

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

GZD

Support person present: No

1. My name is GZD. My date of birth is the 1951. I am 68 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. There are two institutions where I was in care that I want to tell you about. These are Bellfield Remand Home, Dumbarton where I was resident for four weeks in 1965 and Oakbank Approved School in Aberdeen where I was for a year between 1965 and 1966.

**Life before going into care.**

3. I was born in Grangemouth and my parents' names were and . My father worked as a dock gateman in Grangemouth and my mother was a house servant. I have two brothers and along with two sisters and . I am the youngest. has since passed away.
4. I started my education in Grangemouth at the local infant school. I then went to Beancross Primary School and finished up at Moray Primary School in Grangemouth. My father would always provide for the family although money was very short. I was never abused by my parents. My father very rarely had to raise his hand to me as I was the youngest. There were no problems growing up in Grangemouth until I became a bit older.

5. When I was about four or five years of age there was an incident in Glasgow where my father's sisters were killed. This may have had a profound effect on my father and probably caused his behaviour to change.
6. My father passed away when I was about eleven or twelve and I fell in with the wrong crowd of people. There was a gang culture in Grangemouth and I became part of it. I started getting into trouble with the police for committing petty crime in the area. The gang caused lots of problems for the police and we would be fighting with the other local gangs. I used to carry a knife when I was only eleven or twelve and I also started drinking alcohol. My mother tried hard but was unable to control me.
7. I was playing truant from school and was caught housebreaking by the police. I remember that it was Sergeant Holmes from the local police in Grangemouth who dealt with me most he knew as he knew my father from working at the dock gates. I had plenty of warnings but I wasn't paying any attention. I had also developed a gambling problem and needed money to place bets so I would steal it. Stealing was something I would never have thought about until I started gambling.
8. I don't recall any social work involvement until I had to appear at a Children's Panel meeting at Grangemouth Town Hall. I had to appear because I was not attending school. I was then referred to the Sheriff's Chambers in Falkirk. I was about thirteen years old. On this occasion the Sheriff gave me a warning which I didn't pay any attention to.
9. After my father died I went off the rails. It was Grangemouth in the sixties and my gang were fighting all the local gangs. I got several warning and appearances before the Children's Panel until one day I appeared along with my mother and a CID man from Grangemouth. I appeared in the chambers of Sheriff Young and the CID man from Grangemouth whose name I can't recall stated that I was out of control and should be put away. However on this occasion Sheriff Young gave me another chance. I also recall that my elder brother [REDACTED] came to see me and to talk some sense into me. He gave me a serious talking to. He tried to get me back on track. I don't recall any social work involvement at this time.

10. I ignored all the warnings and was soon back with the gang causing trouble and committing petty crime. I ended up back in front of Sheriff Young. This time it was decided that I wasn't paying any attention to the warnings and I was remanded to Bellfield Remand Home in Dumbarton until it could be decided what to do with me.
11. I was represented by a lawyer through the legal aid system. I think that I was remanded in Bellfield for social enquiry reports and there was something mentioned about going to borstal. I can't recall all the details. I do remember after about two weeks being taken from Bellfield back to court in front of Sheriff Young and then returned back to Bellfield for a further two weeks. I think that I was about fourteen and a half years old.

#### **Bellfield Remand Home, Dumbarton - 1965**

12. My first impression of Bellfield was that it was a large old house in its own gardens. It had big gates. There was a sitting room where you got your meals. There were shower rooms downstairs along with the kitchen. There were six dormitories with six beds in each one.
13. There were only boys at Bellfield and I would estimate that there were at least forty boys from age twelve to seventeen. They were from all over Scotland. I think that the home was run by the local authority Dumbarton Council.

#### *Staff*

14. [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] called Mr LIG [REDACTED]. There was a gardener called Mr KFQ [REDACTED]. There was a Mr KFT [REDACTED] who was the night watchman. He was in his 50's and was heavy build with grey hair. KFT [REDACTED] and KFQ [REDACTED] were good friends. There was a black man I didn't know the name of but [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He was a very tall man and was in his forties. There were also a few woman who did the cleaning and cooking. I can't recall their names.

**Routine at Bellfield Remand Home.***First day*

15. I don't remember much about it apart from the fact that it was a huge big house and that there were quite a few boys in it that I didn't want to meet as they were opposite gang members to me and sworn enemies.

*Mornings and bedtime*

16. We would get up at 6:00 am every morning. We would go for a shower and then assemble for a roll call, after which we had breakfast. We would be allocated our work for the day which could be in the gardens, the kitchens, cleaning the house or in the boiler room. I remember some of the boys refused to work and they would be beaten for it.
17. You would have a break for lunch and then go back to your job. There were two sittings for lunch at 11:00 am and 12 noon. You worked until the late afternoon and then you could watch television or hang around with the other boys. There were quite a few boys from rival gangs and the atmosphere was threatening. Sometimes you would go to the swimming baths in Dumbarton whilst accompanied by a member of staff. You were free to come and go as you pleased and could walk out of the grounds if you wanted as nothing was locked. Some of the boys did abscond.
18. You went to bed at about at about 9:00 pm after you had eaten some supper. The light would go out then. When I first arrived the dormitories were unlocked but after a few days Mr **KFT** took the decision to lock the dormitories at night.
19. If you needed to get up in the night to use the toilet you had to waken up the night watchman Mr **KFT**. This usually resulted in a beating from **KFT** for waking him up. The boys learned to pee out of the window in the dormitory.

*Mealtimes / Food*

20. The food was sufficient and I don't call having any issues with it. You always got a good breakfast. There were incidents of forced feeding and I was punished for not eating.

*Washing / bathing*

21. There was a shower room with old Victorian style showers. You could have a shower in the morning and the boys that worked in the gardens during the day could also have a shower at night. There was no privacy in the showers as they were communal.

*Clothing / uniform*

22. You wore your own clothes but when you were at work they would provide overalls. I think that they also provided shorts and T shirts. It was [REDACTED] when I was there so it wasn't cold.

*School*

23. There was no schooling. All you did was your work during the day. There were no facilities for school classrooms.

*Recreation*

24. There was a ping pong table but very little else. We also went to the local swimming baths on few occasions when I was there.

*Trips / Holidays*

25. I wasn't there long enough to have holidays or to go on any trips.

*Pocket money*

26. You didn't get pocket money but if you had some money could go into town to buy some tobacco as you were allowed to smoke in some of the areas at Bellfield. You had to be accompanied to go to town.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

27. I didn't celebrate a birthday or a Christmas at Bellfield.

*Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention*

28. I think that the only visitor that I had was a Probation Officer. My mother didn't want to come to visit me. I saw the Probation Officer on two occasions and I tried to tell them about the abuse that was happening. They didn't want to know. They asked me if I had any proof and they didn't believe me.

*Healthcare*

29. I don't think that I ever saw a doctor or a nurse. I didn't visit a dentist all the time that I was there.

*Running away*

30. I got fed up getting beatings and I blame the regime. I decided that I had to get away. I teamed up with two other boys. I can't remember the other boy's names. We had to sneak downstairs to where our clothes were in the lockers as we were wearing pyjamas. In order to get downstairs we had to get past the night watchman's room.

31. We managed to get out of the building but we didn't know where we were going. It must have been two or three in the morning. We didn't have anywhere to go and we had broken into a garage to get supplies. I realised that this was not a good idea. We spotted a police 'black Mariah' and handed ourselves in. The police took us back to Bellfield. We knew what was coming to us and we were severely beaten.

#### Bed Wetting

32. I didn't have any issues with bed wetting. I never saw any bed wetting issues.

#### *Discipline punishment*

33. I never saw any formal punishment like the school belt or anything like that. The beatings from members of staff and other boys went on all the time. If you were a bad boy at Bellfield they would also lock you in the toilet for a couple of hours until you calmed down.

#### **Abuse at Bellfield Remand Home.**

34. I recall going to the local swimming one summer evening. There was a group of us and we were being taken by the big black man [REDACTED]. I was walking too slowly and the big black man kicked me on the backside. I went down and he kicked me again. It was very painful and humiliating. He was seething with rage. When we got to the baths he was a different man and was very nice to everyone.
35. If you didn't eat your food a member of the staff would rub it on your face. They would make the person take their food to the boiler room and sit there until they finished it. They would also receive a beating from the staff. The staff would hit you with clenched fists and kick you about the body but never in the face. They never hit you anywhere it would show up to other people.

36. At night time none of the dormitories were locked. One night the night watchman Mr [KFT] came into my dormitory and dragged me out of bed and took him to his room. I recall it was full of filing cabinets. [KFT] started to grope me and sexually assault me. He forced me onto my knees and pulled down his zip. He took out his penis and he wanted me to give him oral sex. I managed to avoid this and he ejaculated all over me. Before he took me back to the dormitory he gave me a leathering by punching me about the head and legs.
37. When I got back to the dormitory I told the boys what had happened. They knew something was going on although they couldn't see what was happening. It was then decided amongst some of us that we needed to run away. We were getting regular beatings from the staff for no apparent reason.
38. After we had run away and were returned to Bellfield by the police we were put into a separate dormitory away from the other boys. We knew we were in for a beating. [LIG] [SNR] and [KFQ] the gardener set about us. The other boys had said that I was the ring leader. I received a more severe beating and [LIG] said to me that I had spoiled his record of no one running away.
39. [KFT] the night watchman came on that night and he also handed out a beating. This went on for three or four days while we were kept in the room away from the other boys. We had to wear our pyjamas all the time.
40. I was aware that I was due to go to Oakbank Approved School and I told [LIG], [KFQ] and [KFT] that I would be reporting them to the staff there. They told me that the staff at Oakbank would not believe me and they didn't seem to be worried. I thought I was a strong character and could handle things but I wanted them punished for what they had done to me.



41. The staff didn't seem to understand the gang culture that was about at the time. We all had tattoos identifying which gang we were part of but that just put us all in together even though we were sworn enemies. There was always scuffles between the boys and I think that the staff knew what was going on but did nothing to prevent it.

#### **Peer bullying**

42. There were members of all different gangs from central Scotland and these boys knew that I was a member of another gang from Stirlingshire. I am sure that the staff at Bellfield also knew this. I received a sound beating in the showers one day from a group of rival gang members. I didn't want to be there with them as they knew who I was. I didn't complain to anyone and yet Mr KFO who was on duty knew who had done it. All I wanted to do was to exact revenge on the rival gang members.

#### **Reporting of abuse at Bellfield**

43. I told the other boys in my dormitory what happened when I was sexually abused. When I was picked up by the police I told them I was being physically abused but they did nothing about it. I told my probation officers what was happening but neither of them believed what I was telling them.

#### **Leaving Bellfield Remand Home.**

44. I was only at Bellfield for assessment before I was to be moved on to a more permanent approved school. I was told that I would eventually go to Oakbank Approved School in Aberdeen for List D training. I went directly from Bellfield to Oakbank.

**Oakbank Approved School, Aberdeen - 1965.**

45. I was collected at Bellfield by two probation officers who took me to Oakbank by car. We stopped on route in Perth to have something to eat. They were nice guys and I briefly mentioned what had happened to me at Bellfield. I still had the bruises from the beatings I had received. They just weren't interested in what I was saying.
46. Oakbank was a large Victorian type house that had three floors. There were dormitories on the first floor. There were four dormitories altogether. There was a welfare department on the top floor and the staff had their accommodation and offices on the first and second floors.

*First impressions/first day*

47. We arrived at Mid Stocket Road in Aberdeen and I remember we turned into this long driveway which led up to the large house. I just wanted to get my head down and complete my time so that I could get back home.
48. I arrived there about 10:00 pm and I was shown a temporary bed in the middle of a large dormitory. The dormitory was adjacent to the main doors of the dormitory area where I was told I would be sleeping.
49. The next day I went to the enrolment office whilst the paperwork surrounding my stay was completed. I was also taken to the tailor shop where I was issued with what was like an RAF jacket, some heavy duty trousers and some boots. I was given underwear and Sunday clothes. I also got tooth paste and soap. I was then taken back to my dormitory and was shown my bed which was to be mine until the end of my stay. There was a wardrobe and a cabinet for storing my clothes. There was a boy from Montrose whose name I can't recall who was told to show me round. It appeared to be a very nice place.

50. On the day after I arrived at Oakbank I was subjected to a medical examination by the nurse. I was still covered in bruises from the beating I had taken from running away at Bellfield. She asked me if I had been fighting and I told her what had happened but she didn't do anything. She didn't believe me and she didn't take any further action.
51. There were two shower rooms, a boot room where the boots were stored and cleaned. There were four dormitories with about 50 boys in each one. There was a communal dining room which had two sittings at lunch and tea time. There was a gym and a first aid room which was manned by the full time nurse. There were four classrooms also on the ground floor. Outside there was a yard where all the boys would congregate and assemble for roll call. Off the yard there was a laundry. In the grounds there was a football pitch and gardens for growing vegetables.
52. There was a play area in the grounds. Smoking was not allowed anywhere in Oakbank, The Governor had a house in the grounds and it was known as the Governor's mansion and that is where he resided. There were also houses for the teachers and the staff. The boys knew them as Sir's houses. The gardener also had a house there.
53. There were about two hundred boys at Oakbank and I was number [REDACTED]. The boys ranged in ages between twelve and seventeen. Oakbank Approved School was single sex for boys only. I think that it was run by the local authority in Aberdeen.
54. I formed a bond with two of the boys at Oakbank. They were called [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] in Falkirk and [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] Stirling. We would look out for each other and stuck together so we wouldn't be bullied.

*Initiation ceremonies at Oakbank.*

55. Every new inmate at Oakbank had to go through an initiation ritual called "the pit" where you were required to walk into a metre deep pit while wearing a blindfold. This was organised by the other boys and no staff were involved. If you refused to do this you were in big trouble with the rest of the boys. There were no exceptions.
56. You also had to run the gauntlet of boys. This was always done on a Sunday and the boys would have two lines of them facing each other. The initiate would have to fight his way from one end to the other while the boys rained down punches and kicks at them. I am certain that the staff knew this was going on.

*Staff.*

57. SNR [REDACTED] was called Mr GZH [REDACTED] and SNR [REDACTED] was called GZG [REDACTED]. There was a full time nurse who was a plumpish lady but I can't recall her name. There were at least eight other members of staff who were in charge of teaching. There were two full time social workers. There were also female admin staff who worked in the offices. We had to call the staff sir.

**Routine at Oakbank Approved School -1965.***Mornings and bedtime*

58. You were woken up at 6:30 am having showered the night before. You went downstairs to an assembly room for roll call where you had to give your name and number. You would be already changed into your work clothes. You got your breakfast and then went to the place of work that had been allocated to you.
59. You started work about 7:45 am and got a break mid-morning. You went back to work until lunchtime. You worked for about two hours in the afternoon and then you finished at about 4:00 pm for the day.

60. You would get your evening meal and then you had to be in the assembly room for 7:00 pm so they could take the roll call. After that the doors were locked and you could go to the games room or the television room. You had to have a shower and then went to bed at about 9:00 pm. Lights went out at 9:30. This routine happened seven days a week with some of the boys working over the weekend. You did get some pocket money and could go into Aberdeen on a Saturday afternoon for a few hours as long as you had permission and had earned the privilege. There was enough money to buy an ounce of tobacco.

*Food*

61. I thought that the food was very good and there was plenty of it. I didn't see anyone being punished for not eating their food although some of the boys alleged that they had been force fed but I didn't believe them.

*Washing and bathing*

62. You could wash any time you wanted there were no restrictions. The boys that worked in the gardens were most in need of showers at night time as they had been moving dung and earth and were quite dirty.
63. The school showers were supervised by the staff to stop any bullying. There was one member of staff called Mr GZF used to spend the time looking at you in the shower. He stated that he was checking that no one slipped and injured themselves.

*Healthcare*

64. I think that I had my tonsils out at the local hospital in Aberdeen. I think that I spent a week there. I loved it because I didn't have to make my bed or do any work.

*Clothing*

65. All the clothing, from work clothes to Sunday best were provided by Oakbank. They also supplied underwear and pyjamas along with working boots and shoes.

*Schooling/work parties/chores/pocket money*

66. There were school rooms at Oakbank and I had to attend because I was under fifteen years of age. The school went on from 9:00 am in the morning till 4:00 pm in the afternoon. The schooling was designed to fit your academic level and it was very basic.
67. I went to school at Oakbank until I was fifteen and then I went to work in the janitorial services until I was sixteen. I didn't obtain any national school exams. The man in charge of the gardens was called Joe Fraser and he was a lovely man. He would sit and talk to you about your life and spent time listening to you. He totally trusted me and even gave me a set of keys to a locked yard where I could have a smoke during the evening without being caught by other staff members.
68. You did chores at the school to earn pocket money which enabled you to buy tobacco. I think that I got two bob a week. You got out of the school on a Saturday afternoon to spend your pocket money. I used to get extra pocket money as I [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the "Boys Court" which made the decisions on discipline for other boys. Then court always sat on a Thursday evening.

*Birthdays/Christmas*

69. Christmas was very basic and there were some decorations and a Christmas tree. I don't remember presents. There was no celebration of your birthday apart from what your parents may have sent to you.

*Visits and inspections.*

70. My brother [REDACTED] did come to visit me on one occasion but it was too far for other family members to come regularly. My mother did come up on parent's day which occurred once a year on a Saturday. I remember [REDACTED] telling me that I had lost my arrogance and appeared to be a changed character.
71. There were no visits from social workers as they were based at Oakbank. For the first three months I was at Oakbank I had to see them every two weeks. During the time you were there and you could discuss anything with them on a one to one basis. It was a service that was available to you at any time. I can't recall the names of the social workers. I don't recall any inspections at Oakbank.
72. There was one occasion when I was in the boxing ring and I gave a hiding to one of the boys who had been bullying the younger boys. I went over the score with him and didn't "break" when I was told to do so by the referee. I was called in to see the social workers and I had to explain why I had this outburst. They listened to my explanation and made me realise what I had done was wrong but no further action was taken. I realised that what I did was not the correct way to handle this issue.

*Trips/leisure*

73. I went for a week away to Banchory during the holidays and I remember we stayed in camp beds at the local school. I think that most of the boys who had earned the privilege came on that trip.
74. We didn't have lots of sporting activities but I was a boxer and I also recall playing table tennis.

*Running away*

75. Running away was never an option for me at Oakbank as I had nowhere to go to.

*Discipline*

76. There was an official school belt called "the shefter". It was like a normal school tawse with two tongues. You would be administered the shefter for offences like running away, serious fighting or bullying. You would also get the shefter for homosexual practices. The shefter was always given in the "board room" by either Mr GZH or Mr GZG. The maximum you would get would be six strokes. During my early time at Oakbank I once got four of the shefter for fighting. You had to put on your "Sunday best" pair of flannels and you would bend over and it would be administered on your bottom through the flannels. There always had to be two members of staff present when you got the shefter.

*"Boys Court" at Oakbank.*

77. [REDACTED] the "Boy's Court". The court would sit to judge misdemeanours committed by the boys. There were always three boys and a member of staff on the judging panel. After you listened to the evidence you would do a report which ended up with Mr GZG. He would act on your judgement.
78. I remember accompanying one of the members of staff to collect one of the boys who had absconded and been found in Glasgow. I also recall we had time to drop in and see my mother in Bo'ness on route. Such was the trust that the staff had in me. When we collected the boy and brought him back he appeared before the "Boy's Court". He was asked why he had run away and why he hadn't sought help from the welfare worker at Oakbank. The normal penalty was the shefter but we had the power to decide how many he should get. We decided on two and that worked well with everyone. Punishment was always handed out on a Sunday.



**Abuse at Oakbank Approved School, Aberdeen - 1965**

79. Mr GZF was a big man with a big build. He would stand watching the boys showering. I challenged him about the need for him being there and he told me it was because he was there to prevent any bullying amongst the boys and in case one of them slipped and was injured. On reflection I think he just like watching the boys naked.
80. There was another man we called GZE because he had been a RAF officer. I don't know his name. He used to come to work in a big jaguar car. He also spent time inside the showers supervising and again on reflection I think that this was not right. Other members of staff on duty during showering time would stand outside the door. I remember a Mr Young who was younger and always stood outside to give you privacy.
81. There were a lot of older boys who were involved in the sexual abuse of some of the other boys. There was a sick bay where some of the boys would go if they were ill. Some of the older boys would take the opportunity to sexually assault the younger boys as this dormitory which unlike the others was not locked thorough the daytime and they had easy access.
82. I don't want to give the names of the boys who were involved in the sexual abuse. They would offer you tobacco in return for sexual favours. They were much bigger boys and it would be hard to fight them off. I think that the staff knew about this and although I saw some sexual abuse I can't be more specific. I don't think that the boys were aware of what they were doing and it was considered by them and the staff to be just the nonsense that boys got up to.

83. Whist on the trip in Banchory I was sexually assaulted by one of the boys who I don't wish to name him. We were all staying in sleeping bags in the local school. There were sexual assaults going on all the time between the boys. He who was an older boy and he sexually assaulted me but I fought him off. I also told Joe Fraser my teacher about what happened but he didn't want to cause trouble for himself as he had been there for a long time and I felt that he didn't want to rock the boat. He understood that the incident had affected me but he still didn't do anything. I felt disappointed as I trusted Joe Fraser.
84. There was a night watchman whose name I don't know who would wander through the dormitories at night and touch some of the boys while they were in bed. He would encourage some of the boys to touch his private parts. I never saw this happening I would hear other boys talking about it. He would also invite you to go to his room to watch television. I don't know what happened there as I never went but the other boys would often talk about it.
85. On a Saturday afternoon when you came back from town the staff would search you to check you weren't bringing back tobacco. GZG [REDACTED] would go overboard with the searching and he would put his hand down the front of your trousers. He would go too far and I would describe that as inappropriate touching. I suspect that this happened to me on a regular basis. I tried to tell Joe Fraser but he wouldn't believe it. It happened all the time I was there to all the boys.

#### **Reporting abuse at Oakbank**

86. When I first arrived at Oakbank the nurse examined me and saw the bruises I had from the beating I received at Bellfield when I ran away. I told her what had happened but she didn't believe me and didn't do anything about it.

87. I told the welfare officers at Oakbank and I also told one of the janitors who I considered to be a mentor all about the peer abuse and the inappropriate touching by GZG [REDACTED]. I told Joe Fraser who was in charge of the janitor services. He didn't believe it either. He said he couldn't comprehend it but I think that I told him that often he finally believed me. He didn't do anything about it. He knew that I was still a long way away from the expiry of my licence, so he just let it go. He didn't want to rock the boat for either of us.
88. I know from speaking to the other boys at Oakbank they also reported the abuse to the welfare officers that were part of the staff at Oakbank. They were similarly dismissed and told that they were not believed.

#### **Leaving Oakbank Approved School – 1965.**

89. There was a grading system in place which operated to identify your release date. It was based over a sixteen month period. You could have your term increased if you misbehaved and similarly if you demonstrated good behaviour you could get the term reduced. I was released early on licence after just twelve months. I was a changed person and had blossomed and been trusted when I was at Oakbank. I was given positions of responsibility [REDACTED]
90. I got one days' notice of my release date when I was told that the Board of Governors had signed my licence and I was free to go. The licence was to last for a year and I was not allowed to get into any trouble, I said my farewells to the staff and the boys alike and got a train home to Bo'ness to my mother's house. I was sixteen years of age. Thereafter I had limited dealing with the social services apart from a monthly probationary visit.

**Life after being in care**

91. I got a few jobs all related to the building industry. Over the years I have worked all over the world as a specialised consultant in corrosion. I am still involved in local projects.
92. I had some minor brushes with the law in my late teens and did serve a month on remand in prison sentence at Longriggend. I was not yet eighteen but it was just a prison with a prison regime. Nothing happened to me there and I had learned to keep myself to myself. I appeared before Sheriff Kerr-Reid and he remembered me and instead of sending me for borstal training he gave me another chance.
93. I had a long term girlfriend and then I met my wife. I have three children and three grandchildren along with a great grandchild.

**Impact.**

94. One of the main impacts on my physical wellbeing was when I went to Oakbank I developed a stutter that I had never had before. This stutter eventually went away when I was 21 years old or thereabouts.
95. I have put my experiences of care to the back of my mind. Whenever I hear anything about Bellfield or Oakbank it brings back all the memories. I have discussed some of this with my wife and she was present one day when child abuse was being talked about and she could see I was getting upset. She managed to change the conversation. I have never had any professional help for any mental health issues surrounding my time in care.

**Reporting of Abuse**

96. The only person I have told about what happened to me in care apart from the staff that worked at Bellfield and Oakbank and the police that took me back to Bellfield when I ran away is my lawyer. I have known my lawyer for a long time and one day I told him about my past and my time in care. I have not at this time instructed my lawyer to take it any further.

**Records**

97. I have never tried to get my records regarding my time in care. I had to get information to satisfy a "disclosure" document when I was working abroad but there was no mention on it of my time in care or my criminal past.

**Lessons to be learned**

98. You can't turn back the clock but if any of the abusers that I have mentioned are still alive they should be called to account. Abuse continues to go on at a lot of the list D and approved schools. I feel that the abused children have a habit of going on to be abusers themselves and that has to stop. Why has it taken this long to have an Inquiry?

**Other information**

99. It was reading about Bellfield and Oakbank in the papers that caused me to come forward to The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. I had buried all the memories in my mind and had got on with life. I think that although it is upsetting remembering what happened it is good to finally speak to someone about it.

100. 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. GZD .....

Dated 21/10/2019 .....