

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

ILY

Support person present: No

1. My name is ILY. My date of birth is 1956. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Oakbank Hospital in Glasgow. My parents were and . My mother had my older sister, , before she met my father and my grandmother brought up. was two years older than me. I was the oldest of five children of my mother and father. I had younger siblings. My sister is two years younger than me, my brother is four years younger, my sister is six years younger, my sister is eight years younger, and my sister was ten years younger than me but committed suicide.
3. Our first house was in Maryhill, Glasgow. Then we moved to Possilpark and that is where I spent my childhood. I went to Churnside Primary School in Milton. Then I went to Balgowan, then Possilpark Secondary. I missed first year at Possilpark because I was in a List D school.
4. My family life was OK. My mum had a hard job bringing us up because my father drank a lot, and he drank a lot of the money. My mum had a lot of children to look after so it was quite difficult for her. My mum had cleaning jobs, she used to take me with her when I was a wee boy. My dad was a joiner. His family were all fishermen from Aberdeen but he moved down to Glasgow when he was a young man.

5. The first school I went to was in the street behind my house. My grandmother's window looked down on the school and she used to be horrified watching me climbing all over the building. I liked the school but at that time in my life I met a wee boy called [REDACTED]. We called him [REDACTED]. For some reason he was off school a lot. He used to come down to my house and tell me that he wasn't going to school the next day. I told him I had to go but he told me to tell my mum I wasn't well. I would feign illness and after a couple of hours I would ask my mum if I could go outside and [REDACTED] would be waiting for me. We would stay out the back for a little while and then disappear into town. I was about nine years old at that time.
6. When we moved to a bigger house in Possilpark I went to Churnside Primary school but I was still playing truant. I would go to Parkhead and watch the Celtic players training, then the players would chuck me out.
7. Then I met a boy called [REDACTED] who was the same age as me. We started playing truant from school together. We saw a bread van, slid the side door open and stole a big Swiss roll. [REDACTED] said he would hide it and put it in his jacket. We got on the bus and I wanted to get half of the Swiss roll but [REDACTED] didn't want to share it with me, he was hungrier than I was. That annoyed me so I went and told his mum that [REDACTED] had been playing truant from school. She asked me how I knew and I told her that he was at Parkhead with me. I went out to play and when I went back home [REDACTED] mother was standing at the door speaking to my mother. I had stuck myself in.
8. It was around that time that I remember seeing a social worker coming to our house. I think his name was Mr Aitken. I can remember being out playing and coming in to find him talking to my mother. He didn't sit down and talk to me.
9. In 1967 I went to the adult court at Glasgow Sheriff Court. I was eleven years old. It was for theft by housebreaking from the big General Electric factory. The gate had been left open and a me and a group of kids wandered in. There was a window open and we climbed in. There was big cafeteria and one boy drank this yellow liquid thinking it was juice but it was washing up liquid and he was sick. We found a fridge with blocks of butter and took them outside. We took the wrappers off and were

throwing them to stick them on the building. Someone saw these blocks of butter sticking to the wall and phoned the police. I think that's what the charge of housebreaking was.

10. When I went to court I went into town with on the bus with my mother. She was crying. She asked the Sheriff for another chance but he said that she had been given every chance and it was time that I was given a proper education. I was sent to Larchgrove for fourteen days detention on [REDACTED] 1967. I was eleven years old, still at primary school.

Larchgrove Assessment Centre, Glasgow 1967 and 1968 (Two periods)

11. I was at Larchgrove twice in the space of a year. The first time felt different because I was just a wee boy. I got put on a big black bus straight from the court and taken to Larchgrove.
12. Larchgrove was all low buildings. There was a second level at the front. That was where the kitchen and the dining areas were. There was only one cell in the place where you could be locked up. When you were in Larchgrove and you went up the main corridor, the cell was the first door on your right. You could sometimes see into it and they would show you it. It was just a wee room with glass brick windows. There was nothing in the cell apart from a mattress on the floor. There were five stairs that went down and along a corridor. That was where the classrooms were. Before you got to the classrooms there were two glass doors and that's where your visitors came in.
13. It was all boys in Larchgrove. I couldn't tell you the age range, at that age I couldn't tell if any of the boys were over sixteen years old. [REDACTED] SNR Larchgrove was Mr [REDACTED] LGX. He was a tall, quiet man, with big, dark, bushy eyebrows. Mr [REDACTED] GIA was the [REDACTED] SNR. Among the other staff was a Mr [REDACTED] MKI. He was known by the boys as, "a poof" even though we didn't know what that meant. He had curly ginger hair and spectacles. He was thin. He was always laughing with the other teachers and the boys.

14. There was a boxer called LSP [REDACTED]. He took us to art classes at night, and so did Mr IGQ [REDACTED]. Mr zLTE [REDACTED] took us for films. There was a Mr HFV [REDACTED], he was a young student. He used to take us about during the day on walks round the place. I can't remember who was in charge of the gymnasium or the medical side.
15. There were two teachers in charge of woodwork. One of them was called IJR [REDACTED] IJR [REDACTED]. There was a gardener who used to creep about at night looking in the windows. I can't remember his name. It's possible that he saw abuse going on and I thought in later life that he might be in a position to give information to the authorities.

Routine at Larchgrove

First day

16. The first night I was there I witnessed a boy getting battered. As soon as the door on the bus opened I got off and a man at the back of the bus told me to come with him. There were two big polished steps and a glass door. The man held the door open. He had dark hair and dark, heavy rimmed glasses. He told me to stand behind him. Two policemen came in and they were signing paperwork and then they went away.
17. The man with the glasses said, "Welcome to Larchgrove." There was another boy there who was naked. The man told the boy to turn round and bend over. The boy did that and the man told him to pull his buttocks apart. The boy reached round with his hands and pulled his cheeks apart. The man looked and said, "There's no pills in there." As he stood back, the man put his hand in his pocket and pulled out a leather tawse. He told the boy to take his hands off his cheeks and he hit the boy three times with the belt. The boy was screaming. I think the boy was the same age as me. He got sent up the corridor, crying.
18. The reason that boy got searched was that he had escaped and in the 1960's there was a drug called Mandrex which we called Mandies. This boy took it and his friend

took them and they had been found dancing in Woolworths without shoes or socks on. People were alerted by their strange behaviour and that's how they got caught and brought back. That was why he was given the belt. He must have had pills on him.

19. The man with the glasses took me up to another man and told him my name. Then I was taken to another room with other boys and given a bed to sleep in. I didn't get searched the way the other boy was.
20. There was an initiation ceremony at Larchgrove. They said that you were not a Larchgrove boy until you got your cocoa ticket. When I heard that I asked what a cocoa ticket was. Other boys said that at night, the staff would come round with cocoa when we were in bed, but only if you had a ticket. I asked how to get the ticket and was told I had to go down and ask the night shift staff.
21. I went down to where the nightshift guy sat watching. He was a big guy with a red T shirt. I said, "Excuse me, can I have a cocoa ticket please?" He shook his head and asked who had told me that. I told him it was the other boys in my dormitory. That's when I found out there was no cocoa ticket, that there was no cocoa. The nightshift guy asked me if I like fruit buns and I said yes, so he gave me a bit of fruit bun. He told me to eat it down there and not to tell any of the other boys I got it. I ate it and he told me to go back up to the dormitory. When I went back up to the dormitory the other boys asked if I got my cocoa ticket. They were all laughing but I had a wee smile on my face.

Mornings and bedtime

22. The two wings where the dormitories were led to a square. The doors were left unlocked at night so you could go to the toilet. That was where the nightshift chap sat and he could see anyone trying to get out because the only ways you could go were down to the front door or towards the gymnasium.

23. In the morning, the radio would come on and teachers would come in and tell you to make your bed.

Mealtimes/Food

24. The food was served upstairs in the dining bay. The food was delicious. They would bring it in with aluminium rings between the four or five plates. We got big fish suppers and big spam fritters. We got plenty to eat.

Washing/bathing

25. You had to brush your teeth every morning. Everyone had a wee round tin of tooth powder. You wet your toothbrush and rubbed it in the powder. The washing and shower areas were communal. There were no baths.
26. We got a shower once a week, on a Sunday. The showers were just open, there was no privacy. We sat in rows in the gymnasium and the gardener, a wee guy with rosy red cheeks, used to come down the rows with a big tub of either Prioderm or Soriderm shampoo which was in case you got head lice. He had a big spatula and put some on every boys head. Then we went for a shower.

Clothing/uniform

27. There were uniforms at Larchgrove. If you were in for 14 days you wore brown corduroy trousers and a blue shirt. If you were doing 28 days and waiting to go to an approved school you wore blue corduroy trousers, so the staff could distinguish.
28. If you were wearing brown corduroys you could go sliding up and down the corridors, run up to the art class, and the gymnasium. But if you were wearing blue corduroys you couldn't, you were treated more strictly.

Leisure time

29. In the afternoon we might be outside playing football in the football park. The main game we played at that time was called Five Stones, like Jumping Jacks. We played it with stones. You would put them on the back of your hand and try to grab as many as you could. In the evenings we had art classes and the gymnasium. We would read comics. There weren't any books or board games. There was no pool table of anything like that.

Schooling

30. We would go to classes during the day. They would come and get you and tell you where to go. I made a big fish in the woodwork class and my mum had it up on the wall, until one day my dad threw it on the coal fire and burned it.
31. We had classes every day during the week. There were no classes at weekends. Most days it was watching films about oil exploration. I was watching one of the films one day and the teacher was Mr MKI. It was his job to change the film reel. We all sat on metal frame chairs with a metal back and soft bases. Mr MKI came down and sat in front of me. There was a wee boy and Mr MKI told him to come and sit with him. The boy sat down next to Mr MKI and the film started. I happened to look down and Mr MKI took the wee boy's hand and put inside his own trousers, at the fly. I don't know who the boy was but he was just wee, ages with me.

Healthcare

32. I didn't need to see a doctor or a dentist when I was at Larchgrove so I don't know what they would do if someone did get injured. I can't think of there being a nurse there.

Religious instruction

33. We had to go to church every Sunday. We got marched to church and had to put on big shiny shoes and an overcoat. We called the shoes Parish shoes. We were given a church hymnary, I've still got one at home that I took from Balgowan. They would march us out of Larchgrove and march us along Edinburgh Road to Barlarnock to the church. We didn't say Grace before meals, it wasn't as strict as that.

Trips and holidays

34. Mr MKI took us out one day and there were shops nearby. He sent one of the boys he trusted to the shop to get sweets for us. After about half an hour he took us back.

Work

35. At weekends we cleaned the dormitory on Saturday mornings. We made our beds and just sat on our beds until lunchtime.

Birthdays and Christmas

36. I wasn't at Larchgrove for either my birthday or for Christmas.

Personal possessions

37. Your mum could send you in a parcel and the staff would distribute chocolate bars to you. There were older boys who smoked and during the day the staff went into the yard with a big box of cigarettes and would give the older boys a cigarette.

Bed Wetting

38. I was wetting my bed at Larchgrove. I don't think I had been doing it at home. If you wet your bed, when you got up in the morning you were told to take your sheets off and they took them away. They brought you new sheets and you made your bed. I

can't remember if you got a shower or not, I don't think you did. There was no punishment for wetting the bed.

Visitors

39. They had visiting in the evenings, in the classrooms. The boys who were doing fourteen days were used as runners. You would run to the classroom and the teacher would give you a slip of paper with a boy's name on it and you had to go and find him to tell him someone was up to visit him. When you found them you would take them down for their visit. In the visits all the boys would be eating sweets and at the end of the night the leftover sweets would be shared between the runners. It was a good perk.

Review of care / detention

40. I don't recall seeing a social worker or anyone else like that when I was in Larchgrove.

External Inspections

41. There were no external inspections at Larchgrove when I was there.

Family contact

42. The first time I was at Larchgrove my parents came to visit me. My dad knew that I liked tomato juice so he brought me one of the wee bottles out of the pub. We sat on these wee seats just inside the entrance of Larchgrove. I wasn't allowed to phone or write to my parents when I was in Larchgrove.

Running away

43. I didn't run away from Larchgrove. It wasn't in my head to run away. The boy I saw getting searched for pills and beaten when I first arrived at Larchgrove had escaped. His name was [REDACTED], he got called [REDACTED]. He got put in the cell. It had glass double-insulated bricks that you couldn't see through, and one of them was broken. [REDACTED] got

one of the gardeners to pass him in a post and he knocked a hole in the ceiling and escaped and ran away. [REDACTED] got involved with drugs later in life and died of an overdose.

44. I saw a boy lifting a chair in the visit room and throwing it through a window, just to escape from the place. By the time the staff got the door open he was away across the car park. I never ever thought Larchgrove was a foreboding, bad place.

Discipline

45. The tawse was the main form of discipline at Larchgrove, and they had the cell. I never got the belt at Larchgrove and I never saw anyone else getting it. I was never put in the cell but another boy, [REDACTED], told me that he was put in it but he escaped. I don't think there were any other forms of discipline.

Abuse at Larchgrove

46. I was abused by a boy in the dormitory I stayed in. His name was [REDACTED], he was an older boy. I don't know if [REDACTED] was his first name or his second name. I can't recall if it was during the 14 day period or the 28 day period.
47. [REDACTED] was in the next bed to me. There was a song on the radio at that time called I can't sleep for tossing and turning, by Ivy League. There was a speaker up on the wall that played the radio all the time. The older boy would sing along to that song but he sang different words. He sang, "What's that funny smell? [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]." He turned round and lifted his sheets up. He grabbed my bed and pulled my bed over to his.
48. He told me to give him my hand. He leaned over and grabbed my left arm. He put my hand on his penis and moved it up and down. After a minute or so he told me to smell my hand and I did. It was a horrible smell. After that happened he did it again, maybe three nights running. The song always stuck in my head and every time I have heard it through life, it sends a shiver down me. He didn't touch me at all, he just got me to

touch his penis. I didn't see [REDACTED] doing that to any other boys. He may have done before I got to Larchgrove.

49. One day I was in the woodwork class, we had just gone into the class. The teacher had ginger hair. The other guy there was the one called [REDACTED]. He was standing beside me wearing a brown overall jacket. I tugged on his pocket and he looked at me. I said, "Mr [REDACTED], why are you called [REDACTED]?" He started laughing and put his right arm round me. He walked me over to the lathe and said, "[REDACTED] is it?" He brought his hand up to my nose and said, "That's why!" the minute he did that, I could smell the same smell I had smelled with [REDACTED] and I remembered the song that [REDACTED] sang. It's unbelievable to think of an adult doing that to a child.
50. One day I saw the gymnasium teacher lifting a boy off the ground by his ears. The wee boy was screaming. I have often thought about that. It was a horrible thing, and it must have been painful as well. I can't remember the gym teacher's name. He was a small, muscular man. I don't know the boy's name. I hardly knew any of the boys in Larchgrove.
51. That was about all I saw. I don't think anyone really misbehaved in Larchgrove, or they would be taken down to the headmaster and given the belt.

Reporting of abuse at Larchgrove

52. I didn't tell anyone about the abuse when I was at Larchgrove.

Leaving Larchgrove

53. The first time I was at Larchgrove, I left after my fourteen days and went back home to my mum's. I was going to school but a lot of time I would be skiving off. I used to go

into town, I got to know the centre of Glasgow really well. We would sneak onto buses and the underground from a very early age.

54. Things were OK at home but my dad used to beat my mum up a lot. He would get drunk and accuse her of having affairs with other men. It was probably all in his head. He used to beat my mum senseless. I would wake up terrified when I heard crying during the night. I would go through and my dad would be on top of my mum punching her. He would tell me to get back to my bed. He broke her glasses, and he broke a bottle over her head. She had to pick the broken glass out of her hair.
55. The woman I went on to marry was a wee girl then and she stayed in the flat above us in Possilpark. I had to go up and get her father one night because my father was trying to drown my mother in the bath. He was a totally crazy man with a drink in him.
56. Then I got in trouble again, and I was sent back to Larchgrove in [REDACTED] 1968. I don't know what for, it might have been for stealing a bike.
57. There was a famous Glaswegian called Jimmy Logan. He was at the [REDACTED] theatre which wasn't far from our house. Me and a boy called [REDACTED] were out one night and we went round the back of the theatre where the stage door was. There were two wee bikes sitting. One was a unicycle that monkeys used to go round the stage on. [REDACTED] said we should take the bikes. He took the two wheeled bike and I took the unicycle. I was trying to pedal it down Maryhill Road. A police jeep pulled in and stopped us. I think that might have been what got me sent back to Larchgrove.
58. There would have been another court case for stealing the bike. Going back to Larchgrove was just where I was held for an assessment. It is difficult to distinguish the two periods I spent in Larchgrove because everything was so similar. It was the same routine.
59. Then they decided to send me to Balgowan Approved School. I think that was when I was told that I was getting put away to get a good education. The only social worker I remember speaking to at Larchgrove was when I was leaving for the second time.

They came in and told me to get my stuff ready and gave me my own clothes back. Then a man came in and took me to Balgowan, I can't remember his name. He asked me if I knew where Dundee was, he said that is where he was taking me. He stopped on the way and bought me sweets.

Balgowan Approved School, Dundee 1968 to 1970

60. I was twelve years old when I went to Balgowan. At the time I was told that I was going to an approved school for a two and a half year period, and that they would decide how long I was there. I think I was there for about two years, until I was fourteen years old.
61. Balgowan was a big magnificent building. It had an avenue on the way down that was tree lined on the right hand side, to give shade. On the left hand side you could see grass. There were two little school rooms and then a big mansion. It had a main doorway with a massive turret and it came down on the sides to lower buildings. The dining room was on the left hand side. On the right was Mr IQH's art class. Above were the dormitories. On the right hand side were Bruce and Duncan Houses. On the left were Scott and Wallace Houses. There was a big grass field out in front. They hired a big trampoline for the summer sports. A bloke came and taught us professional trampolining. I learned how to do the helicopter, which is where you bounce lying flat and spin round in the air and land facing the other way.
62. It was all boys at Balgowan, although there was a girls' school nearby called Balgay. They were allowed to come for a visit on the night of the school play. The boys were all told to be on their best behaviour. I would say there were between 35 to 40 boys at Balgowan. Once you were in the building, you were locked in. Inside, you could walk around freely.
63. I can remember the names of a lot of the teachers at Balgowan. Mr LIF was the SNR. His first name was either LIF. SNR was called LSB. Mr LID was the cobbler and the captain of the

Cadets. Mr [REDACTED] LID [REDACTED] brother, was the Cadets corporal. Mrs Betty Currie was the nurse and the cook. Miss Muriel McKenzie was also a nurse and did the laundry. Mr GRZ [REDACTED] was the boilerman and the barber.

64. Mr IPS [REDACTED] was the gardener. Miss Robertson was the seamstress. Miss Jill Ireland was the front office typist. Mr IQH [REDACTED] was the art teacher. Mr ERM [REDACTED] was a teacher, I can't remember what he taught. Mr GNC [REDACTED] was the maths teacher and took the Cadets. ILX [REDACTED] was a teacher, I can't remember what he taught. Mr LUP [REDACTED] was the gym teacher.

65. Mr Douglas Leighton taught painting and decorating. Mr LIO [REDACTED] was the woodwork and metalwork teacher. Mr IDH [REDACTED] was a teacher, I can't remember what he taught. Mr GNB [REDACTED] was the night class teacher. Mr IQE [REDACTED] was the cook. IQE [REDACTED] was a small man with white hair and glasses.

66. Mr GNA [REDACTED] was a teacher, I can't remember what he taught. Mr Hutchison was the English teacher. Mr IPR [REDACTED] and a man called Paw Broon were in charge of the Dundee boys' quarters. There were other temporary staff whose names I can't remember.

67. I have got fond memories of Balgowan, some of the best memories of my childhood. They took us to some wonderful places. It wasn't a bad place, although there were a few bad staff. There were also a couple of bad boys.

Routine at Balgowan

68. I went into Wallace house first, then when I was a bit older I went in to Scott house. I didn't get the chance to go to Bruce and Duncan houses, that is where the older boys were. It wasn't like Larchgrove where they put younger boys in with older boys.

First day

69. When I first arrived at Balgowan it was cold. There was frost on the ground. I was taken into the office to meet SNR [REDACTED], LIF [REDACTED]. We called him LIF [REDACTED] LIF [REDACTED]. He had a wee croaky voice. I think he had [REDACTED]. He told me that a lot of the boys were not there at that time as they were home for [REDACTED] holidays, but there were some boys who were there from foster care. LIF [REDACTED] told me I would be in a dormitory with them and when the other boys came back from holiday, he would sort out where I was going to stay.
70. He took me out into the yard. There were three other boys there who were huddling round a steam pipe to stay warm. I was out there for most of the morning until we went in for lunch.

Mornings and bedtime

71. Wallace house was for the youngest boys. Scott house was for boys a couple of years older. Along at Bruce and Duncan houses were the boys who were sixteen, seventeen, even eighteen years old. They were big lads.
72. In Wallace dormitory in Balgowan there were eight boys. There was [REDACTED] from Edinburgh, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], two other boys whose names I can't remember, and me. Next door in Scott house there were about fourteen boys. They were older.
73. Teachers would wake us up in the morning. They would come into the dormitory and shout, "Right lads! Get up!" We would get up, make our beds, and go down for breakfast.
74. At night after we had been sitting for a wee while, the night teachers would come round and tell us to get our heads down, that the lights were going off. They put the lights off and a red light would come on. It was on all night.

Mealtimes/Food

75. Breakfast usually consisted of a cup of cocoa, cornflakes with milk, and two slices of buttered bread. There was a bowl of marmalade on the table, and we would put it on the bread. We then turned the bread upside down and put it on the cornflakes. We ate that, and whatever cornflakes were left we put milk on. Some of the boys would put the cocoa in their cornflakes and drink it. Most of the boys did that in the wintertime.
76. If they got us up at night for a fire drill the headmaster would be there and he would have a couple of boxes of Mars bars. He would thank us and say that we had done a great job during the fire drill. He didn't give us the Mars bars that night as we would have eaten them when we went back up the stairs. We got them the next day.

Washing/bathing

77. There were big communal showers. We would get a shower once a week or if we had been out doing sports. There were two shower rooms, one at the Scott and Wallace end, and one at the Bruce and Duncan end. The one at Scott and Wallace end had windows that faced out into the playground. One day during the summer it was staff versus pupils football. After the game, the teachers had a shower in our showers. Some of the boys would try to look through the window. Most of the teachers laughed it off but the one member of staff who got angry was Mr LID [REDACTED] who ran the army cadets. He said, "The lot of you, get down. I will be speaking to you when I come out of here. Get away from the windows." The boys thought it was a laugh.
78. Hanging from the shower ceiling was a big square of round tubing. In the ground, there was a smaller recessed square. There were twelve shower heads hanging down and you would stand under them. The older boys would swing from the pipes but I couldn't reach. Sometimes older boys would give you a boost up but the teachers didn't like the younger boys doing that in case someone fell and smacked their head on the concrete. There was always a teacher supervising the boys in the shower and often it was ILX [REDACTED]

79. One day I was sitting on the ground in the shower after sports. ILX was the teacher. I was looking at the boys swinging on the pipes. There was a boy called who was a lot older than me who was there. To put it politely he was a very well developed boy. He was swinging on the bars and I looked up at ILX and tugged his trousers. He didn't answer me. I looked to see what he was watching and he was staring at manhood as he was swinging. I pulled on ILX trousers again and he snapped and said, "What is it?" I asked him to lift me up so I could swing on the bars but he refused and went back to watching
80. The reason I mention this is because years later, thinking as an adult rather than a child, when we did the Christmas play we had to build the stage up in sections. Boys were carrying pieces of wood and I was carrying chairs. ILX said that he needed the help of a big strong boy and selected . He took him away. I don't know where he took him but given the way he was staring at in the showers something may have happened. I can't say if anything did happen, I can only say what I saw.

Clothing/uniform

81. Our clothes were all washed for us by Muriel McKenzie. She was in charge of the laundry. Herself and Mrs Betty Carrie did the nursing as well. Mrs Robertson was the kit woman. She did repairs if your kit needed repaired.

Leisure time

82. SNR, LSB, was a great man. He ran the Christmas play. I was in the school Christmas play in 1969. I played a street artist from Paris. They did a lot of musicals. I can still remember some of the songs.

Schooling

83. After breakfast we had classes. Some of the older boys would go to woodwork or metalwork with Mr LIO. Younger ones would go to General Studies with Mr

IDH [REDACTED] Mr Hutchison, Mr ILX [REDACTED], or Mr GNC [REDACTED]. We called him GNC [REDACTED]. Mr GNC [REDACTED] was the youngest teacher there, he was like a young boy. He was in charge of the boys cadets, he used to take them out on night manoeuvres. Army cadet training comes in two parts and they tried to put all the boys in Balgowan through it. I got to do part one but I never got to do part two.

84. We didn't get many classes in things like English and maths. Our education wasn't what you would call a traditional education, it was more like free-time education. That was ironic seeing as the judge sent me to Balgowan to get a proper education. The fact that I didn't get a proper education is something that has stuck with me my whole life.

85. Mr LID [REDACTED] was a proud [REDACTED] in the Black Watch. He used to take us into the gymnasium to shoot targets because the gymnasium was quite long. We would sit down with .22 rifles and learn how to clean the Bren gun. We would learn about map reading and orienteering. Sometimes that was in the afternoon and sometimes it was in the evening when LID [REDACTED] would be assisted by his brother [REDACTED].

86. They had a minibus at Balgowan, they might have had two. Some days one of the staff would pick some boys and go to Broughty Ferry or up to Arbroath.

Healthcare

87. Miss Carrie or Muriel McKenzie would treat you if you had a little cut or something. She would put a plaster on it. I didn't have to go to hospital for anything while I was at Balgowan. We got dental check-ups.

Religious instruction

88. We went to church on Sunday. We had to put on our dress uniform which was dark grey long trousers, a light blue shirt, and a wine red blazer. Mr LSB [REDACTED] house was right [REDACTED] he was well respected in the church. They gave us little

religious cards with prayers for boys on them but there were no other religious services we had to attend.

Trips and holidays

89. We each had a counsellor. All the staff had blue notebooks. If you finished your meal, sorted your dishes, and sat quietly, you would get good marks. You would get good marks or bad marks for everything. On a Friday afternoon the books would be passed round and your counsellor would tell you how many good marks you had and how many bad marks. I usually had bad marks. If you had good marks they might give you half a crown and let you go into the town at the weekend. We just went on the bus ourselves.
90. My counsellor was Jill Ireland who was the front office staff. One day she told me, "ILY [REDACTED], thirteen good marks and one bad mark. What happened?" My friend [REDACTED] had about eleven good marks, but they didn't let us out. They must have thought we had an ulterior motive in mind. Both of us were known as tearaways. We were kept in and given sweets instead.
91. When we did get to go into town we would go shoplifting in Woolworths. We would come back with stuff that cost more than half a crown. The teachers would check what we had bought and you would get belted if they thought you had been shoplifting.
92. They were always taking us to places during the day. They would take us to the cinema at night, to places where we could go swimming during the day. They would take us on walks up the Angus hills.

Birthdays and Christmas

93. If my mum sent a card the staff would pass it on but you didn't get a birthday cake or anything, nobody made a fuss about your birthday in Balgowan. I can't remember the first Christmas there because I had [REDACTED]. There weren't many boys there

at Christmas, only about six or eight. The following Christmas I got to go home after the Christmas play.

Personal possessions

94. You could get parcels sent in and Miss Carrie would shout you if you had a parcel and you could take a couple of sweets out of it. She would spin them out for as long as she could.

Bed Wetting

95. I wet the bed at Balgowan. As soon as I got there they said that I would get woken up at night by Mr Stewart. They put a rubber sheet on my bed. Mr Stewart woke up the bed-wetter's twice during the night. We would have to go to the toilet and make sure we did the toilet. Then we would go back to bed.
96. I was still wetting the bed when they put me in Stewart house and were waking me up at night. Then they stopped waking me up at night and I stopped wetting the bed. You didn't get punished for wetting the bed. Some of the boys might call you, "pee-the-bed" but there wasn't any bullying.

Visitors

97. My parents weren't allowed to visit apart from sports day.

Review of care / detention

98. I didn't see a social worker in Balgowan but I saw a social worker when they came to my house when I was on home leave from Balgowan. I didn't want to go back so my mother kept me at home. She got a sick line from the doctor. I came in one day and two of the teachers were standing there. They said they were there to take me back to Balgowan.

99. I saw a social worker when I got out of Balgowan. A social worker called Mr Aitken came to see my mother a couple of times. My father accused my mother of having an affair with him, and that he was the father of my sister [REDACTED].

External Inspections

100. I didn't see any external inspections in Balgowan, I only saw that later in life in borstal and prison. There would be inspections from big people in the department.

Family contact

101. My parents and my younger brother came up for the sports day. They spent the whole day at Balgowan. They thought it was a lovely place and it was.
102. We got home leave in the summer holidays. When other kids were off for six weeks, we got four weeks leave. We got put on the train and someone would be told to collect us at Glasgow. I only got home leave once, that's when I feigned illness and they came to get me.

Discipline

103. The tawse was the main source of discipline in Balgowan. I didn't see anyone else getting the belt at Balgowan but I did when I went back to secondary school. I was a cheeky boy when I went back to school because I had been in institutions. I was cheeky to one of my teachers and got the belt twice on the hand. It didn't hurt that much because you get used to it as you get older.
104. [REDACTED] gave you the nose treatment if you misbehaved. He would put one finger against your nose and skelp it off with the other hand. The second time you misbehaved you would get two fingers. He said, "Sometimes I'll do it sideways and it will be even sorer." That was about the only thing I saw happening to other people.

105. You didn't see boys being hit or struck. They might get taken away to the office for a talking to and they might get the belt but it was never in front of anyone.

Running away

106. I ran away from Balgowan twice. One time ^{IPS} [REDACTED], the gardener, was watching the gate. I think two boys had been fighting in the square where the laundry was and he ran up to see what was going on. Nobody was guarding the gate and I decided to go over the gate. ^{IPS} [REDACTED] spotted my legs going over the gate. I got half way down the drive and he caught up with me and took me back. I got three of the belt across the bare buttocks from Mr ^{IPR} [REDACTED] while ^{IPS} [REDACTED] held me down. Then I got locked in the brush cupboard for the rest of the day. ^{IPS} [REDACTED] would come up every hour or so and open the door to make sure I was OK.
107. The second time I ran away was when Mr Stewart who did the night shift took us out to Camperdown Park Zoo. Myself and a boy called [REDACTED] were looking at the animals. [REDACTED] said that he didn't like being at Balgowan and asked me if I wanted to run away. I told him that I had run away before and got three of the belt and locked in a cupboard but he wanted to run away so we made a dash for it. We ran across fields and ran through a field of barley. We grabbed some of that for food, we thought we could use that to survive.
108. We went into town and a car came skidding down with a man and a woman in it. [REDACTED] ran one way and I ran another and a woman C.I.D. officer caught me further down the Hilltown in Dundee. [REDACTED] got caught as well. We got taken to a police station and Mr ^{LSB} [REDACTED] came and got us.
109. When we got caught ^{SNR} [REDACTED] asked what we had hanging out of our pockets and he burst out laughing when we told him it was barley we were going to survive on in the wild. We got six of the belt but we didn't get locked in a cupboard.

Abuse at Balgowan

110. As soon as I went into Wallace house a boy called [REDACTED] tried to bully me. He would walk up to me and spit at me. He didn't have any front teeth and spat through the gap. I hated it and it went on for months. One day Mr Stewart that got us up at night got me and [REDACTED] to go upstairs with him. He handed me a yellow duster and handed [REDACTED] a wooden brush for cleaning radiators. Mr Stewart told [REDACTED] to clean the radiators and told me to clean the window sills. I finished the first windowsill and [REDACTED] was still cleaning the first radiator. He called me over to him as he could see that my job was easier than his. He snatched the duster and handed me the brush but he was still holding the handle. I grabbed the bristles and swung it and smacked him in the face. He told me not to hit him and after that he never bothered me, he never even looked at me. I'm sorry for hitting him but it stopped him bullying me.
111. We learned that you could pick on a boy if they were in from foster care by mentioning that they were from foster care. They would start crying. I didn't know what foster care was, I didn't know that they didn't have parents.
112. We had a bully in our dormitory, a boy called [REDACTED] from Bridgeton, Glasgow. Once a week we got clean clothes so we had to take off our clothes and stand naked waiting for the staff to come and give us fresh clothes. The windows had a stick to keep them open if it was really warm in the summer. It used to just sit on the window sill when it was not being used. [REDACTED] would go about with the stick like a wee Sergeant Major. He would lift up underpants with the stick and act like he was inspecting them for marks. With some of them he would say, "I'll just let you away with that." but there was one boy called [REDACTED] and he used to heavily soil his underpants. [REDACTED] used to pick the underpants up and poke them in [REDACTED] face, in his mouth and eyes. [REDACTED] would say, "You're a berk [REDACTED]!" [REDACTED] would just stand there. It was horrible to watch.
113. When I first went into Wallace house my bed was right by the door. In the bed next to me was a boy called [REDACTED]. One night we were sitting up talking and

██████████, out of the blue, said, "I like to suck willies". There was a boy in the other corner called ██████████ who came from Govan. He was a heavy set boy with curly hair. He wandered over to ██████████ and said, "You can sook mine" which ██████████ did for about a minute. The lights were on, we could all see what was happening.

114. Then there was a noise on the landing and ██████████ ran back to his bed. We thought the door was going to open but it didn't. After a couple of minutes ██████████ got out of his bed again to ██████████ and put his penis in ██████████ mouth. No sooner had he done that but ██████████ let out a scream. ██████████ jumped back. ██████████ said, "He's pished in my mouth."
115. Just with that the door burst open and in came Mr IQH ██████████ the art teacher. We called him IQH ██████████ because he had small, round ears. He looked like Mickey the Monkey in comic books. He shouted, "What was that?" ██████████ repeated what he said and pointed to ██████████, who by this time had managed to get back into his bed. ██████████ stared at ██████████ menacingly. Mr IQH ██████████ repeated his question and ██████████ said, "Nothing, nothing." Mr IQH ██████████ said he didn't want any noise or nonsense from us and that he was outside the door listening to us. I don't know if he had been listening before that. That situation with ██████████ and ██████████ only happened that one night, it was just out of the blue. Nothing was said about it the next day.
116. When I moved from Wallace house to Scott house I was in the first bed by the door again because I was wetting the bed. In the next bed to me was a boy called ██████████ from Brechin. In a bed on the right hand side was a boy called ██████████. The thought of ██████████ has troubled me since I left approved school, although I never saw anything happening to him. ██████████ had swarthy skin, he was Italian looking. He had lank jet black hair that hung down. When I moved in to Scott house, it was common knowledge in the dormitory that ██████████ could suck his own penis. When he was asked about this, ██████████ would sit up in bed and do it.
117. Most of the time I was in Balgowan, ██████████ was never with us. He was never out with us on trips. Often he got taken out himself by a teacher, and he would tell us that he

was taken swimming and things. He would smile but then his face would fall and a sadness would come over him. One night he was crying in bed and I wondered if someone had battered him. I think as an adult that given it was common knowledge among the boys what ██████ could do, then it would also have been known by the teachers. I don't know which of the teachers were involved in taking him out.

118. Mr IDH ██████ took the English class, he terrified us. His first exercise was to terrify us. He brought in a ceremonial dirk. It had a knife, a fork, and a main blade. He sat on a high desk and told us this dirk belonged to his father, or his grandfather. We asked him what it was for and he said, "Anybody who crosses a IDH ██████, who says or does anything wrong to them, I would kill them with this." and he made a cutting motion. Then he said, "Then I would eat them with this." and pointed to the fork and knife. He laughed, and we laughed.
119. Then one day Mr IDH ██████ said to us that he had something to show us. It was a block of plastic with a real scorpion encased in it. The block was green on the bottom and yellow on the top. He took us out of the class and took us into a cupboard at the front door. On the back wall was a box you could stand on. Mr IDH ██████ told ██████ ██████ to stand on the box. He brought us all into the cupboard and put the light on. He held the scorpion up to the light and told us to watch it. Then he turned the light off and the black scorpion was glowing bright green because the plastic block was luminous.
120. As we looked up at the scorpion, I felt a hand at my private parts. At first I thought it was one of the boys moving about, or messing about. Then I felt the hand go inside my trousers. I realised then it was an adult hand. The hand went down inside my pants and felt around my private parts. Then the hand came out. Mr IDH ██████ who was still holding the scorpion must have turned around in his seat so his back was facing me. He moved back and pushed me back against the wall. I don't know if he was doing anything to ██████ who was standing on the other side. Then after a couple of minutes the scorpion started to fade and Mr IDH ██████ turned the light on again and he told us all to go out of the cupboard.

121. I wrote a story about Mr IDH in the Christmas magazine. He used to take us hill climbing to Glenhead lodge which is away up in the Kirriemuir hills. It was lodge that had been bought by the authorities and all the approved schools could use it to go up in the summer. Mr IDH took us there along with Mr ERM Mr GNA and IQE the cook. Of the four of them only GNA didn't warrant suspicion, because I never saw him doing anything wrong.
122. It was a bit snowy one time we were up in the hills and I hit Mr IDH with a snowball. He said, "I'll get you for that." and he winked. I wrote about that in the Christmas magazine.
123. When we were in the lodge, Mr IDH woke us up at 7.30 am. We were just in our underpants. They took us outside and we had to run down a big field and jump in a burn. We were allowed to take our underpants off if we wanted. Some boys took them off but they made sure we all jumped in the water every morning. Then we went back for breakfast, then we were out all day hill walking with a packed lunch. We saw some fantastic wildlife.
124. Mr IQE used to play bingo at night. We used to play for penny dainties. There was no electric lighting in the place, it was lit by candles and paraffin lamps. Mr IQE got to go up and call the numbers. He put on his knee. Later told me that he had been made to masturbate Mr IQE when he was calling the numbers.
125. In Glenhead lodge when you went down the stairs there was a stairwell that let light in. One night I needed the toilet. I walked down the corridor and I saw ERM standing with stripey pyjamas on. He was standing with his arms folded looking down at me. His penis was sticking straight out of his pyjamas. He was making it move up and down of its own accord. He was smiling at me but I just walked passed him and went to the toilet. He didn't say anything. When I came out, he wasn't there. I don't know if he had been standing there waiting for boys to go into the toilet or if he had just come out of a room.

126. One summer afternoon Mr IQE asked us who wanted to go to the beach for a swim. We all put our hands up and he took us to Broughty Ferry. He picked up about ten of us and we went in the minibus. Some of the boys said they saw seals and went chasing them.
127. Mr ERM was called ERM I don't know why Mr ERM was called that. I don't know if it was because he took us for sex education but he asked us to call him that. He told us that some of the older boys had gone to the beach before and had sex with women. He then asked if any of us had had sex with a woman. He said, "You've never had a wee shag?" We said no. Then he bent down and made two mounds out of sand, like breasts. A bit below them he dug a hole in the sand with his fingers. He covered it over with a towel and said, "Aye some of the older boys used to do that for a laugh."
128. We asked if we could do it and he said we could if we wanted. We made mounds in the sand with a hole underneath and lay on them lifting our bums up as if we were having sex. Then further down the beach, a few people came over the sand bar. When he saw them, Mr IQE told us to stand up and put our towels away. He said, "We can't have these nice people seeing what you have been up to." and he scattered the mounds and the holes with his feet. He took us further up the beach and we ran about for a bit. Then he took us back to Balgowan.
129. They got us to sing songs in the minibus. The songs had normal words but the teachers encouraged us to sing different words. There were three songs they sang. There was an old farmer, The first night I met her, and Roll me over. The lyrics they sang were terrible. The songs were filled with innuendo by changing an expected swear word, but they would get us to sing the swear words. We would sing them on the winding roads but when we got near a bus stop with people the teachers would say, "Right lads, that's enough of the singing. We don't want people hearing you singing that trash." But they told us to sing it.
130. I had a similar experience, to the situation with ERM outside the toilet, with a teacher called GNB. He was there during the day. He had jet black hair

and he wore shiny silk suits and big silk ties. He was a heavy set man with a ruddy complexion. He was always giving me good marks for good behaviour. One night we were in one of the classes. There were model race cars that I was playing with. I asked Mr GNB if I could play with the car in the corridor and he said I could as long as I didn't wander off. I needed the toilet and that was right opposite the class room. I asked Mr GNB if I could go for a pee and he said he would have one as well. He came right up beside me at the urinal. He took out his penis and pushed it towards my face. He was smiling at me. I tried to move along but he moved along too. I was just looking at him and he put it away and left.

131. Sometime later Mr GNB was in the same class and I was playing with the car in the corridor. Mr GNB looked at me. He pointed to the toilet and gestured that I should go in. I went into the toilet and as soon as I did, Mr GNB came in. I didn't need the toilet but I went up to the urinal and Mr GNB pushed me along like before, but he wasn't smiling, he was menacing. He was staring at me and was trying to force me to touch him. Another teacher came shouting for him. He hastily got out of there and when I came out he was talking to the other teacher in the class.
132. Mr IDH tried to fondle me, Mr GNB tried to get me to touch him, and ERM ERM tried to get me to touch him. I often think about the gardener that used to sneak about at night in Larchgrove and if he saw me with [REDACTED] and if a report about me went up to Balgowan.
133. One day I went out with a boy called [REDACTED], from Fraserburgh. We went across the Tay bridge to a village called Wormit and we saw fishing line with a board with hooks, which I was later told was an Otter Board, a barbaric way of poaching salmon. Then we went back into Dundee and we needed the toilet so we went into a department store. [REDACTED] stood up on the toilet and pulled his shorts open and exposed himself. He said, "Would you like to sook my balls? It's tickly." I think that I did it, and then he did it to me.
134. I don't know where [REDACTED] learned that behaviour from but he told me that his dad used to beat him with a poker. One day [REDACTED] burst out crying, he took a nervous

breakdown. He was terrified. He climbed up on a big shed we had out in the playground. The teachers couldn't get him to come down. He was trying to pull slates off the shed roof.

Reporting of abuse at Balgowan

135. I didn't report abuse at Balgowan.

Leaving Balgowan

136. The funny thing is I can't recall leaving Balgowan. I don't really remember anything about the day I left. I just remember that they asked me if I wanted to keep my dress uniform.

Life after being in care

137. When I got out of Balgowan, I went to secondary school in Possilpark. I started there in third year. Other boys were asking if I had just moved to the area. I said no, that I had lived in Possilpark all my life. They asked why I had not been at school with them for the first two years of secondary school and I had to explain that I had been in an Approved School.
138. I had heard a lot about going to Possilpark secondary school. When you went in first year they had an initiation ceremony and they put your head down the toilet pan. I had nothing to worry about. When the other boys heard I had been in an approved school they didn't bother me.
139. After school I got a job in a sheet metal works. That job didn't last long because next door was a firm that did ships chandlery, making chandeliers. One day I went in there and looked through boxes and there was a box of steak knives. I got spotted by one

of the staff. The next day I went to work and the boss told me they had to let me go because the firm was closing.

140. When I came out of the boss' office a worker said to another worker that I had been made redundant but I caught him winking when he said it. He was making a gesture as if he was putting something inside his shirt. I realised they had sacked me. I told my parents that the firm had gone to the wall as dad would have killed me. I went outside the firm the next week and they were all going in to work.
141. Although my mother often encouraged me to steal, she had a hard life. My father often beat her senseless and tried to drown her in the bath. He would belt me and my mother would lie on top of me and she took it. My dad didn't get close to me until I was about eighteen years old. He tried to attack my mum when I was there and he didn't like being punched. He never hit her again.
142. I had grown quite fond of the girl up the stairs from me. We dated for about a year and we got married in 1974 and we are still together. We had three sons. I was in jail when both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were born and I just managed to get out in time for [REDACTED] being born. My second oldest, [REDACTED] was murdered.
143. I didn't work much because no sooner would I start a job than they would find out I been in trouble, and I would get sacked. I had a great job delivering hire cars all over Scotland. Out for the day in a top of the range car, it was great. But the firm changed hands and one day a runner car went through a red light. A runner car was a car that was allocated to you for going to pick up other guys after they dropped off a hire car. The car had been allocated to me but I had given it to someone else, and he gave it to someone else so no one was putting their hands up to running the red light. I got sacked.
144. I went to the benefits office and the lady said I wouldn't get any benefits because I had been sacked and had been charged by the police. I told her I hadn't been charged. About a year later one of the guys at work told me there was a new boss and they were hiring. I wrote in and she hired me but then I had to fill out a disclosure form. I

admitted my driving offences but didn't mention my dishonesty offences. They sacked me because they said it was dishonest not to disclose the dishonesty.

145. I ended up in and out of prison for a long time. It was mostly for dishonesty offences.
146. Both my parents are dead now. My father went first, he just gave up. He had Diverticulitis and he wouldn't take his medication. He just decided to soldier on. Looking back I think that was quite a selfish thing. My mum died in her sleep with a smile on her face.

Impact

147. My granddaughter got a glow in the dark spider that I didn't know about. She took me into a cupboard and put the light off. I went cold and started to sweat. I had to get out of the cupboard and go to the toilet. Tears were streaming down my face.
148. Not having a proper education may have dictated what paths I went down in life. You got things thrust on you by an adult world that you assumed was all correct and all-knowing. You do what adults tell you but if something goes wrong you tend to bury it very deep. If it comes out years later, it can help you or it can hinder you.
149. I think my upbringing, the parenting I had, as a whole had an impact. In Maryhill my mother wasn't keeping too strict a reign on me and my father was working. When he was drunk he would batter her. He would batter me as well sometimes. If the brain takes all that in, sometimes you will just carry on doing the things you have known and you don't change. When you reach my age, you want to change but it is too late to change a lot of things.

Treatment/support

150. I saw a psychiatrist the last time in was in Barlinnie prison. I have never had any other treatment.

Reporting of Abuse

151. I have never made a report to the police or anyone else about the abuse that I suffered. There was a point when I wrote to my solicitor saying that I was going to tell the police but I thought, "What good will that do?"
152. I decided to speak to the Inquiry when I saw a notice by the Scottish Government saying that they were no longer going to send twelve year old children to the adult courts. They were apologising for having done it. I had waited over fifty years for an apology.
153. I did things wrong but they could have done things better. If they had threatened to send my dad to jail, he would have made sure that I went to school, but they didn't. They said they would take me away to give me a proper education. I think those in power thought that we were wayward children. I think they thought that we were children from broken homes who are not getting a proper education and they could provide that. They probably thought that coming from broken homes we wouldn't get to go places, but they could take us out to places. It was more focused on leisure at Balgowan. They were always taking us out places rather than educating us. It should have been run more like a boarding school. We loved it at the time, but looking back I think that if I had not been at Balgowan, if I had been at school, I would have received a proper education.

Records

154. I don't have my records but I have told my solicitor that the police should have my full records.

Lessons to be learned

155. I have one question for those in authority. Does full understanding of the consequences of actions come to a child of ten or eleven years of age?
156. It may be that being introduced to sex at a very young age may contribute to some men, when older, being tempted to become paedophiles themselves. I also believe it can cross any man's mind in life.
157. I recently read reports of a paedophile who had over 1600 computer files of abuse of children obtained from the Dark Web. Governments should be doing something about the Dark Web as there is no reason for it to exist.
158. I think that there should be sex education from a very young age so that children are aware of sexualised behaviour, should they be subjected to it. They should be taught the meaning of sexual words, so that they understand them if they are spoken to the child. That way, children will know when there has been inappropriate behaviour or language which they should be reporting.
159. I also think that there should be a rule that for children in care, there should be at least two members of staff with them if they are going out somewhere, so that there is less possibility of anything inappropriate happening.
160. I hated bedwetting, it started in Larchgrove and ended before I left Balgowan. I think there should be more attention paid when children suddenly start wetting or soiling their beds. It may be that this is caused by abuse, neglect, or mis-treatment.

161. I hated the smell of smegma. I smelled it on myself when I was fifteen years old. I asked my mum what they used to clean public toilets and she told me it was bleach. I bought bleach and doused my foreskin in it. I was in agony for weeks and I couldn't tell anyone about it.

Hopes for the Inquiry

162. My hope is that once the Inquiry has all the information, that they note that there is certain behaviour that goes on with adult paedophiles. There are devious ways they will work to try and secure children. The more that people come forward and speak about their experiences, the better it will be for people in the future. Applying for a job working with children is not the same as it was in the 1960's and I'm sure other hurdles will be put in place.

Other information

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.....
ILY .....

Dated..... 3-8-2023