

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GNH

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is GNH. My date of birth is 1963. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. Until I was three or four years of age I stayed in Dundee with my mum and dad. My mum's name was and my dad was. I have two brothers and a sister. My sister is the oldest, then my brother is next, then me and is the youngest. He thinks he is special in the family.
3. I wasn't living with anyone before going into care. My dad had a bad temper and when I was three or four he kicked me out of the house and wouldn't let me back in. My mum tried to get me back in the house but she couldn't, so I was on the streets. My parents never came near me after that.
4. I was staying in warehouses in the docks in Dundee and stealing to feed myself. My older brother and sister didn't know where I was at that time. I was sneaking on the boats and getting food. This is where all the abuse started. Sailors from different countries would say to me that they would give me food if I let them have sex with me.
5. When I was seven years old I called the coastguard to get the police to help me but the police assaulted me and I was put to a children's panel. The police slapped me

on the back of the head and assaulted me. I had been on the streets on my own. The panel put me to Balgowan school. At that time if you said anything they thought you were telling lies. They didn't believe me at the panel. It was three people sitting there. They said there's been problems at school, I'd never been to school, and they sent me to Balgowan. They didn't ask me anything.

Balgowan Approved School, Downfield, Dundee

6. The panel didn't tell me I was going to Balgowan. I remember going and a social worker took me there. I can't remember if it was a man or a woman and I don't know their name. I was seven years old. It was a big school up in one of the schemes in Dundee.

Routine at Balgowan Approved School, Downfield, Dundee

First day

7. The first day at Balgowan was hard. All the other boys were making a fool of me but it died down and they ended up helping me out. That first night I was put in a bed in a dorm and as I slept I was hit on the head by one of the teachers. I woke up and didn't know who it was.

Mornings and bedtime

8. Sometimes you would get up at three in the morning with the fire alarm going off, but normally we would get up at eight. You would go for breakfast then go outside. Everyone would go from there to all the different classes. The classes were before and after lunch. The other boys went to the cadets but I didn't go.
9. When I was outside one time we found an owl sitting on top of the porch. I told one of the good teachers, I can't remember his name. He was an ex-soldier. I showed him and he got a guy in who took it away and said he would set it free.

10. After a while I was changed from a dorm to a room, which was right next to the nightshift staff room. I was an easy target. There was a young woman there called GMN and I remember she had long black hair. She was day shift staff but she didn't give a damn about me. She was a student and she fancied one of the staff.
11. In the dorm there were six of us. Three on one side and three on the other. When I was moved to the room there was just me and another boy. By this time I was being abused by a member of staff and the boy asked me what was wrong with me but I couldn't tell him. He was getting a bit suspicious. He said he would leave me for a while. He then asked me when he was with another boy and that's when I told him what had been happening.
12. The showers were downstairs and the bedrooms were away up the top. There were dorms on both sides. They had names but I can't remember them. My room was in the centre of the two dorms, next to the nightshift staff. If you went out to the toilet during the night the staff would shout at you.
13. Downstairs was a hall and offices. There was one office with glass panels that led out to big gardens. Down the bottom was a big square for trampolines. There was another building and the boys had their own rooms there. It was all boys in Balgowan.

Mealtimes / Food

14. I can't remember the names of any of the staff, but I remember the dinner lady. The food was rotten. We got porridge every morning. Sometimes the lunch and dinner were okay but most days it was rubbish. If you didn't eat the food they would take it away from you and you wouldn't get anything else.

Clothing / uniform

15. I didn't have my own clothes. I had a school uniform and Balgowan clothes but nothing else.

School

16. This was my first time at school. It was weird. I was way behind everybody else because I'd never been before. I learned reading and writing. The teachers hated me and started shouting at me. I ran off all the time because I couldn't cope with it.

Leisure time

17. We didn't have toys or anything like that. The only thing we had was a stupid television and we watched cartoons and the news. We didn't go out at weekends. We went outside the buildings but stayed in the grounds. You didn't get out the place.

Trips / Holidays

18. We went up to Glenhead and we went to Glenshee. The teachers threatened me at Glenshee and they said they would leave me there and nobody would hear me scream. I can't remember who said it. I found a big sheath knife and I told them if any of them came near me I'd stick it in their throat. The teachers told me that if I kept getting angry with them they would throw me in a mental hospital, Strathmartine, with all the 'spastics'. That was what they said about the people in there.
19. I took the knife back to Balgowan with me for protection from the teachers. This is where they told me about sending me to Strathmartine and my anger started building up from there. I saw a Dr GNI from Strathmartine Hospital, he's dead now. He didn't like me and wasn't wanting to talk to me. He told me he could put me in the hospital. I said he couldn't, but he said he could for threatening the staff with a sheath knife. I told him it was for protection for what they were doing to me. He just said, "Don't be stupid lad, don't be stupid". I was also threatened with being sent to Rossie Farm closed ward. The staff there were ex-soldiers. They called them MP's. I told Dr GNI what was happening to me but he wouldn't listen. Dr GNI and the other boy in my room are the only people I told at that point.

Birthdays and Christmas

20. I never had a birthday at Balgowan. I didn't know how old I was. I didn't know what birthdays were as I'd never had a birthday.
21. I didn't get anything at Christmas. They said they would let me home at Christmas to my mum and dad's, but I wasn't allowed in the house. I sat outside. I was homeless for a long time, and after being in all the children's homes, I needed money so I sold my body to all the men down the docks. I still had a knife on me for protection in case something happened.
22. Every Christmas and New Year I didn't see anybody or speak to anyone. I saw people having parties and kids enjoying themselves. The staff at Balgowan let me go home myself. They let me out to go and I would go to my parents and try to get in. I saw kids getting presents and I got nothing. I went back to Balgowan and they asked what I was doing back and I told them nobody wanted me there and they just said "okay". Nobody cared about me.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

23. The social work didn't see me when I was in Balgowan. They didn't come near me. My brother [REDACTED] found out I was in a home and he came to see me but they wouldn't let him in. I was trying to get out to see him and I was going to go with him, but him and his pal were thrown out. They didn't let me see him when he came to visit in case I told him what was going on. My other brother and sister didn't come and see me. My brothers and sister stayed with my mum and dad until my sister got married.

Running away

24. Most of the boys ran away a lot. Once I climbed on a roof, climbed down, made sure nobody could see me and ran off. I was on the run, that's what we called it. My nose was sore. This young girl gave me a hanky because I was bleeding. I didn't know

what was wrong with my nose. I was hiding in old houses and I started doing stupid things like stealing apples. One time I was hiding in the loft of a house and the police came and they couldn't find me. I couldn't move about during the day, I went about at night. I was breaking into shops and stealing money and food.

25. I stayed away for over a month once then got caught when I was on a train going to Glasgow. I was going to look for one of my uncles. There was a group of Celtic fans who saw me and were all good with me. I got caught in the centre of Glasgow. The police took me back to Balgowan. I was twelve. They didn't ask why I ran away.

Bed Wetting

26. I wet the bed in Balgowan. The boys would call me names like 'pishy bed'. When I got to eleven or twelve I told the boy in my room about my abuse and he took it seriously and told the other boys that was why I was peeing the bed. We had a meeting together and he told them and that's when they had a big rammy and I got moved to Burnside.
27. I can't remember the boy's name but he was from Glasgow. He was in a gang there. All the other boys were all in for stealing cars and breaking into houses, thieving and violence. They were all about the same age as me or a bit older.
28. The staff didn't help me with the bed wetting. They threw me in a room with no covers and said I could piss all over the floor all I want. They abused you but still hated you.

Discipline

29. We went to a Catholic church but I didn't want to go. It was in my head that the priests could not be trusted and I couldn't trust anyone. I left but was punished and locked in a room. It was a room next to the dorm. There was a door opposite the dorm, near the TV room and there was just a bed in the room. They would leave you for a little while or as long as overnight. They would give you something to eat with a

plastic spoon. That was the main punishment. I went off my head and threw my food all over the walls. This was the punishment for anything. You were on your own in this room.

Abuse at Balgowan Approved School, Downfield, Dundee

30. On that first night, when I got hit over the head while I was sleeping, the person had a torch. I didn't know what happened or who it was but the person hit me over the head.
31. I was put in a room with another boy. One night he was watching television. I'd had a wash that night but this nightshift member of staff, Mr HLG came in and said, "You haven't washed yourself you dirty bastard. You're going to get showered.", and he took me down to the showers. I told him I had a sore back to try to get out of it but he took me to the showers and told me to wash myself. I started to wash myself and he told me to turn around and wash my backside. It turned him on and he got some soap and put it on my backside. He then stuck his penis inside me and raped me. He told me every time I saw him I would have to do that.
32. Mr HLG wasn't a teacher, he was mainly nightshift staff. I can't remember what he looked like. It was a long time ago. He raped me every night when he was on. It was always the same, he would take me to the showers. I didn't see him doing it with anyone else. This happened until I was ten or eleven, then I was moved to Burnside and it all started again. When I first went to Balgowan everything was okay. HLG was friendly at first. He would give you sweets and cakes.
33. Mr HLG took me out when he was on dayshift to a house. I don't know where it was. There were other men there and they all abused me. I got taken back and one of my pals asked me what the matter was and I didn't say. I had in my hand and I wanted to stab myself. My pals found out and that's when there was a big fight with the staff. I was in Balgowan for a long time.

34. When HLG took me to the house there were other people there. They told me to do things like pee in a bucket and it turned them on. They made me do things, play with their penises and they would stick their penises in my mouth. It was terrible. They were giving me booze and stuff to do things to them. There were two girls there from another home who were being abused too. I managed to get out the house and I was staggering around the street. I was trying to find someone to tell and I was found by the police. They battered me in a close and took me back to Balgowan. In the seventies the police could do what they wanted. When you were in your teens they would beat you up and get an admission out of you. I think I was eleven with this happened.
35. They took me back to Balgowan and I was locked in a little room for a while. They then said they'd had enough of me and sent me to Burnside and it all happened again. I tried to tell the police about what was happening to me but they didn't believe me. They wouldn't listen because I was on alcohol. I had bruises on my face, chest and side but nobody said anything.
36. In the morning all the boys were in the hall and we would normally get a lecture then go round to all the different parts of the school. After all this had been going on we got a lecture about being bad to the staff and one of the boys jumped up and said, "One of you dirty bastards is abusing and raping GNH." This was to the headmaster, Mr Smith. He asked what abuse the boy was talking about and he told him. The headmaster asked where I was and he was told I was sitting outside because I couldn't cope. He came out and spoke to me. He asked me what really happened and I told him. He said the best thing to happen to me would be to go to a different place.
37. The headmaster took me to his family home. I had never seen a family in my life. They were all sitting there and I saw his son eating a melon and I wondered what it was. I'd never seen one. I got a melon from him. His wife asked him what the matter was with me and he told her I was abandoned as a child and I didn't know what nice food was.

38. I was then taken to Glenhead and I was abused again. I can't believe why they do this to young boys. That's when all the trouble started at Balgowan. I was thrown out when I was ten or eleven and I got moved to Burnside and it all happened again.
39. There was a coloured guy at the school and the other boys made a fool of him. I can't remember his name. He went mad and battered a guy. He was a boxer. I thought, I'm going to tell him what's going on here, but then that's when I spoke to the other guy about it.
40. We had to do cleaning and all that stuff. Me and another boy were sent to the boiler house to shovel coal. We were just young boys. I refused to go in because I thought something was going to happen to me in there and the staff started shouting at me. I got angry and was going to pick up the shovel and hit the teacher with it. He left and the other boy I was with asked me what was wrong and I told him what had happened to me.

Reporting of abuse at Balgowan Approved School, Downfield, Dundee

41. Every time I was taken back to Balgowan by the police I told them what was happening to me, but they never believed me. I told Dr ^{GNI} from Strathmartine Hospital, but he didn't believe me either. I also told the headmaster, but all he said was that I'd be better going to another place.

Leaving Balgowan Approved School, Downfield, Dundee

42. The other boys at Balgowan found out what was happening to me, then the headmaster found out and he took me to his house and I got fed with nice food. His wife said I couldn't stay there. He told her I had been through a hard time. I went back to Balgowan. ^{HLG} retired that day. I was there for another year or so after the head took me to his house.
43. When you get to eleven or twelve years old you leave Balgowan anyway. They decided they'd let me go and I was on the streets again, where I had problems.

44. I was selling my body to all these dirty men and the police found out. I was twelve at the time. I went up to the panel again and I was done for male prostitution. I didn't know that male prostitution was a thing. As a result of the panel they didn't put me back to Balgowan, I was sent to Burnside Assessment Centre. The staff there were told why I was there.

Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

45. Burnside had two blocks, one for males and one for females. They built an extra block on the other side for people who had their own rooms. I was in 'A' block, which was the boys' block. There were ten of us in the dormitory. In the big block there were five dorms upstairs and a school downstairs. There was a door you went through downstairs and on the other side of that there were offices and a school wing on either side. At the bottom was a recreation hall. There was a dining hall downstairs and on the other side there was like a normal hall, a recreation hall where you played pool and snooker.

Routine at Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

First day

46. I think a social worker took me to Burnside straight from the children's panel. The abuse all started again right away. We were all sitting watching the television there and I fell off a chair. A member of staff, Mr **GNJ** shouted at me, saying, "Get up **GNH** you dirty bastard". I looked at him and he said, "Don't look at me". I thought he was going to hit me, and it built up from there again. There was a member of staff there called **EIF**, they called him **EIF**. He was an ex-soldier. He said, "Why are you shouting at him, he's only a young laddie". I got bad tempered and threw chairs about and I got put in detention.
47. I was in a dorm for a while in Burnside but they got shut down because they needed them for people whose houses had been on fire or flooded and they used them. I then had my own room with a sink.

Mornings & bedtime

48. We got up at eight in the morning and washed ourselves in our rooms. The bathroom was on the same level. We then went for breakfast. There was a jug with milk in it and you had corn flakes and things like that. The staff would keep an eye on you. We went to bed at ten o'clock. There were always big fights and arguments.

Mealtimes/Food

49. We had lunch and dinner at Burnside. It was good but I didn't trust the cook. I can't remember his name. He asked if I wanted to work with him and I said no because I thought he was a beast, like the rest of them. If you didn't eat the food they would take it from you. They would try to make you eat it, but I'd pick it up and throw it at them so I'd get into a lot of trouble.

Washing/Bathing

50. I never went near the bathroom or the shower room. As soon as I went near them I knew something was going to happen. I thought something would happen to me. I got a female member of staff to come with me. I wouldn't go in myself because I was scared because that's when Mr GNK, a member of staff, came in. He would take his clothes off and come in the shower with me. So I went for a shower and a female member of staff would stand outside so that no male member of staff could come in. There were two showers and one bath. My pal ██████████ said he would go with me to make sure I was okay. The showers were over on the far side.

School

51. I didn't do classes at Burnside. I went to Fairmuir school. The teachers there said everybody was scared of me. EIF asked them why and they said, "GNH trouble". Nobody helped me at school. Two teachers didn't like me. They said I was trouble and they threw me out the school for no reason. That's how I ended up on the streets again and selling my body. Fairmuir was a normal school and the

teachers said I shouldn't be there. I ran away from there but the police caught me and charged me with male prostitution.

52. One of the teachers, Mr ^{HLH} [REDACTED] battered me in front of the other boys. He slapped me and punched me. He had this ring with a green stone and he punched me. All the boys thought it was funny. It wasn't funny. He taught sums and maths at Fairmuir. He battered me lots of times in the classroom. He never liked me. I had enough. After that I did a runner. I walked out the school and never went back. I was fifteen and I left without any qualifications. My friend [REDACTED] and I were stealing cars and breaking in to places to feed ourselves. I still had my sheath knife and we would protect each other.

Leisure & chores

53. Burnside didn't have any books. They gave me these stupid army books. I'm not interested in soldiers or in how to join up in the army. I was asked what I wanted to do. I said I just wanted to go out on my own and wander around. They said I couldn't do that. I was on an order not to leave the grounds. You cleaned your room and we hoovered the day room. The girls did their own hoovering.

Trips/Holidays

54. There were no holidays or trips in Burnside except on a Saturday, you went on a bus trip. They had their own bus. We went to Glenshee and looked at nature and all that. That's what I loved, the waterfall and looking at the salmon. I loved animals. In the winter we didn't go anywhere.

Birthdays & Christmas

55. I stayed with my auntie [REDACTED] at Christmas. She didn't realise what was going on. I couldn't say it to a woman. I went there on my own accord but the police thought I had run away and grabbed me and took me back to Burnside.

56. I didn't know about my birthday until I went to Strathmartine hospital. They gave me a present and I asked why. They explained that it was my birthday and I asked what that was. They explained that it was the day I was born. I burst into tears. I couldn't cope. I didn't understand why I had received the gift and thought I might get sexually abused by taking it. Staff sat me down and explained the reason for the gift.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

57. Social workers didn't come to see me. Nobody came to see me. In those days no social worker came to see you and ask what was going on. There was no inspections in those days. There weren't inspectors. I was getting sexually abused and I was getting angry with the police.
58. My mum tried to come and speak to me at Burnside. I couldn't speak to her. I asked why she was there and told her I didn't want to speak to her. I told her that after what she and my dad done to me I couldn't speak to her.

Healthcare

59. There was a nurse in Burnside and she was a 'bampot'. She was only interested in all the male staff there. I can't remember her name. I told her about GNJ kicking me in the face and she just told me to live with it.

Running away

60. I was running away from Burnside every day. I stayed away for a while. I would hide in warehouses and things like that and the police would grab me. I tried to tell them about what was happening to me but they never listened. Nobody asked why I ran away.
61. One time I ran away and I got on a train and I saw the teacher, Mr HLH, face to face. I was angry and I was growling at him. I saw him in London and I shouted at

him, calling him, "A specky, baldy bastard", and , "You abused me", and people were looking at us.

62. After he was away I wandered about London. I was fifteen. I was picked up by the police and put in a hostel and a social worker did the wrong thing, she didn't listen to me and I was put on a train back to Dundee.
63. One day I was sitting in the recreation hall. I went outside and saw a group of boys and girls, one of them was [REDACTED]. I was in a loopy way and I didn't know what was going on. They all ran off and climbed over the wall. There was a big wall around Burnside and I thought, "What are they doing?". They were gone. They all got caught but did it again and asked me to go with them. Again, I didn't know what was going on. I was away with it. At some point we were in this car and I needed the toilet. I got out the car and they drove away and left me in the middle of the countryside. It was down the borders and it was dark. I was shouting but they were gone.
64. I went to this farm and the dog was barking so I sat outside. The farmer saw me the next day and asked what I was doing there. I tried to explain it to him. I told him I was hungry and I had nowhere to go. He took me in and his wife fed me. They asked me where my mum and dad were. I said, "I don't know, I don't have a mum and dad." They took me to the police station and the police took me back up to Burnside. I thought they would handcuff me, but they bought me dinner.
65. I got back up to Burnside and a staff member we called GNJ asked me where [REDACTED] was. I told him I didn't know and that [REDACTED] was his pet and GNJ then kicked me in the face. I asked why he done that and he said I better tell him where they are. I told him I didn't know and he kicked me again. I had been on the bed and he pulled me off and kicked me in the face. I went even more loopy. There was a steel bucket on the floor and he ordered me to scrub the floor. I was going to empty it and use it as a weapon and hit him with it. I told one of the staff and they spoke to him and he said he hadn't done anything to me. After that two guys from Strathmartine hospital came up and took me there.

Bedwetting

66. My bedwetting was getting better by the time I was at Burnside. If someone did wet the bed the female staff would help them.

Discipline

67. There was detention at Burnside and they would threaten me with going to Rossie Farm, but that was really it.

Abuse at Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

68. I ran away from Burnside and came back and one of the staff there, Mr **GNK**, started being a bit funny. He started touching me, interfering with me in detention, then up in my room. He was standing there with a fag and he was touching me and feeling my penis, trying to interfere with me. He abused me. Him and that dirty Mr **GNJ**. They had two boys holding me down and they interfered with me. I'm still disgusted with all of that. I went into the showers and scrubbed myself.
69. This was in 1977. I was fourteen years old. I was at Burnside for a long time, until I was sixteen. **GNK** and **GNJ** were abusing me all the time. They thought what they were doing to me was funny. It wasn't funny. It ruined my life. I wanted to kill somebody because of it. They were laughing. They said no-one can hear me scream.
70. All the boys and girls thought they could bully me and I got angrier. I kept running away and the police would take me back and it would happen again. They decided I could leave. They said, "You're sixteen now". I said, "Am I?", and they said, "You don't know your age?". So when I was sixteen I left. I was on my own again.
71. **GNJ** and **GNK** were teachers, staff and carers. They were supposed to look after you. They were supposed to care of you, supposed to help you and they never did that. They worked day shift and night shift I think, I can't remember. **GNJ** was fat

and bald and had a moustache. ^{GNK} was skinny with greyish hair. He wore a ring. He had a brother in South America. I heard him tell one of the staff. I don't know where they both are now.

72. They gave me sweeties to keep my mouth shut. On one occasion they abused me together while two boys held me down. [REDACTED] was one of the boys. I can't remember the other boys name.
73. [REDACTED] tried to abuse me too. He was lying on top of me and he put his sperm all over me. I felt disgusted by that. I did a runner with him once. We ran away and he abused another boy. It was in a house we were sleeping in. The guy was sleeping with his girlfriend and [REDACTED] abused him and sperm was coming out of his penis. The boy was eleven or twelve. I don't know his name. [REDACTED] was coming up for eighteen.
74. ^{GNJ} and ^{GNK} abused me every night they were on duty. It happened in my room or in the day room but then, after all this happened, I had a pal called [REDACTED]. They tried to wind him up and tried to be smart with him. We ran away together and I told him that ^{GNK}, ^{GNJ} and [REDACTED] were abusing me. [REDACTED] and I were caught by the police and they took us back and we were put in separate rooms. I was abused again and they battered me after it. They never went near [REDACTED]. When we came out of detention he saw the bruises on my face. [REDACTED] had a glass bottle of juice and he finished it. He got up and walked over to ^{GNJ}. He was told to sit down and he said, "No, what's this about you abusing my pal?", and he hit ^{GNJ} over the head with the bottle and it smashed over his face. All the girls were screaming. He got pulled up by the other staff and the head asked what was going on. I can't remember his name. He asked me and I told him I was being sexually abused by two of his staff and he was doing nothing about it. He said I was trouble and threatened to send me to a farm in Aberdeen at first. I told him he wasn't sending me to a farm, what happens if I get abused there. He said [REDACTED] and I were both trouble. We stayed for a while and they kept an eye on us.

75. There was a girl there, [REDACTED]. She asked me what was happening and I couldn't tell her about it. A while after the incident we were at a disco called Bloomers in Dundee. This was a long time ago. While we were there I told [REDACTED] what happened to me. I went loopy in the night club. I started drinking beer and whisky and I'd had enough. They thought I was going to kill myself. I was only fifteen.
76. I left the night club and I began stopping cars telling people in them that I had been sexually abused and asking them to help me. I was on the streets and because of the alcohol I was staggering around. I was standing next to Dundee High School and there was a woman in a car and I went over. I was crying and I asked her to help me because I'd been sexually abused. She told me to, "Fuck off". Her son was laughing at me and I wanted to hit him. So I wandered about. Nobody cared and I didn't know what I was going to do.
77. I was in a housing scheme and a man came over and asked me what was happening. It was my grandfather. He said, "What the hell are you doing on the streets?". I tried to explain things to him, but he wouldn't listen to me.
78. There were boys and girls in Burnside. They were all around my age. I think some of the staff were abusing some of the girls there. They were getting new underwear and tights from the male staff to keep their mouths shut. There was a boy called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was getting abused too. I tried to help him and explain things to him but he went off his head at me. I don't know who was abusing him.
79. One of the boys from Perth found out what was happening to me and we had a riot and started wrecking things and were barricading ourselves in protest. The police came and battered us and the staff said they couldn't control me. I was put in a detention room. It was a little room and there was a wooden bed and a mattress as well as a little toilet and a big steel door. It was like a cell. When I was there [REDACTED] GNK came in and abused me again and again and nobody could hear us. He came in every night he was on night shift. I wanted to kill him.

80. The boys planned the big riot. They'd had enough of what was going on. Mr ^{GNJ} told the other staff that me and [REDACTED] were trouble and the other boys were going to do something stupid.

Reporting of abuse at Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

81. Every time I ran away and was caught by the police I told them what had happened to me, but they never listened. They just battered me and took me back to Burnside. I tried to explain things when I bumped into my grandad, but he didn't want to listen either. Nobody believed me. Nobody cared.

Leaving Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

82. After the riot at Burnside they'd had enough of me but wouldn't put me on the street because I'd do something stupid there. So this woman, I didn't like her, she was an ex-nurse, she said they should send me to Strathmartine Hospital beside all the rest of the 'dafties'. I got angry with her and I got sent to Strathmartine. ^{Secondary Institutions - t}

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

83. It wasn't explained to me that I was going to Strathmartine. I was told someone was coming to take me out. They think they can tell you lies but I knew where I was going.
84. It was a nurse that took me to Strathmartine and I thanked her. She said, "Thank me for what?" I said, "Thank you for taking me out of there, away from all that". I tried to explain it to her, but I was scared to tell her. She worked in Strathmartine.

Strathmartine Hospital, Craigmair Road, Angus

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106. At one point I left Strathmartine because my parents said they would look after me. They were liars. They never done that ever. They didn't see me when I was a little boy. They turned away from me when I was born. A nurse told me I was going home during a counselling session. I was a wee bit angry but I said I would try it. It didn't work. My parents lived in a scheme in Fintry. I got a bus there with one of the staff. My parents were all nice when the staff member was there. When she left, that night, I was upstairs and they came up and told me to pack my bags and get out. I was there one night. I was sixteen.
107. I went back on the streets in Dundee. I lived in old houses, made little fires. I ended up in Friarton for stealing and a breach of the peace and the court sent me there. I got a six month sentence. While I was there a psychologist said I was going back to Strathmartine.
108. A short time after I went back to Strathmartine I did a runner again. I broke into my mums house. I spat on her photo and drank some alcohol. I was shouting and swearing. I went upstairs and wrecked her room. I went outside and the police grabbed me and said I was getting charged with attempted murder. I went to Perth prison on remand. I was in and out going to court. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
Secondary Institutions I was seventeen. As a result I was sent to Carstairs for fifteen years.
109. When I was in Perth prison on remand I was in with adults. The killer Robert Mone was there. He spoke to me and asked what was wrong with me. I explained everything to him.

HMP Friarton & HMP Glenochil

110. I was in Strathmartine for a while then I left and did something stupid. Things like a breach of the peace, through anger. As a result I was sent to Friarton Young Offenders. The prisoners called it Little House on the Prairie because it was an open prison. The prisoners could do what they wanted inside it. It still had a big fence around it. I was sixteen and I was there for six months.

111. When I got out of Friarton I got done for something else and I got sent to Glenochil for two years, then I went back to Friarton for a breach of the peace. This woman recognised me and told me I had to speak about my feelings. She was a psychologist. I can't remember her name. I told her I had no feelings in me. I was getting angry because I had no feelings.
112. They put me on report and the governor said, "What is wrong with you?", and I was getting angry and said, "I have no feelings for anybody". I tried to explain it to him and I was getting angry when I was explaining it. I got angry because I had no feelings in me. They put me to a psychologist in Glenochil and he asked what was wrong with me, what was in my head. I said, "I'll tell you what's in my head, sexual abuse and more sexual abuse", and I was getting angrier and shouting at him. He just looked at me and I thought, "You're meant to be a psychologist and you don't give a shit".
113. Friarton was alright. There was metalwork, woodwork and the tailors. I got to work in the big metalwork bit and got trained to use a blowtorch. One of the staff, I can't remember his name, said to me, 'GNH [REDACTED] you better not use these skills to break into safes, and I hope you won't make knives or weapons either". We got to learn a lot of skills. You cleaned and tidied up in Friarton. There was a male nurse that spoke to you. There was a psychologist, a female, but she never listened.
114. At night in the Young offenders Institute you played pool. On a Friday you got to see a film. It was in like a little picture house. We got to see blue movies. It never bothered me, they never got me excited. I have epilepsy and I once took a fit in Friarton, in the recreation room. I'm on tablets for it now. I believe abuse and being hit in the head caused my epilepsy.
115. I was in a cell on my own in Friarton. There was a sink and a good bed. I had a teddy bear, which I had taken out of a shop. That was my company. A boy made fun of me but I told him that it was the only thing I had. We wore prison issue joggers and trainers.

116. You would work during the day and there were games at night and you would watch films. On Saturday and Sunday you were kept in your cell. It was locked. During the week you got out of your cell during the day but it got locked at nine o'clock at night. You got something to eat and drink before you were locked in.
117. There were communal showers but I trusted the prisoners. The staff supervised you when you were in. You had guys who were sex offenders but some of the prisoners were hard cases and would slash or stab people they didn't like.
118. I went to a Catholic church in Friarton. A prison officer went with you and kept an eye on you and the priest.
119. I had no visitors at Friarton, from the social work or my family. My brother [REDACTED] was in the young offenders with me. He looked after me. I couldn't run away from there as there was a big fence around the place.
120. One time I got into trouble there. I was fighting with this guy and I battered him. I can't remember his name. He said to me, "You enjoy it up the arse [REDACTED]". I went mental and the two of us fought and I battered him. The two of us were put in the 'digger', in solitary confinement. The governor came to see me and spoke to me for a little while then told a prison officer to, "Let this man out". I told him if I was getting out then the other guy should get out too. We shook hands and never fought again. He said he was sorry for what he had said. I had been in there for three weeks.
121. When you were leaving Friarton you were given some money. The social work were meant to get you a flat to help you get your life sorted but they didn't for me so I was back on the streets. I was drinking and sniffing glue in Dundee and getting into trouble. I ended up back in Strathmartine. I ran away, broke into my mum's house and was arrested and sent to Carstairs.
122. Glenochil was when I was fifteen or sixteen, before Friarton. It was something to do with threatening and stealing in Whitfield, a scheme in Dundee. I was walking past a car and this guy shouted at me saying I was breaking into it. I wasn't and I got

arrested. I was put in the detention centre for juveniles at Glenochil. I got three months to two years. I did three months.

123. Glenochil was stricter than Friarton. When you were outside you had to stand to attention. I worked in the garden and cut a lot of wood. One of the prisoners gave me an axe to chop the logs. One of the prison officers panicked, seeing me with the axe. He waited for someone else to come in and said, "Get that axe of him. He looks like a psycho and he's giving me evil looks". I wasn't doing that. I got taken up to the psychiatrist and he asked me stupid questions. I don't know his name.
124. There was no abuse at Glenochil. The prison officers helped me. They were very good. There was one prison officer that helped me a lot. I can't remember his name. I was let out [REDACTED] I went to my uncle's house. I saw my mum and dad there so I walked out.

Life after being in care


125. I got out of prison before [REDACTED] I started drinking and I was sniffing glue. I had started that while I was still in Burnside. They put me back in Strathmartine. Secondary Ins

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



126. This is when I broke into my mum's house, took drugs and I was going off my head. Something happened outside and that's why I went to Carstairs. Somebody told me I was seventeen when this happened.

Carstairs & Strathmartine

127. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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128. I was in Carstairs for thirteen years. I got done for a crime I never committed. Then after that I was moved back to Strathmartine for another fifteen years. So I've been locked up all my life. I didn't know what it was like outside.

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130. I was released from Strathmartine in 2009 and got my own flat. My sister spoke with a Dr Walker and a nurse called Sharon Fury and that's why I got out. I was supported by Turning Point.
131. I have my own flat. I've been there for eleven years and it's going well. There are staff on site if I need them. I play with my I-pad, listen to music and watch the TV. I do some work up in Strathmartine now and again.

Impact

132. I am still destroyed inside. I thought I was gay and wanted men all the time. That's all I thought about when I was younger, sex with men. I was a male prostitute. What happened to me as a child still affects me now. I'm glad I've got someone to listen to me this time.
133. I think about my time in care every night and I sit and cry. I cried last night. I always cry about this. I can't stop thinking about it. I get flashbacks, can't sleep and have bad dreams. It has affected my mental health.
134. I am coping now as I have people listening to me. My sister comes and listens to me. She's there for me now. It affected my relationship with my brothers and sister. I

don't talk to my younger brother [REDACTED]. He was a mummy's and daddy's boy.
[REDACTED] died of a drug overdose because of all this.

135. It affected me with my partner. I was crabbit and angry with her. We are doing well together now. I can't have sex with her. I can't do it. The two of us are getting better now. We're taking it slowly.
136. Every time my parents seen me on the streets they would say, "No, it's not him", and walked away. I could have had a normal life and a job, but my life was ruined. I could have been living in Canada where my uncles are, except my life was ruined. My uncles don't know about all this.
137. It happened and you can't rub it out. What happened to me is still affecting me. I can't cope with it. I'm getting a lot of help now. Is it too late? Why didn't I get this when I was a child? I am getting really good support from my welfare guardian Alicia and Turning Point staff, Tracy Taylor.

Reporting of Abuse

138. I told the police what was happening to me when I was at these places and running away, but they didn't believe me. They never listened. I've not spoken to them as an adult as I don't trust the police.

Records

139. I haven't seen my records. They still have files on me at Ninewells Hospital, but I've never seen them. I was told there weren't files, but there are. I can't read that well. I've been locked up all my life, for thirty-nine years.

Lessons to be Learned

140. I want people to know what really happened to me. I want justice and I want people to stop abusing children in care. I want children to be safe. I care for children who

are in the same situation that I was, children or vulnerable adults. I want it stopped now. If people do it to children I want to see them in jail.

141. Nobody ever came to speak to me. I want professionals in Strathmartine , the social work and in education to learn from my experiences. I want the police to learn too. This is such a bad thing that happened and I want it stopped.

Other information

142. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed 

Dated... 24/06/2021