

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IBA [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is IBA [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1965. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Newmains, Lanarkshire. My parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I was one of seven children, including my step-sister, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was the eldest. He's now in his eighties so he's quite a lot older than me. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were also a lot older than me. The only siblings close in age to me were [REDACTED], who is about a year older than me, and [REDACTED], who is four years older than me.
3. We lived in the village of Newmains. My mother worked in a factory and my father was a miner. As I was getting older, the pits were starting to close. I can only remember my father going to the pit when I was younger. Later on, he was made redundant from the pit during the strikes.
4. I wouldn't say we had the best of things when I was growing up. Most of my brothers had left home or were told to leave home when they reached a certain age. [REDACTED] always lived at home with my mother and father, but other than him it was just me and [REDACTED]. The odd brother would come back now and again if he had fallen out with his wife or whatever. He might stay for a few days and then my father would force him

to go back to where he had come from. His view was that they had made their bed so they had to go and lie in it.

5. I went to St. Brigid's Primary School in Newmains and then St. Aidan's Secondary School in Wishaw. I didn't go to secondary school for long. I was pushed towards social services because I wouldn't go to school. I hadn't been keen on primary school either, but when they started teaching French lessons and things like that it got worse. I didn't think French was going to do much good for a boy from Newmains, not in the frame of mind I was in when I was young. I was more mechanically minded as a boy. The only subject we got like that at school was woodwork.
6. I think I had a few other problems as well, but I don't know what they are. My partner has a son who was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Looking back, I wonder if I had something like that. Before I went into care, I was taken to Glasgow by my father to get checked out by somebody. I'm not sure where we went but it was in a big circle and looked out onto some posh buildings. The man showed me pictures and asked me what they meant. My father said when I went in to see the man I should make out that I didn't know anything. He was the instigator of a lot of things.
7. I wouldn't have been put into St. Andrew's if my father had stood up for me. I'd been in a lot of trouble at school, but I never did the thing that got me sent to St. Andrew's. I'd only been in trouble with the police on a few occasions, for driving a vehicle twice and, when I was about twelve, I picked up some lead lying at the side of the road and took it to the scrapyard. The police were at the scrapyard when we took it in and I was charged with theft by finding.
8. I went before the Children's Panel at Motherwell Civic Centre. The Panel sent me to social services. I had been sent to Robertson Street social work office once or twice before that. After the Panel, I would go every Friday. It was just to communicate with people there. I would get to play pool and get something for my tea.
9. I had a paper round in Newmains which I got from my brother, [REDACTED]. I built his round up from 40 papers to about 450. I would go around every pub in Newmains selling

papers. We lived back-to-back with [REDACTED]'s scrapyard. One night, I was walking past the scrapyard to the convent. I used to deliver papers there as well. I saw [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who were cousins of mine. They were firing stones into [REDACTED]'s scrapyard. I asked them what they were doing that for and they said that they were trying to find out if there were dogs in the yard. I told them they should be worried about [REDACTED] and not the dogs. I said that if he got a hold of them he'd snap them in two. They told me that he was at the pub with his girlfriend and that they wanted to go in and steal a car.

10. They said that I'd fit through a gap in the fence. Like an idiot, I went through the gap and asked them what they wanted. They told me to have a look and see if there were any keys in any vehicles. The only vehicle that had a key in it was a Land Rover recovery vehicle. They told me to turn it on and see what happened. I turned the key and the ignition light came on. I left it at that and I walked back out. I said that I was going to the Rowan Tree Bar to deliver my papers and then I was going home.
11. As I walked down to the Rowan Tree, I heard such a clatter. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had got into the yard and reversed the Land Rover straight out of the gates. As they were coming down the hill, [REDACTED] pulled over and offered me a lift. I knew I shouldn't get into the Land Rover but I was stupid enough to get in. I thought [REDACTED] was going to drop me off at home but he didn't. He just kept going. He drove all around the housing estate and then he went into the country roads round about. He was driving like a lunatic. The next thing, he saw a farmer's gate and flew into a field. There was a big mound of soil which he drove over. The vehicle was so heavy that it nose-dived into the floor. [REDACTED] went into the windscreen and burst his head and arm. [REDACTED] burst his arm. I was alright because I was sitting in the passenger side.
12. We got out of the vehicle and I said to [REDACTED] that I had had enough. I said I didn't even know where I was. He said that I'd have to stay with them and they'd take me back home. [REDACTED] then said that we'd have to set fire to the vehicle to get rid of the fingerprints. Little did I know, my newspaper bag was still in the cab. The vehicle was burnt out. The police found my newspaper bag with my name on it. They said to my father that they knew I was there. The police said that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had been seen by people driving the vehicle. They knew that I hadn't driven the vehicle and they

wanted me to turn Queen's evidence against the other two. My father told the police that there were no grasses in his house and to get out. That was it. My father wouldn't listen to my story.

13. My father didn't want me to go against [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. When we went to the Sheriff Court in Hamilton, he told me not to worry. He said that we'd get the best lawyer, like Joseph Beltrami. My father was a gambler. From what I heard, he got money from all of the family to pay for a solicitor and gambled half of it. I got an understudy to represent me. When the case went to trial, the judge asked my lawyer if he was going to ask any questions in my defence. The lawyer said he was just listening to everything because he was taking it back to Mr Beltrami. Mr Beltrami was at a case at the High Court in Glasgow. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] gave evidence and I was told to keep my mouth shut. I was told that Mr Beltrami would sort it all out when he came back from the High Court. That didn't happen.
14. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got off scot free and I was found guilty. The Sheriff sentenced me to eighteen months, until I turned sixteen. My mother and father wouldn't go to court but my brother, [REDACTED], was there. I later found out that he asked for permission to give a letter to the judge. I don't know what the letter said. My parents were Catholic so it might have been asking for me to be sent to a Catholic home. I was put in Longriggend until they could find somewhere for me to go. The judge told me that and I was also told that when I arrived at Longriggend. I was then taken downstairs to the cells in the court.
15. I was taken to Longriggend from the court. I was in a kind of bus with other boys. I felt numb. I didn't know how it could have happened. How could [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stand there with that on their consciences? They even admitted to my brothers and sisters that they had been at the scrapyard to steal a car and I had just been unlucky enough to pass by while I was doing my newspapers.

## **Longriggend Remand Centre, Lanarkshire**

16. I was fourteen and a half when I went to Longriggend. It was [REDACTED] 1979. When I was in the cells at the Sheriff Court, I asked the officer where I was going. He said that I was going to Alcatraz. It wasn't until years later that I learned Alcatraz was a prison in America. Apparently, Longriggend was similar to Alcatraz. There was no escaping and there was nothing round about. It didn't matter how high you went, you couldn't see anything. The only thing you could see was the row of houses that led into the prison.
17. I was there for about three to four weeks. It was out in the sticks. There were houses which were for prison officers. It looked like a prison inside and it had cell doors and landings. Although I was in the section for younger boys, it was the same basic routine as everybody else. I found life strange there. I was in a prison.
18. All I could do was watch what everyone else was doing and follow them. If someone came out of their cell with a cup, I would know that was when you went for your breakfast. It was a matter of picking someone out and relying upon them to show me what to do and what the process was. Unless I was going to school or something like that, I was locked up for 23 hours a day. There were about ten to fifteen boys on the wing of the floor that I was on. There were only two wings at Longriggend. I don't know how many people were on the other wing. In a place like that, you didn't get to wander around. You went where the officers told you to go.

### **Routine at Longriggend Remand Centre**

#### *First day*

19. As soon as I arrived at the prison, I was given a letter, a pen and a piece of paper. The officers closed the cell door and told me to write a letter to let people know where I was. My family must have received the letter because my sister came to visit me.

### *General Routine*

20. I had a cell to myself. Sometimes the cell door would be open but most of the time it was closed. I had to use a piss-pot and slop out all the time. We were woken up in the morning and we had to slop out. We then went back into our cells. You had to sign your razor in and out. We tidied up our cell and then we went for breakfast. After breakfast, we were locked back up in our cells again unless we were going to class. After classes, we were taken to lunch and then back to our cells. We were locked up again and that was it most of the time.
21. You would line up in a corridor and go for your dinner. You stood at your cell door for your cup of tea and rock bun, which they gave you for your supper. That was it and your door was closed. We were locked up until the next morning except to slop out at night-time. The only time you saw any other part of the prison was when they sent you to the classroom or if you got a visit.
22. The prison officers decided who went to class. It must have been due to your age. I went to classes, but I didn't go for long. I was only there for three or four weeks. I can't remember much about the classes. I was more worried about who knew that I was there. When you were taken away from court, they didn't tell your parents anything.
23. We didn't get any exercise or leisure time. If we weren't at meals or in class, we were just sitting in our cells. I found out that you could get one of those little square radios with the button on the side and I applied for that. By the time I got the radio in and the prison officers had checked the radio to make sure that there was nothing in it, I was leaving Longriggend. I gave it to a lad in a cell down from mine because he had nothing. That was what you did in prison. If you had stuff leftover from the tuckshop or canteen, you would pass it on to a new lad coming in or a mate. If they didn't use it, they would pass it on too.

### *Discipline*

24. If someone kicked off, we would hear the screws shouting 'lockdown'. We knew that someone had kicked off somewhere. The screws would have to go there so we would be locked down until they sorted out the problem.

### **Abuse at Longriggend Remand Centre**

25. There were two boys in Longriggend who had been sentenced for murdering a boy on the railway in Glasgow with ice-picks. They were on the same landing as me. They kept kicking off. Some lad shouted to them to shut up and they must have thought it was me. One morning, I went into the toilets and was confronted by one of the boys. He had a plastic cup and he had bitten all the edges off it. He stuck it in my face and my face was injured.

### **Reporting of abuse whilst at Longriggend Remand Centre**

26. After I was attacked with the plastic cup, the screws asked me about my injury. In those kind of places you keep your mouth shut or you just make things worse. I didn't say anything. My sister, [REDACTED], came to visit. She asked me what had happened to my face and I told her what had happened. She asked me where the boy was and I pointed him out. She dived across all the tables and grabbed him by the throat. She ended up getting kicked out of the prison.

### **Leaving Longriggend Remand Centre**

27. I said to the officers that I was supposed to be going somewhere else. They told me that I had to bide my time and they were still looking for somewhere suitable to place me. One day, the officers came into my cell and told me to pack my stuff up because I was moving out that day. I got my own clothes back and I took everything else back to the laundry. I was taken by two prison officers to St. Andrew's School. I didn't know where

I was. I didn't even know it was called St. Andrew's. All I was told was that they'd found somewhere suitable for me and the two officers would take me there. I can remember looking out of the car window, not knowing.

### **St. Andrew's School, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire**

28. I was still fourteen when I went to St. Andrew's. It was in the countryside. It was a big building with turrets, in its own grounds and with a big driveway leading up to it. The headmaster's office was in the main building on the ground floor. There was an office, a little congregation room, a staff office, a dining room and a recreation room on the ground floor, and the front and the back stairs. The dormitories were upstairs. There were workshops on the grounds.
29. There were about twelve or thirteen boys at St. Andrew's when I was there. It felt like there were more boys at St. Andrew's because the place was haunted. You would hear children running about at night time. You'd hear them laughing and crying and you'd hear adults talking. I think the youngest boy was maybe ten or eleven. There were lads who were older than me. I think the oldest boy was about fifteen or sixteen. I don't know which organisation ran the school. I think it was a Catholic school because it had Saint in its name. There was a lot of talk about the Nazareth Project. We were going to be put into different homes and different projects scattered all over Scotland.

#### *Staff at St Andrew's School*

30. SNR [REDACTED] was Mr IBB [REDACTED]. I can't remember the names of any of the other staff. In the school, there was a female teacher who died. We called her 'Miss'. She taught in the classroom. She was in her late thirties or early forties. She had dirty blonde hair and was well-built. There was a little man who took us for gym and swimming. I called him "the little fella". There was an older fellow who I used to call IBC [REDACTED]. He was in his fifties and had black and grey stringy hair. He always wore a cardigan and corduroy pants. His breath stank of cigarette smoke. He ranked higher than Miss and the little fella so I think he might have been SNR [REDACTED].



31. There were other staff as well. There was a great guy who worked in the carpentry workshop. It was very rare that you saw him in the school itself. There was another fellow with a big beard who worked in the workshop next to the carpentry one. He did engineering and we built canoes in his workshop.
32. I think some of the staff lived at the school. A member of staff would stay at the school overnight until the next morning. It was normally Miss, the little fella or IBC. I only remember the guy from the joiners doing it once.

### **Routine at St. Andrew's School**

#### *First day*

33. When I saw the building and the big turrets I thought it was beautiful and it looked great. I was taken into SNR office. Mr IBB told the two officers that they could go and he would take it from there. He said that they would give me something to settle me down and go from there. I was put out into the hallway and given something to drink. I don't know who gave me the drink but it wasn't SNR. I can't remember getting something to eat. The next morning, I woke up in a bed. I was told that I had to get up and that there were clothes at the bottom of the bed. They told me that I had to get ready and follow the other boys down the stairs.
34. When I woke up in the morning, my arms were tucked in so I couldn't get them back out. I didn't understand how I could have gone to bed and had all the blankets up to my neck, covering my arms. How could I have been tucked in by myself? I was wearing pyjamas and I had no recollection of getting changed. There were good things and bad things that happened at St. Andrew's and there were things that I couldn't explain. I never spoke to the other boys about my first night.

#### *Mornings/bedtime*

35. The dormitories were upstairs. There were six beds along each side of the dormitory that I was in. There was another dormitory further along, but I don't know how many boys were in that one. We didn't go into any other dormitories. When we left our own

dormitory, we went straight downstairs. We had a bed and a cupboard each. We kept our clothes in the cupboard.

36. In the morning, we were woken up by the staff member on duty. It was early at about 7:00 am. We got dressed and then we got washed at a row of sinks. The sinks and showers were downstairs. We had breakfast and then we went into the office where we were told our tasks for the day. If you were on the milk round then you were up earlier in the morning. The staff made a decision about who would do what.
37. We went to bed quite early at 8:00 or 9:00 pm. Nobody had a problem with bedwetting to my knowledge. On one occasion, I had been bitten in the face by an insect whilst working at a golf course. I woke up during the night and my face was burning and swollen up. There was a toilet and a sink across from the dormitory. I ran the sink full of cold water and put my face in it. About three or four minutes later I heard someone coming up the stairs. The bathroom door opened and IBC was standing there. The first thing I thought was that I didn't need that. He told me to do what I needed to do and that they'd try and get me to a doctor the next day. He patted me on the back and he just walked away.

#### *Mealtimes/food*

38. We got a lot of porridge to eat. We also got things like fish fingers and chips. The food was alright. I think I tasted a cheeseburger for the first time in my life at St. Andrew's. I was getting home for a visit and they allowed people going home two cheeseburgers. I can still taste that cheeseburger.

#### *Washing and bathing*

39. We had a shower at night time. I dreaded shower time because of IBC. There was a shower night every Thursday. Everybody got a shower, whether they liked it or not. Other than that, you got a shower if you were out doing a dirty job. There was a row of showers and we didn't have any privacy. The little fella would sometimes supervise the showers. He was alright. The carpenter supervised us once and that was fine. Miss never came into the showers.

40. IBC would always come into the showers. The water was hot, but IBC would turn the hot water off if he thought that you'd been in long enough. There was a hot knob and a cold knob by the door. He would turn the hot off and leave the cold on so you had to get out of the shower.

#### *Clothing*

41. The school provided our clothes. We were given pyjamas and donkey jackets with leather patches. I bought a donkey jacket after I left the school because I thought it was such a good jacket. We had black work pants and boots, and we wore a t-shirt. We had a change of clothes, but I'm not sure how often we got that. We did get to wear our own clothes when we were allowed out for a visit. Our own clothes had been taken off us when we arrived at the school. I later found out that was because if you absconded and you had your own clothes then you would fit in with everybody else. We were only allowed to wear school clothes so we could be picked out from everybody else if we absconded.

#### *Schooling*

42. I was put into classes first and Miss taught the class that I went into. The lessons were reading, writing, sums, and that kind of stuff. It was as if they were trying to find out what your basic knowledge was. When I had been there for about two or three weeks, Miss told me to write a letter and she would post it for me. She asked me if I had any concerns about anybody and to write the letter to someone who would remember it for years to come. I wrote the letter to my nephew [redacted] who is my sister [redacted]'s boy because he was the only person that I worried about.
43. When I was in class, there was a little lad in the same classroom as me. There was a partition in the classroom and the little lad was always standing there. He seemed to take to me and he wouldn't go near anybody else. It wasn't till I'd left the class and gone to work the workshops that I asked Miss how the little lad was doing. She said that he had moved on to his forever home.

### *Work/chores*

44. I was told that I had to go into the workshops because I had more than enough knowledge compared to the lads who were already in the class. Some boys were put into the engineering workshop where they made canoes. Other lads were given different jobs to do. I was put into the carpentry workshop. The staff made that decision although I think I had mentioned that I liked woodwork at school.
45. The teacher in the carpentry workshop overheard me talking to another boy. I said that I was working in the joinery shop. The teacher said that it wasn't joinery because joiners joined stuff, but we made things. We made furniture and everything we made was stamped with a red rose. It went to a shop in Helensburgh to be sold. The profits would then go back to the school, but we didn't get paid for the work we did.
46. I loved it in the workshop. I was taught how to change blades on band saws and use mortice machines and chisels. I was taught how to make tables and jewellery boxes, and how to sand something down and then put coats of varnish on so it shone like a piece of glass. I learned all sorts of things. We had to put wood into a machine at night-time to sweat it. We could then bend it and make the arms for armchairs. It was my kind of stuff and it's still who I am today. I even made my own joiner's box and the carpenter gave me some of his old tools to put in it. The box was left in the school when I left St. Andrew's.
47. After breakfast, we were told what we were doing that day. The school had a list of jobs that they needed done and we were separated into groups. We might be in the workshop, doing the gardening or something else. I was usually in the carpentry workshop. We worked all day until about 4:00 pm, although we stopped for lunch. Later on in my time at St. Andrew's, I got jobs to do on the driveway. The edging had to be perfect and we had to cut the hedges at the front. If anybody came in a car, we weren't allowed to look at them.
48. We did jobs to help the local community. The staff decided on who did which job. We delivered milk, cut up wood and tidied up gardens for old people in the community. The school sent the boys who were trusted and wouldn't just do a runner. We didn't

get paid for it. The school had a blue van that was used for a multitude of things. The little fella drove the van if we were doing the milk round. Milk was dropped off at the school and we delivered it to old people's houses. We were told to pick the bottles up one by one so we didn't click them. It was early in the morning and we had to try not to wake the old people up. I'd already delivered milk as a young boy.

49. I was taken to a house that was in a row of houses out in the countryside. The little fella took me there and left me overnight. There had been damage done to the back garden in the winds. I had to clean up the garden and carry all the wood and rubbish through the house. I put it at the roadside for the van to pick it up. It was taken back to the school and all the wood was cut up. It was then distributed to anybody who needed it.
50. One day, I was up on the roof of the carpentry workshop. It was just like a shed so it wasn't that high. I went up there to get away from everybody and I wouldn't come down. I had toothache and I couldn't be bothered talking to anybody. They told me that they were sorting out a dentist for me. The guy who ran the carpentry workshop was alright. He told me to go to the cook and tell him that I'd come down for the Scotch pies for the carpentry shop. I thought it would keep my mind occupied and went to the kitchen. I asked the cook for the tray of Scotch pies. He started laughing at me. He said I should go back and tell the carpenter that there were no Scotch pies for anybody, especially the joiner.
51. We did some chores in the school and we swept the place up. We went cockroach hunting during the day but we wouldn't find them. As soon as it turned dark then you didn't have to go far. They were crunching under your feet as you walked down the stairs.

#### *Leisure time*

52. We had some recreation time after tea. There was a pool room with seats around it but I can't remember there being very much to do. There were books around but no games or anything that I can remember. We had recreation up until bed-time. I watched lads who fished for Moray eels in the loch. We weren't allowed to go near the

people fishing but we were allowed to watch them. When it got dark, we had to go back to the school. If we were left in the school at the weekend then we didn't get out.

53. The only other activity we did was running along the side of the beach. We went down the road that led into the school and across the road. There was a stony beach along the loch-side. We ran along that and then across the road again. We ran back towards the school and right round the school, all the way back down the road again and crossed over. We did that two or three times for exercise. Everybody had to do it. The staff sometimes built a fire and put a potato in it. After you had done your exercise you sat by the fire and ate your baked potato. It was just a plain potato with no salt or anything on it.
54. We didn't play football at the school itself, but we did do things like that at the Faslane Naval Base. If you went past the school and kept going you reached Faslane Naval Base. You couldn't get into the naval base itself, but you could get into the camp. It was well-equipped. It had a swimming pool, football pitch and a running track. We were taken there for four-by-four relays, football matches and swimming. The little fella took us in the school van. We got changed into our running gear in the back of the van. I went there twice to play five-aside football and twice for athletics.
55. I got really into swimming at Faslane and I went there more than other boys for that. There was an Australian lad who was a coach. He trained us in nine different disciplines to become lifeguards. I got the bronze medallion for life-saving and my photograph was in the [REDACTED]. Mr <sup>IBB</sup>[REDACTED] was there along with a few other older gentlemen. The older gentlemen never came to the school so I don't know whether they were sponsors or something else.
56. There was a blonde boy who passed the lifeguard test with me. He never spoke much. We had the chance to swim the Gair Loch. I think it was for charity or something. I only got so far across but he managed to finish it.

### *Personal possessions*

57. We were allowed to have our own soap, shower gel, shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. My mum went to Wishaw and bought me these things when I was home for a visit. She asked me what boys had in there that I didn't have. I told her that I didn't have any shampoo and I had been using soap. It wasn't until I was in the shower at the school that I realised she'd brought me conditioner instead of shampoo. I had to use the soap to wash the conditioner off because my hair was all greasy. I kept my toiletries in the cupboard next to my bed. Nobody stole things from you or anything like that. We didn't get any money.

### *Peers*

58. I got on alright with the other boys at St. Andrew's, but I tried to keep myself to myself. I had always been that kind of person. There was a certain regime but it was a lot softer than Longriggend or Glenochil. The only lad who spoke was a black lad called [REDACTED]. He was about fifteen or sixteen and was the oldest boy there. He had been there long before me and he knew all the ins and outs of the place. He had [REDACTED] hair and he had a comb for it. He would go ballistic if somebody hid the comb or if he lost a tooth on it. He flung chairs around and had to be calmed down by the staff.
59. [REDACTED] was an instigator. He tried to pick on everyone that he could pick on, so he could be top dog. He tried to get the better of me but it didn't work out for him. [REDACTED] and I had a fight in the toilet. He tried to pick on me in the toilet and I pinned him down. I wouldn't let him back up. I told him that if I let him back up and he started again then it would be worse for him the next time. I was a well-built lad and I'd been carrying coal in open-cast mines for at least two years before I went into the home. [REDACTED] did the running and he made out that he was the fastest until I ran past him. He seemed to take to me after that.
60. The only other time that I got into trouble with [REDACTED] was when we were let out on a visit at the same time. We were dropped off at Helensburgh Station. When we got to Glasgow, I had missed my train to Motherwell. [REDACTED] asked me if I wanted to go to his house. His parents were both [REDACTED]. When we got to his house, his father

went ballistic. He was speaking in his own language and I couldn't understand what he was saying. I didn't like it so I left. [REDACTED] walked me to the road that went back up to the train station. I asked [REDACTED] what had been going on. [REDACTED] said that his father didn't like him bringing anybody to the house unless he knew that they were coming.

#### *Trips and holidays*

61. We didn't get taken on any holidays, but the little fella took me and two other boys out in his car on one occasion. As we were going, he told us that we weren't supposed to be in his car because it wasn't insured by the school for carrying us. He said that it was on the quiet. We went to an Indian restaurant in Helensburgh for a meal because we'd done well in tasks we had been set. It didn't last long because there were lads in Helensburgh who saw us going into the restaurant. They were kicking up trouble outside. We managed to get our pakora and chilli sauce dip down us. It was the first time I'd tasted pakora and it was beautiful.
62. When the little fella found out that lads in Helensburgh had spotted us, he told us to pack up what we were eating and get back in the car. I wanted to go to and look in the window of the shop that sold the things we made. The little fella said that we didn't have time for that. He said those boys would come for us if they knew we'd come from the school. We were taken straight back to the school.

#### *Healthcare*

63. I didn't get regular check-ups at the dentist. When I had toothache, I was taken to a dentist in Helensburgh. My tooth was taken out and it was the first tooth I'd ever had out. I didn't see a doctor but I did get antibiotics when my face swelled up as a result of an insect bite. The school got them off the doctor. If we cut ourselves or something they had plasters and things in the office and there were first aid kits in the workshops. The teacher wouldn't let you use the machines in the workshop until he was comfortable that you knew how to use them.



*Religious instruction*

64. We didn't go to church at St. Andrew's. There was no religious side to it. I had been brought up Catholic. I used to go to Mass every Friday and Sunday and I was a regular at the convent in Newmains.

*Christmas and birthdays*

65. Birthdays and Christmas weren't celebrated. I didn't get home for Christmas. There was no special meal that I can remember and nothing stood out about Christmas at the school. Since that time, I don't do Christmas. I hate Christmas, I hate New Year and I hate birthdays.

*Visits/inspections*

66. I never saw anybody get any visitors and I certainly never got any visitors. I think my mum would have tried to visit me if the school hadn't been so far away. When you were in there you were just there. If you behaved yourself and did everything right then you would be trusted to get a home visit. If you got your home visit then it was up to you whether you went back or not.
67. I didn't get any visits from social work. If there were any reviews, I wasn't a part of the process. The only time I ever saw any visitors was when photographs were taken for the newspaper. There were three or four older gentlemen at the school who I'd never seen before. They weren't regulars at the school but they were there if there was a photograph to be taken.

*Home leave/family contact*

68. There was no way to phone home if you wanted to. You could write home, but I don't know how you would have got the letter out of there. I only got the chance to write one letter and that was when Miss asked me to write one at school. I was allowed home at the weekend about five or six times. Some boys were left in the school. It was done on a trust basis. We were told on the Thursday night if we were getting a home visit.

69. We were warned that if we didn't come back then we would be uplifted by the police and taken back to court. We were told that we would be resentenced for absconding and any trouble we had caused when we were out, and be put back into secure accommodation. I always went back. Although St. Andrew's was harsh and everything else, it was a better place than Longriggend. I didn't really know how good it was until I ended up in Glenochil.
70. If you had home leave at the weekend then you left on Friday afternoon. You had to be back at the school by 6:00 pm on the Sunday. We were given a return train ticket and a brown envelope with money for the bus in it. Some of the boys would get the bus fare and they'd just go and blow it. They wouldn't bother going back to the school. I hid the envelope underneath my pillow to make sure I didn't spend it. If I had any extra money then I would buy shampoo or something and take it back. When you did get back to the school, you had to take any change you had to the office and give it back.
71. The staff at the home told us not to do anything wrong when we got to the train station. They said that they had someone there watching us. They told us that there would always be somebody watching us, and that they knew what we looked like. The staff said that when I got to Motherwell, there would be someone there. I wouldn't know who they were but they would be watching me. I was constantly living with that.
72. When I went home, I had to get from the school to Helensburgh Train Station. I got the train to Glasgow Central and then I had to get another train to Motherwell. I then had to find a bus to get home. The first time I went home it was a struggle for me because I'd never been to Motherwell. Before going to St. Andrew's, the furthest I'd been on my own was to the bottom of Wishaw from Newmains. I was petrified.
73. I came out of Motherwell train station and I didn't know where the bus stop was. I didn't know where to go and whether to go left or right. I sat down and cried. An old tramp sitting in the doorway showed me the way to Hamilton. I managed to work out the side of the road to get a bus to Newmains. I just kept walking and hoped that a bus would

go past. I got home and my father started shouting and bawling at me because he thought I'd ran away.

74. I had to leave Newmains at 12:00 pm on the Sunday to get back to the school in time. There were only certain times that buses ran past the school. You had to be in a certain place and if you missed the bus you had to walk. Many times I got the bus and didn't know where the school was. I had to ask the driver to stop the bus and then walk back to the school. That caught me out a couple of times. Then someone told me that if I reached a sign to a town called Rhu then I'd gone past the school.
75. I can remember the struggle that I had and the worry that I had getting home that first time. I can remember the worry of not getting back in time and being later than 6:00 pm, the police waiting for me and taking me straight back to Longriggend. At the time, the threat destroyed me mentally. It was a relief to me when I got back into the home and I knew that I had got back in time and I hadn't done anything wrong.
76. I met my kids' mother when I was home on leave. She was my girlfriend when I was in the home. I told her that I had a studio flat in Dumbarton, which she believed until my sister told her that I was in a home there.

#### *Running away*

77. The school was open and anybody could walk out of the school at any time of the day. A few lads absconded from the school. They always headed towards the train station. They didn't realise that the school had already phoned the police and the police would be there waiting for them. Sometimes the lads were brought back to the school and other times they didn't come back. They must have been put back into secure units.
78. There was something strange between ██████ and IBC ██████. ██████ knew how to get in and out of the school. I was woken up one night by ██████ and I think IBC ██████ was on duty. ██████ said that someone had absconded and we had to run the railway line. I'm sure that IBC ██████ knew that we were going out and he had woken ██████ up. I asked ██████ how we would get out of there because the place was alarmed. He

showed me a window that wasn't alarmed and opened it. We climbed out of the window and up to the railway track. It was pitch black.

79. We ran as fast as we could up to the top signal lights, which was about a mile and a half or two miles away. We had to be careful in case any trains came. When we got to the signal lights, I had to lie down on one side and [REDACTED] lay on the other. [REDACTED] said that if the boy came our way then we would see the shadow on the track as he came through the lights. We stayed there until 6:00 or 7:00 am and nobody came. We made our way back to the school and walked back down the railway line and into the school. We went to the office and told [REDACTED] that we were back.

### *Discipline*

80. The work of discipline was really dealt with by the police, especially if it was something that happened outside the grounds of the school. When I was at primary school, I got the belt. It was a leather belt and it would go up your hands. At St. Andrew's it was the cane and it was across your fingertips. The cane was a long, bamboo cane.
81. I got the cane once from Mr [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had been out for a visit and I'd been kept in the school. He brought back a Ouija board. He put it in the toilets and started playing about with it. The rest of us were standing there, watching. [REDACTED] took his hand off the Ouija board and it started moving itself. We all started screaming. We bolted out of the toilets and straight into [REDACTED].
82. [REDACTED] sent all six of us to Mr [REDACTED] and all six of us got the cane across our fingers. I could only take three and I put my hands down. I was shaking. I had to get my six in two sessions. I was told to stand at the back of the room. Mr [REDACTED] brought someone else forward and gave them as many as they could take. They were then put to the back of the room and it was like a circle. Whether you could feel your fingers or not, if he said that you had to come back to the front then that was it. You just had to stand there and take it.
83. I don't know whether other boys ever got the cane from anybody else, but it was Mr [REDACTED] when the six of us got it for being in the toilet. The only time I saw him issuing

that punishment was on that occasion. Other than when I first arrived and when the newspaper came, it was the only time I saw SNR [REDACTED]. I didn't think it was a reasonable punishment because everybody told him that it was [REDACTED] who brought the board in. I think that because it was a Catholic school, Ouija boards were not something that they wanted round about them.

### **Abuse at St. Andrew's School**

84. I can picture the face of the man I call IBC [REDACTED]. It won't go away. I just don't know his name. IBC [REDACTED] was often at the school at night time and he slept in a room up the stairs. He had a television in the office downstairs. Sometimes, if you had to go down to the office, he would have children with him watching television. He came around the dormitory and tucked us in. He made sure that our arms were tucked in and down by our sides. I don't know whether that was to stop you getting out. IBC [REDACTED] came round during the night with a torch and checked that everybody was in bed.
85. I dreaded shower time. IBC [REDACTED] would come in and towel-whip us. He whipped us on our backsides with a towel. He wanted us to turn and face him. If we turned to face him then he would towel-whip our private parts. He did that to all the boys. It seemed to be a part of the fun for him. He was always laughing and joking. He would be the same when he was sitting in the office if there was a lad sitting on his knee. He just seemed to think that it was a bit of fun for him.
86. When it came to a night when he was on duty in the showers, I tried to get out of there as soon as possible. That didn't work because if he didn't see me standing in front of him in the shower then he didn't trust that I had washed myself properly. I had to strip off and go back in again. When we got out of the shower, he stood at the door and we had to go past him naked. He slapped us on the arse as we went out.
87. He touched me when I was in bed and tried to kiss me at night time. He would also run his hands all over me in bed. He touched my private parts over the blanket. I think that was why our arms were tucked in under the covers at night time. He did it to me about three or four times and then he stopped, but he continued doing it to other boys.

88. IBC did it to all the lads. He would do it every other day, whenever he was there by himself. He wouldn't do it when Miss or any other staff were there. Sometimes, I'd be lying in bed and about to fall asleep and a couple of lads would be leaving the dormitory. They were going downstairs because IBC let them watch TV with them. When I woke up in the morning, they were back in their beds again. I never went downstairs.
89. IBC tried to touch me in the office as well. He tried that with me but I wasn't having it. I just stood away from him. I saw him kissing boys in the office and he often had them sitting on his knee. He picked boys that he was settled with. He gave them a kiss on the mouth or they kissed him. They seemed to be quite easy with him doing it, as if they thought he was their father. I'd never been kissed by my father or my mother in my life. I thought it was disgusting, for somebody to do that or to see somebody doing that. IBC didn't do anything else to me. After I got the better of IBC, I was left alone.
90. After I'd been in St. Andrew's for five or six months, I did some work at the golf course in Helensburgh. A few of us went there in the mini bus. We'd clear the carpark up, pick any rubbish up and do the edges the same way we did them at the school. I got on with the groundskeeper. The golf course had a ride-on lawnmower which they couldn't get to run. I had a look at it and I managed to fix it then I took it back down to the shed. I think that was why I was invited back by myself.
91. The fourth time that I went to the golf course, somebody came to collect me from the school. It must have been someone from the golf course. He had a fancy car and told me that I was going to St. Andrew's Golf Course. I was taken up to the golf course and dropped off. The man told me to see the barmaid if I wanted a juice. I was worried when he left because I didn't know how to get back to the school. The barmaid gave me an orange juice.
92. There was a young lad who worked under the groundsman at the golf course. He was about eighteen or nineteen. I'd never seen the young lad at the golf course before. He was taller than me and he had dark hair in a teddy boy style. The groundsman told

him to tell me where to work and which lawnmower I should take. I wasn't allowed to cut the greens and I was always sent to cut the rough. I had to cut the grass back five or six feet so people could walk beside the golf course. There was a golf tournament coming up and they needed more room for spectators.

93. I worked away, cutting the rough. The more I worked, the further away I got from the clubhouse and the car park until I couldn't see them anymore. The young lad brought me some juice and I drank it. The next minute, I woke up in the bunker. I had no top on and no boots. My trousers were on back to front. When I woke up, I must have been out for a few hours. It had been sunny when I started and it was freezing cold when I woke up, and starting to get dark. The glass that the lad had brought the juice in was nowhere to be seen. My back and my shoulders were sore and all bruised. I don't know whether he gave me a bit of a hiding or whether he was just messing about. I don't know whether he sexually assaulted me. I don't have any memories of what happened to me in the bunker.
94. I took the lawnmower back down and the young lad was standing there. As soon as I walked in with the lawnmower, he turned his back on me and walked away. When I looked at him, I knew that he had done something to me. I didn't say anything about what had happened until I got back to the school. The people at the golf course ordered a taxi for me. When I got into the taxi, I told the driver that I didn't have any money. He told me that the golf course would pay for it.
95. The taxi driver asked me where I was going and I told him that I was going to St. Andrew's School. He told me that it was a long way away and asked if it was St. Andrew's Shandon. I said that I didn't know. I'd never even heard the word Shandon. He asked if it was for young lads and took me there. In the taxi, he told me that a lot of bad things happened to young lads in that school and that I didn't want to be going there. When we reached the school, he refused to drive up into it and stopped at the end of the road. I had to cross the road and walk up into the school by myself.

## Reporting of abuse whilst at St. Andrew's School

96. It was late when I woke up in the bunker on the golf course and when I got back to the school, Miss, IBC and the little fella were there. Miss asked me where I had been and I told her that I'd been at the golf course, cutting the grass. She asked me why I was back so late. I told her exactly what had happened and that was when she kicked up hell. She said to the little fella that he should have known better and shouldn't have sent anybody up to the golf course on their own where "he" was. Miss was furious. The fact that she said they should have known better than to send me to the golf course on my own suggests that they knew the guy who assaulted me was there.
97. IBC and Miss asked me if I was sure and I said that I was. I told them how I had woken up. I asked them how else I would have woken up in the bunker, when I had only been sitting on it. IBC said that if I was telling lies I would bring disrepute on the school and I'd be sent back to secure accommodation. He said that if I was making an accusation like that, they'd have to get the police involved and I'd have to be taken to hospital. None of that happened.
98. The staff didn't contact the police, but they said that they'd sort it out themselves. They found out who the young lad was. Miss and IBC told me that, apparently, he was a troublemaker in Helensburgh at the weekend. They made all sorts of excuses for him. They made out that because I had done a good job at the golf course, the young lad thought that I was trying to take his job. They suggested that he had done something to me and that was the reason that he had done it. I couldn't have taken his job because I was in a home.
99. I didn't hear any more about it. After the incident at the golf course, I was pushed towards Faslane Naval Camp and training for swimming. I only ever went to Faslane or the workshop. I wasn't allowed to go anywhere else outside the school and I never went back to the golf course.
100. When I went home after the incident on the golf course, I said to myself all the way home that I would tell my father what had happened. I walked in the door and my father started screaming at me. He asked me what I was doing there and how I'd managed



to escape. It was the same old dirty, stinking attitude. The school had given me a letter with a phone number. They told me to get my father to phone the number if there were any problems and they would confirm that I was allowed out for a home visit. Before I could say anything, he was on the phone. It wasn't until I was able to give him that phone number that my father calmed down. With all the confusion and the shouting, I never bothered to tell him anything.

*Death of staff member*

101. After I'd been at the school for about a year, Miss was on duty late one day. IBC was also working. When two people were working, you heard the door close once and you never heard it open or close again. That night, it was bucketing with rain. I watched Miss leave the school. About twenty minutes later, I heard the door close again and somebody else went out of the school. I didn't think much more about it.
102. The second day after that I was called into the office. I saw the newspaper. I think it was the IBC. It stated that a lady had been found dead on the beach by rocks. It was close to the school and it gave a description of the lady's clothing. I said to IBC, "Sir, that's not Miss, is it?" He asked why I thought it was Miss and I said that was the clothing that she was wearing the last time she had been at the school.
103. About three or four hours later, a man came in. He was wearing black pants, brown shoes, a brown belt, and a white short-sleeved shirt with no lapels or badge. He had a black cap with a silver badge on it. The man said that he had come from the police and he wanted to ask me a few questions. He asked me whether I had gone out of the home on the night in question. I said that I hadn't been but that I heard Miss leaving the house that night.
104. The man asked how I had known that Miss was dead and I said that I had read it in the paper. I told him that about twenty minutes after Miss left the school, somebody else had left as well but I didn't know who it was. I can almost guarantee that man wasn't a police officer. He had no lapels, no numbers and no banding round his police hat. He had a silver badge on his hat, but his shoes were manky. I've seen many police

officers in my day and police don't come from police stations looking like that. I think IBC had just brought somebody in to see what I knew.

105. Three days later, we were told that Miss had died. They told us that she had an imbalance in her ear and that she was climbing on the rocks and fell. She had banged her head and was killed. I've known people who have had an imbalance in their ears. There are certain things that they can't do. Miss was never like that. She would float around the school.
106. I told the man who said he was a police officer what I thought about Miss. I still have doubts in my mind. I don't think she fell off that cliff and banged her head off those rocks. There were arguments in the school about what had happened to me at the golf course. I listened to them before she left that night and other people listened to them. Miss and the little fella were arguing with IBC in the office. The door was closed, but Miss came out and said that he should have known better than to send anybody to the golf course on their own. For her to walk out of there and then be found dead three days later makes me doubt that she fell.

### **Leaving St. Andrew's School**

107. There were good times at St. Andrew's. I liked going to the Naval Camp and being away from the school. I could run around and focus on something else there. I liked being out and about and going up and down the beach. Being in the workshop was good for my mental state. It was something I'd always been interested in so I took to it.
108. However, I always felt uncomfortable around IBC. I got lost after Miss died. There were lads who didn't take to her, but I saw her as a mother figure. I would rather have gone to her than go to IBC or anybody else. She was the only person I'd go to and I felt more alone after she died. I was there for quite a few more months after she died. If I hadn't met her when I first went into the school then I think I would have absconded. I would have left the school and gone as far away as I could to somewhere else in Scotland.

109. I went home for a visit and my father got a phone call from the school. They said that there was scarlet fever in the school and there was no need for me to come back until they found out how bad it was. I was at home for about three weeks. The school then phoned and said that they didn't think they'd get rid of the scarlet fever. I was trusted and they had arranged it so I didn't have to go back to the school. They said that I'd either be picked up by social services or get some kind of community sentence. I never got to go back to the school to say goodbye to anybody. The joiner's box that I had made and my bronze medallion were left there.
110. I'm not too sure about dates, but it was [REDACTED] when I left. I don't know how long I was in St. Andrew's. I left just before I turned sixteen. I can't remember social work or probation services getting in touch, but I do know that the first thing I did when I left St. Andrew's was some kind of community service. I did painting and decorating in homes for battered women and churches, and in a home for battered men in Glasgow. I never thought that there would be such a place. I did the community service for two or three months until I turned sixteen.
111. I got into trouble for driving offences when I was sixteen and a half or seventeen years old. I don't think social work was involved with me anymore. I was remanded for two weeks and taken to Barlinnie.

#### **Her Majesty's Prison Barlinnie, Glasgow**

112. I was sixteen when I went into Barlinnie. Nothing happened to me there. The hardest shock was being scared that there were murderers in there. I was in D-block, which was for younger prisoners. That meant that we went for dinner and things at different times from the older prisoners.
113. I was constantly locked up for psychiatric observations. I don't know what the reason was for that. I was put in front of the governor and then I was put in front of the medical officer. The next thing I heard was, "IBA [REDACTED], psychiatric observations." I don't know whether it was something that the judge at court had requested. When you were in

psychiatric observations, you were your cell nearly 24 hours a day. The other thing about Barlinnie is that they could make a good curry out of leftover food. I was in Barlinnie around Christmas time and we did get chicken or something like that.

### **Glenochil Detention Centre, Alloa, Clackmannanshire**

114. I was taken from Barlinnie to Hamilton Sheriff Court. The judge said that he was sending me to Glenochil for three months for a short, sharp shock. I went straight to Glenochil from court. I was put into a block that was a single wing with a closed door at the end of it. It didn't have bars on it, but it was a completely closed door. There were seven or eight cells down one side and four on the other. There was a wash area, a slopping out area and three other cells at the bottom side.

### **Routine at Glenochil Detention Centre**

#### *First day*

115. My first experience at Glenochil was being kicked in the spine, on my coccyx. When you went into Glenochil, you weren't allowed to speak. We were given our clothes and then we were taken to whichever unit we were going to be in. I asked an officer whether I was supposed to turn left or right. He kicked me right at the bottom of the spine. I dropped everything that was in my arms and I ended up on the floor. He kicked me again and told me to get up. I said that I'd only asked him left or right. He said that when I was in there, I would only speak when I was spoken to. I dragged myself back up off the floor and caught up with the rest of the prisoners.
116. When I first went into Glenochil, they sent one of the other lads to show me how to make a bed block. Luckily enough, that lad was from the same area that I came from. His name was [REDACTED] and he ended up being my sister's partner. When he got out, he told my sister how bad it was in Glenochil.

### *Mornings*

117. They expected us to get up at 4:00 am and make a bed block up. The bed block was a blanket, a sheet, a blanket, a sheet, and it had to be a solid square block. When the officers came in, if they thought you'd done it wrong then they'd pick the full bed block up off the bed and bounce it off the wall. The bed block would break open and that was it, you got it again.
118. I was scared to use more than one blanket and sheet because I didn't have time to do them the way that the officers wanted them, before they opened up the cell in the morning. I ended up not using all of the sheets. I slept with one sheet on my bed and kept the rest of the bed block together. When I got up in the morning I had to fold my sheet up perfectly, in a thin line.
119. If the officers picked it up and bounced it off the wall and it broke open then we knew we were in for trouble. We knew we were getting beasted, and that the officers would wreck your cell. When I say that we were beasted, I mean that we were put out onto the parade ground or made to stand outside our cells with our arms out. Our pillow had to be square. All the corners had to be tucked in and it had to be like a square box, the same as our bed block.

### *Daily routine in cell*

120. We weren't allowed to lie on our beds in our cells. We had to sit on the seat in our cells with our arms folded. We weren't allowed to do anything. The only way that we could get a break from the seat was if we lay down on the floor. The unit had a closed door, but as soon as that door was opened the wind would blow into the rest of the unit. If I was lying on the floor with my face underneath the tiny gap under the cell door then I would feel the wind blowing on my face. I knew that the door had been opened so I would jump straight back up and sit on the seat with my arms folded. We had to do that constantly when we were in our cells. All we got was a bible. We didn't get any books or anything like that.

121. There was only one good screw in Glenochil. We called him Manuel because he looked like the little fella out of *Fawlty Towers*. Every now and again, when he was on duty, he'd leave our cell doors open. We could stick our heads out, but we weren't allowed to go out onto the landing. It meant that we could breathe a little bit. We weren't allowed to shout but we could speak quietly to whoever was near us. All the other screws just locked us up and kept looking through the key-hole. If we weren't sitting there with our arms folded then they would come into our cell and start wrecking it.

#### *Work/chores*

122. All I ever did was polish floors. It was the same, day in and day out. I had a big pole and it had a big wipe on the bottom of it, like a buffer. I had to polish all the floors and swing it back and forwards until the floor shone. If we had been working on the floor then the officers would come and take the corner of their boot and pull it right across the floor. They would leave black rubber marks. We had to re-strip the floor and start again. If we ever had any time to ourselves then that's what we did in our cell as well. Our cells had to be immaculate.

123. If we were out scrubbing the floor with a scrubbing brush and we saw an officer walking along the corridor, we had to jump up and shout, "Excuse me, Sir." We had to wait until he had gone out and then we would get down and start scrubbing the floors again.

124. Before I went into St. Andrew's, I had been in the army cadets. I was in the [REDACTED] Platoon. We used to go to army camps, do assault courses and go out onto the moors. We marched and did all that kind of stuff. Our cells at Glenochil had to be ten times more immaculate than they had been in the cadets. We had to polish our boots and make the toe caps and heels shine so that you could see your face in them. We had to get into every little groove, right round our boots.

125. After I'd been in there for a while I was picked up by one of the officers. I think he picked up on the fact that I could march and do all that because I was used to doing those things in the army cadets. He told me that I was going with him to the parade ground and into the screws' club. When you were in Glenochil, you were put on the

parade ground to do a marching parade. I was marching along and he asked me where I had learned how to march. I told him that I had been in the army cadets. He sent me to the screws' club to clean it. I knew the officer was watching me. After he put me in there, he left.

126. When I was a boy, I would help my mum out at the club at the bottom of the road. I would wash down the tables and Hoover the carpets. Because I did such a good job of cleaning the officers' club and because he knew I'd been in the army cadets, that officer took to me. He asked me what I was doing in there. He said that I wasn't like the rest of the boys and that I shouldn't be in there.
127. That night, the officer came into my cell and told me to get my jacket. I gave him my jacket and he put his hands into my pockets. His fists were clenched. He brought out three dog-ends. He said that if I started picking things up then I wouldn't get any more jobs. He slammed the door. He came back three quarters of an hour later and told me it had been a set up and that he was giving me a warning. He said that if I kept getting the job of cleaning the club, other prisoners would put pressure on me to start stealing dog-ends and whatever they could get out of the club. He said I'd end up losing my remission.
128. A week later, I got a job cleaning the governor's office in the main building. I had to go early in the morning and Hoover the floor. I had to polish the desk, the seats and the worktops. I took out any dirty cups and washed them. I then had to go and hide in the cleaning cupboard so that the staff didn't see me and I wasn't a threat to them.

### **Abuse at Glenochil Detention Centre**

129. The officers at Glenochil were army and police rejects and all they wanted to do was kick and punch us. Nobody was safe from them. If we'd done something wrong we had to stand outside our cell with our arms by our side for an hour at a time. It was hard. We weren't allowed to lean on the wall. If they caught us leaning against the wall then they gave us a kick on the way past.

130. If there was any dirt in the cracks of the sole of our boots then we got beasted for that. One of the things the officers did was put us out in the back stair when everyone else had been doing an assault course. They let them run up the stairs with their dirty feet. We had to scrub the stairs with a toothbrush, from top to bottom. We cleaned the stairs, the landing and the windows next to the stairs.
131. When the governor came round, and in the morning, they came in and we were asked to take our jackets off. It was a black and white fleece jacket. They put it under our beds and along the pipes. If they pulled it out with any dust on it then we got another hiding and we were put on report. The officers pulled all of our drawers out and looked underneath the drawers. We were just beasted. That was all they would do to us.
132. If there was dust in our cells they gave us a kick and a punch and made us stand outside our cell. They wrecked our cell and we had to go back in and make the cell back up again. They ripped up the bed block. The bed block was the worst thing because it was a struggle for anybody in there. Glenochil was an evil, evil place.

*Self-harm and suicide at Glenochil Detention Centre*

133. Some of the reports that I saw on the governor's table were unbelievable. I had to move them off the table and put them on the chair so I could polish it. As I was putting them on the table, they opened up. I saw what was actually going on and that the police and ambulance had had to be brought into the prison. Some of the reports on his desk were from the young offender's institution next door as well as the detention centre. There were lads [REDACTED], cutting their wrists, cutting their throats, and hanging themselves.
134. It happened in the block that I was in. A young lad was brought in and he was crying from the bottom of his heart, screaming for his mother. We were all banging on our cell doors. We were shouting to the screws to at least open his door and let him breathe so he could calm down. The screw said that didn't happen in there. We all got opened up the next morning. The boy's cell was down on the right hand side, second from last. As soon as the officers got to his door, they shouted, "Lock down! Everybody



back in their cells.” The lad had gone quiet during the night. When they opened the cells the next morning, he was dead.

135. We had tried to tell them to open the door and let him breathe, let him know that someone was there for him. They just would not do it and in the morning, he was dead. We were all locked up and his body was carried out of the cell. It was disgusting. They had no time for us whatsoever. I'd heard people crying, but this was coming from the bottom of the boy's stomach. If you had heard that boy crying, you'd have broken down the door to get to him but they would not open that door. They were pure animals. I don't know whether there was a police investigation, but there must have been. I didn't see that report in the governor's office. If they'd only opened that cell up for that lad, he'd still have been alive today.

#### **Life after leaving care**

136. I was at Glenochil for the full three months of my sentence. I went back to Newmains when I was released. Newmains was so small that if the police had done you for one thing then they'd never be off your back. That was why I wanted to leave Scotland. My girlfriend was living in Newmains but she came from Carlisle. My mother told me to go to Carlisle, make a life for myself and get the hell out of Newmains.
137. My partner fell pregnant and my uncle arranged for us to get a council flat. Her father came and got her and took her back to Carlisle. She applied to get a house there and we lived there for about six months. All we had was a mattress. My girlfriend's father would come and take her for Christmas. I'd get up, thinking I was going as well. He told me to sit where I was because I wasn't going for Christmas dinner.
138. I went back to Newmains and worked in the knicker factory for a while. When I left that job, I got myself a caravanette and went to pick potatoes in Stranraer. After that, I came back to Newmains. I got a phone call to tell me that my son had been in an accident. I left Newmains to go back to Carlisle to make sure that my son was alright. My partner said that I wasn't going home because she had booked the registry office and we were getting married in three weeks' time. I have five sons and a daughter with

my first wife. I also have a daughter with a lassie from Scotland, who I met when I worked in the knicker factory.

139. The first job I had in Carlisle was repairing vehicles that had been in crashes. Then my partner's father got me a job scraping rust spots off car engines with wire brushes. It wasn't for me. My partner's father asked me why I wasn't at the garage and I told him that I wasn't scrubbing any more cars with wire brushes. He told his two sons to pack my bags. They walked me to Carlisle train station and told me to get on the train. I had other ideas. No matter what, I wanted to stay where my kids were.
140. I worked in all sorts of jobs in Carlisle. I worked as a part-time barman at the [REDACTED] Club in Carlisle. I was promoted to head seller and then to assistant steward. I've worked in a scrapyard. When I was into my twenties, I started an electrical engineering business. I was self-taught at repairing machines. I learned by taking things apart and putting them back together again. I've been a machine driver and I've worked putting up office furniture from flat-packs. If I'm shown something and left to it then I can do it. I have that knack.
141. I was working away in Mull of Kintyre. I came home from work and my wife told me that she didn't want me in the house because I was never there. She had the backing of the kids. My eldest son told me that it was his mum's house and if she didn't want me in it then I had to leave. I had every intention of committing suicide. Luckily enough, the lad I was working with and his wife helped me through it.
142. When my wife made me leave I went to the council and within three months, I ended up with my own house. After that, my wife started causing trouble. If she wasn't having me then nobody was having me. She got into trouble with the bills and I told her she could live with me until she got it sorted out. I went to Scotland with one of my sons for the summer. When I returned, everything was gone from house and there was rubbish everywhere. The place was disgusting. My wife had got herself a house, taken every bit of furniture and left me to start all over again.
143. I had to stop working because of my back. It was caused because I'd lifted three or four thousand washing machines. My back had been bad for years but it finally went

about fourteen years ago and I could hardly walk. I had been working seven days a week and it just broke me completely. Instead of letting me just walk away, my boss made me redundant. He gave me a cheque for £2500 and my partner and I built our way from there. Until I had to stop work I had every intention of starting a business and bringing all my kids in. I've been with my current partner for fifteen years. She's the only one who's been able to tie me down. We have 35 grandchildren between us.

### **Reporting of abuse after leaving care**

144. I've never reported what happened to me when I was in care. Up until now, the only person who knew was my partner, [REDACTED]. My sister, [REDACTED], told me about the Inquiry. She said that they were looking into Glenochil. I looked it up and saw that St. Andrew's was also on the list. I wrote into the Inquiry to say that I'd been in Longriggend, Barlinnie, St. Andrew's and Glenochil.

### **Impact**

145. All of my life, I've always been looking behind me. Those boys stole the vehicle and I was in it. I went to St. Andrew's because my paper bag was still in the vehicle. From that day, all I've ever done is look back. I'm always watching. I don't go near anybody who's getting into trouble because I can guarantee that the same thing will end up happening again. I'd get the wrong rub of the cloth and they'd walk.
146. What happened at the golf course when I was at St. Andrew's meant that I couldn't trust anybody. It seemed to me as if the staff were waving it through and they didn't want any trouble coming near the school. With those two boys blaming me for stealing the vehicle, which they later admitted to doing, it already made it difficult to trust. I then had to go to Longriggend and be on remand in Barlinnie. I was told that I was going to Glenochil and I didn't even know where it was. To walk into that regime at Glenochil, thinking that Barlinnie or Longriggend or St. Andrew's is the worst place, and be treated like that, would make anybody wary of trusting anybody else.

147. At one time, I completely hated authority. Something clicked with me when I moved to Carlisle. I had the freedom to move about and I didn't think I was going to get blamed for this or that. I was always wary of whoever was round about but I did start to open up. If I thought that someone was doing something wrong then I would walk away. I didn't trust people, but I had to.
148. Once you've been through what I went through, you can speak to somebody and you get a feeling. You know straightaway that you can't trust them. One thing I always did was to look at a person's eyes. Their eyes would tell me a lot. I felt more free when I moved to Carlisle. As soon as I walked out of the train station, I thought, "What a world this is." Even just smelling the air, it was as if there was a good atmosphere around about me.
149. I'm afraid and ashamed to say it but I have no love for anybody. I think my experiences growing up impacted upon my relationships. I tried to commit suicide when I split up with my ex-wife. Once I'd lost trust in her, it was another knockback for me.
150. I've made my own life and I've been lucky. What I have lost is not having my parents. When things have gone wrong for me health-wise or something like that, I haven't known who to go to. I've missed having a father figure. I've never had someone to speak to like that and I've had to learn everything for myself. I've always felt a sense of anger that my father didn't stick up for me. I do think that if he'd stuck up for me before I was put into St. Andrew's then I would have had a completely different life. I had plans to be an electrician and do all sorts of things. I never got to do that until I moved to Carlisle.
151. I feel angry with the institutions as well. After what happened to me at the golf course and what was happening with the towel whipping, I went to these people and I expected them to do something about it. All they did was make out excuses or tell me it would pass. I got no satisfaction for breaking down and opening myself up to let people know these things. They did nothing. It hindered me. I think that's why I'd rather be a loner now. I then know exactly what's going on and I won't get dragged into things that have nothing to do with me whatsoever. I'm more in control in my life now, even if I have to stay in my house away from everybody. Since I had a heart attack, I finally

decided not to do anything for other people and just do what I could for myself to get through the rest of my life.

152. I never drank and I never smoked when I was younger. I started drinking about two years after I moved to Carlisle. Any time I hit a brick wall then I turned to a bottle. At one time I was drinking two or three bottles of brandy a day. It was a build-up of everything that happened when I was younger and with my wife. All I wanted to do was hide in a bottle. I ended up in hospital because my pancreas, kidneys and liver were packing in. I blew up to eighteen stone and my face was swollen. The doctor asked me if I was reliant on alcohol and I said that I could take it or leave it, but my son grassed me up. When I came out of hospital, I stopped drinking for eight years. I didn't touch it and I couldn't stand the smell of it. Now, I can have a drink whenever I please. I can have a bottle of whisky in the house for weeks and I don't have to finish it. [REDACTED] has helped me a lot with that.
153. When I had the heart attack, I went into hospital and they found that my arteries are all clogged up. They put four stents in but I was having attacks of angina. They tried to put another stent in, but the artery has closed up so much they didn't have a stent small enough. I'm on medication to help open up my arteries. I'll be on aspirin for the rest of my life. My arteries closed up as a result of my drinking.
154. I've had counselling for depression but I still struggle with it. It was group therapy that my GP referred me to, but it wasn't for me. I can't sit in a room with other people who don't know me and I don't know them, unless I'm forewarned about it. I'm still on medication now. The GP is trying to get me to go back to counselling again. I think my depression has been caused by my experiences in the institutions.
155. I want to go back to St. Andrew's. I've looked for it on the internet. You can't get to it now because it's all closed off. I've thought about it many times. I've felt like phoning up one of my older sons and telling them it would only take two or three hours. I want to stand there and look at it, but what would it achieve? I want to look at the gardens although I can't remember being in any gardens. I can remember some good times and I can remember bad times.

156. My ex-wife, my kids, and my sister don't know what happened to me in those places. I brought my kids up in the best possible way that I could. I didn't want to get them to a stage where they were doing well and then hit them with a ball of thunder. What would be the point of telling them? They would tell me that they were sorry it happened to me, but they'd leave and it would be at the back of their minds. Why should it be left in their minds? Why can it not end with me and what I've told the Inquiry?

### **Records**

157. I've never applied for my records. I'm interesting in obtaining them. I've been given somebody to speak to about my records at Future Pathways. I'd like to get my records because I think my nephew has used my name before. I was stopped by the police when I was driving home from a job. They checked my tattoos and told me that someone in Scotland was using my name and date of birth.

### **Lessons to be learned**

158. I think places like Glenochil, Longriggend and Barlinnie should be monitored much harder. It shouldn't be done by hearsay. Inspectors should go there unannounced. There are many places that find out when the inspectors are coming and it's not that place by the time the inspector comes. When the inspector's gone then that place goes back to the way it was. If lads are in prison for killing someone, that treatment is not justified. The sentence is justified and taking away their liberty is justified, but putting them into a place where they can be attacked, domineered, picked on or abused by the system needs to stop.
159. If someone comes out of prison then they'll be going to a social worker or someone else to help them. There also needs to be someone else to intervene and ask them for a brief rundown of what happened in the institution. It needs to be done sooner rather than later. If it's done earlier, there is more chance of putting a stop to it and putting things in the right direction. If it's not done straight away, things are allowed to ferment for years.

160. Before I went into Glenochil, if someone had listened to the prisoners who were in there before me then that lad wouldn't be dead. The other lads who hung themselves [REDACTED] or cut their wrists wouldn't be dead. When you get into the prison system, they make everything look like it's shining like a pin. It needs somebody to look at the background because that's where the problems are. I've been in places where they make it spick and span and they tell you to do this and to do that. If anybody comes round, like a governor, then you're not allowed to speak to them. You're told to stand to attention by your cell door and shout out your name and number. You're told to say nothing and, if you're asked anything, tell him you have no complaints.

### **Hopes for the Inquiry**

161. I came forward to the Inquiry so that what happened to me doesn't happen again. You'll never cure this. It doesn't matter whether it's the Scottish Government or any government. All you can do is have more inspections. They should speak to people who are in the places at the time. There are things that happened forty years ago that are coming up now. Things seem to have to run for 25 or 30 years before there's an inquiry into it. It happens all over the world with all sorts of different things. I don't think it needs to be left 30 or 40 years.

162. If you open a door and let a horse bolt, it will continue to run. There will never be a time when you can foresee what's going to happen and keep the gate closed so the horse doesn't run. But there are ways of preventing it from getting to the next stage. In those days, there was none of that. We need to learn the lessons quicker. Not everybody who makes a complaint is making a complaint because they're being nasty. A lot of people who do want to make complaints get shut down for making a complaint. When a child or anybody in that system has nowhere to go, it can only go badly. There was nowhere to go to when I was in those places.

163. 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.....