

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HWM

Support person present: No.

1. My name is HWM. My date of birth is 1954. I was born in Dumbarton. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. The only qualifications I've gathered are O-levels and Highers. I attended what was known as a junior seminary for my secondary education. I was at St. Vincent's in Langbank and then St. Mary's in Aberdeen for secondary school. I studied for my O-levels and Highers. I then went onto St. Peter's College in Cardross. We studied philosophy for two years followed by theology for three years. I came out of the seminary towards the end of those studies.
3. In 1978, I left the seminary without having been employed anywhere permanently, although I had worked at Bellfield the previous summer. One of my mates got me a job in Bellfield for the summer holidays of 1977 and I worked there for about six weeks. I didn't have any plans when I left the seminary. I hadn't yet decided what I was going to do and was considering doing a course at university. Around May 1978, I met the officer in charge at Bellfield, Mr Turner. He asked me what I was doing, and I told him that I had come out of the seminary at Cardross for a while. Mr Turner asked me if I'd be able to come back to Bellfield that summer. I told him that nothing had been settled at that point. He said that I could start tomorrow if I wanted to and that was it. I thought I might as well do that until something else came up.

Experiences at Bellfield Assessment Centre, Dumbarton

The institution/culture

4. At first, I thought that Bellfield was fine. The staff were all quite nice to me in their own way. When I worked there permanently, I was not enamoured with it at all. Some of the staff had been there for a very long time. Apparently, it used to be a borstal. I thought that it was run more or less like a borstal, although I'd never been in a borstal or worked in a borstal. There was lots of shouting. There was no empathy with the kids or anything like that. It was just, "Stand up, do this, do that!" It was a bit like the army.
5. We had a football field surrounded by a big fence. We would take the boys up there, but we had to watch in case anybody ran away. I think that was what their main aim was, to keep the boys in.
6. Some of the staff had alcohol problems. They drank before they came on duty, and they would go and drink when they were on duty. I don't know where they hid it, but they would get worse as the evening went on. Even coming on for the 2:00 pm shift, some of the staff would have had a drink. There wasn't really a staffroom, but there was a place where you hung your coat. Maybe those members of staff had something in their coat pockets.
7. I was invited to have a drink on one occasion, but at the time I didn't really understand it. Another member of staff asked me if I had a cold. I said that I was fine, and he asked me if I'd like some of Dr Bell's cough mixture. I said that I didn't, but I found out later that it was a reference to Bell's whisky. I never took any alcohol at all. I didn't drink.
8. I'm sure that management were aware that staff were drinking alcohol. I can remember Mr Turner, the officer in charge, coming down one night and gathering the staff. He said that he didn't want there to be any drinking in Bellfield that night. I took it from that that he knew about the drinking.

9. As time went on, I had decided that I was going to leave. By that time, we had heard about a new place that was being built, Cardross. I thought that I'd wait on and see what the new place was like, as it was due to open about a year later.

My role and recruitment at Bellfield

10. I was employed by Strathclyde Regional Council. When I worked in Bellfield in 1977, I was just a member of staff. My job title might have been a care officer, but I really can't remember. There was no recruitment process and I wasn't interviewed. Similarly, when I went to work there in 1978, I wasn't interviewed and I didn't have to provide any references. I didn't have anybody mentoring me or supervising me. I was just told to watch what the others did.
11. There were two shifts at Bellfield. I think the early shift was 7:30 am till 3:00 pm and the late shift was 2:00 pm till 10:00 pm. My understanding was that my responsibilities were to look after the boys and make sure that they were okay. I wasn't responsible for any particular area of Bellfield.

Layout and Structure

12. Bellfield was in Dumbarton. It was an old house. I believe it used to be a doctor's house. You went in through the main door. There was a big room on the left, which was a TV room. It had chairs laid out. As you came in the door on the other side, there was a smaller room which was a dining room. Next to that was a kind of games room with a pool table in it. Through to the back there was a kitchen area on the right-hand-side. There were cupboards right at the back. Halfway up the stairs there was an office. At the top of the stairs there was a big dorm and three smaller dorms. There was also a washroom. The front door was locked, and the kitchen door was locked, but the dorms weren't locked.
13. In Bellfield, there was just one group. All the boys sat in the same room and moved about together.

Staff structure

14. Mr [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] at Bellfield. He was SNR [REDACTED] and there was a SNR [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] was KFT [REDACTED]. Other than SNR [REDACTED] I don't think we had job titles. We were all just generic staff. There were about twelve members of staff, all males. I didn't have a supervisor when I worked there. There were two members of staff on duty at night-time. They sat on two chairs at the top of the stairs. There was also a matron, who was Mr Turner's wife. I can't remember her name. Boys would just say, "Yes, ma'am, no ma'am."
15. Mr Turner went away every weekend. He had a caravan in the Mull of Kintyre. He would come down at about 9:00 am and have a parade. He would split the boys into different groups. There was a school group, another group would go out gardening and another would maybe do the cleaning-up indoors. Mr Turner would appoint who was going where and which member of staff was taking them, although the guy who did the gardening was permanent. He was an older man, but I can't remember his name. We saw more of the depute than Mr Turner, but he didn't interact much with the kids.
16. I remember some other members of staff. I can remember AIB [REDACTED], who sticks in my mind because of his alcohol difficulties. I also remember Tommy Boal, who came after me. His wife also came to work at Bellfield as a cleaner. There was a Jack Roddick, who was quite a wit. He used to keep the boys amused by making wee furrows out the back. He would open a can of beans and plant them in the furrows. When we had finished our shift that night, he would have bits of sticks made up with string. He would put that in the ground where the beans had been planted and tie tins of beans on the string. When the boys woke up the next morning and looked up, there would be a row of beans hanging up. It would maybe take an hour of his own time, doing that.
17. I can't remember being given any guidance about the ratio of staff on duty to boys. The only time I can remember anything like that is when we got a phone call from the police in Inverness. They were bringing a boy down. I can remember Mr Turner saying

that he wanted two members of staff present when the boy arrived because he was going to be a big problem. I can remember this wee boy arriving between two police officers, who were about six feet tall. He looked about twelve or thirteen. That was the only time that staff ratios were ever mentioned.

Recruitment of staff

18. I wasn't involved in recruitment of staff to Bellfield. I think the process was more or less if you knew someone that worked there, they would tell you if a vacancy arose. That was it. There were no volunteers working at Bellfield.

Training

19. I wasn't given any training at Bellfield. I remember going over to the headquarters for a talk about how the council worked, but it was nothing to do with Bellfield. It was for new employees. There were no other training courses and there was no development of staff at Bellfield.

Supervision/appraisal/evaluation

20. There was no probationary period for staff at Bellfield. I didn't have a supervisor. I didn't feel like I was supported in my role. I was just left, but I wasn't ostracised or anything. I didn't have to supervise any other staff in my role at Bellfield. There was no system of appraisal or evaluation of staff at Bellfield.

Policy

21. I didn't see any written policy for Bellfield. I wasn't aware of any such policies in respect of complaints procedures, staffing, child protection, disciplinary procedures or the like.

Strategic planning

22. I had no awareness of any strategic planning at Bellfield. We had to move to Cardross before anything like that took place.

Children/routine at Bellfield

23. The age range of the children in Bellfield was mainly aged twelve to sixteen or seventeen. I think there were twelve to fourteen children there and they were all boys. Junior boys and girls under the age of twelve went to a place in Cardross. It wasn't the new building, but a place that had been operating for a while. Those children that weren't growled at by the staff, got referred to by their first names. Children would refer to staff as 'Sir'. I thought that was nonsense.

24. Children often came to Bellfield via the children's hearing system. An assessment order was issued, which meant they had to be assessed within 21 days and a recommendation made for the next children's hearing. They could have been referred to the children's hearing because of truancy or family problems. There were also boys who might be arrested by the police and were then brought to Bellfield on an order to keep them in secure accommodation, even though we weren't secure. The majority of the boys were only in Bellfield for 21 days. Some would remain because it was felt they should be moving on elsewhere, but we couldn't get them moved.

Sleeping Arrangements

25. At night, the kids went upstairs. There was a big dormitory and three smaller dormitories. They weren't separated by age. I think children went into the big dormitory at the beginning. As beds became available, they would just move them.

Washing and Bathing

26. In the evening, the boys would all get a towel. They would then go in maybe three at a time to a shower room. A member of staff would turn on the water. It was up to the member of staff doing it how long the boys stayed in the shower before the water was turned off. As those three came out and got dried, another three would go in. It was supervised by staff and was a nightly event between 7:30 and 8:00 pm. All the kids had to take a shower and I don't recall that being an issue. While the showers were taking place, another member of staff would go and prepare the boys' supper.

Healthcare

27. The kids were all examined by a doctor when they came into Bellfield. We did have a matron, but nobody went near her. On the whole, the boys' health was okay. If there were any injuries at football or things like that, we would take them out to accident and emergency at the local hospital and make sure they got medical attention. I think they would normally be taken in a member of staff's car. I don't think we had a minibus or anything like that at Bellfield.

Schooling

28. There was one teacher at Bellfield, Joan McFall. I thought that she was good. She was a qualified teacher. At the bottom of the grounds at Bellfield, there was a building that I think was an old stable. It had been made into a large classroom. When the boys were split into groups in the morning, three or four of them would go to the school. In the afternoon, I think it changed and another three or four boys went to classes. I was never in the school in my life, so I don't really know what they did there. I think it was basic and according to the boys' needs.

Trips/holidays

29. The children at Bellfield weren't taken on any trips or holidays.

Visitors

30. Family members were allowed to visit boys at Bellfield. There was a set time at weekends, but I think we would arrange something if they phoned up and wanted to come out with the set time. Social workers would also visit boys.

Living arrangements

31. When I worked at Bellfield, I lived at home in Dumbarton. All of the staff lived in their own homes, [REDACTED] Mr and Mrs Turner

lived in a [REDACTED] flat, which was always locked. SNR [REDACTED] KFT [REDACTED] had a room next to where the nightshift put their two chairs out, [REDACTED]. He stayed there on his own. That door was also always locked.

32. When Mr and Mrs Turner left, KFT [REDACTED] moved into the flat. I think Mr Turner had retired and it wasn't long before we were due to move to Cardross. At the most, KFT [REDACTED] was in that flat for a year.

Discipline and punishment

33. Older children had no responsibility for disciplining younger children. It was quite amazing the way all the boys got on. I can't remember there being any fights or anything like that. The boys used to talk about the 'cooler'. There were cupboards with clothes in them when you went through the kitchen. There was basically a cell, which was used as a 'cooler'. It was not used for punishment. The only time I remember it being used was for a boy who was well known at Bellfield. I think he held the record for absconding. If we were going up the back to play football, he was put in the cooler so that he didn't run away. Somebody would stay in Bellfield in case he needed anything.
34. The cooler had a locked door. Boys were never in it for that long and certainly not overnight. It was very rarely used, except the boys would bet amongst themselves to see who could last inside it the longest. They had a kind of game and would go in themselves. They would time themselves until they knocked to get out and see who could stay in the longest.
35. Boys were allowed to smoke four cigarettes a day. A big punishment was to miss a cigarette. There weren't supposed to be any physical punishments, but I saw kids getting a 'cuff' quite a lot. By cuff, I mean a slap on the head. Members of staff would do that to boys, but I never did that. It wasn't usually as a result of any specific behaviour. It was mainly older staff who gave boys cuffs. I can't recall any code of conduct about punishment, but I always just assumed that we couldn't do anything

physical to the boys. I maybe had a word with a boy if I had to discipline him. I certainly wouldn't hit him.

Restraint

36. I can't recall restraint being used in Bellfield. It may have been, but I don't recall it.

Concerns about the institution

37. If any concerns were raised about Bellfield while I was there, I was unaware of them. I do remember that one day, I came on duty for the late shift. I think someone was sick and there was only me and one other member of staff on duty that evening. The other member of staff had been drinking. His name was AIB [REDACTED]. He's dead now. He was a good soul. He looked a lot older than he was and he was very thin.

38. I phoned the district headquarters. It was Strathclyde Regional Council at the time, which was broken up into districts. There was a social work manager for Dumbarton district. I contacted him and said that the member of staff had already been drinking and that they couldn't just leave me and him on duty for that shift. The social work manager came over and spoke to AIB [REDACTED] and said that he was alright. I wasn't very happy about that. It was never mentioned to me again. None of the managers spoke to me about what had happened.

Reporting of complaints/concerns

39. If a child raised a concern or complaint with me, I would phone their social worker. I would ask their social worker to come and see them as soon as possible. I would always tell boys that was the way to deal with things. If it was out of hours, I'd tell the boys we'd phone their social worker in the morning and get them to come and see them. I don't know whether all members of staff did that. I don't recall how many times I received a complaint and phoned social work. It didn't happen very often. I can't really recall the types of complaints I received from boys.

40. When children came into Bellfield, there was an admission's process. Boys would be told during the admission's process that if they had any problems or worries, they should talk to any member of staff. They were also told about the routines and things like that. The admission's process was carried out by the staff. I did it a lot myself, but I never saw any policy written down about it. I would usually be asked to admit a boy by Mr Turner. If we knew they were coming, we would be asked to do the admission's process in advance.
41. There was a book where we would write in things such as a boy making a complaint. That would be it as far as recording of complaints was concerned. I think the book was kept in the office during the day. At night, it would be in the place where we hung our coats. I don't know whether the book had a name. I'm clearer in my mind about that process in Cardross.

Trusted adult/confidante

42. Other than staff, boys could speak to their social workers when they visited. They could also tell anybody else who visited them, such as family members.

Allegations of Abuse – Bellfield

43. When I was at Bellfield, I can't recall there being any definition of abuse as it related to the care of children. I'm sure that there wasn't one. I saw children being cuffed around the head, which I would describe as abusive. To me, it also seemed like staff were bullying kids sometimes. They would shout and bawl at them and say daft things like, "I'm bigger than you. Do you fancy your chances?" I would call that abuse. Some staff would try to use their wits against the children. They would talk about science and use big words. There was no real empathy or trying to go down to the level of the kids. There were a lot of poor souls in Bellfield. I would describe what I saw as emotional abuse.
44. All the staff on duty and all the boys were usually together. We did split up for some to go into the playroom for snooker and things like that, but apart from that we were

normally together. For that reason, I would say that there were limited opportunities for abuse to take place. It was often the case that if boys were watching telly, all the boys and all the staff would be in the same place together.

45. There was always at least one member of staff and at least three or four boys in the dining room, the big room and the playroom. There was an area where clothing was kept. If someone needed a new shirt or something, only one member of staff would go with them. I think that would be the one area where staff might be alone with a boy and abuse could have taken place.
46. I can remember one incident when a boy called a member of staff 'Sweaty Betty'. The member of staff was called [AIA], [AIA] went up, grabbed the boy and threw him to the ground. The boy said, "Sweaty Betty," and he did it again. This went on a few times, but the boy wouldn't give in. I actually think that [AIA] punched the boy to put him on the ground.
47. I'm also sure that one of the boys alleged that [AIA] had kissed him. I don't know where that was supposed to have happened. I can't remember the name of the boy who made the allegation. [AIA] was suspended, and I think it was because of that allegation. He was suspended by either Mr [] or [KFT SNR]. He wasn't allowed to come into the building.
48. One night after his suspension, [AIA] came up to Bellfield. Somebody went to the door and told him that he'd better leave. [SNR] [KFT] was going out. I saw [AIA] lift up his hand. I saw what I honestly thought was a knife. He went running after [KFT] and [KFT] was running away from him. We phoned the police and the police came. They were asking me if I was sure I had seen [AIA] with a knife. I told them that it was something shiny and sparkly. I told them that he chased [KFT] but I couldn't say whether he was going to use what was in his hand. [KFT] wasn't injured. I later found out that it was a piece of glass in [AIA]'s hand, but it had looked to me like a knife.

49. It all quietened down and we were told to keep our eyes open for him. On the nightshift, a member of staff called [ISM] went down to make his tea. He said that [AIA] was at the boiler. He was striking matches, lighting bits of paper and holding them at the boiler. [ISM] asked him what he was doing, and [AIA] said that he was going to blow them all up. He must have been very drunk.
50. [ISM] told [AIA] that the police were coming and asked him if he wanted to come in for a cup of tea or get on his bike. He asked for a cup of tea. The police came and took him away. I'm sure that [AIA] ended up in prison after that. The allegation by the boy and [AIA] coming up to Bellfield that night all seemed to be tied together, but I don't know what he was sent to prison for. I think it all might have been put into one case. [AIA] never came back to Bellfield after that night. I think he's dead now.

Child protection arrangements

51. There was never any advice or guidance given to staff about how children should be treated, cared for or protected. I'm not aware of any instruction being given to staff about how to handle reports of abuse or ill-treatment of children. I'm not aware of staff being given discretion or authority to deal with complaints of abuse or ill-treatment. I'm not aware of any child protection arrangements being put in place to prevent the likelihood of abuse, ill-treatment or inappropriate behaviour.

External monitoring

52. I can remember a crowd of councillors being shown round Bellfield. I don't remember them speaking to the children. They just came in, walked about and went away. I can't remember them speaking to any staff. I think the purpose of the visits was to show them what came under their remit.
53. I can remember there being a knock on the door on another occasion. I answered the door and there was a gentleman standing there. He said that he'd like to speak to Mr

Turner. I told him to wait and went to phone through to Mr Turner whilst shutting the door and locking it. Mr Turner came through. He opened the door, and it was Fred Edwards, the director of social work. Mr Turner said, "Have you locked him out?" I told him that I had to keep the door locked. I got to know Fred Edwards quite well after that. As far as I know, he was just there to speak to Mr Turner on that occasion. To my knowledge, there were never any inspections of Bellfield while I was there.

Record-keeping

54. I do remember there being a book in which we would write down complaints from boys. That book also contained other information when the staff could be bothered writing in it, including some but not all details of discipline. Other than that, I can't recall any other record-keeping at Bellfield.

Investigations into abuse – personal involvement

55. I wasn't involved in any investigations into allegations of abuse on behalf of Bellfield.

Reports of abuse and civil claims

56. I wasn't involved in the handling of reports of abuse or civil claims by former residents of Bellfield.

Police investigations/criminal proceedings

57. I did provide a statement to the police about what I saw when ^{AIA} [REDACTED] came up to Bellfield after his suspension. I told the police about seeing him chasing ^{KFT} [REDACTED] and seeing something shiny in his hand. I remember telling them that there had been something flashing in his hand. I didn't have to go to court to give evidence. I'm not aware of any members of staff at Bellfield being convicted of abuse.

Other Staff – Bellfield

ISM

58. ISM was a night-staff member when I was at Bellfield. He did not move down to Cardross, but I overlapped with him throughout my time at Bellfield. He was older than me. He was coming up for retirement. I didn't know him very well because he came in at night and went away in the morning. I did see him with children when they were going to bed, but normally the night-staff came up when the children were already in bed. I didn't really inform a view of his interaction with children. Of the three night-staff at Bellfield, I would say that he was the quietest. I never saw him disciplining or abusing a child.

IBD

59. IBD was in Bellfield when I first went there. He moved out of Bellfield to go down to Cardross Park as part of their management team. I did see him interact with the children. He was friendly and open. I thought he seemed fine. I never saw him discipline or abuse a child.

Allegations that have been made to the Inquiry about me at Bellfield

KIE

60. KIE has given a statement to the Inquiry. At paragraph 64 of his statement, he has stated:

"The first day that I arrived in Bellfield, HWM looked at me and then announced to all the boys that it was time for showers. I remember the other boys wondering what was happening because it wasn't the usual time for showers. Looking back, I think HWM just wanted to see me naked."

He goes on to state at paragraph 65:

"All the boys were made to line up naked and get into the showers. HWM and two other members of staff were there. There was the guy with the big teeth and another staff member in his forties or fifties. I remember HWM looking at my penis. When we came out of the shower, we queued up to get this stuff put in our hair for nits. When it came to me, the two members of staff grabbed my arms and HWM stood in front of me with a pair of scissors. I was naked and trying to bend over to hide myself. The two guys holding my arms made me stand straight while HWM stretched my penis with one hand and pretended like he was going to cut it with the scissors he was holding in his other hand. He was saying that he needed to take an inch off it because it was too long. They were all laughing like it was funny but I was petrified. The boys behind me would have seen it happen. After a while, they let me go and I just went and got dressed."

I can remember KIE, who I called KIE. He was a nice lad. He was fine. He was good. As to that allegation, it never happened. I never acted in such a way towards children. I never abused KIE. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollection of events. I would have remembered that. I accept that if a child was treated in the manner described then it would constitute abuse.

61. KIE has stated at paragraph 66 of his statement:

"That same night, at bed time when all the boys were going to bed. HWM and the guy with the big teeth came to me and took me into another room. They gave me a biscuit and cup of tea and said that was for me. I remember thinking it was weird why only I was getting it. I drank the tea and remember feeling really relaxed and falling asleep."

He goes on to state at paragraph 67:

"The next thing I remember is waking up and I felt groggy. I was on a seat and looking down at a few pairs of feet. I think there were the same three staff members there. I heard HWM voice saying something like, "that's him wakening, get him to his bed." I didn't look up and pretended still to be asleep because I just thought if I got to my bed I would be safe. Then a member of staff picked me up and put me over his shoulder and took me outside and carried me back into the main building and put me to my bed. That is how I know I must have been in a different building. Later on during my time there, I had a meeting with the psychologist woman in a little building

at the entrance of the gate and that was when I recognised the place as where I had woken up that first night.”

I did not act towards any child in such a way. What he has said never happened when I was at Bellfield. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollection of what is being said. I have absolutely no idea why these things are being said. I really can't understand it because I thought that I got on fine with ^{KIE} [REDACTED]. I accept that if a child was treated in the manner described then it would be abuse.

62. ^{KIE} [REDACTED] has stated at paragraph 68:

“The other guy, the staff member with big teeth, would punch, kick, batter and threaten me with violence quite regularly. ^{HWM} [REDACTED] would then have a conversation with me within an hour or so of the beating and tell me that everyone wanted to send me to borstal but that he was on my side. He would tell me that the psychologist's report said I should be in borstal and the social workers and panel agreed, but not to worry because he was talking to all the higher staff to make sure I stayed in Bellfield. ^{HWM} [REDACTED] made out that he was looking out for me and he was the only one keeping me in Bellfield and out of Borstal.”

He goes on to state at paragraph 69:

“Looking back, I definitely think ^{HWM} [REDACTED] and this other guy with the big teeth were working together, playing good cop – bad cop, to manipulate me so that I would trust ^{HWM} [REDACTED] and feel like I needed to keep him on my side. In hindsight, I think ^{HWM} [REDACTED] was the one keeping me in Bellfield to abuse me, when I was not supposed to be there more than three weeks. At the time, I just believed him and fell for it.”

He goes on to state at paragraph 70:

^{HWM} [REDACTED] made out he was a friend to me. He would be nice and friendly to me to the point that I would be quite happy when he was on shift. He told me he had been a priest for a few years and had been out of society during that time, so if you took away those years then really he was about the same age as me. He was in his thirties but that was him trying to make out that we were friends and of a similar age. I can see now that he was grooming me.”

I did not behave in such a way towards children. I was never a priest and I didn't go around telling people that I was. I can't even picture a guy with big teeth. What he has

alleged never happened. I really can't explain why these things have been said. Given that the three members of staff are all away with this one boy, where were the rest of them? It wouldn't have happened. Of course I accept that a if a child was drugged then that would constitute abuse.

63. KIE [REDACTED] has stated at paragraph 71:

"I was taken on a trip to Saltcoats with handicapped kids. We volunteered to go along and help push wheelchairs and show them about. It was me, the boy KJA HWM HWM and the other guy with big teeth who all went. We all stayed in a big guesthouse for two nights and slept in a room with bunk beds in it. I was in a room with KJA and we went to bed before the adults. They would be drinking and then come into the room drunk later on at night. I woke up to HWM in my bed touching me. The next day he was apologising saying that he was drunk and didn't know what he was doing. Then later on he told me he was going to a meeting with higher up people in social work who wanted to send me to borstal but he was going along to convince them to let me stay in Bellfield. I felt like I had no choice but to keep him on side."

I did not act towards a child in such a way. We had a boy in Bellfield at the time who had learning disabilities. I was involved in a group called the Archdiocesan Council for the Mentally Handicapped. We met every Wednesday night. It was an opportunity for carers to bring their child along. We would take the children away and involve them in some games. The parents would sit in the school staffroom and have a cup of tea. We had arranged to go to Girvan, as we did about twice a year. We stayed in a house owned by an order of nuns. They let us go there for nothing. We had a minibus that we used.

64. I thought it might do the boy in Bellfield, who had learning difficulties, some good and that he might enjoy it. Given that I had asked if the boy in Bellfield could come along, I suggested taking some of the other boys. We were limited by numbers because there was a group of volunteers from the Wednesday night group, the carers of the children and all the children themselves. We asked two or three boys from Bellfield if they wanted to come and they said yes. I explained to them what it would involve. They would be helping the young folk and pushing wheelchairs and things.

65. I did not drink alcohol when I was in Girvan. I wouldn't have had the time to drink. There were lots of parents there and other volunteers. If they saw me coming in drunk, I'm sure they would have been the first to mention it. Boys from Bellfield did come to Girvan. They helped to the best of their ability, but all that nonsense that has been alleged by ^{KIE} did not happen. I was never in a bed with anybody, ever. We went to Girvan, we came back up the road and is far as I knew, everybody had a good time. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what has been said. I have no idea why these things have been said. I accept that if a child had been treated in the manner described, it would have been abuse.

66. At paragraph 72, ^{KIE} has stated:

"The abuse started happening on a regular basis but it never happened in the Bellfield building. ^{HWM} would find an excuse to take me away on a trip overnight, just me and him, somewhere and we would usually share a room. When we were away, he would always push me to have a drink. I would pass out and not wake up until well into the next day. He would tease me and say "You cannae handle yer drink, son." It was weird because it would sometimes happen after just one drink."

He goes on to state at paragraph 73:

"At first I thought maybe it was because I couldn't handle my drink, so when away on these trips, I decided not to drink and have a Coca-Cola or a tea instead, but the same thing happened. I woke up well into the afternoon of the next day and would feel fuzzy headed and have a sore stomach. A couple of times I even woke up with no clothes on and I never normally went to bed like that. I would be dazed at the time, but later on, when I asked him anything, he would make out that I had only been asleep for a few hours, which was confusing for me because sometimes I was sure that a whole day or two days had passed, and I would feel fuzzy headed."

He goes on to state at paragraph 74:

"I clocked on after a few times that I was being drugged and abused because this never happened to me in any other situation, ever. Only with him. I am sure he was drugging me to abuse me. I don't have clear memories of the abuse because he never did it when I wasn't drugged. I remember waking up and feeling someone in my bed touching me but then freezing when I moved, and then if I made a movement, he would

dart away. It was only me and him in the room when we were away so it must have been him."

He goes on to state at paragraph 75:

"I was mixed up and didn't ask him too many questions about why I woke up two days later. He would just spin me stories anyway. He would go back to just being a nice guy, give me a fiver and be friendly, and so I would feel safe again for a few days until it happened again."

I never acted in such a way towards children. What has been alleged never happened. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollection of what is alleged. I really cannot explain why these things have been said. I just don't understand it. If a child had been treated in the manner described then I accept it would have been abuse.

67. At paragraph 76, ^{KIE} [REDACTED] has stated:

"One time ^{HWM} [REDACTED] said we were going on a charity trip to Blackpool to help disabled kids. On the way, we stopped at Preston and he made some excuse that there were issues with the train and that we would stay in Preston because he knew somewhere there. He took me to a pub and we met this man he knew who was a lot older, maybe in his sixties. I remember them getting me a pint and halfway through it I started to feel like I was passing out. I remember looking at them as my eyes were starting to close, and they were looking at me and then looking at each other, as if they knew the drug was working. I remember thinking that they seemed like they knew each other really well. I woke up in a house the next day, that I think was the man's house. He lived there with a woman who might have been his wife."

I never behaved in such a way towards a child. What has been said never happened. I never drugged people. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollection of what is alleged. I can't explain why these things have been said. I accept that it would have been abuse if a child had been treated in the way he has described.

68. At paragraph 77, ^{KIE} [REDACTED] has stated:

"The only time the staff member with the big teeth was there, was on the trip to Saltcoats and on a trip to Dumbarton. I was in Dumbarton with ^{HWM} [REDACTED] and he turned up to speak to him. I remember it because I was wary of him so wondered

what he was doing there, but he just spoke to [HWM] and went away again. Then I drank my tea and passed out again."

I never behaved in such a way towards a child. What has been said never happened. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what is alleged. I can't explain why these things have been said. I accept that it would have been abuse if a child had been treated in the way that has been described.

69. At paragraph 78, [KIE] has stated:

"I think [KJA] was going through the same thing as me. [HWM] sometimes took him away on trips, just the two of them. [KJA] was also in Bellfield for a few months so I wonder if he was being kept in there the same way I was. I think [HWM] [HWM] knew to pick the quiet kids who wouldn't speak up about the abuse. [KJA] was quiet, like me. He came from Paisley and I think he had a lot of problems at home with his family. He couldn't read or write and seemed really immature for his age."

I did not behave in such a way towards children. What has been alleged never happened. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what is alleged. I can't explain why these things have been said. I accept that it would be abuse if a child was treated in the way described.

Leaving Bellfield

70. After I reported the member of staff who was drunk to the district social work manager, I wasn't very happy about the response. I think that was when I started to think that it was time for me to leave Bellfield. We then heard about the new man who was going to take charge at Cardross. The new building there was well on. We were due to move down there in the not too distant future. I decided to hang on and see how the new man and Cardross were.

71. Not long before we were due to move to Cardross, we met [SNR] there, [GPG]. One day, all the staff were taken down to have a look at the new building. I was left at Bellfield to look after the boys. I had to prepare a report for one of the boys. I still had to finish it and I was going to a meeting later on that day. I

went home after the early shift, finished the report at home and then planned to bring it to Bellfield after my meeting. I did that and went to Bellfield to hand in the report so it would be ready for typing the following morning. The night staff were already in. There was a smell of burning. We saw that it was upstairs and coming from the area of the flat. We got all the boys up and out the front of the building. We gathered in the front drive. I phoned the fire brigade, who came up.

72. I also phoned GPG [REDACTED] at Cardross and he came up. He asked what the area on fire was. I told him it was KFT [REDACTED] residence. He asked me when I had last been in it and I told him that I'd never been in it. It would appear that it was just covered in empty bottles with a mattress on the floor. Some other staff went up to clear it out. The stories they told were horrific and they didn't know how anybody could live in the flat. Poor KFT [REDACTED] obviously had an alcohol problem to the extent that it had affected his way of life. We didn't find out what had caused the fire.
73. The fire happened not long before we were due to leave Bellfield. We'd started the process of moving to Cardross. Interviews were taking place, beginning with top level members of staff. SNR [REDACTED] at Bellfield was going to be SNR [REDACTED] at Cardross until the tragedy of the fire. I think it was the highest paid job in Strathclyde at one point. I don't know the exact details, but I know he didn't move to Cardross. The last I heard he had been given a job in an old folks' home in Strathclyde region. I suspect that he might have been suspended for a time in order that he address his difficulties, but I don't know for certain. There wasn't much damage to Bellfield as a result of the fire. I think the boys may have gone back in to sleep there that night, but the next morning they were all prepared to go to Cardross. All their rooms were made up for them.

Experiences at Cardross Assessment Centre, Dumbarton

The institution/culture

74. Cardross was a brand new building. I moved there from Bellfield at the beginning of 1980. There were four units there. One of the units had been prepared for the boys from Bellfield. It opened after the fire at Bellfield. We were then preparing for the unit for junior boys and girls at Cardross. It took four to six weeks to get those units ready. We didn't have teachers at that time so we tried to structure the boys' days in a similar way to Bellfield. We were getting the place done up as well, trying to buy pots and flowers. We were trying to let the boys see how different it was going to be.
75. I was very pleased when I moved to Cardross. I felt like the attitude of staff towards the children was better at Cardross than it had been at Bellfield. There was a terrific change in that we had women working at Cardross as well. They had a different attitude to the boys. There were no clouts around the head or anything like that. The atmosphere improved immeasurably. It was a far lighter atmosphere. I enjoyed working at Cardross. There was a structure. There were policies. These were all things that Bellfield didn't have.
76. I liked GPG [REDACTED]. He was annoying at times, but he was good. I became shop steward. I was elected by other members of staff. GPG [REDACTED] could be annoying when I was in that role. He told me that he could make staff stay at Cardross and that he didn't have to let us go at the end of a shift. I did look into it and he was actually quite right, but I didn't know that at the time.
77. At the beginning, some of the boys who had moved down from Bellfield found Cardross difficult. It was less structured. If you wanted to go to the toilet, you could just go. You didn't have to ask permission or anything like that. A few of them found it hard because it wasn't what they were used to. They all settled in eventually. They enjoyed the company of the girls, although you had to keep an eye on that.

My role and recruitment at Cardross

78. Prior to the fire, interviews were held for the staffing at Cardross. It was entirely different from the recruitment process at Bellfield. KFT was going to SNR at Cardross, but that didn't work out. Everybody else from Bellfield was taken down to Cardross.
79. There were going to be three main jobs at Cardross: a senior assessment officer, an assessment officer and an assistant assessment officer. That was the way it was going to be structured. I had gone to Cardross for an interview and I was asked questions. GPG was on my interview panel. I think SNR was there as well. I think there might have been someone from the district social work department. They asked me if I was looking forward to doing anything there and things like that. They asked me about the care of children and how I felt about working with girls for the first time. They asked me what I thought about aspects of childcare. I was asked whether I would be willing to go on training courses and I said that I would. I can't remember whether I had to provide references. I was offered the post of assessment officer.
80. I was promoted to a senior assessment officer post within the first two or three years. I then moved on to become assistant officer in charge around 1988. At that point, I stopped doing shifts and was part of the management team.

Layout and Structure

81. The old building at Cardross was known as Cardross Park. That old building was eventually going to become the school. It was quite a big house on the same grounds as the new assessment centre. Some children at Cardross were there on assessment, some were on residential orders. It was decided that Cardross would be split into four units. Two would be for assessment and two would be for care. The units for care might be for children who were going to be staying for a while, for example if they were waiting for a place elsewhere.

82. We hoped to get the children for assessment in and out pretty quickly. There was a different regime entirely for the children in the care units. They were going to be there for a while so you could put more planning into what you were going to do. We weren't under pressure to get reports in. Children from the assessment units sometimes moved into the care units if they were staying in for a while.
83. The units didn't really mix. They all did their own thing. The units had a reception downstairs at ground level. It was open during the day. When you went up, there was a side door into the main dining room, which was glass. It would take two units at a time for meals. When you went upstairs, there was a long corridor, which was one of the assessment units. It had twelve beds in it. On the other side, there was an assessment unit which was more spread out. It had two wee lounges and a bigger lounge at the other end.
84. The children were never locked in. They knew where all the doors were. They knew where the fire doors were. They could go down and open the doors and just go if they wanted to. I heard them one night in the lounge, talking about how to escape. I don't think they had seen me. I remember saying to them that they just needed to go downstairs and push open the door at the bottom.
85. There were windows that you could push right open. One or two children did jump out of them. They were going to injure themselves. A bar was installed so the windows could only open so much. As far as the children were concerned, they were then locked in.

Staff structure

86. GPG [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] at Cardross. [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED]. She had a teaching background. All the staff from Bellfield did move to Cardross, apart from KFT [REDACTED]. There were about eight members of staff from Bellfield and other members of staff started coming in from elsewhere. Most of the other staff from Bellfield were employed as assistant assessment officers. There was a separate team that came in solely to do the nightshift.

87. The management team was the officer in charge, the depute officer in charge and two assistant officers in charge. Every unit had a senior assessment officer. Every shift had an assessment officer. There were maybe three assistant assessment officers on each shift. At the very least, on each shift there would be an assessment officer and three assistant assessment officers in each unit. Assessment officers and assistant assessment officers all mucked in and did what they had to do.
88. Senior assessment officers were aware of everything that was going on. They went around all the units, but they were also senior assessment officers in their own units. There was a duty senior assessment officer, who had the book called the subsum book, and kept an eye on all the units. The senior assessment officers had a rota for that role. They might also do an early shift or a late shift in their own units.
89. Staff in the management team worked day shifts, except for one night a week. One night a week, senior management team would take a turn to work a late shift and do whatever paperwork they had to do. There was also an on-call system for the managers. We would leave our phone numbers at the weekend. On Friday, kids went home on leave. Quite a few of them would go out for the weekend so we saw less of them.
90. There was a management meeting once a week between the management team and the seniors. We would discuss any issues that were coming up. Things like child protection might be discussed at those meetings. There were daily meetings with staff when they came on backshift. They would usually be led by a senior. All the units came together for that meeting and they would discuss what was happening that day. There would be discussion about whether any units wanted to use the van and that kind of thing.

Recruitment of staff

91. Jobs at Cardross were advertised in professional papers. It wasn't because your aunty or your granny worked there. I was involved in interviewing new staff. References were requested. People came from various backgrounds. Some came from the teaching

profession and moved to the care side of things instead of teaching. Some had worked in other children's units. There were guidelines on paper about recruitment. They would say what they were looking for in a recruit and whether their answers demonstrated that. They were guidelines for interviewing rather than a recruitment policy.

92. You could tell fairly quickly whether a new member of staff was somebody that you wanted or not. At one of the management meetings, I suggested that new recruits be given a month's probation. After that, they could meet with their supervisor and be told what they needed to improve on. They could then be given another two months to prove that they had listened and taken on board what had been said. After three months, the management and the member of staff would know whether they wanted the employment to continue. If the member of staff was kept on, they would then go onto the permanent contract.
93. My suggestion was not taken on its fullness. It made me angry because we were left with staff who were unsuitable, but had employment rights. We did have people on temporary contracts because they were temps. I thought that was what should happen for all new staff, but GPG said that it would never be allowed. I knew that it would be allowed if it was written down and part of an agreement.
94. At the beginning, nightshift workers weren't interviewed. I put in many an objection about that. According to the nightshift, the children had to be in bed before they came on duty and we had to be on shift in the morning before they got up. I didn't think there was much point in the nightshift if that was the case. If there was fifteen minutes of a film remaining, you weren't going to put all the children to bed. According to the nightshift, that was what should have happened.
95. I can remember one night, we had almost finished watching a film. I was going to stay on and let the children finish it. One of the nightshift seniors came in and ordered all the children to bed. I told her that we were going to watch the end of the film and she said that she didn't care. The next morning, I went to the boss. The nightshift senior

spoke to me that night. She said that we shouldn't be falling out about things. Eventually, nightshift workers were interviewed.

96. I'm not aware of any vetting taking place of new staff. I can't remember if any police checks were carried out or if the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme was used.
97. There was a gym in Cardross, which was a great blessing. We had a group of students from Hermitage Academy. They came up and helped decorate the gym with cartoons and things like that. The intention was that people in Cardross would then know that there was a gym. If they wanted a game of badminton or indoor football, then it could be organised. The students from Hermitage Academy are the only volunteers I can remember working at Cardross.

Training

98. The opportunities to go for training were certainly there at Cardross. We sent lots of staff on things like the Certificate in Social Services (CSS) course. I wanted to go for training, but GPG [REDACTED] said we would get the basics dealt with first. In about 1996, the Diploma in Social Work came out. It took over from the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW) and the CSS. I said that I would like to study for the diploma and it was agreed that I would go on the course. I was going to study full-time with full pay. I would be the highest paid student. I started the course, but in hindsight I think it was when my ill health started. I started to get lots of chesty things and the weight fell off me. I did the first year and a bit of the second year, but I didn't complete the course. I had to give it up.
99. I was involved in training staff internally at Cardross. I did training in some of the legal things, like how children came to be at Cardross, what happened when they were at Cardross and what happened when they went home again. I also did some training in management. It was quite basic and simple.

Supervision/appraisal

100. My duties as an assessment officer meant that I had a supervisory role of the other three staff in my unit. I had a supervision session with them about once a month for about an hour. The session would be about how they were doing and any difficulties or problems they might have. They would also be given reports to write and a key child. I would check how they were getting on and whether they were having difficulties getting hold of social workers and things like that. I would check their reports and read through them.
101. Through supervision, I got an idea of how assistant assessment officers were doing. It operated as a kind of appraisal system, but there wasn't a set annual appraisal or evaluation system. As far as I was aware, there was no written policy on supervision.

Policy

102. I drafted one policy on the assessment procedure at Cardross. When I became the assistant officer in charge, part of my job was to take calls from social workers. They might be taking a child to a children's hearing in the following week. They would ask whether a place might be available at Cardross. I would tell them that they needed to come down and talk to us about the child. We would ask the social worker what they thought we could do for the child. One of the common responses was, "Just see what makes them tick." That wasn't greatly received. We felt that we needed a bit more than that.
103. I was asked to draft a policy on the assessment procedure by the officer in charge. We had a kind of policy before that. I spent many a day going over it and over it. The policy was more or less saying how we got involved, what we did and who else was involved. It stated what we expected of teachers. We expected a truthful report about how a child was doing, not just something based on the fact the teacher didn't like them. It was things like that. It was more of a guide to take people through the process rather than a policy. I don't think we really used the word 'policy'.

Strategic Planning

104. When it comes to strategic planning, I can only recall discussions about us needing so many beds for assessment and so many beds for non-assessment. I can't recall any long-term strategic planning, other than we were going to continue doing what we were doing until we heard otherwise. I don't remember abuse being mentioned in any kind of planning. Abuse was just forbidden.

Children/Routine at Cardross

105. There were 44, 45 children. The children went from junior age up to seventeen, eighteen. There weren't many children younger than twelve. I do remember that we had twins who were waiting for the adoption process to be completed. They were only about six or seven. They were in one of the care units. The units were mixed with boys and girls. There were more boys than girls, but the ratio of boys to girls just depended on who was in.

Mealtimes/food

106. The food was excellent. It was kippers for breakfast. It was amazing. There were always choices. There was salad, pies, things like that. You couldn't complain about the food.

Washing and Bathing

107. Each unit had a shower cubicle and toilet. Downstairs, next to the gym, there was a gym shower with three showers in it. Eventually, we put doors between those showers but that took a while. A lot of children would ask to go down the stairs because it was quicker. They didn't want to miss too much of the video or whatever they were doing. There usually came a time when staff would say that it was time for showers. The kids weren't supervised in the shower in the unit. If they were going downstairs, staff would

stand at the side. We wouldn't go in the actual shower room, but if there was any shouting and bawling going on we would ask what was going on.

Trips / Holidays

108. There would be trips to Troon and places like that. It got them out for the night as well. In the summertime, we used to take the children camping for a week. The staff went for four weeks. The kids would come up for a week, then go back, then another group would come up. There were at least four staff with a group of around eight children.

Healthcare

109. The domestic superintendent handed out a few medical things, but normally we would just phone the doctor if someone was ill. All the children got a visit from the doctor when they were admitted. The doctor would okay them if they were okay. If not, the doctor would see what was needed and follow it up. There was a medical room downstairs in the reception. Medical things were kept in locked cupboards. It was all written down if anybody had to use them.

Schooling

110. A big difference between Cardross and Bellfield was the school. We had professional teachers whose job was in the school. The kids all went to school in different groups, attuned to their needs and abilities. Every day, the care staff would take kids over to the school and into their various groups. The teachers would come and take them to their classes. That would be from 9:30 to 10:30 am. They then came back over for a half hour break. They would have tea, juice, milk or something like that. They then went back to school from 11:30 to 12:00 pm. Dinner was maybe 12:15 to 12:45 pm and 12:45 to 1:15 pm. They went back over to school from 1:30 till 2:30 pm and then 3:00 to 4:00 pm.
111. Children were in class all that time, unless someone couldn't go because they were waiting for an appointment or going to a panel or something like that. While the children

were at school, staff could get on with writing reports or seeing people. It took a couple of months for the school to be set up. Before the teachers actually arrived, the staff took the children during school hours. We did what we could. I took them for music. We took them to the opera one night at the King's Theatre in Glasgow.

Leisure time

112. There was a gym at Cardross, which was a great blessing. There was also a pool table and a full-size snooker table. There was quite a lot for children to do. Every unit could book the minibus for the evening. They might go swimming in Paisley. The children had their favourite swimming baths. We would take them to the cinema. We used to go on hill walks.

Living arrangements

113. I continued to live in my home in Dumbarton. There were three bungalows on the grounds. The officer in charge and his family had one, a senior assessment officer had one and an assessment officer had the other. The management team had rooms on the ground floor. Over time, we realised we didn't have as much room as we thought. We decided that the old building was beginning to cause us problems. It was the school so that wasn't ideal. The management team moved out and into one of the bungalows. The empty offices were then used as classrooms for the school. By that time, the staff living in the bungalows had already moved out.

Visitors

114. Visitors could come at any time. We would try not to encourage visits during school time, but if visitors phoned in advance, we could arrange a time in the evening or at weekends. There were areas where families could go with their children. There was plenty of space between them. There were rooms that social workers could use when they were visiting children.

Review of care/placement

115. Assessment conferences would take place in Cardross. When it came to the assessment conference, the child, parents, carers, school and anybody else important to the child would be present. I would chair those meetings. I would go round the table and get everyone's opinion on what was happening. We would discuss what we thought should happen next. At the end of it, we would come up with a recommendation to the children's hearing about what we thought should happen next. The vast majority of children went home. That was it. We never saw them and they never saw us again. That was a good outcome.
116. The children's hearing was usually the day after the assessment conference or the day after that. The child would stay at Cardross until their social worker came and collected them for the hearing. Children who were going on somewhere else sometimes made 'a wee song and dance' about it. If a child was waiting to go to a residential school, we would sometimes move them to the care unit if it was going to take longer than a week or two.

Discipline and punishment

117. Older children didn't have any responsibility for monitoring or disciplining younger children at Cardross. We weren't allowed to use physical chastisement, but there were no written policies about discipline. The officer in charge didn't give directions about how to discipline children.
118. Each child had their own room. Depending on their age and their misdemeanour, they might be sent to their room. I would tell other staff that they shouldn't send children to their rooms for the whole evening. Some staff would hint at that happening. I would tell them they shouldn't say that because it wasn't going to happen. I thought they should be given a time and that twenty minutes should be the most. Staff could then go and check that they were alright. They could come out earlier if they were okay.

119. Children might be sent to their rooms if they were annoying people. There was one boy who had learning disabilities. He would be sent to his room for ten minutes. A minute later, you would hear him say, "I'm out my huff now, can I come out?"

Restraint

120. The only training I can remember doing at Cardross was on how to restrain people. All the care staff took part. It might have been done unit by unit. Two people came down to show us the approved way of restraining people. One of them had been an officer in charge of a children's unit. I think the other person worked in a children's unit, but I can't recall. I think they had been on a course, teaching them how to do this and how to teach us to do it. I don't know how they were trained or where they were trained.
121. It was a one-day course. They showed us a video. They showed us how to do it and we were supposed to copy them. I can't remember whether the type of restraint we were taught had a name. You were supposed to try and sit the person down in front of you and take their arms behind their back.
122. Some of the children were bigger than the staff so it was quite difficult. Sometimes, I saw restraints end up with someone being put in their bed and people holding them down. I never saw what I would describe as excessive restraint. A lot of issues started in the dining room. You'd maybe see somebody getting dragged up the stairs. It was a case of the staff getting the child away from the dining room, so the other children weren't sitting, watching. You knew that it wasn't going to end properly.
123. I would maybe leave the dining room and go up the stairs after them. I used the theory that a new face coming into the situation might help. The member of staff could be angry. I would suggest to the member of staff that they should calm down, tell them to go away and leave the child with me. I would then ask the child what had happened and talk them quietly back down. That's what I did, but I don't know what others did. It wasn't a regular thing. It didn't happen every day. All the children knew me anyway because I usually saw them before they actually came into Cardross. I would meet

them when they came for a visit with their social worker. They would also see me at meetings and things like that.

124. Although staff could become angry and I felt like I needed to calm the situation down, I never saw a restraint that I thought was excessive. I never saw staff pressing on a child's neck or anything like that.

Concerns about the institution

125. There is only one occasion I can recall when concern was expressed about the care of children in Cardross. I can remember talking to a man at the district because there had been a big outcry about somewhere in England. I think it was something about the centre being locked down. The man from the district phoned up and asked what we called it in Cardross. He was just checking what our practice was rather than acting on any specific concern about Cardross. I told him that we didn't do that in Cardross. He said that was good.

126. I was never involved in any staff disciplinary process at Cardross. If somebody had made an allegation against a member of staff, the member of staff would have been spoken to, presumably by one of the management team. From that, a decision would be taken on whether to suspend them there and then. Enquiries would then continue. The management team would report up to the district of Dumbarton.

Reporting of complaints/concerns

127. If a child wished to report a concern or make a complaint, there was no reporting process in place other than they could speak to a member of staff. There was an admission's process for children. You would go through a list of what was going to be happening. It was better than just doing that. We tried to make children feel at home and feel at ease. We told them that they had nothing to worry about. They would already have been shown around, but we would ask them if they wanted to show their parents around. They could show them where they were going to be and which bedroom was going to be theirs. They were settled in a bit more than at Bellfield.

128. As part of that process, we would tell them that if they had any worries, any complaints or anything that they were unhappy about then they should talk to a member of staff. We would then let their social worker know. The kids all knew who I was. If I was up in their unit, I would likely be stopped and told all their complaints. They would say things like, "That dinner was rotten tonight." I would say that I'd had it too and it was lovely. I think that children did feel able to complain. I don't think they let much go by them.
129. I honestly don't think there were things going on that meant kids felt they couldn't raise concerns. It was surprising how well all the kids got on. There weren't really any gangs or things like that. Real complaints would have been recorded, but not somebody saying that they didn't like their dinner that night. If a child reported bullying or being hurt by another child, I would make a note of that. It would have been noted in the logbook for the unit and noted in the child's file. Social workers could access the child's file if they wanted to, as could the child's key worker.

Trusted adult/confidante

130. If a child didn't feel they could speak to a member of staff, they could speak to their social worker. They could also speak to family members. It was also amazing what kids would tell the cleaner in the unit. The cleaners were very good at letting the staff know what had been said.

Allegations of Abuse – Cardross

131. I don't recall a definition of abuse being introduced when I worked at Cardross. There were complaints about abuse, but I wasn't directly involved in them. They were in other units. I remember one case where a girl made a complaint about a member of staff. I don't know the exact details and whether it was physical abuse or something else. I know [REDACTED]. I don't know anything more about it than that. I can't remember the name of the girl nor the member of staff involved.

132. I did see behaviour that I would class as abuse in Cardross. I saw what I would describe as emotional abuse by staff towards kids. Some staff would say things like, "Who do you think you're talking to? I'm not your Da'." I never saw a member of staff physically strike a child or anything like that. No child ever reported abuse to me.
133. I really do think that if abuse was taking place, it would have come to light at or around the time it was occurring. It would be picked up if they were in Cardross over three weeks. We would encourage children to speak about things. If you were the child's key worker and you were writing a report about them, you would try and find out things about the child. You would ask them if there was anything that they were unhappy with or anything that could be changed.
134. It is possible that abuse could have gone undetected. I think there are always opportunities for abuse if people want to do that.

Child protection arrangements

135. In supervision with staff, we would certainly talk about how children in our care should be treated, cared for and protected. I don't think there was any written guidance about child protection. There were no instructions given to staff on how to handle complaints of abuse. I think I would remember if there had been. Staff were expected to report any complaints of abuse to the assessment officer or senior by the next day. They were told that at supervision sessions, which took place once a month. Things like child protection might be discussed at the weekly management meetings.
136. I remember one girl asking to speak to me in her room. I told her I'd come along with her to her room. I asked another member of staff to follow me. I didn't go in the room. I stood at her door. The other member of staff was behind me. The girl asked what I could do if she said that I had slapped her. I asked her why she would say that. She said if she wanted to, she could go down the next day and say that I'd slapped her. I asked the other member of staff if he had heard that. It was common sense. You shouldn't go into a girl's room on your own as a member of staff. I think there was awareness on the part of all the staff that you didn't do daft things like that.

External monitoring

137. I don't recall any inspectors visiting Cardross. We used to have quite a lot of groups that came down. Usually once a week, I would have a group of children's panel members visiting. We felt that it was important for them to know what we could do and what we couldn't do. The panel members sometimes spoke to the children. We would go up to the unit and tell the kids that there was a group of panel members visiting. We would ask if it was okay for them to look around the unit. We told them they could put their hands up if they wanted to show them their room. I made sure that I told them they could tell the panel members whatever they wanted. The visits from panel members happened quite regularly.

Record-keeping

138. Part of the senior assessment officer's job involved the subsum book. There was a logbook in every unit that everything went into. The senior assessment officer would go round and take out all the appointments from all the units. He would check who was due to see the doctor, who was going to a Children's Hearing. All the appointments for the day were put in that book. Staff would write in the logbook if anything in particular happened on the unit. They would write down any phone calls and visits that were received.
139. When it came to the afternoon shift, all the staff would come down and bring the logbook from their unit with them. Everything was taken by the senior on duty that evening and written in the subsum book. It meant that everybody knew what was happening throughout the centre.
140. Every unit had at least one filing cabinet. A lot of the files were on children who were due to come into Cardross. Staff members were assigned to specific children. They would update records for those children. I would go over that with them at supervision sessions. We would look at each child they had as key worker. The records might say things like, "I was talking to [REDACTED] today. He was telling me that he's never really got

on with his mum.” It was things like that. If a child had made a complaint of ill treatment, that would have been recorded in the child’s file.

141. If a child had been misbehaving, that would be noted in the unit logbook. If a social worker came to visit, it would also be noted in the logbook. It would have been noted elsewhere, but I can’t remember where.
142. We were lucky at Cardross in that we had clerical staff. They worked downstairs from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. They recorded minutes of all the staff meetings. The minutes would be typed up and kept in a folder. Minutes of assessment conferences were all typed up and kept in the child’s file. A copy would be sent to the children’s hearing. Sometimes, things were duplicated. Things written about kids in the unit might also be kept downstairs in their other file. I used to check records that were kept and I thought they were adequate. Before staff put reports in, I would read them. I would sometimes suggest they change something to make it a bit clearer.

Investigations into abuse – personal involvement

143. I was never involved in any investigations into abuse, ill-treatment or inappropriate behaviour by staff or others towards children. I was never involved in any civil claims made against Cardross by former residents.

Police investigations/criminal proceedings

144. I provided statements to the police after children had absconded, but not about any allegations of abuse. I don’t know of any member of staff at Cardross being convicted of the abuse of a child.
145. Earlier in my statement, I referred to my knowledge of a case where a girl made a complaint about a member of staff. I don’t know the exact details of what the member of staff was accused of doing. I think that the police were involved in that. I recall that [REDACTED]. I can’t remember the name of the

member of staff. He was suspended after the child made the allegation. I think the member of staff came back to Cardross after [REDACTED], but it wasn't for long. He left not long after that. That's all that I can remember about that. I wasn't involved in that investigation at all.

Other staff at Cardross

HWS [REDACTED]

146. HWS [REDACTED] was a younger member of staff at Cardross. I can't remember having anything to do with him. He wasn't there right at the beginning of Cardross. I honestly don't know when he arrived. He was an assistant assessment officer. I knew of him, but I'm not sure that I ever worked with him. I'm trying to remember whether he was in the unit that I worked in.

147. I think I would have seen HWS [REDACTED] with the children when he was walking them over to school. His interactions with them seemed fine. I never saw him discipline or abuse a child. I never heard of him abusing a child.

GPG [REDACTED]

148. GPG [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] at Cardross when it first opened. I first met him when they were preparing to open and there was a fire at Bellfield. I liked GPG [REDACTED]. I thought that his ideas were good. I think he was roughly the same age as me. He was part of [REDACTED] so I didn't see much of him interacting with children.

GPH [REDACTED]

149. I've never heard the name GPH [REDACTED]. It doesn't mean anything to me.

Allegations that have been made to the Inquiry about me – Cardross

KIE

150. KIE has given a statement to the Inquiry. At paragraph 87 of his statement, he has stated:

"HWM was just always there. He was always at my back. I couldn't turn anywhere without him being there. One night, I woke up to somebody in my bed touching me. I turned around and HWM was running out the door. I felt fuzzy headed that time and didn't know what had happened. It was quite late in the day and I wondered how I had been able to sleep that long. I don't remember him giving me a drink that time so I don't know how it would have happened."

He goes on to state at paragraph 88:

"There were a couple of times in Cardross where I felt like I had been drugged after I woke up because I felt all fuzzy headed, but I can't connect it to any other incidents."

I did not act in that manner towards a child. What has been alleged is nonsense. It never happened. I'm just wondering where the night staff would have been. I wouldn't have been able to wander around the place on my own. It's not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollection. I cannot explain why these things have been said. I accept that it would be abuse if a child had been treated in the way he has described.

151. At paragraph 89, KIE has stated:

"There was a priest seminary or retreat thing round the back of Cardross. It was a building that was walking distance from Cardross when you went out the back. HWM

HWM took me and KJA there for a walk a couple of times, just the three of us. I never went inside the building and nothing happened to me there but I think it did to

KJA Both times we went, a priest came out and took KJA away inside for a while, and HWM took me for a walk, showing me around the building. Then a

couple of hours later, KJA came back out and we all walked back to Cardross together. I remember KJA never said a word the whole way back."

He goes on to state at paragraph 90:

"I saw the building years later on TV on a programme and someone was talking about the architecture of it so it must have been a recognised or registered building."

I have never behaved in such a way towards a child. What has been alleged did not happen. St. Peter's Seminary in Cardross closed in 1980. Everybody moved out of there and went to a new building in Newlands. I was never back in St. Peter's after I left the seminary in 1978, either before it moved or after it moved. I just never went back. The boys were never there. I just don't get it. It was a good half hour's walk from Cardross up to St. Peter's Seminary. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of these events. I can't explain why these things have been alleged. I accept that it would have been abuse if a child was treated in this way.

HWL

152. HWL has given a statement to the Inquiry. At paragraph 51 of his statement, he has stated:

"There was one member of staff who would hang about the shower area when you came out of the shower. His name was HWM. He would point out that you hadn't washed your ankles, and he would go back into the shower room with you and make sure you washed to his satisfaction. I remember my sister saying that he had a reputation as being a "perv". His nickname was HWM. Personally he never touched me, but he just watched you having a shower."

I don't recall HWL at all. I honestly don't think I ever worked with him or anything. I just can't place him. I did not sanction or punish children in such a way. I did not abuse HWL. What he has alleged never happened. I'm not interested in people's ankles or anything else. It is not possible that the passage of time has affected my recollection. I would have remembered that. I can't explain why these things have been said. I would accept that it would be abuse if a child was treated in the way he has described.

153. At paragraph 52, HWL has stated:

"On one occasion HWM told me that I hadn't washed properly. I had to go back into the shower. One of the other boys was sent in with me. I think that he had been sent

by the staff to give me a doing. It backfired on them, as I managed to get the boy down and ensure that he didn't attack me again."

He goes on to state at paragraph 53:

"There is no doubt in my mind that this had been orchestrated by the staff. I can't remember the boy's name, but I did run into him in later life at college. He wasn't a very big bloke, and I was terrified that he would remember what had happened. He just shook my hand. I wasn't doing what I was told by the staff and this was the reason that the bully was sent in to sort me out."

I did not sanction or punish children in such a way. I never did what has been alleged and I was not involved in any way. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what is alleged. I can't explain why these things have been said. I accept that it was abuse if a child was treated in the way he has described.

154. **HWL** has stated at paragraph 55:

*"They used to take me into my room and give me a bit of a hiding. **HWS** would force you onto the bed. He would put a pillow over your face and then put a metal watch strap on his knuckles. He would punch you in the face. **HWM** would keep watch at the door. They only did this to stop me from crying. I don't know what effect they thought it would have when they started hitting me."*

He goes on to state at paragraph 56:

*"The first time the staff set about me my sister came into the room because she could hear me screaming. **HWM** hadn't shut the door properly. They told her that if she said a word to anyone about what was happening she was "fucking next"."*

He goes on to state at paragraph 57:

"During the beating they told me that I didn't have a mother or father any more. In my eyes, they wanted me to think that my parents were dead and they were now my new family. It was very upsetting."

He goes on to state at paragraph 58:

*"I was not marked or bruised from the beating I took because he used the pillow to prevent any scars. He had me trapped on the bed. **HWS** was a fully grown man and I was a little boy."*

I did not punish or sanction children in such a way. I was not involved in anything like that in all my time at Cardross and I feel sorry for **HWL** if he was a wee

boy. The passage of time has not affected my recollection. I cannot explain why these things have been said. If a child was treated in the way he has described then I accept that it would have been abuse.

155. HWL [REDACTED] has stated at paragraph 60:

"My uncle had not long died and I had been given a lot of memorabilia about Celtic Football Club which was all I had belonging to him. HWM [REDACTED] and HWS [REDACTED] took it off the walls and ripped it all up in front of me. They told me that if I started behaving myself I would be allowed to put the things onto the board on the wall. This was meant for any stuff you wanted to display in your room. I was very upset about this it was needless."

I never sanctioned or punished a child in such a way. He has the wrong end of the stick if he thinks I would tear up Celtic stuff. It did not happen. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what is alleged. I cannot explain why these things have been said. I accept that it would be abuse if a child was treated in the way he has described.

156. HWL [REDACTED] has stated at paragraph 61:

"Some days the staff would come to you at eleven in the morning and tell you that it was okay to go home for the day. This only left you a window of about three hours to visit home and be back in time. In order to save time I would take a short cut across a field. HWM [REDACTED] would watch you running through the field and then shout on you to come back. He would tell you that you had been trespassing on private land and must write 5000 times "I must not trespass" before I was allowed to go. It was too late by then. It was all mind games."

I did not punish or sanction children in such a way. What he has alleged did not happen, not with me. I have no recollection of people going home at 11:00 am and having to come back or anything related to that. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what has been alleged. I cannot explain why these things have been said. It would have been abuse if a child had been treated in the way he described.

Allegations that have been made to the Inquiry about me – aftercare

KIE

157. KIE has given a statement to the Inquiry. He has stated at paragraph 94: *"I was still seeing HWM about once a week after I left Cardross because he told me I was still under supervision. He would tell me where to meet him, which was usually in a café in Dumbarton or something. It wasn't in a social work office. When I would get there, he would give me a spiel about how I needed to spend some time with him so he could write up my social work notes to say that I was doing ok. Then he would push me to go the pub and encourage me to have a drink. The same thing as before would happen. I would pass out and wake up the next day even if I just had a soft drink."*

I did not behave in such a way towards children. What has been alleged never happened. I never told KIE that he was still on supervision or anything like that.

158. When KIE left Cardross, we gave him the usual spiel and told him to get in touch if he had any problems. He phoned and told me that he was to go to court having been charged with a police assault. At the end of the court case, he was let off. I'd arranged a lawyer for him. The Sheriff told him that he had been lucky, that he needed to wise up and to keep in touch with his social work pals. I asked the lawyer what that meant because the Sheriff hadn't imposed any kind of order. The lawyer said that it was just a quiet thing.

159. KIE would phone me and ask if I wanted to go on a wee run. I would tell him that I was working, but that we could do it another time. That was it. I just don't understand where all of this is coming from. Where do you get drugs? I don't know. I've never touched drugs in my life. I hardly drink. None of these things ever happened. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what is alleged. I accept that drugging children would be abuse.

160. At paragraph 96, KIE has stated:

HWM [REDACTED] would come and find me in my area, where I lived, to check up on me, or so he would say. Other boys who I was mucking about with would ask who he was and I would say he was my social worker. They thought it was weird that he was hanging about. One time he got a motorbike and was offering me a shot of his motorbike. He was just doing anything to keep me on side because he knew I liked motorbikes. He would let me ride it and get on the back. One time we went to Kibble to see KJA [REDACTED]. I waited outside while he went in. He made out it was a supervision thing but I don't know."

He goes on to state at paragraph 97:

"I know for a fact now that there was no social work order saying I needed to report to anyone. No order saying I had to go to a café or to a pub with HWM [REDACTED]. He was just telling me that there was and I was naïve enough to believe him. I didn't want to see him but I thought if I didn't go, I would get arrested and go to jail."

I did not behave in such a way. That allegation is not true. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of these events. I really can't explain why these allegations have been made. If a child was treated in such a way then it would be abuse.

161. KIE [REDACTED] has stated at paragraph 98:

HWM [REDACTED] told me he wanted to take me to Rome for a trip to help the handicapped kids. This must have been around the summertime after I turned sixteen. My grandad died and it was his funeral, so I had a good excuse not to go with him. He told me it was better that I went to Rome with him so I wouldn't get into trouble while he was away, but I said I couldn't miss my grandad's funeral. He said that he would get the Pope to say a mass for him. He went and spoke to my mum and somehow managed to convince her that this trip to Rome would be good for me, and she agreed for me to miss my grandad's funeral and go with him to Rome. She probably thought it was a good thing for me because I had never been out of the country before. I don't know how he got away with that. Looking back, this was nothing to do with the authorities but him making stuff up."

He goes on to state at paragraph 99:

"I was taken to Rome in June or July in the summer of 1980. I remember it being really, really hot. We didn't meet any handicapped kids, no Pope, nothing. It was all lies. I

tried to stay away from him but it was just the two of us in a hotel room together. We were there for about ten days.”

He goes on to state at paragraph 100:

“He knew other people there who he met up with but I don’t know who they were because he never introduced me to them. They might have been people he knew from when he was in the church. I think he had been to Rome before in his church days.”

He goes on to state at paragraph 101:

“The same thing would happen while we were there, I’d pass out and wake up the next day, not sure what was happening and a bit sore. I would then not play along and refuse to have a drink and then he would get angry and agitated because I wasn’t playing along. I had to get away from him so I ran away. I had no money and nowhere to go. The police caught me because I was walking around alone at night. They couldn’t speak English and couldn’t understand me so took me to the police station. I was telling them I wanted to go home but they took me back to the hotel to HWM HWM”

He goes on to state at paragraph 102:

“When I came back from Rome, I had decided that I’d had enough. He got in touch and asked me to report to see him. I never went and thought I was going to get in trouble, and just waited to see what would happen. Nothing happened. I never heard from him again and that’s how it all ended.”

I want to explain that I went to Rome every year. I would maybe take a group with me, like the domestic staff in Cardross. That particular year, I was going to Rome but I was not going with anyone. I had a friend in Rome who ran a hotel. We could get there for next to nothing. That was why I thought I might as well just go.

162. I asked KIE if he’d like to come to Rome. I did not phone him and tell him to meet me, in Dumbarton or anywhere else. He phoned me. He was quite happy. I had bought a motorbike to get up and down to Cardross with. Before we went to Rome, I spoke to his mother about it. She said something about his dad needing to agree as well. They were separated. KIE took me up to his dad’s. I asked his dad and he said yes.

163. We went to Rome and stayed at my friend [REDACTED]'s hotel. We stayed in the same room but there were two separate beds. KIE [REDACTED] never ran away anywhere. He was never brought back to the hotel by police. I'm sure the Carabinieri keep their records as well. I do know Rome very well. I know it better than Glasgow, but it never happened. The passage of time has not affected my recollection of what is alleged. I cannot explain why these things are being said. If a child was treated in the manner described then it would have been abuse. There was no further communication from KIE [REDACTED] after Rome. He never phoned me or asked to come and see me. Therefore I didn't get involved anymore.

Leaving Cardross

164. I left Cardross around 1999. We knew by then that Cardross was going to close. There was a new assessment unit being built in Glasgow. I was moving there along with the depute officer in charge. It was going to be an assessment unit as opposed to just a childcare unit. It was in the east of Glasgow, but I can't remember what it was called. My role was to be depute officer in charge, but I was the acting officer in charge when I first went there. Most of the other staff at Cardross went to other children's units. I shut the door on Cardross on its last day.
165. Shortly after Cardross closed, I was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia. I was treated at Gartnavel Hospital for six months. When I went back to work, the department was frightened something might happen with the rougher elements. They moved me to headquarters, where I was given the job of trying to find beds for people and things like that. The doctor wasn't happy about me going up to Glasgow every day. I was then retired on grounds of ill health. I didn't require any references after my retirement.

Other complaints/allegations

166. I have never been subject of any other complaints about the alleged abuse of children in either Bellfield or Cardross.

Response to allegations of abuse

167. The only explanation I have for why these allegations have been made against me is compensation. It's all I can think of. I am aware that the Inquiry has heard that abuse children experienced in institutions has continued to impact on their lives. There was no abuse in the unit that I was working in. I can't explain it because it never happened.

Helping the Inquiry

168. I think there must be a vetting system for staff. There must be training immediately on all aspects of childcare. There must be nobody coming in because somebody gives them the nod. Staff must go through the proper interviews. There must be proper references. There must be a lot more attention given to people's personal skills and their skills in working with children.

169. 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 June 2024