had bronchitis as a kid as my dad was a smoker and we had coal fires.
86. I used to suffer from nightmares about my time in care but not as much now. I sometimes still have flashbacks, but it is mainly about the adult prisons I was in and what I witnessed there.

Reporting of Abuse

87. I have recently told the police about what happened to me at Larchgrove and St Andrew's. I never told them anything about all these other places. This was last year sometime, and I made the complaint at Stewart Street in Glasgow. It was then referred to a Chief Inspector from Shettleston. I forget her name, but it was a lady and I have her name at home.

Records

88. I have spoken to a solicitor about compensation for the abuse I suffered in care, and they are getting my social work records. I haven't seen them yet. I don't really care about compensation I just want to get all this out. I don't think I will see it anyway and hope it goes to my children.

Lessons to be Learned

89. There was no one there for me to ever report any abuse to. No one ever checked on me and I could not trust anyone. There should be more monitoring of these places. In Larchgrove I never even got one visit and I didn't know how to get one if I could. That one guy I did speak to and asked for my mum, he was only interested in my sisters. More people should have been coming in to see you and check if you were alright. They should have let you know they were there for you, to help you. We shouldn't have just been dumped in a cell.
90. I don't think older children should be put in with younger children. Where I was fourteen-year-olds were in with five-year-olds and that is not right.
91. In the care system now, I don't think ex-convicts should be employed as carers. I have seen people I was in prison with now working in the care system and I don't think that's right.

Other information

92. 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..... ITB [Redacted Signature]

Dated..... 13 / 12 / 2023.