

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KDZ

Support person present: No

1. My name is <sup>KDZ</sup> and my date of birth is 1957. My details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Glasgow and grew up in on the border of Clydebank, with my parents and and my seven brothers and sisters. is the oldest, then me, , , , , and
3. I lived there between 1961 and 1969. As a family we got on great and got on well with all the neighbours. We all fought together and we all played together. We had the railway and that was our playground. There was a massive swing park, but we never played there. I loved living there. It was great and I have lots of friends there still.
4. My dad worked hard shovelling coal in the power station and my mum was a hard grafter as well. She worked in Weir's Pumps. My mum came from a family of fifteen and my dad from five or six. We had cousins spread all over Glasgow.
5. There was a girl called who lived in the same close as me and she abused me when I was young. was about four or five years older than me and had Down's Syndrome. If I was walking up the stair she would be sitting playing with

herself and trying to grab me as I went past. She had that strength. My mum would put a big washing out the back and [REDACTED] would go out and only cuddle my pyjamas.

6. It wasn't just me she abused and it was a known secret in our street that people would keep away from our close because of her. Everybody knew to just to stay away from her.
7. I don't know how long it went on for but it wasn't just a day or two or a week or two. It was every day. We used to play games outside in these days like hide and seek and if you went into the close and [REDACTED] was there you were straight out again. I can't remember the dates but it was before 1969 when we moved away from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
8. I don't know for a fact, but the talk was that [REDACTED] had been abused herself by her grandfather and he ended up taking his own life. [REDACTED] also smothered a baby she had been leaning over. I remember the coffin being a wee white one. She also deafened another kid.
9. I just remember the sixties being totally a grey picture with smog everywhere. In 1969 we moved four hundred metres from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] in a swap for a bigger house, but it was like moving into a different world. I couldn't get a bus by [REDACTED] because all the boys from there now wanted to fight me because I'd moved over to Yoker territory.
10. That's the way it was then. Every other street had a gang. When you moved into a new area that's when you had to stand up for yourself. I was the oldest boy in my family and one day guys were chasing me. I ran into my mum and dad's house and said there were three guys out there. My dad told me get out there or he would be booting me. I went out and I got hit with sticks and things, but I leathered the three of them.
11. I went to the boxing for seven or eight years when I went over to Yoker. That brought its own problems as my young brothers were getting bullied. To me that was all just

part of growing up and finding your way with people. We did find our way and my family are all still here after fifty years.

12. I went to St Brendan's Primary School in 1963. When we moved it was time for me to go to St Thomas of Aquinas Secondary School. It was when I went there that I started getting into bother.
13. My brother and I were seeing a psychologist in about 1969 or 1970. My brother [REDACTED] was unruly. He didn't like school and he could make himself sick anytime he wanted and get sent home from school. He was hyper as well, but not with me. The psychologist's office was at Charing Cross and I'm sure the psychologist was Donald Dewar's wife. We used to love going there, getting a blether with people and then getting our bus fares home.
14. I didn't have much involvement with social work when I was a boy. They were always in the background. Social work never really got involved with me until my mum had her mental breakdown and she ended up in Woodilee Psychiatric Hospital. She went in there because, after her breakdown, she didn't recognise anyone. They gave her electric shock treatment and she was in for a long period of time. As she was getting better she was helping out with other patients.
15. I'd been to children's panels because I'd been involved with a couple of older guys, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were guys I looked up to and had my first fag with.
16. When I was thirteen I ran away from the house. I was just wanting to get away and there was no one thing that made me run away. Maybe it was because of financial difficulties because we had eight children in the house. My dad worked hard, but he was a drinker. He and I never got on and because I was the oldest and I think he expected more from me. We never got on until I was in my thirties. Even if we went out together, we always ended up arguing. I think I just wanted to get away from them all, but there's nothing that sticks in my head as to why I did it.



17. I went down to Ayr and was working with the shows. I told the guy that I was on the run from my approved school even although I hadn't been sentenced to anything. It was in [REDACTED] 1971 and [REDACTED] was number one. I know this because they played it at the shows and I always remember what songs were number one when I was at certain places during my life.
18. I was away for just over a week from the Friday until the next again Sunday. My mum had reported me missing to the police and then informed them when I got back. The police came to my mum and dad's, asked where I had been and then they took me straight to prison.
19. Back in that day, the police never really asked you questions to find out why I'd run away, they just slapped you. I've had many doings for nothing over the years by police. That's the way it was back then. I would be standing in a bus stop and they would tell me to move on and even if I said I was waiting on a bus it was still 'move on.'
20. I was taken to Larchgrove Assessment Centre and got kept there for a couple of days before I went to a children's panel. The children's panel decided I was to go back to Larchgrove and that was my first of two spells there.

### **Larchgrove Remand Centre, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow**

#### *Location / Layout / Staffing / Residents*

21. Larchgrove was in Edinburgh Road, Glasgow and it was right next door to St John's Approved School.
22. I don't know whether Larchgrove was run by the council or the prison. I certainly never saw any HMP (Her Majesty's Prison) signs there. All I know was Larchgrove was a remand centre and a gathering point before they sentenced you. Nobody ever did a sentence there, you were there whilst social work and psychologist reports were getting done.

23. The longest you would be there for a standard charge was three weeks, but if you were remanded on an indictment, you would do twelve weeks.
24. Looking at it from the outside, it just looked like a big long wall. Once you got into it, there was a big square yard and there were buildings off it that were the dormitories. Basically it was four wings and I think they were just called North, South, East and West. There were six beds in each of the boys' dormitories apart from the younger boys' wing where they had eight or ten in each one. All that was in them was the beds. There was no TV or anything like that. There was a dining room upstairs and a medical room, big gym and a football park.
25. There were kids in there who were younger than me, but you could only go there until you were sixteen. Once you were sixteen you would have to go to Longriggend. It was mixed boys and girls, but there weren't many females. They just had one block in beside the medical block and there was never much more than three or four of them there. I would say there was a hundred boys there at a time and they were all local to Glasgow.
26. There were boys in there that should never have been there. They were only in there because their parents couldn't look after them and they ended up corrupted and abused.
27. I can't remember there being a headmaster or governor at Larchgrove. Mr [REDACTED] seemed to be there all the time though. I don't know if he stayed on the premises, but I think there was a [REDACTED]
28. All the staff were male and there was always waking night staff on duty. After we were all away to bed, they just used to gather in the square and drink coffee or whisky.

## **Routine at Larchgrove Assessment Centre**

### *Mornings and bedtime*

29. We got up about half past six or seven o'clock every morning, went to ablutions and then headed for breakfast. After breakfast you either had cleaning duties or you went to classes. If you did cleaning in the morning you had classes in the afternoon and vice versa. We would get a fag break about half past eleven and then dinner at half past twelve. After that it was either classes or cleaning depending on what you had done in the morning.

### *Mealtimes/Food*

30. In the dining room it was staggered times for the different units so that not everybody was there getting served at the same time.
31. There was a gang culture in Larchgrove and everyone was with the guys from their own area. I was with guys from Yoker, whilst Drumchapel, Govan, Gorbals and all the different areas had their own tables.
32. We got fed well and the food was really good. It was probably better than some of the boys got at home. There was plenty food and you never went hungry in there or in any prison. There was no force feeding

### *Washing/bathing*

33. The showers were absolutely fine. There was always staff there when people were showering because that was one of the places where there might be fighting. You wouldn't fight in front of the staff because you would just get a doing off the staff if you did. There were bullies, but I hated bullies. I've never done it and I don't like it. Even now, if I see a man bullying his wife in the pub, I will intervene. I'm protective of women because I've got four sisters, a mum and a gran.

### *Clothing/uniform*

34. We were allowed to wear our own clothes, but they did give you blue shirts and grey trousers to wear during the day just like the ones you used to get in prison. You had a locker for your clothes in a room where the showers were.

### *Healthcare*

35. There was a medical room, but I was only ever in there once when I wasn't well.

### *Schooling*

36. We did have school at Larchgrove. Mr **IJR** was one of the teachers. Mr **KDX** was basically **SNR** or he looked like he was **SNR**. He was just a nasty piece of work. I can't remember any of the other staff there.

### *Work*

37. The work was mainly cleaning work. We would clean and buff the floors.

### *Leisure time*

38. When we got leisure time we usually just played football. There were evening activities like handcraft and that was done in the classroom.
39. The gym was really just used as a smoking room and not for actual gym. They just used to herd everybody in to the gym, even the ones that didn't smoke.

### *Visitors / Family contact*

40. We were allowed visitors and my mum and my sister used to visit all the time, but my dad never came once.



### *Birthdays and Christmas*

41. We used to get home for Christmas from Larchgrove. I got out of Larchgrove for Christmas and back to the custody of my mum and dad, but went back in after the holidays. I was never in there for my birthday.

### *Discipline*

42. If you had been naughty you would get more cleaning work, but the punishment would be cleaning a two foot by two foot tile for an hour with a toothbrush whilst everyone else got to watch TV. That was the same at all the institutes.

### *Running away*

43. I ran away three times when I was at Larchgrove and every time I handed myself in, I ended up back at Larchgrove.
44. I was running away from there because of the staff slapping me. There were two members of staff, Mr **IJR** who was a teacher and Mr **KDX** who was ex-army and was a really nasty man. They were always asking questions about whether I had a girlfriend or not and basically trying to find out if I was a homosexual. It was just a different way of asking in these days.
45. I wasn't running away just because I was getting abused by the staff. It was more to do with me not wanting to share a dormitory with five guys I didn't know. As soon as I got a chance, I was getting out of there and a lot of the boys thought the same. We weren't running away just for the sake of it. I ran away because I didn't want to be there.
46. People used to escape from Larchgrove all the time. In the gym they had reinforced glass windows, but the boys would still kick a hole in them. There would be four or five boys gathered round to shield somebody escaping out the window.



47. Others would even go up the climbing frames and then swing right out the bigger window up at the top of the gym. In the area where the visiting was, boys would pick up the chairs and throw them through the windows so they could escape. One boy actually did it whilst his mum was visiting. He just threw the chair and himself out the window and ended up gashing his arm. I did try and escape from the medical room once, but it was too high a jump for me to get out.
48. Another time, I ran away when I was playing in goals for the Larchgrove Football Team. The ball was up the other end of the pitch and I ran off and jumped on a bus that was going all the way back to Yoker. I never went to my mum and dad's, but stayed at my pal's for a couple of nights before handing myself back into the police.
49. Once the night staff were away having their coffee and whisky, that was the time we would be able to make our escape.
50. In [REDACTED] 1972, thirteen of us escaped on the coldest night of the year. Six of the boys ended up with frostbite, but that was probably because we ran away in our pyjamas and slippers.
51. I was always going to get out that night and this time it was with one of the younger crews. We used a locker to barricade the double doors to stop the staff being able to get to us and then we went out a window at the back. We threw the bedding out the window and we were off. Some of the boys just ditched the bedding and ran. We ended up sleeping in a graveyard near Shettleston that night.
52. It was in the newspapers and on the news about thirteen, thirteen year old boys had been able to escape through the night.
53. When we got back everybody apart from me got the belt. I was probably a lot more streetwise than the other kids because I grew up with older boys. Because of that, I got the blame for and it was after this incident that I got sent to an approved school.

### **Abuse at Larchgrove Assessment Centre**

54. [KDX] was just a cruel man who would slap the boys every single day. He was a thinnish guy, probably in his early fifties with black tight curly hair and always had a red face. It wasn't that I didn't like him and he was kind of dapper in his black suit, but he would just give you a slap for anything and nothing. You even got a back hander for asking for a light for a cigarette. They stopped boys being allowed to smoke in institutions in 1974. It never stopped, it just made it more dangerous because boys were hiding their smoking.

### **Leaving Larchgrove Assessment Centre**

55. I was in and out of Larchgrove and Longriggend Remand Centres. In between the two spells at Larchgrove I didn't really go to school much. I was working doing milk and paper rounds. My brother and I used to help dad working at the coal and got some tips for doing it.
56. I went to numerous courts because I was stealing. I would break into any factory, anywhere that I thought I could get something. I was done for theft, breach of the peace and police assault. If you got done for a breach of the peace you always got done for police assault.
57. After I escaped in [REDACTED] 1972, I got sentenced to twelve months and sent to St Mary's on [REDACTED] 1972. I think I got sent to St Mary's because it was the nearest institution that took my age group.

## **St Mary's Kenmure Boys School, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow**

### *Location / Layout / Staffing / Residents*

58. St Mary's was set in grounds in Bishopbriggs. They had a nursery garden and farm and there was also a brickie's shed and workshop. We had the most fantastic lawn that we used to lie out on in the summer. There was a play barn as big as a full size football pitch that the staff and boys had built themselves just before I got there. Behind there, were two full size football pitches and a pitch and putt course.
59. There were different dormitories and up to thirty boys in each one. Whilst I was there they built new living quarters and you got the option of being in a triple room or a single room. I took the single room and enjoyed having my own space.
60. The kitchen that I worked in was in the main building and it was brand new. It was attached to the dining room and next to that was the baker's shop and the joiners.
61. The school was divided into houses which were St Patricks, St Georges, St Andrews, St Colomba, Del La Salle and one other that I can't remember. Each house had a boy as president and I was the president of St Patricks. There was a sort of hierarchy for this with who had been there the longest being part of it. It was the presidents who decided what punishment a boy would get if they did something wrong. This was the structure the school had put in place.
62. It was boys only and was meant to be for up to sixteen year olds. There were one or two guys who left and then came back after they were sixteen. [REDACTED] and a guy [REDACTED] whose surname I can't remember, were two that came back after they were sixteen. [REDACTED] was mentally unstable or I think he might have been a little slow and shouldn't really have been there.
63. SNR [REDACTED] at St Mary's was LNI [REDACTED] and he was a cracking, lovely big man who had been an Irish Boxing Champion. Charlie Tully, KDM [REDACTED] and KDN [REDACTED]



KDN [REDACTED] were SNR [REDACTED]. There was a Mr O'Hagen and his wife, a guy Willie 'Getaway', but I don't know his real name.

64. KDY [REDACTED] was another staff member and he was ex-police. A lot of the staff had police or army backgrounds KDY [REDACTED] had been a copper in Shettleston and he came from Coatbridge. Half his family are gangsters and the other half are coppers. He was just an animal and thought he was Mr Cool. He was full of himself and he ended up being my housemaster.
65. I remember KDY [REDACTED] being interested in making pals with a fifteen year old resident called [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was from Shettleston and ran about with an older crowd in their twenties. KDY [REDACTED] was trying to find out information from him about Shettleston to pass back to his old friends in the police. [REDACTED] was a fearsome man and I was scared of him. He died on the railway line in Shettleston on the day he got released in 1974. I blame the system for his death as well because he was out celebrating, got drunk and ended up on the railway line.
66. LYT [REDACTED] was an old thin guy who always wore overalls with one of these thick Scottish knitwear jumpers. His sister was [REDACTED] who used to have a programme on the television. I don't know what his first name actually was but we all just called him LYT [REDACTED]. He was the school engineer type of person.
67. There were good staff as well, a guy Jim Connelly who we called 'half pint' and the guys that worked the fields, auld KDB [REDACTED] and Bill who were the gardeners and grew all the vegetables for the school were fantastic. They were there when the monks ran the school before. I knew this because we found loads of records in the loft at the approved school. There was thousands of documents showing dates of guys coming in and out. There was stuff from forty years before.
68. I will always remember KDB [REDACTED] sitting chatting for hours on end with one of the residents, [REDACTED]. I could see KDB [REDACTED] knew something was wrong with [REDACTED] and he would be telling [REDACTED] stories like he was a baby. I'm not suggesting there was anything going on with



KDB and [REDACTED] The rest of the staff just treated [REDACTED] like he was one of the other boys. It's always something that stuck with me.

69. I can't remember the names of the woodwork teacher, the brickie or the joiner. Cissie worked in the laundry, she was great and she got me a job in a hotel when I left as she knew somebody that worked there.
70. Most of them were teachers, but other than KDY [REDACTED] the majority of them also had a trade. KDY [REDACTED] came in and nobody liked him as he bullied everyone including the staff. He wasn't there by the time my brother [REDACTED] went there after me.
71. The staff numbers were cut down at the weekend and there was sometimes only half a dozen staff to look after thirty boys. Everything was prepared for the weekend. The bakers would make enough rolls and everything was ready. I had to lay rolls out and do whatever pantry work needed done. I did that for nearly a year. This was when I'd been moved to the hostel for the pre-release boys.

### **Routine at St Mary's Kenmure**

#### *Schooling*

72. The schooling system was excellent. We were doing our schooling in the morning and in the afternoon we were out learning a trade. It was a good education and some of the boys that couldn't read and write, ended up being good brickies because they were able to get taught that when they were fourteen. I think all schools should be like that. There are kids that can't read and write but can turn their hand to being a brickie or a plumber or a joiner. That was the great thing about some approved schools or St Mary's anyway. I thought that might have been a model they would have chosen for all schools thirty or forty years ago to help kids who weren't as bright as some others.
73. We all had something to do during the day that would help us later on in life. At night you could go to the bakers and learn baking and come out with an apple pie or a

sponge or you could go into the kitchen and learn to cook. There was always something.

#### *Work*

74. We got shots of cleaning round the whole school, there was the laundry, the bakers and the brickies and you got to learn all these jobs.
75. It was when I was working in the kitchen at St Mary's that I first met Bill Franks who later got sentenced to seven years in jail for child abuse at St Mary's.

#### *Leisure time*

76. We had everything there. We used to play football and there were loads of other activities that we could do. Sometimes at night during recreation time, they would take us to the pictures or the swimming baths in Springburn or Edinburgh and sometimes to the zoo. Other times they would maybe take ten of us in the minibus for a drive and we'd go to Yoker, Blackhill or other areas nearby.
77. I did boxing as well and it was Bill Franks who made me my first gum shield. I won a fight when I represented the school in a boxing competition at Springburn Boxing Centre on 20 May 1972. The school took a van load of boys down to watch the fight.
78. After that night, my status rose and I was the hero of the school. I never got bullied after that because I was the boss, the best fighter and everybody knew it. There was another guy called [REDACTED] from Drumchapel who also won a fight that night but because I was first up I got all the glory.
79. The boys that had bullied me before invited me into their gang and the boys that had bullied me on the football pitch stopped bullying me. Jim Connelly, who was a younger member of staff and connected better with the boys, told me a while later that the staff knew who the best fighters were and knew who the bullies were and weren't.

80. The boxing was really good for me and helped me get through school. if I wanted to fight with someone, I would invite them into a boxing ring to fight properly, but a lot of the guys wouldn't do that because they had seen me boxing and didn't want to mess with me.

*Washing / Bathing*

81. The showering area was a locker room come shower room and the showers were in individual cubicles with curtains so that you got privacy. The showers were all new and up to date.

*Family Contact*

82. There might only be thirty boys staying at the home at the weekend as a lot of boys were allowed to go home but others had to stay. I was allowed to go home and I would go away in the caravan with my family sometimes. Other times, I didn't want to go home and stayed because we were going camping or going through to Edinburgh to the commonwealth pool. Whether I chose to go home or not, just depended what activities were on.

*Christmas / Birthdays*

83. At St Mary's, most of us went home for the Christmas holidays apart from some of the boys who couldn't go home.

*Review of Care / Detention*

84. I never had any involvement with social work when I was at St Mary's because I was on a sentence so they wouldn't review it.



### *Running away*

85. I ran away from St Mary's for the first time after two days. The reason I ran away was because when I'd run away at the football at Larchgrove, the rest of the boys were stopped from playing football for a couple of weeks. Some of the same boys went to St Mary's and I was still getting bullied by a couple of them who wanted to set about me because of them not getting to play their football.
86. There was also an old guy that creeped about at night. He used to wander the corridors and come into the dorms to make sure everyone was in bed and sleeping. It was nearly always the same guy who did the nights, but sometimes it would be auld KDB or the other guy that did the gardening, but I think they mainly took over at the weekends.

### *Discipline*

87. If you misbehaved you could be excluded from some of the activities. The staff also used the strap as punishment. It was the staff that set the rules and told us what to do, but it was really the boys that ran the school and decided what the punishment to be meted out was.
88. As part of my role as president of St Patrick's House, I would go to meetings with the Housemaster and either the Governor or Deputy Governor to discuss who had done wrong and what the punishment was to be. I was strong enough to stand up to these people because I did the boxing and because I could stand up for myself, I got more respect from the staff.
89. As an example, a guy from my house had set the new Andrews building on fire and everybody knew it was him. At a meeting the staff asked what punishment we were giving [REDACTED] for setting the block on fire. I told them that he needed to confess first before we could punish him. I went and coerced him into a confession by speaking to him. I simply told him that everybody knew he'd done it and if he didn't confess it meant all the rest of the boys from the dormitory weren't getting home for the weekend.



## *Revisit*

90. About fourteen years ago I went back to the school and took my wife. Everything had changed and it was basically just the play barn that was the same. Jim Connelly was still there and we spoke to him. He got the daybook from my time there and went to [REDACTED] 1972 and said there it is. I was amazed they still had the book and it was all there. The book recorded that I was admitted to the school and then three days later I absconded. It had bits in the book about when I was released and other times that I ran away.

## **Abuse at St Mary's Kenmure**

91. When I first went in to St Mary's the governor asked me to sit down and have a chat because he knew I had done a bit of boxing and he brought in <sup>KDY</sup> [REDACTED] who had been a boxer.
92. One day I was sparring, which meant I wasn't to hit just fob or deflect punches with a guy [REDACTED]. He was a monster of a boy from Stirling, big built and he just started swinging at me, no jabs or punches and he hit me a few times so I stuck the head on him.
93. <sup>KDY</sup> [REDACTED] jumped into the ring, but what bothered him more than anything was that there was a new female member of staff that came in and he'd been chasing her. I know they ended up getting together but because he was talking to her and not watching what was happening in the ring. He didn't see this guy swinging and swinging, he just saw me stick the head on the boy. <sup>KDY</sup> [REDACTED] dragged me like a rag doll out the ring, into the boys' toilets where he punched and kicked me all over the place.
94. After I won the fight at the boxing competition, I was taken to the hostel and allowed to watch Rangers play the European Cup Winners Cup Final on TV and given a can of Guinness by one of the staff Gerry Lonie. I didn't like the taste of it and never have, but that was me being rewarded for winning the fight. I stayed in the hostel that night

and I'm not complaining about being given the drink, but that shouldn't be happening to a fourteen or fifteen year old boy.

95. I know for a fact that both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were abused at St Mary's by Bill Franks the chef. He was having sex with them in the kitchen and he tried it on with me too. When I was throwing the tatties into the potato machine, he ran over and grabbed me from behind, pushed me up against the machine, rubbed against me and said 'Oh ho ho ho.' I told him if he did that one more time with me I would knock him out and he never tried anything with me again. [REDACTED] was there when he did it to me and I think [REDACTED] might have been there as well. That would happen to any new guy that came in to the kitchen and there were usually other people in the kitchen when Bill Franks did this.
96. Sometimes [REDACTED] wouldn't be in his bed at night. There was a nurse's station, but she was never in it so I don't think he would have been in there. I just never knew where else he could be and often wondered if it had something to do with Bill Franks. I know Bill Franks abused [REDACTED], but I don't know much it went on at night. I don't know if [REDACTED] was being handed about between staff and I've not got any proof of that. [REDACTED] was at the school a long time. He was there before I went there and he was still there when I left.
97. I liked Bill as a person, but I know he was involved in abuse. I used to go to his house because he stayed just outside the school. I think he had five weans who were about four, five, six, seven years old.
98. I know that he got sentenced to seven years because my brother phoned me up and said it was in the paper. I always knew that he was going to get caught and I think there were others he abused, not just [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Bill Franks wasn't the only abuser, but he is the one that I know ended up in prison.
99. Old <sup>LYT</sup> [REDACTED] must have hit every guy in the school. He was the shower room attendant and you weren't allowed to talk in the shower room. If you did he would come over and rap his knuckles over your head. I don't know why we weren't allowed to talk

in the shower rooms, it was just his rule. He hit boys every day and one day he actually hit me on the head twice because we started talking when we were in the shower room.

100. He was always the one that supervised the showers. I wondered years later why none of the other staff used to come and stand whilst we had our showers. That's all I can say. I never saw [LYT] sexually abusing anybody or anything like that.
101. [LYT] was one of the best thieves I ever met and he taught me loads about thieving. In his role as school engineer we were sent out to clean a shop out in Milngavie that had been burnt. We were randomly pulling out of bits of wood. [LYT] stole some of the materials that had been ordered to do the job and put them on the back of the wagon. We went home and we used the roofing stuff, gas bottles, felt and stuff to fix the Governor's garage. When we got back to the school, he would give us a half ounce of tobacco. If you kept your mouth shut you were back out working with him the next week.
102. The affect the place had on people was bad. I remember a guy [ ] who was a really quiet boy who turned into an animal. I think he had been bullied all his life and imploded or exploded once he came into St Mary's. He became violent and it was terrible watching somebody that's awful shy turn into somebody that was an angry young man.

### **Reporting Abuse at St Mary's Kenmure**

103. I was president of my house and the boys reported things to me. I would bring it up at the meetings on a Monday morning. I would report things like who hadn't come back from the weekend or if anybody had a problem. This would be done and then you would go to your classes. For me, I loved it. I loved my school and if every other school was the same it would be great.



104. We would report staff behaviour, but it never went any further. It never went to SNR SNR LNI or KDM who were the SNR If it had, KDN would have just shrugged it off as he had a really flippant attitude. I know for a fact they knew there were problems.
105. There were staff like Jim Connelly who you could speak to. I know he saw things at the school. He was only about twenty six when he came into St Mary's, but he'll have seen the members of staff like KDY and others that I have already mentioned. I know this from having personal chats with my friend zKHF, who worked there, and Jim Connelly. Jim worked there right up until two years ago. He was the only one I could've reported things to, but I wouldn't have done that at the time. In any of these institutes you just wouldn't report things.

#### **Leaving St Mary's Kenmure**

106. I got released from St Mary's, the first time, in about 1973 and I went back to St Thomas of Aquinas.
107. I didn't go to St Thomas' regularly because anything bad that happened I got the blame for it. It wasn't just me. There were three or four boys that had been in institutions or approved schools and if anything happened in the school, they would round us up first. The school got set on fire and I got the blame, but it wasn't me that did it. It was actually two girls and who had set the fire.
108. The form teacher was the first point of contact for punishment, then it went to the then . I ended up getting six of the strap from each of them. My wrists were all swollen. The school told me not to tell my mum and dad because they were going to investigate the next day, after they had already given me the strap eighteen times. Eighteen of the strap was outrageous, even then, and it must have broken some sort of record.



109. I was late getting home from school that day because I'd been kept back to get the strap. I ended up missing the last bus that I could use my ticket on. My mum asked why I was late so I told her and she saw my swollen wrists. She took me to the school the next morning to see the headmaster. When we got there, the two girls were coming out the headmaster's room and he shouted 'there's no need to worry Mrs. [REDACTED] we've got them'. There wasn't even an apology. My mum was a wee fighter and she was shouting and swearing at them. Even after that, the same four or five of us still got the blame for everything.
110. Some of the boys at school with me were in remand homes including St Mary's and Longriggend. What I didn't like was, at times when we got remanded to Longriggend, we would have to spend the night at Barlinnie Prison and that was wrong. Fourteen and fifteen year old boys shouldn't have been held on a wing like that with hardened criminals.
111. I wouldn't say the other guys were my pals, more peers just from knowing them from school. We would all tell each other about the different experiences we had had at the different remand schools.
112. Some of the names of the boys I was at school with or in the institutions with are [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I spent seven years in one institution or another and there are loads of others, but I can't remember their names off the top of my head.
113. I was going to the children's panels and juvenile courts for numerous charges of breach of the peace. On one occasion, fourteen of us were bunking off school and were on a pathway that ran past the school. The police arrived and charged us all with a breach of the peace. I pled guilty and practically begged them to send me back to St Mary's and they did.
114. I was then listed as a witness against the other thirteen. One of my then pals, [REDACTED], thought I was a grass and still doesn't speak to me to this day. The case never went anywhere for the other thirteen because the first police witness messed up his evidence and the case got dropped.

115. St Colomba was the house that was used for those that were in the pre-release period. I went there just before I was released the second time and was given a paid job in the nursery garden looking after the tomatoes. I got released the second time on my birthday, [REDACTED] 1973.
116. The school also organised jobs for us when we got released and I got a job at [REDACTED] Hotel as soon as I left. I was released at nine o'clock and started work at ten o'clock the same morning. I started out as a chef but it didn't last very long. I was getting paid ten pound a week wages and was back staying with my mum and dad.
117. I was back in jail by [REDACTED] 1974.

#### **Longriggend Detention Centre, Airdrie**

118. I was in Longriggend in 1974 and it was just for two short spells before I got let out on bail.
119. I'd been a bad boy again and got sent to Longriggend which was a remand centre. Nobody did a sentence in Longriggend. You were there whilst you waited for trial or for three weeks for reports or so whilst you were waiting on sentence. Once you were sentenced as a young offender you went to Glenochil or Polmont Young Offenders Institutes.
120. I was already doing a three month sentence at Glenochil when I got convicted of an another offence at court. Instead of sending me back to Glenochil I got sent to Longriggend to await reports and sentencing.
121. Most of the people in there were locked up for basically twenty two hours a day. You would get out for breakfast, dinner and tea and an hour's recreation. Sometimes you might get to watch TV for an hour or two at night, but most just stayed in their cell and read or listen to a transistor radio.

122. I was an avid reader and would sit in my cell just reading. There were a lot of prison officers from the same families. I remember there were a lot of [REDACTED] and a lot of [REDACTED].
123. As I had left school, I worked when I was in Longriggend. There were schoolboys in there who were under sixteen who weren't convicted and on remand in B Hall which was the boys' wing. They used to smash the windows every night just for the sake of it. I got a job working with one of the prison officers going round replacing all the windows and then got another job outside.

### **Abuse at Longriggend Detention Centre**

124. I don't really have anything to say about Longriggend other than I once got held for twenty seven hours over a two day period in what we called the dug boxes. These were tiny wee cubicles with a small bench where you sat before you went to your cell or to court. You were mainly in there on your own but they sometimes squeezed two of us in. You went in at half six in the morning if you were going to court and then after an hour they would process us and put us on the van to go to court.
125. On this occasion I was meant to be going to court, but it must have been cancelled at the last minute and I didn't go. Instead of putting me back in the hall like they were meant to, they ended up just leaving me in the dug box until everybody came back from court so it didn't mess up their signing in and out routine. I just had to sit there and wait in the tiny wee box. I sometimes got out to the toilet, but sometimes they just brought me a pot like we had in our cells.
126. When I was in D Hall in Longriggend in 1974 a guy set his cell on fire and died from the smoke inhalation. The screws that went in and dragged him out were kicking and punching him as they did so. One of the officers was one of the [REDACTED] family.



## **Glenochil Young Offenders Institute**

127. I went to Glenochil in [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] 1974. It was a hell hole where the staff were totally abusive. This was the place that was meant to remedy you. They made out that this was the place where they will kick it out of you and told you if you're a bad boy, when you leave here you'll be a good boy. It was just an awful place.
128. I was lucky because I was up there with a boy who had already been there before. That was unusual because when you get sent to the detention centre once, it was meant to be your short sharp shock twelve weeks of intense training.

### **Routine at Glenochil**

#### *Morning Routine*

129. You got out your bed in the morning and you had to march everywhere. You had to march to your breakfast and to your ablutions. When you were half way through they would shout nip it and that meant you had to stop doing the toilet and get out. If you didn't that was you put on the square, for tile scrubbing for two and a half hours. Marching on the square you could hear staff getting referred to as a colour which was reference to colour sergeants in the army. A lot of the officers were ex- army.
130. Most of the screws were alright. There were a few that weren't, but you get in every walk of life. I don't like bullies at all and I'd really had enough of dealing with these people as I'd been doing it for four years since I was thirteen. You just had to follow the rules.
131. We weren't locked up all day. We were out working doing the mail bags or sewing army bags. We would also be separating the copper from the aluminium in the electronics department so it could go to scrap. A lot of our time was just spent marching for no reason.

### *Education*

132. I never got any education at Glenochil because by then I'd left school and had been working.

### *Discipline*

133. Cleaning punishment at Glenochil was for two and a half hours at a time with a scrubbing brush. Glenochil had a grade system where you got a yellow grade or a red grade. The red grade was if you didn't do anything wrong and that was usually guys that were there for the first time. Anybody that had been in the system before didn't try to get a red as it meant you were sucking up and you'd get called names.

### **Abuse at Glenochil Young Offenders Institute**

134. There wasn't anything good about detention centres. That short, sharp, shock treatment doesn't work. They just try and bully you into not doing certain things. It was like institutionalised bullying.
135. There was an officer that had failed in the army and became a prison officer and he beat the boys up. He was just a bully. When I had been away on remand at Longriggend and went to court, I was admonished, but I had to go back to Glenochil because I still had one day and one night to do of my sentence there. When I got back, this wee bully was there and he tried everything to break me and stop me getting out the next day. He threw me down the stairs, tried to get a reaction out me and was shouting that I had missed three weeks training whilst I'd been away at Longriggend. He made me run the mile, he made me run the eight hundred metres and do the full gym circuit in the same day and night, but I didn't mind doing that. Despite his efforts to get me to slip up, I still got out the next morning. He was just a nasty wee piece of work.

136. I saw him getting a doing from another officer which pleased me. He was just a bully. I know I could beat him in a square go, but he had all the power over me. I did nothing with the guy apart for say 'yes sir'.
137. I met him a few years later in another jail, when I was a bit older, and he grabbed me by the throat put me up against a wall and asked me to go back to work. When I looked down at him I could see the tears in his eyes. I decided then that I wasn't working under this guy ever again. I'd been doing my sentence quietly alongside all the other boys, but I got done for inciting a riot in Glenochil and lost seven days remission.

### **Life after being in care**

138. In [REDACTED] 1974 I got out of prison. I wanted to get out of the area so I went to stay with my Auntie [REDACTED] and Uncle [REDACTED] in Rosyth. I got a job with a removal firm and I had my own bank account and money. In November that year I fell out with my Uncle [REDACTED] because he was trying to daddy me too much.
139. After that in December 1974 I got a job as an aerial rigger and we had a contract to fit them in the hospitals. It was at this time that my mum was in Woodilee Hospital. I worked in there for about six to eight weeks and I was able to visit her all the time.
140. Whilst I was working there, I also saw a couple of guys who had been at St Mary's with me. They were just young guys and shouldn't have been put in there. It was horrible seeing them walking about in a daze.
141. I worked on the aerials until December 1975 and then I got a job working for [REDACTED] delivering lemonade in Greenock, Port Glasgow, Yoker and Knightswood. I worked there for over a year and was one of their longest serving employees ever. It was a great job and paid £15.60 a week. I never had a problem getting work as there were always jobs out there.



142. I ended up in prison again in 1977. I got sent to HMP Glenochil and got a twelve month sentence. I got out in [REDACTED] 1977 and I got a job as a coalman for a year.
143. In 1978 my mum got out of hospital and moved into a flat in Pollockshields. My parents had split up and she had been in and out of hospital so I moved in with her. I looked after her and my sister brought up the rest of my brothers and sisters at home. My dad had run away to Burnley where his brother stayed, but then ended up in Bristol.
144. I got a job in April 1978 in the cleansing department at [REDACTED]. I got pulled for a murder by the police just after that because an old woman I had delivered coal to had been murdered. The police found out through their enquiries that I had access because I delivered to her. Anyway it wasn't me and I stayed out of trouble until 1979.
145. I joined the TA (Territorial Army) Parachute Regiment in 1977 and was there for two sessions. My young brother got stabbed the night I was meant to go away and get my pre-para weekend that meant I would have got my beret. A young lassie threw a broken mirror at him. It went into his chest and severed an artery. He died twice and they brought him back. After that, they let me do all the training again, but by that time I didn't want to do it anymore. I was fit enough with all the carrying coal and other jobs.
146. I left the cleansing in 1979 when they went on strike. I moved to Dundee and ended up in jail again. I did a sentence for punching a female in the face who came at me with a glass. I served nine months in Perth Prison which wasn't ideal because her boyfriend and brothers were in there so I had to be put into segregation.
147. I got out on [REDACTED] 1980 and I met my wife that day. I didn't start going out with her until six or seven weeks later and we were together right up until she passed away. I got married on [REDACTED] 1982. My daughter was a year old when we got married. I have three kids, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
148. I went to jail once after that and did three months in 1983 from about February to April. I've not been inside since, apart from one night in the jail for my TV licence. It was

either that or a £75 fine so I spent the night in the cells on the Thursday night and got released and given £35 on the Friday morning.

149. In 1984 I went to London with my wife and two kids for about eight months. I ran a hotel and my wife, [REDACTED] ran a dry cleaners shop. It was like an eight month holiday. Everybody was moving to London at that time. The hotel asked me to move to Essex, but my daughter wasn't getting the right vitamins because we were eating out all the time so we came back to Scotland in November 1984.
150. We moved into a house in Pollock for five years and then another in Drumchapel where we stayed for ten years. I worked in Coulport at the missile base for about a year. Most of my jobs never lasted for more than a year other than the ten years I worked with my brother in law on the building sites as a brickie's labourer. I was delivering cars for a while and I also had a job doing surveys where I went out to libraries and anywhere where tourists would be, even speaking to people in bus stops. You had to do twenty surveys a day and I was usually done in around two hours. I've had over forty jobs, but never got on with an office environment.
151. I did a college course to do with music. I applied for a copyright on an albums idea that I devised. The idea was that if it was my forty-first birthday I would produce an album that was full of number ones on the day of my birthday every year since I was born.
152. My sister got murdered in 1989 when her daughter was only eighteen months old. We used money she got as compensation and started putting it and some money we earned into her account. The guy that murdered my sister, got off with it, but we made sure my niece was looked after. She now has five children and stays in Kilwinning.
153. I started a business cleaning wheelie bins in 1991. [REDACTED] My cousin did the same in Livingston and we saw how much he was making. We had to sell the business ten years ago when the council changed the days for emptying the bins to the weekend.

154. In 2003 my boy got attacked by five guys who left him for dead and he suffered massive brain injuries. He's not had a girlfriend since. He was a DJ and he doesn't play music anymore. He always had two girls on his arms every weekend before that. He doesn't go out and he doesn't have a memory. He suffers from psychosis and is on medication.

### **Impact**

155. I understand why I was put away. I was out of order at times. Going to Larchgrove, I knew it was inevitable I was going to end up in one of these places. I just knew it and once I'd been in one, the rest didn't seem that bad. It's a horrible scary feeling walking into a prison, but that was when I was a kid. After I was twenty one, nothing like that would bother me.

156. I've done that many sentences I can't remember exactly what they were all for or how long they lasted. There is a pattern of my sentences being just after Christmas, in either January, February or March. I don't know why that is.

157. Since I got out when I was twenty one and met [REDACTED] I've just walked away from anything that I have no control over or things that I don't care about. It's the easiest way to go. I know there has to be repercussions for things, but if you go about your normal business it is quite easy and you will be okay.

158. The impact of being locked in a cell for so long at a time is still with me. I still like to be in my room and have my own space even just watching TV. I also still sleep with headphones in. That started when I was in St Mary's when I slept with my radio under my pillow.

159. After my young sister was murdered at twenty one, that's really when it hit home just how much I'd missed my brothers and sisters growing up.



160. My son was in a home for people with brain injuries for over two years. All the guys who attacked him got off with it, bar one who ended up in that same unit. When my son went into the home, he was introduced to another guy with a brain injury who recognised his name and said he was in there because he had been one of the guys that had attacked my son. One of my son's other attackers was in the army and never even got kicked out. The system let us down again.
161. To me there are two justice systems. The rich go to the private jails, but folk like me go to Barlinnie. I've done my time for the crimes I've committed, but every time there has been a crime committed against my family, it seems the courts think 'it's okay it's only the [REDACTED]. That's how I feel. It's not just one injustice, it's many injustices we have suffered as a family.
162. I'm not saying we are squeaky clean and I just feel it's not fair that everybody else seems to get away with things. Don't get me wrong, I've got away with a few things, but I've only told the Inquiry about three injustices that have happened to us, but there is a hell of a lot more.
163. I try to help people as much as I can. Anybody that is mentally impaired that comes into the pub and there are a few of them, I'm the only one that will sit and blether to them.
164. I'm one of these people that doesn't worry about things that I've got no control over and I tell my weans to do the same. I say just leave it and move on.
165. I've got a good family. When I married [REDACTED] she had never been on holiday. We would go away on holidays, not just me, my wife and kids, but my nieces and everyone else. We'd all go away in a big convoy. I liken it to what we used to do when I got out from St Mary's, to go away for the weekend or for holidays with my family.
166. I've been really open with my family and I'm always happy to tell anybody who is willing to listen about my experience. I will always tell the truth as I see it from my perspective.

167. Being involved with the Inquiry has helped me. Maybe because I've had the heart attacks and I don't know if it's because my wife passed away, but I've had this heaviness about me. In the last week, since speaking to the Inquiry, that has lifted and I seem easier within myself.
168. I'm just glad that I've got to this point now and that's it done and I can move on. That will help me and my kids. Hopefully more so for my kids because they've still got a lot more to live than me. I've got a daughter who has a mental illness, well not so much mental, but a drug addiction. My boy will never work again. He used to work with me cleaning in the exhibition centres, but he stopped taking his tablets.

### **Treatment/support**

169. I've not had any support from the local authority other than day money when I went out the door of the institutes.
170. I'm not a member of any survivor groups. I have told others that I know from institutes about the Inquiry and how they could fill in the forms, but they weren't interested and just wanted to move on. That's their choice.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

171. I've not reported any of the abuse to any of the authorities since I left.
172. I know facts from St Marys, from Larchgrove and any institution I've ever been in and there is always people getting abused. It happens in every institution, it's just catching them.

## **Records**

173. I've not requested any of my records from my time in care.

## **Lessons to be learned**

174. It's the system that I'm against. It's how they just let the abuse happen. It wasn't just whispers. A lot of people knew what was going on.
175. The people that were responsible can't be punished anymore because a lot of them will have passed away. I'm sixty five, they were in there fifties then. They're not here to defend themselves, but I don't care. None of this is made up. It is all the truth. This is how I remember it.
176. I know that I deserved to be put away. I couldn't be left to run about and get away with what I was doing, but at the same time they were punishing kids and that's what we were. Just kids. The punishment didn't fit the crime. A lot of the problems I had were with the bullies and I'm not talking about the schoolboys, I'm talking about the staff.
177. I was meeting young boys coming from St Ninian's or St Joseph's which was for twelve to fourteen year olds and then they would be sent to St Mary's which was for fourteen to sixteen year olds. A lot of them shouldn't have been in these homes. Constantly there were boys that were just scared the whole day. It was really sad to see.
178. There's too much happened in prisons that needs to change. The screws shouldn't be attacking prisoners and things like what happened in D Hall in Longriggend in 1974, where the guy set his cell on fire and died from the smoke inhalation, should never happen.
179. Why bring boys down from Dundee to Glasgow to punish them when they could put them somewhere in Dundee? There was a boy called [REDACTED] who was from Dundee, but was in St Mary's and when he was fourteen he ran away. He got caught



and ended up being put in Perth prison where he hung himself. Boys that age should never have been sent into a prison. I ended up staying in Dundee for a while and whilst I was there I found out that after [REDACTED] had taken his own life, his sister turned to prostitution and ended up being murdered.

180. Young [REDACTED] was allowed to go in a cell and hang himself. That's haunting. There are another couple of boys that took their own lives, but I can't remember their names. I'd love to say I'm doing this for [REDACTED], but I'm doing it for everybody. It's not easy to talk about, but I'm just glad to get it off my chest.
181. The staff have got to be vetted and nowadays it is easier to do that. The staff should also be qualified to work there. Don't just stick somebody in and say we'll see how they get on after a month.
182. I know the system has changed. I don't think there are approved schools anymore. For me the education part was always the thing. If you are no good at English or maths let people do other things like be a brickie. You can do that with kids as young as twelve. If they like the idea of cutting wood, let them do it instead of stuff they are not going to use.
183. Kids don't need that kind of education where they are learning about history and geography. Maybe there should be a balance. It was fifty years ago in St Mary's, where we were taught brickwork and things like that if school wasn't our thing. I'd go to the bakers once a week and big [REDACTED] who was in there would show us how to make cakes, apple pie, breads and rolls. I learnt how to lay bricks, how to work with people and how to work with a team.
184. The education system helped me the way it was in St Mary's. I've always thought that system should be implemented in all secondary schools, but nobody has ever listened.

**Other information**

185. 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..... 04/05/2022 .....