

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

William BAUROS

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is William Ritchie Bauros. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1963. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Cumbernauld Village and I lived with my mum, dad [REDACTED]. My mum's name was [REDACTED] and my dad's name was [REDACTED]. My dad died when I was five years old and my mum passed away in [REDACTED] this year. My dad was a [REDACTED]. I don't think my mum worked as I remember her being in the house a lot.

3.



4. After my dad died, we moved to Castlecary. I was five years old. I had already started going to Cumbernauld Primary School. I didn't have to change schools after we moved as it was only a couple of miles down the road. I didn't know it at the time, but my mum just couldn't cope [REDACTED]. We were there just under a year before social work got involved. That was the first time social work had been involved with

my family. Up to that point, life at home was just normal. I don't have any bad memories of family life.

5. On the day I was taken into care, two male social workers came to the house. I was out playing at the canal with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] came to tell [REDACTED] to come back to the house. Someone must have told [REDACTED] going to be taken away, but I don't remember anyone explaining why or how long [REDACTED] would be away. I remember sitting on the couch crying and saying I didn't want to go.
6. The two social workers took [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to Mugdock Bank Children's Home. I think I was six by this point. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mugdock Bank Children's Home, Milngavie

7. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]

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Leaving Mugdock Bank Children's Home

18. [Redacted] I was there for three years and then [Redacted] moved to Cardross Park Assessment Centre. No one told [Redacted] why [Redacted] being moved or explained where [Redacted] going. [Redacted]

Cardross Park Assessment Centre, Cardross

19. Cardross Park Assessment Centre looks like a really big house. There is a long driveway up to it with trees all the way up and round the side. When you go in the front door, there is a seating area to the left and a playroom to the right. The dining hall was downstairs and the dorms and bedrooms were upstairs.
20. The home was for boys and girls between the ages of eight and fifteen years old. I think there were around fourteen girls and twenty-two boys. The boys and girls were always kept apart except at mealtimes, when we ate together. The girls sat at one table and the boys at another. We used the same toilets, but at separate times, so we used to leave notes for each other in the toilets.

Routine at Cardross Park Assessment Centre

First day

21. I was nine years old when I arrived at Cardross. I remember going in and being met by [REDACTED] a member of staff. [REDACTED] was crying and she gave [REDACTED] a big cuddle. We sat in the seating area next to the front door for about half an hour before we were taken upstairs and shown where we would be sleeping.
22. We all slept in dorms, but I can't remember exactly how many there were. There were around seven or eight kids to a dorm. In each of the dorms were the beds, some lockers and a pot in the middle of the floor which we used to pee in during the night because the dorm doors were locked. I remember the pot always smelled like disinfectant.

Mornings and bedtime

23. I don't remember much about the morning routine. I assume we got up, dressed and went to school. After school, we would be locked in the play room, let out for dinner and then locked in the play room again until it was time to go upstairs. We went upstairs around 07:30/08:00 pm. We had to strip off in our dorms, fold our clothes and put them in the lockers. We were then walked along the corridor to the shower room to wash before bed.
24. A member of staff called Mr [REDACTED] would supervise the showers and he would come up and flick your willie with the back of his hand. He obviously found it funny and would just laugh, but it was actually quite sore.

Mealtimes/Food

25. The food at Cardross was fine. We were well fed. Mr Davis was the main cook. He was a wee guy with white hair. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later They would try to make me eat my cooked vegetables. If I didn't, they would put me in what we

called 'the cooler' for hours on end. It was a room with no windows. The only thing in there was a couch, a bit like a psychiatrist couch, but there was no blanket or toilet. I could be in there from lunch time until dinner time. Then I would get the vegetables I hadn't eaten at lunch served to me again. If I didn't eat them again, I would be put back in 'the cooler'. This would mainly happen at weekends because during the week, I ate lunch at school.

Leisure time

26. When we weren't at school, we were put in the playroom. It was just a room with chairs and a TV. There was nothing else in it. We would be locked in there sometimes all day. The staff wouldn't be in the room with us and it was just fighting all the time.

Schooling

27. I went to Cardross Primary School. It was just a normal school. It wasn't too bad and I got on fine there. It was only a five minute walk from the assessment centre so we walked to and from school.

Clothes

28. The assessment centre provided us with clothes and I think we might have had some of our own clothes too. We didn't have to wash our clothes ourselves. There was a laundry, but I don't remember how that worked.

Chores/pocket money

29. We had to do some chores at Cardross. I remember mopping the toilet floors, but that's about it. I think there was a chore rota and we got a little bit of pocket money for it. The staff would keep the pocket money for us. If we wanted to buy something, we would write a list and the staff would go to the shop to get it for us. You were allowed to smoke if you were thirteen or older. The staff would buy the kids fags with their pocket money.

Birthdays and Christmas

30. [REDACTED] I didn't get to go home for birthdays or Christmas. I remember one Christmas, just before I left, there was only three of us boys in Cardross and we were taken into the play room. There was a present in there for each of us. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bed Wetting

31. I remember there were some boys who wet the bed, but I wasn't one of them. The ones who were bed wetters would be woken up and taken to the toilet during the night. I don't remember much else about bed wetting.

Family contact

32. My mum didn't come to visit [REDACTED] in Cardross Assessment Centre, but [REDACTED] did eventually get home leave. About six months before I left, [REDACTED] started coming to pick me [REDACTED] up to take [REDACTED] home for the weekend. I think [REDACTED] went home for one weekend every three or four weeks. My mum had got a flat in Falkirk. He would take [REDACTED] to stay with mum from Saturday until Sunday night. It was excellent getting to go home to stay with my mum. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It was just a wee flat so mum couldn't have [REDACTED] stay at the same time.

- 33.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] If it was a nice night, [REDACTED] I [REDACTED] allowed to walk up the road and visit [REDACTED] We used to get comics from them and take them back to Cardross for some of the boys.

Discipline

34. There wasn't much in the way of discipline at Cardross. The staff just let the boys fight and bully each other. There was fighting every day about anything like what was on TV or what seat someone was sitting in. If the staff heard a fight, they would come in and break it up, but then there was the odd member of staff who would just stand there and say we should fight it out. Mr Malloch was one of the members of staff who would do that. I think he was in his late forties and I remember he played the banjo.

Running away

35. I ran away from Cardross once. I didn't know where I was running to and nothing specific happened to make me run away. I got to Helensburgh and ended up handing myself in to the police. I got put in 'the cooler' overnight when I got back.

Abuse at Cardross Park Assessment Centre

36. While I was in Cardross, I witnessed another boy being sexually abused by a member of staff. One Saturday morning, a member of staff called Mr ^{GMS} asked five of us if we wanted to play hide and seek. He told us that we weren't allowed to hide upstairs as it was out of bounds. I was seeking and I found everyone apart from a boy called [REDACTED] from Perth, and Mr ^{GMS} I knew that place like the back of my hand, but I couldn't find them so I thought they must have gone upstairs to hide.
37. I went upstairs and went into our dorm. I could see in the back left corner that someone was underneath the covers on the bed. I remember I laughed because I thought I had found them. I sneaked up towards the bed and pulled the cover off. [REDACTED] and Mr ^{GMS} were under the cover. Mr ^{GMS} jumped up and started pulling his trousers up and I have a vague memory of seeing blood. [REDACTED] was just lying there on the bed, on his belly. He looked upset. I can't remember if he had trousers on or not.

38. I walked out of the dorm and the next thing I knew I was giving evidence at Dumbarton Sheriff Court. I don't know who reported what had happened. A member of staff from Cardross called Mr Chad drove me to court. I think I was ten at the time. [REDACTED] was a year older than me. I remember standing in court and having to point to Mr [GMS] Mr Chad told me that Mr [GMS] got a two year sentence for that.
39. Mr [GMS] had black, short hair. He had a gap in between his two front teeth and I remember he was from Balloch.
40. Another member of staff I remember is Mr [GMU], the night watchman. He would come in to the dorm at night. He would put his hand under my covers and rub my private parts. He would say he was checking to see if I had wet the bed, but I wasn't a bed wetter. He also took me to the toilet in the middle of the night. It was usually only bed wetters who were taken to the toilet during the night. I was half asleep and I didn't need the toilet. When we were in the toilet and I was trying to pee, Mr [GMU] tried to hold my willie. That happened two or three times.
41. Mr [GMU] was quite a big man. He was heavy set. I remember he took me, [REDACTED] and two other boys from the home to his brother's house to watch a Scotland v England football match. I don't remember anything bad happening in the house.

Leaving Cardross Park Assessment Centre

42. I hated being at Cardross. It was an assessment centre and most of the kids were there because they had been in trouble. Some were going to children's panels, some were going to court. Most of them were only there for five or six weeks, but me [REDACTED] there for about two years. [REDACTED] had no idea why because [REDACTED] hadn't done anything wrong and no one ever explained it [REDACTED] I didn't see a social worker the entire time I was in Cardross.
43. I left Cardross Assessment Centre when I was around twelve years old. I think it was 1975. [REDACTED] I came back from school one day and [REDACTED] wasn't

there. He had just disappeared. I remember asking where he was and saying that I wanted to see him. A member of staff told me that he had been moved [REDACTED]. They never explained why. A month later, I was moved to Balrossie School. No one told me why I was being moved or how long I would be at Balrossie.

Balrossie School, Kilmacolm

44. Balrossie School was in Kilmacolm. It looked just like a big house. It was for boys between the ages of twelve and sixteen. I think there were around thirty boys in total. The boys were split up into dorms. I think there were between seven and nine boys in each dorm.
45. I wouldn't say Balrossie was secure. There were no big fences or walls. There were boundaries that we were supposed to stay within, but that was about it.
46. SNR [REDACTED] was Mr LWH [REDACTED]. I also remember Mr GJF [REDACTED] who was the physical training instructor (PTI) and a woman called Cathy Holmes who looked after the boys.

Routine at Balrossie School

First day

47. I don't remember leaving Cardross or arriving at Balrossie. It's a total blank. In fact, I don't remember much about Balrossie at all. I just remember that I started sniffing glue while I was there. I think I was only there for about a year and nothing really bad happened to me. There's nothing major that sticks out. I remember I wasn't happy there as there was a lot of aggression and fighting between the boys. When that happened, the staff would break it up and those involved would get the belt.

48. Most of the boys there were in there for assault, not going to school or breaking into shops. I remember one boy was actually in there for stabbing his step-father. I hadn't done anything like that, but at the time, I didn't think anything of it.

Mealtimes/Food

49. Mealtimes at Balrossie were ok. They didn't make me eat my vegetables which was good. They didn't seem to bother about it.

Leisure time

50. At the weekends, two members of staff would take five or six of us down to Quarriers. They had a big swimming pool and we would be taken to help look after the little kids for a couple of hours. There were two and three year olds in Quarriers and we would play with them or go in the swimming pool with them. The staff from Balrossie always disappeared once we arrived at Quarriers. I don't know what there were up to. I think there was a woman, who worked at Quarriers, who watched us if we were in the pool.

Schooling

51. We were schooled within Balrossie by the staff. It wasn't like a proper school. We mainly sat in class drawing and carrying on. There were no structured classes and I don't remember being taught any subjects. We would do a couple of hours of schooling each day and then we would just play in the grounds, playing football or something like that.

Review of care / detention

52. I didn't have any contact with social work while I was in Balrossie and I hadn't been to a Children's Panel by this point. There was just no one around who was explaining to me why I was being moved about, where I was going or how long I would be in each place.

Family contact

53. My mum didn't come to Balrossie to visit, but I got home leave every three weeks from Friday to Sunday night. I would get the train home which was ok, but I hated the journey back to Balrossie. I remember having to get the train from Falkirk to Queen Street Station and then having to walk to Central Station to get the train back to Kilmacolm. It was dark and I was only twelve or thirteen. It was scary.

Running away

54. I ran away from Balrossie once. I don't really know why I ran away. I went with two boys from Glasgow, Max Lafferty and [REDACTED]. We were glue sniffing. We made it to Glasgow and then got caught by the police. I was taken to Larchgrove for two days before I was taken back to Balrossie. I hated Larchgrove. It was like a wee jail.

Leaving Balrossie School

55. I actually got myself out of Balrossie. One weekend when I was home on leave, I just refused to go back. Two social workers, a male and a female, came to my mum's house to take me back and I wouldn't go. I wrapped myself around the couch and I remember the male social worker grabbing my arms and trying to pull me off. I was crying and shouting to my mum that I didn't want to go back because I hadn't done anything wrong. I was shouting that I shouldn't be in there and the social workers were saying I had to go back. Next thing I knew, two police officers turned up. The police and the social workers were all trying to drag me off the couch. This went on for a while and then the police ended up telling the social workers that technically I was right. They said they couldn't really get involved because I hadn't done anything. The police left and the female social worker told my mum that it was up to her. My mum told them to leave me where I was. I think the female social worker was called Helen Grindley.

56. I was home with my mum for around eight or nine months and everything was fine to begin with. I was enrolled at Graham High School, but I only lasted half a day. On my first day, I walked out of school in the afternoon and I bumped into a boy I knew from Cardross. His nickname was [REDACTED]. We ended up in a bush glue sniffing. Things went downhill from there.
57. I was still living at home, but I wasn't going to school. I think my mum thought I was going, but I was actually just out sniffing glue. I got caught a few times by the police and I ended up at a Children's Panel in Falkirk for not going to school. I think the glue sniffing was mentioned at the Panel Hearing as well. I remember speaking at the Panel Hearing, but I can't remember if I was asked why I wasn't going to school. The Panel decided I should be sent to Devonvale Assessment Centre. I was devastated.

Devonvale Assessment Centre, Tillicoultry

58. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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Leaving Devonvale Assessment Centre

62. Secondary Institutions - to be published later, I was taken into the office at Devonvale and told that I was going to Balgowan Approved School in Dundee. I assume it was a Children's Panel decision, but I don't remember going back to the panel. I was taken to Balgowan the next day. I was thirteen years old at the time.

Balgowan Approved School, Dundee

63. Balgowan Approved School was for boys between the ages of twelve and sixteen years. I think there were around forty to fifty boys there in total.

Routine at Balgowan Approved School

First memories

64. I was taken to Balgowan in a minibus with two men. I don't know their names. I think they were staff from Balgowan because I hadn't seen them before. I don't have any memory of arriving at Balgowan.

Mornings and bedtime

65. In the morning, we got up, washed and dressed, then went out to the playground. We had to march everywhere which we called 'parade'. We went on parade to the classroom after breakfast. The classrooms were separate to the main building. There wasn't much in the way of schooling. I do remember someone trying to teach me algebra, but I don't remember many other subjects. It was mainly drawing and having a laugh in the classroom or out doing physical education which I liked. There were some practical classes like woodwork and things like that. I think we were in class until 3:30 or 4:00 pm. After school, if the weather was nice, we went outside to play. If not, we would be inside watching TV. We did do some chores at some point during the day. I remember the boys taking turns to mop the bathroom floors.

Mealtimes/Food

66. We ate all our meals in the dining hall. The food was ok and I don't remember having any issues at mealtimes.

Clothing/uniform

67. The school provided all of our clothes and shoes. I didn't like the clothes because they weren't my style. I don't think any of it was brand new, but it was in alright condition. They would sometimes give us a small selection of clothes and we could pick some things out and try them on. I think there was a laundrette within the building where our clothes were washed for us.

Leisure time

68. The staff took us to a place called Glenhead for one week each year. It was in the hills, in the middle of nowhere. We stayed in a wee cottage with no electricity and went hill walking. I quite liked that. I think I went twice. There were four members of staff and about twelve boys.

Family contact

69. If you kept your nose clean, you were allowed weekend leave once a month from Friday to Sunday. I had my first weekend leave after I was there five months. The staff gave me a bus pass and a train ticket to get to Falkirk. I got the bus from Downfield in Dundee down to the train station. I got off the train in Stirling and got on another train to Falkirk. It was great to get home again, but I hated going back on a Sunday. Sometimes, I didn't go back and I would be away from Balgowan for five days to a week. The police used to kick the door in at my mum's looking for me. I would hide in the loft if I heard them. They would always find me and take me to the station and someone from Balgowan would pick me up the next day and take me back. I'd get the belt when I got back to Balgowan for running away.

Abuse at Balgowan Approved School

70. Balgowan was a pretty bad place. I remember that if you did anything wrong, like being cheeky or fighting, about four or five of the staff would hold you down and belt you. They would get you to take your trousers down and belt you across the bare bum. They would belt you so hard they would take the skin off your bum. I remember seeing boys bleeding in the showers after being belted. I refused to take my trousers down so they would drag my trousers off me. If you struggled, they would sometimes miss and belt you on the back. I think I was belted about four or five times.
71. I only know the names of three of the staff members involved in giving kids the belt. They were Mr ^{GKF} and Mr ^{GMP} and Mr ^{GMR}. Mr ^{GKF} was in his early fifties and was

SNR [REDACTED]. Mr GMP [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] and Mr GMR [REDACTED] was a former prison officer from Perth. The three of them were always there when I got the belt.

72. The only other member of staff I remember is GMN [REDACTED]. She is now married and her married name is GMN [REDACTED]. Her role was caring for the boys and I think she was maybe twenty-eight to thirty years old. She asked me to help her with her garden. She drove me to her house and had sex with me. It only happened once and I think I was fourteen years old at the time. Afterwards, she told me to keep it to myself. I didn't think much of it back then. I know that she also had sex with one of the other boys from Balgowan called [REDACTED]. I never reported it, but I told a couple of boys I was friendly with at the school.
73. I remember some of the boys doing sexual things to each other. I don't really want to go into any more detail about that. It was all a bit vulgar. I knew that it was going on and I saw it happen in the dorms. I'm sure the staff must have known what was happening too.

Leaving Balgowan Approved School

74. I don't remember ever seeing a social worker while I was in Balgowan. No one ever told me how long I would be there, but I got it into my head that I would be there until I was sixteen. I was only there between sixteen and eighteen months before I was moved again. I kept running away so SNR [REDACTED], Mr GKF [REDACTED] told me I was being sent to Kerelaw. I was taken straight from Balgowan to Kerelaw. That was when I was fourteen years old.

Kerelaw Residential School, Ayrshire

75. Kerelaw was a residential school for boys sixteen years and younger. The building was split into four sections or units. The unit I was in was called Baird. There were maybe twenty boys in my unit. I'm not sure how many boys were there in total. I

remember they were building a secure unit at Kerelaw while I was there, but it wasn't open yet. I remember that because I had to test some of the windows with staff.

76. The only members of staff I remember from Kerelaw are Mr Crookshanks, Mr Mulgrew and Matt George. Crookshanks was from Falkirk and he was alright. Mulgrew was a member of staff and a teacher. Matt George was an art teacher who stayed in Largs. I remember him because he used to take me and some of the other boys to his house to do his garden. I hated doing his garden and he didn't even give us pocket money for it. He also battered me once.

Routine at Kerelaw Residential School

First day

77. I can't remember who took me to Kerelaw, but I remember my mum was there the day I arrived. I remember sitting in the dining hall with my mum and a member of staff. He just told me straight that if I wanted to run away 'Glasgow's that way and Edinburgh's that way'. He obviously knew I had a history of running away.

Mealtimes/Food

78. We all ate together at mealtimes in the dining hall, including the staff. The food was ok, but I'd say there probably wasn't enough of it. I remember sneaking down to the kitchen at night to steal a loaf of bread and some jam because I was hungry. They never forced me to eat anything I didn't want to.

Leisure time

79. There was more stuff to do at Kerelaw. They had a big gym we could go to at night to play five aside football. They also had boxing classes which I liked. The staff would sometimes take about twelve of us swimming at a time and sometimes they would take us somewhere in a minibus to let us run around a bit. It was alright.

Schooling

80. I don't remember much about the schooling at Kerelaw. I didn't spend much time there because, within the three months I was there, I ran away three times. The school was within the grounds, but separate from the main building. The kids were split into a few classes, but I'm not sure if that had anything to do with age or just because of numbers. I remember doing lot of art, but I don't remember any other subjects.

Family contact

81. I didn't have any contact with my mum while I was at Kerelaw. I was only there for three months so I don't think I was there long enough to get home leave.

Abuse at Kerelaw Residential School

82. Matt George is the only abusive member of staff I remember from Kerelaw. He was a really nice looking man with black hair. I remember he was into Kung Fu because I was too. On a Saturday afternoon he would pick four or five boys to take swimming or to a football game. I went to a football game with him one Saturday. During the match it started raining and me and the other boys got back in his car. One of the boys was called [REDACTED]. While we were in the car, I let the handbrake off and let the car roll back a couple of feet for a laugh. When Matt George came back to the car he knew someone had moved it. I told him it was me and he just started punching me to the face. He punched me a good eight or nine times and burst my eye open. I didn't get any medical treatment.
83. When we got back to Kerelaw he put me in a wee cell they had in the building. It was a little concrete room, like a police station cell, but with no mattress or blanket. I was let out after a couple of hours. I cleaned my eye and got a plaster from one of the other boys. I was once put in that cell overnight for running away.

84. Matt George had two boys, within the school, who would batter other boys for him. One of the boys was [REDACTED] from Kilmarnock. His nickname was [REDACTED]. The other boy's nickname was [REDACTED]. He was from Clydebank. They were both bullies. I would see Matt George in the office talking to them and the next thing, they were battering some wee guy. I know it happened to a wee boy from Springburn who's surname was [REDACTED].
85. I also saw Matt George hit a few of the boys himself. He would hit them round the back of the head. It was more than a slap. It was more forceful.
86. I never told any of the staff what Matt George did to me. I think I might have told a few of the boys, but that was it. At the time, I threatened him with [REDACTED]. I told him they would get a hold of him, but it was just talk.

Leaving Kerelaw Residential School

87. I was only at Kerelaw for about three months because I ended up running away with two other boys. We stole a motor and I remember getting chased by the police in Glasgow at 5:30 am. The guy that was driving the car stopped and the three of us split up. I got away and made it home to my mum's. The next thing I know I was picked up by the police and taken to Falkirk Police Station. A social worker came to see me at the station and told me that the Police wanted to interview me in Kilmarnock for car theft. I was charged and went to Kilmarnock Sheriff Court just before I was fifteen. I got remanded to Longriggend for three weeks. I then went back to Kilmarnock Sheriff Court and plead guilty. I was sentenced to two years as a convicted young person (CYP). They put me in Longriggend for the next five and a half months.

Longriggend Detention Centre, Airdrie

88. Longriggend Remand Centre was for boys under twenty-one. It was terrible. I had my own cell because of my age and I was put down as a security risk because of my

previous running away. They called me an 'escapee'. I had to take all my clothes off every night and put them outside my door.

Routine at Longriggend Detention Centre

Daily routine

89. In the morning, each side of the hall was woken up separately. One thirty minutes after the other. We got dressed into our prison uniform. They called the uniformed BD's, but I don't know what that stands for. It was black trousers, a blue shirt and a brown jumper. Then we had to slop out. We walked in a line to empty our potties and get a wash. After that, we all ate breakfast together in the dining hall. Then it was back to the cell until lunch. After lunch you had one hour of exercise in the square. We just walked round the square every day. Then you were in your cell until dinner at 6:30 pm. After dinner, we were allowed to watch TV in the dining hall until 8:30pm. Then you were in your cell until the next morning. It was a prison and the routine was the same every day.

Discipline/Abuse at Longriggend Detention Centre

90. The screws were rotten. They would come into our cells to check for dust. They would take a hanky and run it over the surfaces. If they found any dust or dirt, they took you off recreation for a week. That meant you didn't get any TV time after dinner. If they didn't like you or you did something daft, they would make you clean the floors. They would let you clean the floor, then they would pour polish on it and make you clean it again. The only screw I remember by name is **GMQ**. I remember him because punched me a few times in the face when I was in my cell.

Leaving Longriggend Detention Centre

91. I was in Longriggend for five and a half months. I was fifteen years old when I left. A social worker came to see me. I think his name was Mr Jamison. He told me that I was being moved to Geilsland Approved School. I don't think he told me why I was being moved, but I was transferred one week later.

Geilsland Approved School, Beith

92. Geilsland looked like a big fancy house. It was a boy's only approved school and all the boys were between twelve and sixteen years of age. I think there was around twenty-five boys in total. I think it was run by The Church of Scotland. Mr **EZD** was **SNR** there.
93. In the main building there was the headmaster's office and upstairs was the nurse's station. I wasn't in the main building much. You only really went there if the headmaster wanted to see you. The dining hall, classrooms and dorms were in a separate building.

Routine at Geilsland Approved School

First day

94. I can't remember how I got to Geilsland or arriving there. I thought I'd probably serve the rest of my sentence there, but I ended up running away after two months.

Mornings and bedtime

95. In the morning, we got up, washed, dressed and went for breakfast in the dining hall. After breakfast, you went to your work party. I worked in the mechanics for a week, but I didn't like it so moved to physical training (PT). At night, before bed, you could go

outside to play football or go to the gym hall. I'm sure they locked us in our dorms at bedtime, but if you really wanted to, you could get out.

96. On a Sunday, the staff would march us through town to church. We all had to wear suits. I hated it. It was really embarrassing.

Clothing/uniform

97. We each had three sets of clothes and one suit given to us by the school. Everyone had the same. We had to wash and iron the clothes that we were wearing daily and lay them out on the bed for inspection after lunch. We had to make our beds with mitred corners. We had to stand to attention at the side of our bed. If the staff didn't think we had washed or ironed our clothes properly, they would sometimes throw them out the window. We had a big inspection every Friday where the staff would check all three sets of our clothes.

Mealtimes/Food

98. I remember the food being ok at Geilsland. The main thing I remember about the food, was being given six digestive biscuits every Sunday for breakfast. That was it, just six biscuits.

Leaving Geilsland Approved School

99. I got home leave just before my sixteenth birthday and I didn't go back to Geilsland after that. I ended up getting into trouble and got charged by Falkirk Police. Geilsland wouldn't take me back because of the charge so I was remanded for three weeks to Longriggend. I turned sixteen while I was at Longriggend. I then plead guilty and was sentenced at Falkirk Sheriff Court to three months detention. I was to serve my detention at Glenochil, but a van took me to Barlinnie first. I was put in the dog box for five or six hours and then put on a bus to Glenochil that night.

Glenochil Detention Centre, Alloa

100. Glenochil was meant to be some kind of short, sharp treatment. It was quite a shock to the system as it was much rougher than the places I had been in before. I knew it was going to be bad because I remember a boy asking me to break his leg for him, when I was in Longriggend, because he didn't want to go there. He begged me to break his leg so he would be taken somewhere else. A lot of people were scared to go to Glenochil.

Routine at Glenochil Detention Centre

First day

101. I only have vague memories of arriving at Glenochil. I remember going through the reception area and being given clothes. I was then taken to my cell in B hall. It was a single cell with a bed, potty and a wee cupboard.
102. SNR [REDACTED] at Glenochil was a guy called HEO [REDACTED]. They called him 'HEO [REDACTED] HEO [REDACTED]'. The story was he had actually slashed one of the prisoners. I didn't see that though.

Daily routine

103. In the morning, a bell woke us up around 6:00 am. We all had to stand to attention at our cell doors with our potty and our towels over our arm. We had to say "Good morning sir". Then we went down to ablutions and shaved. It was the old style razors we used. The ones where the razor blade screws in and out. The prison officers gave us a razor and once we were finished shaving, we had to give it back. I actually remember a boy [REDACTED] beside me in the bathroom. I think his name was [REDACTED]. He's now a lifer from Edinburgh and I think he started the prison riot in the 80's. The prison officers rushed over, grabbed him and took him away. I don't remember seeing him again.

104. After we finished getting washed, we went back upstairs and we had to put all our kit on our bed. The officers would come in to do an inspection. They did three inspections a day. One in the morning, one after lunch and one before recreation at night. After the morning inspection, we went down for breakfast. We had to stand to attention beside the table until everyone was in the dining hall. There was four to a table. We had to lift the seat out from under the table in a certain way and then sit down with our feet and knees together. We weren't allowed to talk during breakfast. We usually got eggs and bread, but for some reason, we weren't allowed to make a sandwich with it.
105. After breakfast, we got changed into our boots because we marched everywhere. I remember the prison officers saying 'if you fall, fall to attention'. Then we went to our workshops. I was a cleaner so I was kept in the hall and had to clean the stairs and the landing every day. I did that seven days a week.
106. We got a break at around 10:30 am to have a cup of tea and a bit of bread with butter. We all had to face the wall to eat and we weren't allowed to speak. We would stand in the corridor and there would be about twelve of us facing one wall and twelve facing another.
107. Dinner was the same routine as breakfast. We had to stand to attention until everyone was in the dining hall and sit in a certain way. Each table got up in turn to march round to collect their food. By the time the last table was collecting their food, the first table had to be ready to get up and collect their second course. We only got about two minutes to eat before we had to get up again.
108. After dinner, we went back to our cells for another inspection. Our cells had to be immaculate. They used to get a hanky and put their finger in it and run it over the surfaces in the room looking for dust. If they found any, you were off recreation for seven days. That meant you couldn't watch TV or play pool. You would sometimes be given extra PT or made to clean a floor tile with a toothbrush. If your cell was clean, you could go to the recreation room from 7:45. There was a TV, a pool table and a couple of books. I was only in the recreation room twice because I didn't like it. I used

to volunteer for a PT class. Most prisoners thought PT was a punishment, but I thought it was a godsend.

Exercise

109. We were made to run one mile every week. If you didn't beat last weeks' time, you were put on report, had to go in front of the governor, and lost five days remission. In those days, if you were sentenced to nine months, you only served six. If you lost five days remission that meant you had to do six months and an extra five days. It was the PT instructor who put us on report and they classed it as laziness if we didn't beat our time. When I first arrived someone told me not to go flat out on my first week, so I could beat my time the following week. Some boys didn't know and would fly round so the first week and end up on report by the second week.

Abuse at Glenochil Detention Centre

110. I remember one prison officer called [GMV]. He was an animal. There was a boy called [REDACTED] who was sixteen or seventeen. I don't think he should have been in prison, he needed a different kind of help. He didn't know his left from his right. He used to turn the wrong way when we were marching and he got battered for it by [GMV]. [GMV] would punch him a couple of times in the head.
111. Another time, when we were lined up facing the wall during break, [REDACTED] was trying to whisper to the boy beside him. We weren't allowed to talk and I could see [GMV] coming up behind him, but I couldn't warn [REDACTED]. [GMV] kicked [REDACTED] to the tail bone. He really swung the boot into him. I could see the pain in [REDACTED] face.

Leaving Glenochil Detention Centre

112. Towards the end of my three month sentence at Glenochil, a social worker, Mr Jamieson, came to see me. He told me I still had nine months of my two year sentence

to serve. He said that when I was released from Glenochil I would get a gate arrest and be taken to finish my sentence. I remember it was 1st January 1980 when I was released and arrested at the gate. I went straight from the Detention Centre at Glenochil to the Young Offenders at Glenochil. It was a different part of Glenochil. I was moved because you could only serve three months at the detention centre.

Glenochil Young Offenders

113. The Young Offenders (YO) part of Glenochil was entirely different from the detention centre. There was much more violence between the prisoners. There were two or three slashing's every day. The YO was full of guys serving long sentences and lifers. I was involved in a couple of fights, but I was never seriously hurt.
114. One of the things I remember about being in Glenochil YO, is that if you were put on report, the governor would have the officers take your mattress out of your cell for up to ten days. You had to sleep directly on the wooden board on the bed. That happened to most people in there at some point.
115. I was in the YO until I finished my two year sentence. I expected I'd get remission, but I didn't realise that because I was sentenced as a CYP, I had to do the full sentence without remission. I served every day bar one. I was seventeen when I left and went back to my mum's flat in Falkirk. It was June or July 1980. I wasn't home very long before I got my borstal in January 1981. I was caught joyriding in Edinburgh and I was taken to Corstorphine Police Station. Two police officers battered me in the station. They put a metal bucket over my head and battered it with a truncheon. I don't know their names. I appeared on a summary complaint at Falkirk Sheriff Court because that's where the car had been stolen from. I was remanded to Longriggend for background reports. I ended up pleading guilty and was sentenced to two years borstal in Polmont.

Polmont Young Offenders, Polmont

Initial memories

116. Polmont wasn't too bad. It sounds strange, but it was actually one of the better sentences I did. I was put into what we called the 'alley cally, the allocation alley, for six weeks and then moved to the west wing. Some boys went to Castle Huntly, which was an open prison, but I was kept at Polmont because it was easier for me to get visitors as my family lived in Falkirk. It might have also been because I was still classed as an 'escapee'.

Daily routine

117. The daily routine was the just the usual. We got up, washed, had breakfast and then went to our workshops. They had textiles, joiners, mechanics, brickies, and welder's workshops. I was put in a stone mason's workshop, but I ended up the kit boy in the hall. That was pretty much the best job. I issued kit to the new prisoners. The routine wasn't anywhere near as regimented as Glenochil.
118. We got an hours exercise in the afternoon, then we went back to our workshops. At night we were locked up between five and six while the officers went away for a cup of tea. After that, we got recreation. I played a lot of table tennis, but you could also go to the gym, watch TV or play pool. They had books to choose from and I remember reading quite a lot. We were back in our cells for the night by about 8:45 pm.
119. After a while, I was made a trustee so I could go outside. I actually did a thirty mile run for charity from Polmont to the Forth Road Bridge and back. I never ran away from anywhere after I was sixteen because I knew if I did, I would just get another two year sentence.

Leaving Polmont Young Offenders

120. I was released from Polmont on 24th December 1981 when I was 18 years old. I remember the date [REDACTED]. I was totally unprepared for life on the outside and now that I was eighteen, I was classed as an adult.

Life after being in care

121. After leaving Polmont, I was in and out of prison constantly. I couldn't last more than six weeks on the outside. I wasn't a violent guy, but I'd get put away for crimes of dishonesty. I think the longest sentence I did was thirty months. I've never had a job in my life because I've spent the best part of twenty-six years in prison.
122. There was absolutely no social work involvement while I was Polmont and none when I left. It was really difficult because I had no school qualifications and social work didn't even try to help me find a job. I think that's part of the reason I just kept reoffending. During one of my sentences in Barlinnie, I got my football coaching certificate and my PTI coaching certificate, but I've never had the chance to use them.
123. Not long after I was released from Polmont I met my partner of forty-two years. She was the best thing that ever happened to me, but unfortunately, we are no longer together. We have two children. My son is thirty-four and my daughter is twenty-four.

Impact

124. My experience with the care system has ruined my life. I started sniffing glue when I was just a boy and I started smoking cannabis when I was seventeen. I ended up with a heroin habit for twenty-one years. I was thirty-four years old when I first touched heroin. At one time, I was absolutely terrified of it, but I always thought that you could only get addicted by injecting it. I've never done that. The first time I took heroin was

in Barlinnie. A boy gave me a few lines and I smoked it. Within a few weeks I was hooked. When my habit was at its worst, on the outside, I could spend £200 to £300 a day on heroin.

125. I've been off drugs for two years now and I'm on a methadone and Valium prescription. My methadone dosage gets reduced every two months so hopefully I'll be off it completely by Christmas this year.

126. I'm a bit of a loner. I think that has a lot to do with being in care and being institutionalised. While you're in care, you're on your own. You don't build relationships with people in the same way. You don't have any say in what's happening with your life. I definitely have a mistrust of people in authority because of what I've been through. My time in care really wrecked my head.

127.



128. I've always said, if my dad hadn't died, I would have had such a different life because I wouldn't have ended up in care.

Treatment/support

129. I've suffered from depression for the last eighteen years. It started while I was in prison and it's something that comes and goes. I spoke to my GP two or three years ago about it and he prescribed me antidepressants, but I didn't take them. My drug worker then arranged for me to see a psychologist. I did see a psychologist called Anita for the first time around six or seven months ago. I didn't find it very helpful so I only saw her for around five months. She said she thought I really needed to see a psychiatrist. I had my first appointment on Thursday 2nd June 2022.

Reporting of Abuse

130. I've never really spoken to anyone about my time in care other than the psychologist, but I didn't tell her everything. Speaking to the Inquiry is the first time I've told someone everything that happened to me.

Records

131. I haven't requested any of my records so far, but I would like to see them. I did contact Future Pathways, but apparently I'm in a queue for them to help me. I've never sought compensation and I didn't even claim my slopping out money.

Lessons to be Learned

132. When I was a young boy, if a judge had given me the choice between prison or the army, I would have chosen the army and I could have made something of myself.
133. I think there needs to be more support and guidance for kids within the care system. No one ever sat down and spoke to me about why I was there. No one ever had a conversation with me when I started to go off the rails. There was just no one looking out for my welfare. There was no one there to offer support when I eventually left the care system. I honestly think, if someone had been there to talk to me, to guide me, or intervene when my life started going downhill, things could have worked out very differently for me.

Other information

134. 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. 19/7.22