

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

GDD [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is GDD [REDACTED], although when I was in care, they had my surname as being GDD [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1977. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. I was born in Middlesbrough, and I lived with my mother [REDACTED], my father [REDACTED], my brother [REDACTED], my brother [REDACTED], and my sister [REDACTED]. My mother did use the name [REDACTED] for a while in England. I lived in Middlesbrough until 1988, firstly at [REDACTED] until about 1986, then at a place called Hemlington. My family life was quite chaotic, I was taken into care when I was just a baby. It was arranged for my aunty [REDACTED] to adopt me but that didn't happen and I went back to my mother. We moved around and eventually settled in Scotland in 1988.
3. In Middlesbrough, my mother and father split up when I was just young. My dad came back sporadically but he had his own flat. When I got my social work files, I found out that there had been a lot of allegations of sexual stuff between my mum and dad, but there was no prosecution. I recall very little from [REDACTED]. I can remember my mother staggering up the path to the flat, blind drunk. I would have been about five. My dad was a drinker too. My mother had care of me in [REDACTED]. My brother [REDACTED] was from my mother's previous marriage and he was ten years older than me, I don't have a memory of [REDACTED] living with us. [REDACTED] has passed away now. My brother

██████████ was thrown out of the house when he was about fourteen or fifteen because he was gay, and my father was very old fashioned. Then, it was just me and ██████████ living with my mother. ██████████ passed away last year.

4. When my mother was drinking, it was neighbours who would take us in and feed us, or the social work would look after us. I can remember them coming and taking us when it was cold. They took us to some house and fed us, then took us back to our mum's. I can't recall there being any abuse that my siblings and I suffered at the hands of my father. With my mother, it was mainly neglect. After my parents separated, my mother had a few boyfriends and some of them used to hit us. There was one, I think he was called ██████████, but I could be mistaken. My mum would hit us, just a cuff round the ear. She then started a relationship with a man called ██████████, he used to hit us quite a bit. She was in a relationship with him from about 1987 to 1991.
5. My dad would still take ██████████ and me away for the weekend. Not every weekend, perhaps every third or fourth weekend. He had his own one bedroom flat in ██████████ ██████████ in Middlesbrough. We loved staying with my dad, I think if we could have, we would have lived with my dad, but he had his own problems with the drink. He would calm it down when he had us staying, just a few cans in the house. He would always provide for us. It was definitely a positive experience going to stay with my dad.
6. I can't recall any conversations with social workers asking us about the situation with my mum drinking. I think the conversations were more among the adults. My notes say I was hospitalised when I was about three or four, for a burst eardrum. My mother was partially deaf, my father was deaf due to contracting meningitis as a child, and my sister ██████████ had told me that it was thought that I was partially deaf when I was younger. I think there was one meeting with social workers when we were in Hemlington, and I think my mum wanted to move to Scotland because of that, to get away from them. My sister ██████████ got in touch with the social workers to tell them about the problems with mum and ██████████'s drinking. He hit my mum and he hit ██████████. He got six months in Darlington prison for hitting my mum. I don't know if that sentence was for anything relating to ██████████. My mum kept in correspondence with him in prison, and it was agreed that they would try again.

7. In Hemlington, there was a lot of neglect. It got to the point where my mum and [REDACTED] would disappear for three or four days at a time and [REDACTED] and I would be left in the house to fend for ourselves.
8. I can't recall my mother ever working, [REDACTED] told me mum worked in a Citroen garage, but that may have been before I was born. My dad was a grafter. He was on benefits but he did work, mainly just things like scrap metal. He would be out getting scrap all day, every day and then go to the pub. I don't recall [REDACTED] ever being in the family, I think he may have been away with his dad. I only met [REDACTED] once, in Scotland.
9. We moved to Scotland about 1988. My mum was still with [REDACTED], they were together until about 1992. He was from Maryhill in Glasgow. We stayed with his sister [REDACTED] and her husband [REDACTED] when we first moved to Glasgow. We didn't stay there long, as we got a house at [REDACTED] in Ruchill. That's when [REDACTED] really started assaulting me. He would give me a back hander slap, it could be for just anything. He was still assaulting my mother and the police would get called out, but they never really did anything. I would have to run along to the phone box at the end of the street and phone them. I had to do that a few times, maybe seven. Those would be the times that he was sitting on top of my mum, punching her. He would also still assault [REDACTED]. I never found out until last year that [REDACTED] had been sexually abusing [REDACTED]. She told me about it before she died.
10. There was social work involvement in Glasgow. [REDACTED] tried to tattoo my hand, putting, "GOD" on my knuckles, when I was between ten and eleven years old. It was done with thread wrapped round a needle dipped in ink. I remember it being very painful. I think it was noticed at school when they thought I had ink on my hands and told me to wash it off.
11. We moved from Ruckhill to Queenslie, which was a rough area. [REDACTED] sent me out to steal things. There were a lot of industrial places around us and you could get a lot of money for tractor batteries at the time. I was small and could get under fences and

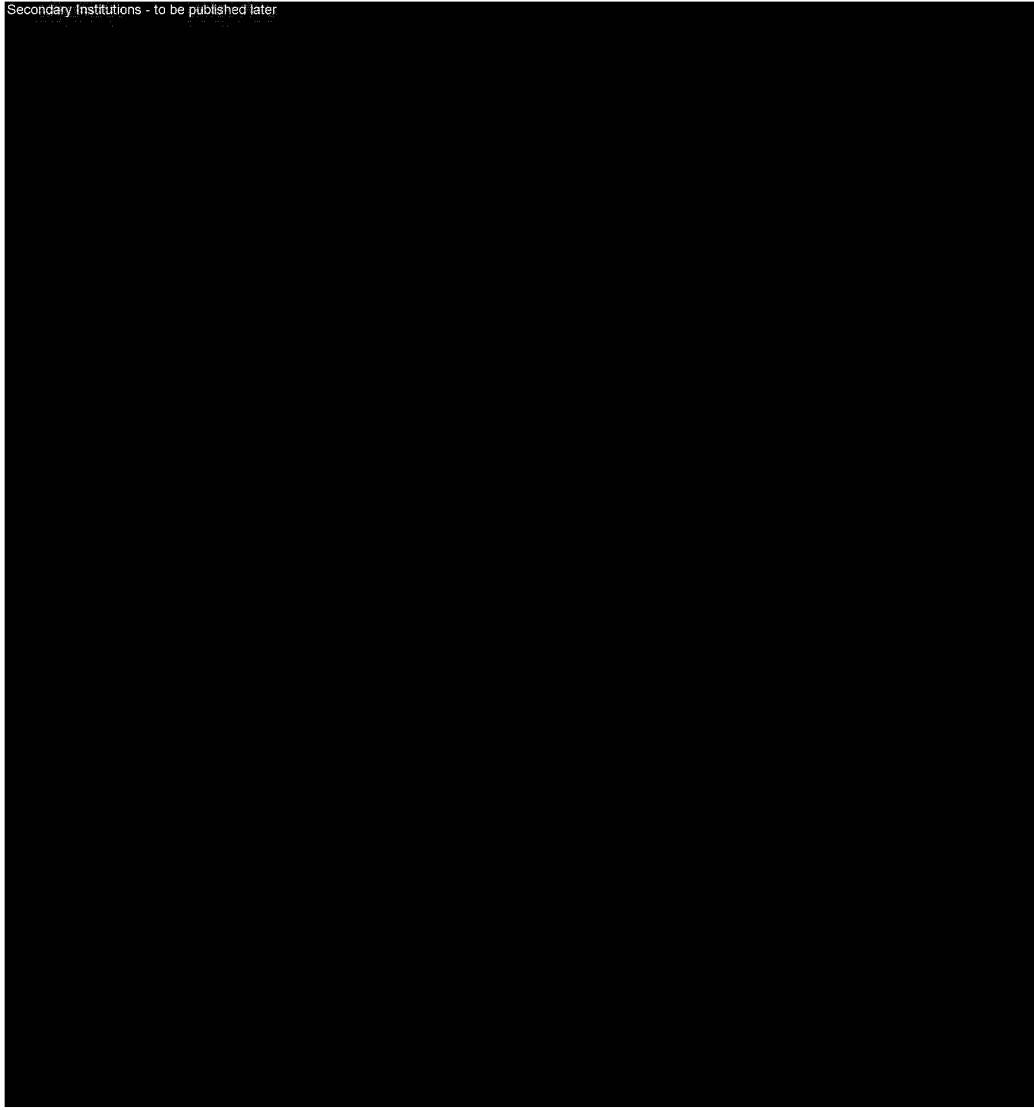
over razor wire. I would give things to [REDACTED] and he would sell them for money for drink and hash. My mother got used to it, and she would get the benefit of the money too. There was [REDACTED] and one of his associates. As well as me, there were other boys doing the stealing for [REDACTED]. There was [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. They forced me and another boy through a hole in a fence, to break into an ice cream van. They were forcing us to break into active industrial places, not derelict buildings. There were guards but I think they were paid off. I got threatened that I would get a beating if I tried to refuse to do it. By that time, I was getting hit at home in Queenslie with a belt, so I took the threats seriously. We were only in Queenslie for about six months before we went back to [REDACTED]. I think my mum must have kept her flat on. [REDACTED] got a beating off a guy who lived down the street in Queenslie, so that's why we moved back. Then we moved into a hostel in Scotstoun but I don't know why. Then my mum got a flat in a high-rise.

12. My schooling was affected massively, I had been in about thirteen or fifteen primary schools by this time. [REDACTED] was getting me to steal trolleys full of food from supermarkets, just by walking out the front door with them. I would get sent out doing, "Penny for the guy." I did this outside the Horseshoe Bar, until about two in the morning, even well after Guy Fawkes Night. I was enrolled in a school, St Thomas Aquinas but I didn't go, because I had got a job working in a shop in Partick. I would head off to school in the morning, but just go to the shop instead, my mum and [REDACTED] didn't know.
13. The letter must have come through saying I hadn't been at school for six months. I got a bad beating from [REDACTED] for that. I was kicked, punched, thrown against the wall and he hit me with the belt. I think I had a cut lip and some bruising. I may have attended hospital the next day, but I don't think so. I decided that night, that the next day I would go to school and I wouldn't be coming back.
14. My mum took me down to the school the next day. As soon as she went away, I left the premises and went straight along to the social work office. I told them what was happening. This would have been around 1991. The social work did actually take me back to the house, even though I was being physically assaulted by [REDACTED], being neglected by [REDACTED] and my mum, and my mum was being physically assaulted.

██████████ had her own place by this time, but the social workers asked if I would go back if ██████████ was there, but I said no. The decision was then made to place me in Burnside children's unit.

**Burnside children's unit, Irvine**

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### **Leaving Burnside**

32. I think I must have told some of the staff at Burnside about the abuse I suffered from [REDACTED], or I told my social worker Robert Harris. He was my social worker for years but he made a career change and went to London to be a chef. It was decided that I should be moved back to Glasgow to be closer to my family, but my mother never made any commitment to seeing me. They decided to transfer me to Cleveden Drive in Glasgow.



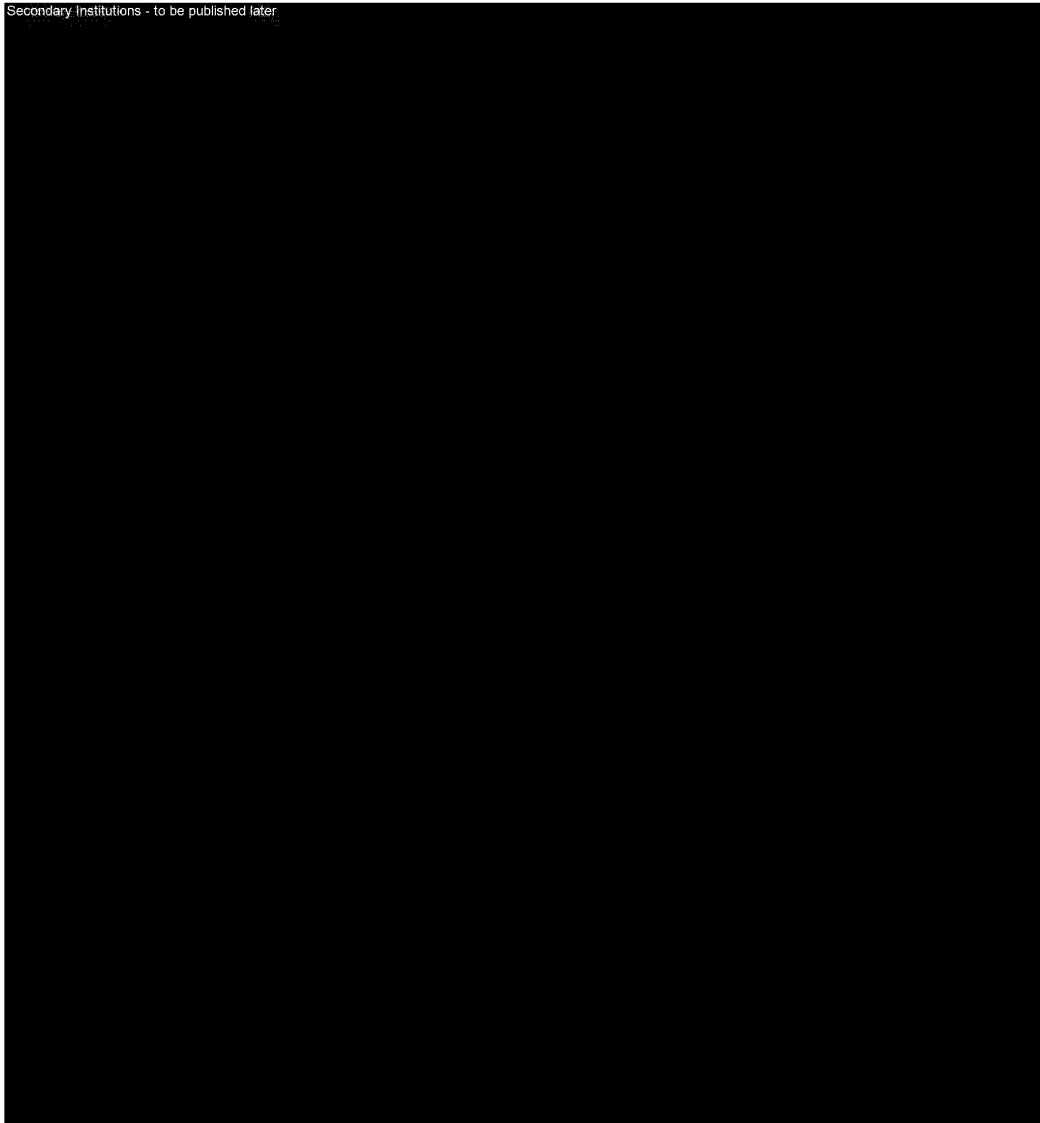
**Cleveden Drive, aka Maxwell Drive, aka Loch Garry, Kelvin Bridge, Glasgow**

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**Leaving Cleveden Drive**

40. I left Cleveden Drive Secondary Institutions - to be published later Secondary Institutions - to be published later they told me they would have to try somewhere else, and that was either Kerelaw or Kibble. I didn't express any preference, it was just a case of where a bed came up first.

### **The Kerelaw unit, Stevenston, Ayrshire**

41. I went in there on [REDACTED] 1992. Glynnis, my keyworker from Cleveden took me up there. It was massive compared to the other units I had been in. It was run like a borstal, lots of rules you had to follow. It was a rigid structure, it was quite daunting. The age range was from twelve to seventeen. There was four units each with about thirteen children. There were two boys' units, and two girls' units but not separated by age groups, just a random mix in each. The boys' units were called Fleming and Millerston. The girls' units were called Beard and Wilson. There was also a secure unit behind the residential unit. There was one boy, [REDACTED], who I knew from Cleveden and he had been moved there. I was relieved to know somebody.

### **Routine at Kerelaw**

#### *Morning/Bedtime*

42. You were literally tipped out of your bed, they would lift up the bed or tip a bucket of water over you. It depended who was on, most staff did it. [REDACTED] GVN was one who would tip you out, same as [REDACTED] LEJ, [REDACTED] KGH, and Tam Howe. Then you were marched down to the shower.
43. There was a different set of rules you had to follow at night. The nightshift would patrol the place with torches, shining them under the doors. It was unnatural, it was like a prison. The night shift had a different set of rules you had to follow, you had to try and work out what to do depending who was on duty.

#### *Washing and bathing*

44. There was a communal shower block. The showers were stainless steel, with no front. Although you couldn't see the person next to you showering, there was no

privacy, people were always waiting about for their turn in the shower, and then you were off to school.

### *Schooling*

45. There was an education unit that was a school in the grounds of Kerelaw. There was a gym hall and even a greenhouse. Although I was there for education, the education basically didn't exist. You went to any of the classrooms and they would ask you what you wanted to do. If you didn't want to do the lesson, you could watch TV, or play Football Manager or whatever on a games console, but I would always ask to go to the gym to play football. I imagine some people did some work, but I didn't see it. I wasn't pushed to attend any classes or learn anything. The teachers were <sup>IWN</sup> [REDACTED] and Bill Easton who taught English, <sup>HSY</sup> [REDACTED] History, <sup>KBY</sup> [REDACTED] Science, <sup>KBN</sup> [REDACTED] Maths, <sup>FSR</sup> [REDACTED] Gym, Matthew George Art, Anne Forrest Home Economics, Paul McIver Woodwork, and Winnie something taught Geography. Jim Hunter was the headmaster.

### *Medical treatment*

46. We were only rarely taken to the doctor or given any medical inspection, just if somebody broke their arm or something. There was a boy called <sup>IWR</sup> [REDACTED]. He came down from the secure unit and he took an absolute beating from the nightshift. He had bandages and a plaster cast. We were all gathered outside his room. I didn't see him being beaten, I just heard that it was <sup>KGH</sup> [REDACTED] and Tam Howe who beat him. I was still in the Fleming unit at that time so I would have been fourteen or fifteen.

### *Birthdays/Christmas*

47. You did receive money at Christmas and on your Birthday. I remember there was one year, at the Millerston unit of Kerelaw, <sup>KBW</sup> [REDACTED] the unit manager, made Christmas really good. He was a nice guy. I think he is now [REDACTED] for Glasgow social work.

**Abuse at Kerelaw**

48. I think it was the third night I was in Kerelaw, I had my initiation. <sup>GVL</sup> [REDACTED], a staff member told me that I had better not try to run away, or cause any problems in Kerelaw or else I would be beaten. They took me into my room, all the other kids were lined up in my room and <sup>GVL</sup> [REDACTED] was there too. They all started punching, kicking, and slapping me. <sup>GVL</sup> [REDACTED] picked me up, he was over six feet tall. He picked me up over his head and dropped me at the top of a flight of stairs. I thought he was going to throw me down the flight of stairs. I was warned again that if I ran away, that's what would happen when I got caught. I must have had some bruising from that, I can't remember. I must have just got up and gone to my room because it was bedtime. There was only about six members of staff on the night shift, with one in each unit and one floating between the different boys and girls units. This initiation was something other children went through after me, I know because I was there, but I didn't take part in hitting anyone. I can remember kids running away and staying away for months because they were afraid of getting that kind of beating if they ran and then got caught.
49. The nightshift were always doing things. There was a big long corridor, and half way along there was a big fire hose, the type you would get in a school or something. Every third or fourth night shift you would be woken up by somebody squirting the fire hose at you at three in the morning. This was the staff who were doing this, not the kids. There was <sup>GVL</sup> [REDACTED], Tam Howe, <sup>KGH</sup> [REDACTED], <sup>KGN</sup> [REDACTED], and <sup>GVM</sup> [REDACTED]. They were doing this to entertain themselves, it wasn't done as a punishment. They would do it to everybody in your unit, all thirteen of you. It would be different ones who got it each night. They would stand there laughing and soaking you, then just leave you because the mattresses were waterproof but you would have wet bedclothes. I remember one time I had wet bedclothes, so I just had a duvet cover to sleep under. The day shift staff did know that this was going on, they just didn't do anything about it. It was common knowledge that we were there for the

entertainment of the night shift. They would get you up in the middle of the night and you would have to fetch a cup of water from the burn in the grounds, sometimes racing against another boy, sometimes just time-trials. They made you do challenges on the assault course, made you eat an apple, just bizarre things at two, three in the morning. The other kids would be taken out to watch, even if they weren't being made to do anything. Some of the kids liked it.

50. There was a staff member we called [KGN]. His real name was [KGN]. [KGN]. He believed we were all contaminated with something and wouldn't touch us, or door handles and things, [REDACTED]. He wasn't a nice man. He was a strange guy, not well. He once accused me of being outside smoking. I said that I hadn't been. He took me to the red tile area, an unheated conservatory type room, and made me sit down on an upturned bin wearing just my boxer shorts, until the day shift arrived in the morning. The day shift just sent me to my bed, they didn't bat an eyelid.
51. The day shift staff were Trudy McCartney, [LEJ], [GVN], and [KBT]. [KBT], [KBT] was one of the people who subsequently came forward and said that some of the night shift things happened. She is a unit manager in Glasgow now. She would make you feel bad about yourself, like a punishment. She would put you to bed without supper, she had a really bad impact on me. She liked to keep one-step ahead of everyone, she was quite clever.
52. At the education unit, the likes of Matt George and [KBY] would make you stand on a chair and hit you with a ruler on the shins. [FRB], another woodwork teacher, would put you back to back with another young person and depending on who he favoured, he would ask one an easy question and the other a hard question that you wouldn't know, then you would get clouted over the back of the head with a bit of wood. It was as if when they got bored, they would do these things. Being hit over the back of the head with a bit of two-by-two was sore. Once, it did cause me to bleed, just a trickle of blood but I think it gave him a fright.

53. They used to play dodgeball with us, but it wasn't like dodgeball I had played in primary school, with a sponge-ball. The day shift and the teaching staff would get us in the gym hall. It had a concrete floor and two concrete end walls. There were about fifteen of us. I would have been fourteen, fifteen years old. They had golf clubs and would hit golf balls at us. They were standing at the entrance, so there was no way of escape. The golf balls would hit us or ping off the walls and come back at us. You could see marks on the concrete walls where the golf balls had hit. You didn't know which way they would be coming and it would go on for about fifteen minutes. That used to happen regularly, they thought it was hilarious. It was commonplace, it wasn't done for punishment of any specific behaviour, it was just for their entertainment. I don't know about any serious injuries, but I often had bruises on my shins. <sup>FSR</sup> the gym teacher also used to do pitch and putt, sending a kid to try to catch the ball as he pitched it. These practices stopped before I left Kerlawe because we had a new <sup>SNR</sup> and she wanted to make some changes.
54. You could be standing in the queue at dinner, and staff would come up and jab you in the stomach. They thought it was funny.
55. One time, I was having a cigarette behind the gym. <sup>KBY</sup> saw me and told me to put the cigarette out, that he would get me if I took one more draw. I took another draw, trying to be smart. <sup>KBY</sup> came charging towards me, so I ran. I ran into the burn as I thought he wouldn't chase me in there but he did. He grabbed my head and pushed my head under the water. I don't know how long it was for. He was slapping me. Bill Easton was there, and he saw <sup>KBY</sup> doing this. I had previously saved up my money to buy a Crucifix and a watch for myself, but my Crucifix came off in the burn when <sup>KBY</sup> was hitting me, and my watch stopped working because of the water getting into it. Then <sup>LEJ</sup> appeared and tried to hush it up. They told me they would buy me a new watch if I kept quiet about it and I got a crucifix too. Years later, I tried to speak to Bill Easton about that incident, but he told me he couldn't talk about it. <sup>KBY</sup> had passed away, so I didn't see any reason to hide things. I thought it would be an opportunity for Bill Easton to be honest about what had happened.

56. I didn't suffer any sexual abuse at Kerelaw. Some of the lassies, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] said that they had been dragged out of the showers by members of staff like John Muldoon. He has served time for that kind of stuff, I don't know if it was for the girls who specifically reported these things to me. John Muldoon was the unit manager, he used to run things quite strictly. Thankfully, I never had John Muldoon [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
57. There was a game that the staff used to play when they had us out in the van for a trip. They called it The running man and the hanging man. They would stop the van when we were out somewhere, and decide who was to be the running man and who was to be the hanging man. These would be roles assigned to myself or one of the other children. The running man had to run in front of the van, while the staff drove behind them, chasing them. At the same time, the hanging man would be the child that they selected to hang off the back of the van by their fingertips and just hold on, whilst the van was being driven towards the child in front. Sometimes it was just the running man, sometimes just the hanging man. I can't remember their being any threat of violence or punishment if you refused, but we kids didn't refuse because at the time I thought of it as fun, we all did. It is only as an adult that I can see how dangerous and inappropriate that practice was. It was just by chance that no-one was seriously hurt, although I can remember falling off the back of the van and scraping my skin when I hit the road. The staff involved in this included [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], there was another member of staff called [REDACTED]. There were probably others, but I can't remember who.
58. Those staff members had another game called the wave game. At that time, you could drive right down to the beach between Stevenston and Saltcoates. The staff would take us down there when it was stormy, with big waves crashing over the sea wall. They would tell us when to run, and we had to run along the seafront, trying to avoid getting soaked by the waves.
59. Whenever you misbehaved, for example if you failed to return to the unit, the staff would have to come and get you. They would take all of the kids from your unit, put



them in the van and drive to wherever you had presented to the social workers, or had been picked up by the police. When you got taken back they had a yellow jersey with all kinds of abusive things written on it. You would have to wear that and do all the chores for your whole unit for that night. That could involve quite a lot of work because normally, each of the thirteen kids in a unit would have chores to do each day. On one occasion when this happened to me, it was <sup>LEJ</sup> [REDACTED] and <sup>GVN</sup> [REDACTED] <sup>GVN</sup> [REDACTED] that came and picked me up and made me wear the jersey.

60. Other abuse I suffered at Kerelaw was from <sup>KBE</sup> [REDACTED], I would have been about fifteen. We went on holiday, I think the place was called Crianlarich. There was a wee house there, a lodge with a lake and we went for five days or a week. He segregated the group into younger and older categories, I was in the younger group. He put us in this wee room with cots for your sleeping bags and it had a trap door in the roof. Outside, they built a campfire and the staff were drinking cans of beer. We all settled down for the night, but they decided that the younger ones were going to do 24 hours survival outside. We built a wee shelter and the staff came along, smashed it up, urinated on it, and defecated on it. We went back down to the campfire they had at the house. We sneaked back in to our bedroom and the next thing, the door and windows were blocked up with mattresses and into this confined space, from the trap door above, someone dropped a flare. We were all choking to death, not knowing what was going on. After however long it was, we were all flung out and told not to come back until seven in the morning. It was <sup>KBE</sup> [REDACTED] <sup>GYG</sup> [REDACTED] and <sup>GVP</sup> [REDACTED] <sup>GYG</sup> [REDACTED] worked with the lifeguards, so I think he would have got the flare.

61. There was a pub about twenty miles down the road from this house, and the week we were there, it was the 1992 Champions League final. I can't remember who was playing but all the staff and older boys went down to the pub to watch the match and four of us younger boys were left alone outside the house, by the fire. A couple of boys, [REDACTED] and a boy called [REDACTED] broke into the staff area, stole some money, maybe ten pounds and decided that they were leaving, but I stayed behind with the other boy [REDACTED]. They were unlucky to run into the staff coming back

from the football, who picked them up. They saw that the money had been stolen. They interrogated each of us, and I told them I hadn't done it.

62. [REDACTED] got a burst nose from [REDACTED], one of the older boys. This happened right in front of the staff, they encouraged it. There was a lot of that kind of thing went on. The knock on effect of that incident is that we were told we weren't getting any dinner. The staff had curry and we were just sat outside at the fire. They shouted out asking if we wanted burgers, and we said yes. On the way down in the minibus, I had seen a can of Chappie dog food so I had assumed that somebody must be bringing a dog. They gave us the burgers and another kid, [REDACTED] told me it was dog food. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED]. They called me doggy burger after that, for the rest of the trip, and I just lost it.
63. We came back and I went shouting to Trudy McCartney about what they had been doing with the flares and the dog food, I said I wasn't taking it anymore. [REDACTED] KBE [REDACTED] was in the room and he just grabbed me and dragged me to the shower room, hitting me off every doorframe as we went. He chucked me into the shower room, I was stripped naked. He pushed me so hard, I hit my head off the tiles and the tiles came off the wall. He told me not to ever accuse him of battering anyone, right after what he had done. After that, I had enough and I got wiser and played the game. The relationship with [REDACTED] KBE [REDACTED] was never the same after that.
64. Shortly after that, in 1994, there was a new [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] at Kerelaw, [REDACTED] KAB [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] She implemented a lot of changes at Kerelaw. Things got better, there was less abuse after this, but there were still pockets of it, just not as brazen, not as much group abuse. I told my story to [REDACTED] KAB [REDACTED]. I told her about [REDACTED] KBE [REDACTED] being abusive, as she had thought that he was a great guy, and I wanted to put her right. Her attitude was just to try and get on with it. I think she was of a mind-set where she wanted to give people an opportunity to change. I think she would be disappointed in herself about getting it wrong about [REDACTED] KBE [REDACTED], but she did go on to do a lot of good things at Kerelaw.

*Reporting of abuse*

65. I can only assume that I must have said something to the early shift about the initiation abuse I suffered. I can't specifically remember saying anything about it as I think I was in shock. I just wanted to go home to my mum.
66. As indicated, I reported the abuse on the holiday to Trudy McCartney and reported the general abuse to Silvia Rennie, but it didn't make any difference.

**Leaving Kerelaw, Stevenston, Ayrshire**

67. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Normally in care, when you get to sixteen or seventeen you go back to where your ties are. My keyworker was saying I should be going back to Glasgow because that's where my family was, but I explained that my ties were now in Irvine. At the back of Kerelaw, there were conference houses and a through-care-after-care house, it was all still part of Kerelaw, still local-authority run. Silvia Rennie and Frannie Scott staffed that, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
68. Some of the staff who had abused me [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I remember telling <sup>KAB</sup> [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <sup>KBE</sup> [REDACTED]. She didn't know the full details but I think she

knew that he physically assaulted me. There was a feeling on my part, for a long time, of wanting to get revenge against him, but I never acted upon those feelings.

69. [REDACTED] I was [REDACTED] to work at Kelvin Bridge in Glasgow, but I didn't settle there. I told the council this and asked what alternatives they could offer. It was either an admin job in Partick, or working with deaf children doing sign language interpretation, but I would have to fund learning that, which I couldn't do. I went off on the sick. They kept trying to reassure me that they would get something for me but the length of time I was off triggered some kind of absence management hearing. I requested legal representation, but my legal representative failed to appear at the hearing, and they asked me if I wanted it put off, but I wanted it to go ahead and I lost. I tried to appeal that decision but the original decision was upheld.
70. I re-established contact with my sister [REDACTED] in 2000, at my father's funeral, but there was an argument about my dad's ring which I was given but [REDACTED] wanted it. We never spoke for about seventeen years, until I found out she was terminally ill. I have never re-established contact with my mother, she wasn't invited to my dad's funeral, and I never really intended to get in touch with her, although the door was always open on my part if she wanted to get in touch. I think she's living in Clydebank now.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

71. I made a report to Saltcoats Police around 2000 to 2003. I can't remember the names of the officers, they were CID. I was subsequently told they couldn't move the investigation on because there wasn't sufficient evidence. This was specifically about my complaint against <sup>KBE</sup>[REDACTED] involving the flare and the dog food. I gave the names of the other children who had been abused at Kerelaw. I think the police did try and speak to some of the other kids. I think [REDACTED] was approached but I don't think he wanted to talk about it.
72. I also spoke to Shona Kelly and <sup>KBT</sup>[REDACTED], at Glasgow Council, which would have been about 2002, not long before Kerelaw closed. It closed because Glasgow council

were asked to make commitments to its future running and there was an inquiry into the horrifying way it had been run before. I did give evidence to that inquiry but I told them I couldn't really provide a big coherent volume of information, but if they asked me specific questions I could give them specific answers. They never approached me again for information.

73. When Kerelaw closed, I suffered a lot of verbal abuse, threats and physical assaults. This was because relatives and friends of people who had worked at Kerelaw, who had lost their jobs when it closed, blamed me because I had spoken up about the abuse there. There was one incident with <sup>KBE</sup> [REDACTED]'s sister when I had my eighteen month old son in my arms, and she was shouting and pointing in my face. I didn't bother to report these incidents to the police.
74. After supporting a friend of mine who gave a statement to the Child Abuse Inquiry, I felt it was appropriate to come forward and make known what I experienced, at Kerelaw in particular.

### **Impact**

75. After losing the employment hearing at Glasgow Council, I went into a spiral of depression, drinking too much. I found it difficult to get myself out of that, I lost about five years of my life that way. Then I started counselling with In Care Survivors and dealt with a lot of stuff. I started working in a bookmaker's for a few months, just to get a feel for working life again. I started talking to <sup>KAB</sup> [REDACTED] and Silvia who started the company I work for now, which is called, [REDACTED] I am a project worker, [REDACTED].
76. My time in care has had an impact throughout my life. I sometimes used to feel like three different people. I didn't want to be in relationships, I didn't want to burden people with commitment and responsibility. That scared the life out of me. It's not until I received the appropriate counselling that I was able to function properly day by day. I was able to separate my work life and my personal life. I have no doubt it has affected my ability to form relationships. I preferred not to be in a relationship as I didn't want

to burden anyone with commitment and responsibility. That scared the life out of me, I just avoided it.

**Records**

- 77. I previously obtained my records from Glasgow Council, including a letter dated 12 December 2012, in response to my later complaint about the way I was treated in care. They acknowledged that the care and education in Kerelaw was poor. I have provided a copy of that letter to the Inquiry.
- 78. My records also revealed that after being removed from my mother's care, consideration was given to me staying with my father. However, he ultimately conceded that he would not be able to care for me due to his alcoholism.

**Lessons to be learned**

- 79. I think people need to be aware that however small the abuse starts off, it can lead to bigger things, it can have a massive effect. We need to empower and strengthen people through continued education, to stand up and say, "No."
- 80. I think people need to take responsibility for their actions and how their failings have cost people like me, a lot of years of our lives. I think sometimes you need to put your hands up and say, "We got it wrong, let's change."

**Other information**

- 81. 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 20/12/18