

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MTI
[REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is ^{MTI} [REDACTED]. My date of birth is the [REDACTED] 1964. I am 54 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My mother's name was [REDACTED] and my father was called [REDACTED]. I was born in Glasgow and lived in a single end tenement on the east side. We had an outside toilet and it was very cramped. My mother came from Parkhead in Glasgow and my father originated from The Gallowgate in the east end. There was a lot of poverty but our life seemed normal.
3. When I was five the family moved to The Gallowgate in Glasgow to a house that had an inside toilet. These were amongst the best days of my life. I have a brother called [REDACTED] who is 20 months younger than me and another brother called [REDACTED] who is 5 years younger.
4. The first five years of my life were very normal. I had just started at Annfield Primary School in The Gallowgate in Glasgow and although we were very poor we seemed to be getting along normally. It was when my parents split up that it all went wrong. My father left my life and I didn't see him again for five or six years.

5. For the next five or six years we moved from house to house in Glasgow. We resided in Shettleston and Blackhill. My mother started drinking heavily. Her new partner was an alcoholic and there were constant arguments. When I was about ten or eleven my grandmother moved from Parkhead in Glasgow to Livingston in West Lothian. I went to stay there one weekend and pleaded with her to let me stay permanently. She agreed to this and I moved in with her. My cousin [REDACTED] who was sixteen moved in at the same time.
6. In the meantime my mother had a further four children with her new partner. She was involved with the Social Work Department as she was not coping. One of my brother's [REDACTED] ran away and was reported missing by my mother. He was traced to my gran's house in Livingston and for some reason my birth father became involved.
7. My father took my brother [REDACTED] and me to his house in East Kilbride where he lived with his wife. We had a settled life there. The house felt very emotionally cold and although we had material goods that we didn't have living with my gran there was no love shown to us.
8. When I was thirteen I went back to stay with my gran in Livingston. I was attending the local school and doing very well. I was a keen footballer and life was good again. My mother and her partner were living in Glasgow and still had their drinking problems. There was a lot of Social Work Involvement. Eventually my mother had her children who were my half brothers and sisters taken from her and so she turned up in Livingston to live with my gran who was her maternal mother.
9. My mother was pregnant again and was still drinking heavily. The house that my gran stayed in was a small pensioner's bungalow and there wasn't much room. I resented her presence although now on reflection I can see how ill she was. I took the wrong path and started getting into trouble with the Police.
10. The Social Work Department in Victoria Street, Craigshill, Livingston became involved. I think that I dealt with a Mrs. Blackmore and a Mr. Brown. They did come to the house on occasion to visit and could see that there was not enough room for

us all to be living there. They were not much help to me. They suggested that I went to a children's home but I wasn't for this. I developed an attitude towards adults or anyone in authority as I didn't trust them.

11. I got on quite well with my teachers at school but I did feel at a disadvantage when I went to some of my friends' houses. They had a room of their own and they also had a mother and a father.
12. I started sniffing glue and not attending school. At that time the public referred to Livingston as "the glue town where all the kids stuck together". I was also drinking. I would steal QC wine and glue from the shops. I started to have panic attacks. I had watched the film Jaws on television and when my father took me to the swimming baths in East Kilbride I had my first panic attack when I was in the deep end. On one occasion when I was caught sniffing glue the police showed me photographs of victims of glue sniffing. I think it was done to try to shock me and stop me sniffing glue. The only effect that it had on me was to cause more panic attacks.
13. I recall that the Social Workers would call to visit my mother but they only ever saw her sober. She wouldn't start drinking till night time. She was also smoking and I would panic that she set the house on fire, the Social Workers had the wrong impression of what was going on at home.
14. I attended a Children's panel some time during the summer of 1978 at Howden Street, Livingston. At that Panel meeting nothing much happened. On the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 1978 I appeared before a further Children's Panel in Marjoriebank Street, Bathgate. My mother came to all the Panel meetings. My Social Worker Mrs Blackwood was also there.
15. There were a number of Police Charges against me and I was sent to Howdenhall Assessment Centre, Howdenhall Road, Edinburgh. I didn't mind this because I didn't want to be around my mother although I wanted to continue staying with my gran.

16. I got a shock the moment that I arrived at Howdenhall Assessment Centre. It was not what I expected. I was to be there for six weeks for assessment and appear back at the Children's Panel on the [REDACTED] 1979 when it would be decided where I would go after that.
17. This was to be the first of three occasions when I spent time at Howdenhall Assessment Centre. It was a mixed institution and there were boys and girls. It was locked and you were not free to come and go outside. You could only mix with the girls at recreation time. I can't recall many of the other boys names but I do remember a [REDACTED] who came from Glasgow.
18. There were three sections of children. The Wombles who were younger children aged between eleven and thirteen. The Juniors who were the middle group and the Seniors who were the older children. I think on the first occasion I was there I was in the Juniors and the second and third occasions I was in the Seniors. There must have been over a hundred children who were resident at Howdenhall and being assessed.
19. You were locked in your dormitory at night. A lot of the internal doors were also locked. You did manage to get out when you went to a courtyard where you could play football. It was also part of the building but the courtyard was completely enclosed and you couldn't get out.
20. When you entered into the building the Headmaster's Office was a door to the right and the deputy head's office was on the left. I think that [REDACTED] SNR was called [REDACTED] MTQ but I can't be sure. Mr [REDACTED] MTQ was grey haired with a moustache. He spoke with an English accent.

21. My brother [REDACTED] also ended up in Howdenhall after following an identical life style to me when he moved to Livingston. He ended up in Wellington Farm List D School. We were never in Howdenhall at the same time.

Staff

22. I think that [REDACTED] SNR was Mr [REDACTED] MTQ although I was told in later life that they have no records of Mr [REDACTED] MTQ. There was a lot of staff and I can't recall all their names. I do remember Mr [REDACTED] EWA known as "EWA [REDACTED]", [REDACTED] MTM, Mr [REDACTED] MTP, Mr Sibbald who was very popular with the boys, Mr [REDACTED] MTN who was an [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and Mr [REDACTED] HYY who was a very nice man. [REDACTED] MTM was not a [REDACTED] but was a nickname. He was in charge of the other staff. All these staff member were like care workers. You called all the staff by the title Mister.

Routine at Howdenhall Assessment Centre, Howdenhall Road, Edinburgh.

First day

23. I was taken to Howdenhall by my Social Worker in her car. I think that it was run by the Local Council but I can't be sure. I knew I was there to be assessed by the staff to decide where I would be sent to next. The Social Worker just handed me over to the staff at Howdenhall.
24. I was initially told that I would be there for three weeks but it was extended because there was very heavy snow and I would not have been able to get back to appear at the Children's panel in Livingston. The road were covered in snow.
25. The first person I met at Howdenhall was a boy that I knew from Livingston so it helped to settle me down. I was shocked that I was locked in and I couldn't go where I pleased. Nothing was really explained to me.

26. I was shown the dormitory that I was to sleep in that night. I got a shock that first night as I was locked in my room and a red light came on that was left on all night. I was not at all prepared for this. I think that there were three boys to a dormitory and we were all about the same age.
27. A lot of the boys came from foster homes where it hadn't worked out and they were placed at Howdenhall. I think that a few of the boys came from the same home as they all knew each other. I don't think that the home they had been in could cope with them. I do recall a boy from Wester Hailes called [REDACTED] who like me had never been in care. I don't remember his surname. He was also like a rabbit caught in the headlights so we helped each other. I remember two boys called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who I shared a room with but I can't recall much more about them. My mate in Howdenhall was called [REDACTED]

Mornings and bedtime

28. You would be woken quite early in the morning I think that it was about seven thirty. You would go to the shower rooms where you washed and did your teeth. You had to make up your bed into a "bed block" and you had to keep your room tidy. You did not have to do other chores.
29. You went downstairs for breakfast and after that you went to the television room where you would be allocated your school classroom for the day. You had your lunch and then school again in the afternoon.
30. You finished school at about three thirty and then had some recreation. You had your main meal of the day at night and there was tea and toast at nine o'clock before you were locked up for the night. Between your evening meal and the time you went to bed you had free time and could watch television.
31. There was a night watchman on duty who would patrol about the corridors. I think that if you needed the toilet through the night there was a "po" in your room.

32. On Saturdays and Sunday you could get visitors. You could also go to the main hall where you mixed with the girls. There were dances and discos. You didn't go home.

Uniform

33. All we wore when we were at Howdenhall was a jumper, trousers and a pair of training shoes along with our underwear. If you ran away you were made to wear a pair of shorts and a pair of plastic sandals. I think that they made you wear the shorts and sandals to stop you running away.

Mealtimes / Food

34. The food was very good and coming from Glasgow I didn't think that it was wrong to ask for more. As a result of this the other boys called me a "scranner" which I had never heard of before but apparently means someone who eats a lot. It encouraged other boys to ask for more and we enjoyed our meal times. There was plenty of food and I was never forced to eat it.

Leisure time

35. There was a gym and there were PE classes held there. You could also play football in the gym and attend judo classes. The big craze was to play "killer". It was a game where you had to hold on to a medicine ball while all the other boys attacked you and tried to get you to drop it. It was very popular amongst the boys and staff.
36. There was a TV room where you could go when it was the turn of your group to watch television. You didn't mix with the other groups unless you went to the big hall where there was music and dancing. All the groups including the girls mixed together when you were in the big hall. It was supervised by the staff.

37. You were allowed sweets and the staff kept a bag of sweets which was your property. I think that sweets would be handed out every night after tea and you could pick what you wanted of your own sweets.

Pocket money

38. I think that there was pocket money and you could use that money to buy sweets which were kept by the staff. I can't really remember that very clearly.

Washing / bathing

39. You washed and did your teeth every morning. You only showered when you needed to. You would shower after PT or playing sport in the gym. There was no supervised times to shower.

Smoking

40. I was a smoker when I was at Howdenhall and you would be allowed by the staff to go outside and smoke five cigarettes a day. The yard where we played football was the smoking area so a lot of the time there were senior boys there who would be smoking. I smoked until I was about 25 years old. I had a long spell in The Princes Margaret Rose Hospital in Edinburgh when I was fourteen and I was allowed to smoke in the ward when I was in my bed.

School

41. The schooling was all done at Howdenhall and was very basic. I was always seen as being capable of going on to sit my 'O' Levels but I kept going backwards when I missed school. I found the schoolwork very easy as it was all stuff that I had done before. I had no focus when I went to school in Howdenhall.

Formal punishment

42. If you did something wrong you would get a stern talking to from a member of staff. If you were cheeky or talked back you would be taken to ^{MTM} [REDACTED]'s office where there was a good chance you would be assaulted by hm.

Religion

43. I don't remember going to church when I was at Howdenhall. I think there may have been a church service on a Sunday but I don't think that I ever went or was made to go.

Birthdays and Christmas

44. I was in Howdenhall at Christmas time. I remember 'EWA' [REDACTED] who was a member of staff came in with presents for all the juniors. We didn't show enough enthusiasm and I remember that he took a temper tantrum at us. He had brought the game "twister" and none of the boys were bothered about playing with it so he was shouting and swearing at us saying we should appreciate the gifts. I don't think I got any visits from my mother I suspect that it was just another day as I have no special memories. I was not in Howdenhall when it was my birthday and I don't recall celebrations for any of the other residents.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

45. I would get the odd visit from my mother at the weekends. She would come for an hour and the visits were supervised by the staff. I don't recall any visits from the Social Workers. I didn't speak about what was happening in Howdenhall as I felt that I was in there for a reason and I had been bad and deserved it. I couldn't tell anyone that the staff were picking on you as no one would listen to you anyway.

Healthcare

46. Whilst I was at Howdenhall I broke both my ankles trying to run away in the night. I was denied medical care until the next day as I was locked in a cell for the rest of the night. I attended the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh and then The Princess Margaret Rose. I do recall being visited by the staff from Howdenhall when I was in the rehabilitating at The Princess Margaret Rose. I think SNR [REDACTED] Mr MTQ [REDACTED] and Mr MTP [REDACTED] called to see me. I don't recall any other medical care.

Running away from Howdenhall

47. A lot of the children ran away or tried to unsuccessfully. The premises were locked so it was very difficult. I tried it once when one of the boys I shared a room with managed to work on one of the locks on the window. The lock eventually came loose and we managed to open the window and jump out. I broke both my ankles. The Police found me outside the Centre in extreme pain. They took me straight back and I didn't receive any medical help. I was put into a locked cell and left until the morning before I received medical help for two broken ankles. I am very angry about the way I was treated.
48. If you ran away from Howdenhall the staff would make you wear shorts and plastic sandals. No teenager in his right mind wanted to be seen wearing shorts and sandals. It was a good deterrent.

Running away from Princess Margaret Rose Hospital

49. Whilst I was in Princess Margaret Rose Hospital I had to run away. I had been told that I had nearly finished my treatment and would be returned to Howdenhall. The hospital staff tried to keep me for as long as they could but I didn't want to go back to Howdenhall and so my friend [REDACTED] who lived in Livingston came and got me and took me back to Livingston.

50. I lived rough on the streets for about two weeks while the police were looking for me. I still had two broken ankles but could manage to get about. I had been on the run for two weeks when I learned from my mother that the Social Worker had told her that I wouldn't have to go back to Howdenhall. I needed to go to another Children's panel and I would be placed in a different care environment. As a result I went back to my mothers and ended my spell on the run.
51. As it turned out I had to go back to Howdenhall for one night until I was transferred to Kerelaw Residential School. I didn't have any problems on that occasion

Bed Wetting

52. I did not have bed wetting problems but some of the other children did. I don't know what happened to them if they wet the bed but I don't think that there was any punishment.

Abuse at Howdenhall Assessment centre.

53. **MTM** was the worst for hitting you. Before he struck you he would put on a pair of leather gloves and you knew what was going to happen. On one occasion I was caught with a cigarette and a match. I was taken to **MTM**'s office. I wouldn't tell him who had given me the cigarette so he punched me on the nose. There was blood everywhere and **MTM** made me clean it up. That was when I knew I had to get out as I was being controlled by physical threat.
54. I saw **MTN** who was a boy from Glasgow being assaulted by Mr **MTN**. Mr **MTN** was an **MTN** and the fittest member of staff. He was usually the person who would restrain the boys if needed. I watched Mr **MTN** pulling him by the hair down some stairs while at the same time he was punching him. I don't know what he had done.

55. There was violence going on all the time in the Centre. The staff would treat the boys with violence and they created an atmosphere of fear where you did what you were told or you knew the consequences. It saw it happen all the time I was there on numerous occasions.
56. I do remember one boy whose name I can't recall who spilled his soup at one of the meal times. He was assaulted by some of the staff although I can't remember who did what. Mr **MTN** and Mr **MTP** were there. I think that Mr **MTP** was restraining the boy while the other staff punched him. The boy was screaming out for help.
57. On the second occasion I was in Howdenhall I came into conflict with some of the staff, I can't remember who. They tried to take me to **MTM**'s office and I fought back and tried to prevent them. I knew that I would be assaulted if they got me into the office. The threat was enough for me and I calmed down. I was now in the senior group and it meant that if we were in the wrong we would get a punch.
58. On the second occasion I was there **EWA** came in to my room one night. I think that a lad called was also in the room but he was asleep. All I had on was my pyjama bottoms. **EWA** sat on my bed and started to rub stomach. I told him to "fuck off" and I got upset so he just got up and went out. I had heard rumours from some of the other boys about **EWA** and I wasn't going to let anything happen to me. As I think about it now I remember that **EWA** had been trying to be nice and friendly to me on the days leading up to this incident.
59. On my second spell at Howdenhall I remember that we had a night watchman. He was in cahoots with **EWA** and because I stood up to **EWA** the watchman would come into the room in the middle of the night and get us out of our beds. He would make us stand against the wall for long periods of time. It is only on reflection in later life that I worked out **EWA** and the night watchman were working together to groom the boys and he was punishing us because we wouldn't comply with their sexual advances. I cannot recall the name of the night watchman.

60. Again on reflection in later life I strongly suspect that if I had allowed EWA to sexually assault me the next visit in the middle of the night would have been the night watchman looking for sexual favours.
61. Because of the abuse from EWA and the night watchman the other boy called [REDACTED] and I decided to escape. [REDACTED] had been working on the lock on the window and had managed to free the lock and open the window. We were only in our pyjama trousers and in bare feet. [REDACTED] jumped from the first floor window and landed on the grass. When I jumped I landed on the concrete and as a result broke both my ankles.
62. It was a freezing cold night and it is probably a blessing that we were injured as we would not have survived a night in the open air with temperatures as they were. We got as far as the front gate when a police car passed by. They saw us in our pyjamas and took us back to the Centre and handed us over to the night watchman. It was obvious I was injured and in great pain.
63. The night watchman then contacted SNR [REDACTED] who I thought was called Mr MTQ [REDACTED] and he came to see us. I could barely stand but he made me walk up all the stairs with two broken ankles. He then put me into a bath and washed me before giving me two paracetamol and locked me into a cell for the night. I know that [REDACTED] was not put into a bath and I always wondered why this was done to me. I think that that MTQ [REDACTED] realised I was very vulnerable at that moment and he took advantage of me. I still to this day have horrific dreams of being made to walk up the stairs and being bathed and put into a cell and then being made to walk down the stairs in the morning. I still to this day feel the physical pain that I felt at that time and it forms one recurring part of my PTSD.
64. They refused to send for any medical help. By this time I couldn't walk because of the pain and I recall getting off the mattress on the floor and crawling to use the toilet in the cell. I cried with the pain all night and it wasn't till the next morning when they came back to see me.

65. It was Mr MTP and who let me out of the cell. They assisted me to walk downstairs to the dining room. I was still in agony and hadn't slept all night. I was crying with the pain but when I got downstairs the girls were there and I had to put on a brave face because I couldn't be seen to be crying in front of the girls.
66. I was trying to eat my cornflakes and nearly passed out with the pain. I think then the staff realised something was not right so they took me outside again making me walk while they phoned an ambulance. I can't recall which members of staff that was. In hospital I was diagnosed with a broken left ankle and my right ankle had a compound fracture.
67. I didn't tell the Police what had happened but I do recall the nurses at the hospital being shocked that I had been put in a cell after what had happened. I spent about six weeks at The Princess Margaret Rose in Edinburgh. I felt that I had told the Police and nursing staff what had happened but it didn't seem to be a problem to any of them so I just thought that was it. My mother and my gran just accepted it I didn't tell them too much about it.
68. There was no empathy from the staff although there were two members of staff who were very good with the boys. They were HYY who and Mr Sibbald. The rest of the staff ruled by fear and showed no affection whatsoever.

Leaving and returning to Howdenhall Assessment Centre on three occasions between 1978 and 1979.

First Occasion

69. I had three spells at Howdenhall Assessment Centre between 1978 and 1979. Each spell was no more than a few weeks. On the first occasion in 1979 when I left Howdenhall Assessment Centre I managed to persuade

the Children's Panel that I had learned my lesson and that if I could go back and stay with my grandmother I would go back to school and I would stay out of trouble. The whole time I was at Howdenhall I felt that I was there for punishment and that I deserved it. You were made to feel that you were there because you were a bad person.

70. I went back and stayed with my gran and mother in Livingston I didn't manage to stay out of trouble with the police and was involved in petty crime. I was drinking heavily even though I was only thirteen years old. I was also sniffing glue. I had a reputation at school and I would stand up to the teachers. I also stole clothes from shops so that I would keep up with the fashions of the time.
71. I do recall the social worker coming to my gran's house and she would sit down and talk to me. She was an older lady called Mrs Blackwood. She had no conception of what it was like to live as a teenager in the 1970's. I didn't listen to any advice she gave me as I was more likely to respond to someone who was more street wise.
72. I had a few charges against me and ended up at a Children's Panel at Howden Park in Livingston which sent me back to Howdenhall Assessment Centre.

Second occasion

73. On arrival for my second spell things were slightly different for me as my friend there [REDACTED] had got himself into a lot of trouble with the staff. He was regularly assaulted by the staff and ended up being put into Saughton Prison and then Longriggend Prison as a fourteen year old boy. I think that was quite unusual. He ended up with blood poisoning. He constantly challenged the staff at Howdenhall and paid the penalty when the staff assaulted him.
74. On the second occasion I was there I was released on medical grounds suffering from two broken ankles which had occurred when I tried to run away. I spent most of this time in The Princess Margaret Rose recovering from my injuries.

Third occasion

75. On the third occasion I was there it was for a very short time and possibly only one night before I was moved on to Kerelaw Residential School. I had been sent there by the Children's Panel but I knew that I wasn't going to stay there.

Reporting abuse at Howdenhall

76. I never reported the abuse that happened to me when I was at Howdenhall. The medical staff at the hospital were shocked that I was put into a cell afterwards but did nothing further. The Police just took me back and didn't ask any questions. There was no one to complain to. I would have only been able to report my abuse to my abusers. My mother wouldn't have done anything and speaking to the staff or social worker would have been 'clipping'. It wasn't till later life that I reported the matters to the Police.

Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenston, Ayrshire 1978 – 1981

77. I was quite happy to be going to Kerelaw because it meant I wasn't going back to Howdenhall. I also didn't want to go back to live with my mother and grandmother as I knew I would be getting back into trouble. I just wanted a settled life.
78. Kerelaw had four units and was situated in a town called Stevenston in Ayrshire. It was run by Glasgow Council and it was for boys only. There was between eighty and a hundred boys ranging in ages between thirteen and sixteen. When you reached sixteen you had to leave. I think that Kerelaw was called either Mossbank or Mossbank before it became Kerelaw.

79. There were four separate units in Kerelaw which had a Scandinavian look to them as they were built of wood and brick. When I was there they were in the process of building a secure unit which was a very modern building. There was an ash football pitch in the grounds. The units were called Baird, Wilson and Motherston and I can't remember the name of the other one. There were twenty to thirty boys in each unit. You were not allowed to go outside the grounds without permission.
80. There were also cells like prison cells that the staff would lock you in if you weren't behaving. There were parts of Kerelaw that were just like a prison and you could be locked in.
81. When I was at Kerelaw and Howdenhall I spent a lot of time running away. Because of this I was asked by the staff to test the security of the new secure unit. I was locked in and given some food. I was there for two hours and managed to get out on two occasions. The first time it took me 36 minutes to get out by "crabbing up" the wall. The staff were amazed at this. I also managed to undo the lock on the windows in the kitchen and escape that way.

Routine at Kerelaw Residential School.

First day

82. I remember that I was taken by car in the company of my Social Worker Mrs Blackwood to Kerelaw. I think that it was in [REDACTED] 1979. It was a great start because the day I arrived they had a disco that night and some of the local girls came. I do recall that [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] Mr [REDACTED] MTT [REDACTED] was away on holiday. It was a Thursday and the two members of staff that I met were [REDACTED] MTS [REDACTED] and Matt George. Matt George was in Blair House and he was the art teacher. I think most of the staff stayed in accommodation in the grounds. I think that Mr Cruikshank was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] MTT [REDACTED]

Staff

83. Mr ^{MTT} was ^{SNR} of Kerelaw. Mr Yarr was the Deputy Headmaster and I think that Mr Cruikshank's was third in charge. There was a head of house for the four houses. ^{MTS} was in charge of us. The other heads of the houses were Mr ^{HNZ}, Mr Wilson and Peggy Murray. I think that there were housemothers and housefathers. Peggy Murray was a housemother and there was also a Mrs French who acted as a housemother. Mrs French and Peggy Murray were very good with the boys and spent a lot of time with them.
84. There was also teaching staff for the school and the ones I remember were Matt George, Mrs Robertson and Mr McSween who taught Geography and thought that everyone in Scotland should be able to speak Gaelic. Some of the houseparents also did some teaching. The night watchman was called Mr ^{HNY} and he coached boxing.
85. The gym teacher was called Mr Nash and his claim to fame was that he was a goalkeeper in 1933 or 1934 when his club won the Scottish Junior Cup. He was quite a good man but died while he was teaching at Kerelaw. He had some connection to Middlesbrough Football Club as a lot of people from the club came to his funeral in Ayrshire.
86. I also remember a member of staff called Danny but I can't recall his surname. He was a big man with a beard. He was a tough man and you would give him respect as he could easily sort you out if he needed to. He was a follower of Morton Football Club because I remember going to see a match between Celtic and Morton. I was a big fan of Kenny Dalglish of Celtic and he loved Andy Ritchie of Morton.
87. There was one person called Franny who was a friend of Mr ^{MTT}. He was in his late teens or early twenties. He stayed at Kerelaw but was too old to be one of the boys. I think that he drove trucks for a living. I also remember that he owned a Ford Capri car. He did the odd job and so was allowed to stay at Kerelaw. He was allowed to stay there because of ^{MTT} but I didn't know why.

88. There were a lot of students who came to Kerelaw to train. I was taught by one of them to play the guitar. I can't remember her name. I think that some of them stayed in the staff flats in the grounds and were there for a few weeks.
89. Most of the staff lived close to Kerelaw. MTS [REDACTED] lived in Giffnock, Matt George stayed in Largs, Mr HNZ [REDACTED] was somewhere in Ayrshire. I think that Mr MTT [REDACTED], Mr Yarr and Mr Cruikshank lived in the grounds of Kerelaw.

Mornings/bedtime

90. We were woken up between half seven and eight. We would wash and then go down for breakfast, I was very friendly with the kitchen staff one of whom was called Isobel. The kitchen staff were like mums to the children and were very kind. The food was very good. I think that the care staff supervised breakfast.
91. After breakfast you could go outside and have a cigarette. Everyone in those days was a smoker. I was only about fourteen years old but I was addicted to smoking. You then went to the classroom. There was a break at eleven and then lunch at twelve thirty or one.
92. After lunch you would go back to your classroom till about four o'clock. Then you went back to your unit and would hang around until they served high tea. I recall that there was a large pot of tea on each table and the staff always called it high tea as opposed to dinner.
93. You were allowed to have another cigarette after that and could also have some sweets. After tea you had a choice whether you went ice skating or swimming at The Magnum Centre in Irvine. You could also go to the swimming baths in Ayr, Kilmarnock or Stevenston.
94. When I became friends with Mr MTT [REDACTED] he would try to prevent me from going home at weekends and getting into trouble in Livingston. He would give me money to

go to the pictures in Saltcoats. What I didn't realise at the time but suspect now is that this was all part of the grooming process.

Food/mealtimes

95. The food was plentiful and of a very good standard. We were never hungry and the kitchen staff were very good to us. At lunchtime the staff went to a room where they all ate. At teatime a member of staff would sit at your table so there was no nonsense. The staff called it high tea.
96. There was no force feeding or anything like that. I can remember Matt George sitting at our table in the dining room. He would get into a debate or argument with some of the boys and it was like he was one of the boys. I think that he forgot he was a staff member sometimes.
97. You went to bed after nine and there were four of you in your dormitory. I think that the ages were different but they were somewhere between thirteen and sixteen. There was often boys fighting with each other after you went to bed.

Washing and bathing

98. There were showers that you could use. I had a shower every night or first thing in the morning. It was up to yourself when you showered. The staff ensured that you did shower on occasion by making us all go at the same time. There were toilets with rows of sinks where you could wash and brush your teeth.

Bed wetting

99. There was one particular boy who wet the bed. He was ridiculed every day by Matt George who called him "Pishy". He would make the boy take his sheets every

morning to the laundry. He was also slagged by the other boys. I don't remember his name. I didn't have a problem with bed wetting.

Chores

100. We were asked to tidy up our bedrooms and I think I also had to clean some shoes but the domestic staff employed at Kerelaw did most of the cleaning it wasn't something that sticks in my mind.

Recreation and leisure time.

101. There was of course the trips to the Magnum Centre in Irvine for ice skating and swimming. There was also a boxing club which was run by the night watchman Mr HNY. The boxing was held in the gym at Kerelaw which was very well equipped and very modern. We also had a very modern five a side football pitch. I think that Mr MTT had a "bit of pull" within Glasgow Council and was able to get us these facilities.
102. I also played in the football team despite my weak ankles. I always remember that the football kit was brand new and you could have as many pairs of football boots as you needed. I think that it was donated.

Punishment

103. The main punishment was your privileges being withheld. You had to earn them and you could lose them for misbehaviour. A lot of the boys wanted to go home at the weekend and so they didn't want to be punished. The behaviour was much better because of that.

Uniform

104. You were provided with clothes by Kerelaw. They were a bit out of fashion but they were brand new and still in the packaging. You could wear your own clothes to the discos that were held at Kerelaw.

School

105. The classrooms were contained within Kerelaw grounds. You were taught English, Geography and maths. There was also woodwork and painting and decorating. If you showed any aptitude for painting and decorating Mr Cruikshank who was the teacher would get you to do small painting and decorating jobs in Kerelaw.
106. You would move between classrooms every day for the different subjects. I also remember a large assembly hall where you would have any meetings or events. I don't recall how the classes were made up as far as ability or age went.

Religious education

107. There was some religious training but it was not compulsory. It was not taught in the classrooms. I remember a minister coming into Kerelaw and holding a service in the assembly hall. There were no church services you were required to attend.

Pocket money

108. You got a couple of pounds every week and you could buy cigarettes with it. You could also bring back your own cigarettes from home which you hid about Kerelaw to stop the other boys from stealing them. I was a trusted boy at Kerelaw so I would take orders from all the boys and go to the local shop to buy the cigarettes and sweeties. The shop was owned by Roy Aitken's mother. Roy played for Celtic football team and I met him there once and got his autograph.

Birthdays/Christmas

109. Most of the boys went home for Christmas. I was only in Kerelaw for Christmas during my last year. There was a lot of sadness for the ones that didn't get home for Christmas. Even Matt George was a bit better with the boys. I recall him handing some of the boy's tins of beer to drink. There was also presents and a Christmas meal. I got an alarm clock from Mr MTT because I was working at this time and needed it to be sure I got up for work.
110. I also remember at Christmas that we went in the van to pick up one of the boys who had run away and been caught by the Police in Paisley.
111. I did get a birthday cake from the ladies who worked in the kitchen for my sixteenth birthday. I was very friendly with them. I was also working and they would make up a "piece," a sandwich, for me every day. I always had the best piece when I was working. I don't remember birthday celebrations for the other boys.

Visits

112. There were very few visitors to Kerelaw because a lot of the boys went home for the weekends. There were a lot of boys from much further away like Inverness and it was not possible for these boys to receive visits. I didn't get many family visits apart from one day when my mother turned up drunk. I think that it was an open day.
113. I think that Mrs Blackwood who was my social worker may have come on a couple of occasions. I didn't have any relationship with her so I don't recall much about these visits.

Weekend leave.

114. After you had been at Kerelaw for four weeks you could qualify for weekend leave. It all depended what the reports from the different teachers said. You would be graded as bad, very bad, good, very good or excellent. If your grades were acceptable you would get to go home at the weekends.

115. The staff would sit down with all the boys on a Monday morning and tell you who was getting leave the following Friday. They would read out everyone's report in front of the other boys. The boys who were worst behaved would be told and their heads would go down. They would continue to misbehave not realising that they needed to show improvement to get out the next again Friday.
116. In the early days, till Mr ^{MTT} took me under his control, I did lose weekend leave because of my behaviour but once he started to look out for me I was fine. He had encouraged to me to do boxing and football to keep out of trouble.

Running away

117. After I had been at Kerelaw for a couple of weeks I sensed an undercurrent of violence. If Matt George or ^{MTS} raised their voices the whole place went quiet. They were very aggressive towards the boys. A group of us boys consisting of who later committed suicide, , a boy called who came from Falkirk, , who was the brother of from Parkhead in Glasgow and me decided to run off.
118. We managed to steal a car in Kilmarnock and were driving about all over Ayrshire. We broke into places to get food. Four of us got caught in the car on our way to Paisley and we were arrested and taken to Paisley Police Station. In the morning we were taken to Kilmarnock Sheriff Court where we were remanded into custody to Longriggend Prison.

Remand at Longriggend Prison, North Lanarkshire 1979 for three weeks

119. When I was remanded to Longriggend Prison I got the shock of my life. I was a fourteen year old on remand in a jail. There is not much to say about the place, it

was a prison with a prison regime. It was very violent and we were regularly assaulted by the prison officers. There is not much more I can tell you about Longriggend.

120. There were a lot of boys with the oldest being about eighteen. You had to stand up for yourself in front of the other boys and the prison officers. A lot of the boys had major issues. I do recall having to clear up the "shite bombs" in the yard outside. The boys would make them of excrement and paper and throw them into the yard. As a punishment I was made to clear them up using a shovel and bucket they provided.
121. Because I was still school age I had to attend school in the prison. There were a lot of fights between the boys and the prison officers would jump into the fight. I have no recollection of the names of other boys or prison officers that were there. There was just violence all the time.
122. I appeared again at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court and was sentenced to two years in a secure unit. I was supposed to go to Rossie Farm in Montrose but Mr ^{MTT} at Kerelaw spoke up for me and managed to get me back to Kerelaw.

Working while living at Kerelaw

123. When I turned sixteen I got a job with Community Industry in Kilmarnock. I stayed in a staff flat in the grounds of Kerelaw. I would have to get up at five in the morning and worked in the local area doing painting and decorating at community centres.
124. I was getting paid £31 per month and I handed over £7 as payment for my digs. The kitchen staff would prepare meals for me and leave them out for me to eat. I was basically using the home as a place to live with the permission of ^{MTT}.

Abuse at Kerelaw 1978 – 1979

Abuse by Matt George

125. There was one day, not long after I had returned from Longriggend Prison, that I went to Matt George to complain that I needed to see a doctor to treat my asthma. He told me that I should give up smoking as we were allowed to smoke five cigarettes a day. I swore at him so he took me into an empty cell and the first thing he did was to tell me to give up smoking. He then asked me if I was going to run away again as he had heard that I was planning to. I had discussed it with the other boys but I didn't want to go back to Longriggend so I had no intention of doing it. On route to the cell Matt George kicked me on my previously broken ankles which was very painful as they were still very weak. He knew all about my ankle injury and this was deliberate.

126. Matt George was very physical with a lot of the boys. He talked to a lot of the boys about sex and alcohol and treated them as equals. He was very artistic and would encourage the boys to develop their artistic side. In later life I was later surprised to learn that he had been charged with sexual assault on other boys.

Grooming by Mr MTT

127. Matt George knew that he couldn't really punish me as I was under the care of SNR SNR Mr MTT. I was on very friendly terms with Mr MTT so the staff knew that I had to be left alone. I was not subjected to the violence and punishment that the other boys were receiving. I only realise now that it was part of the grooming process and the other staff must have been warned to leave me alone.

128. Mr MTT would let some of us go to his house which was in the grounds and watch television with him. It was usually , and myself that were allowed to go. We would also be given the odd can of beer. Again I realise now that this was all part of the grooming process.

129. I went to Mr MTT's flat most days to feed his dog and Hoover the flat. I used to get paid in cigarettes and was happy to do it. One of the other boys told Mr MTT that I had been with a girl in Livingston and had developed a rash on my penis. He took me to the bathroom in his house and ran a bath. I didn't think anything about it.

He then washed my privates and applied the cream which he said was for "thrush". I just didn't realise what was going on and I didn't think much about it until later life. I knew it wasn't right but I was not sexually aroused. I think that had I been sexually aroused it might have been different.

130. MTT often took a group of boys, including me, to a nearby rock pool where we could all swim. We all had our speedo swimming trunks on and MTT would take photographs of us. I do recall an occasion when I called at his house and there was a group of men looking at these photographs which were being displayed on a screen and projector. I don't know who these people were but I know he didn't have many visitors to his house. I was fifteen years old and I didn't think anything of it.

Peer bullying

131. There were lots of fights between boys all the time. You had to be able to stand up for yourself. If you got slagged by the other boys you became embarrassed. I remember that and myself were being slagged for our friendship with Mr MTT. The other boys called us "benders" because we went to his house at night time. All we did was get some tins of beer and sit and watch television. I think that the other boys were jealous.
132. There was one occasion when I was lying in bed one night and I was attacked by one of the boys called . He attacked me when I was asleep in bed hitting me with a fire extinguisher. He broke my nose and I had black eyes. To get my own back I was put in a boxing ring to fight him. I think was placed in a cell for a few days. There was no Police involvement and I don't recall any medical treatment. Everything was dealt with in house.

Other abuse

133. The staff were clever on who they picked on and for what reason. Matt George was a martial arts man and was very physical with the boys. I was very surprised to hear

that in later life he was charged with sexual offences as he never tried on anything with the group I was in. He must have known who were vulnerable and targeted them. He never targeted any of my peer group as it would have been talked about.

Leaving Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenston, Ayrshire.

134. I officially left the care of Kerelaw on the [REDACTED] 1980 when I took up a job with Community Industry in Kilmarnock. I was given a teacher's flat in the grounds of Kerelaw and continued to reside there. I stopped residing at Kerelaw in [REDACTED] 1981 when I left to start an apprenticeship with my father. The reason I had to leave Kerelaw was because MTT [REDACTED] was leaving to go and work down south in England and the ad hoc arrangement for me staying at Kerelaw was no longer valid.
135. MTT [REDACTED] wanted me to go with him and he tried to sort something out. Reflecting on this in later life I now realise that MTT [REDACTED] was grooming me. I was too young and naïve to understand. I was no longer part of the care system.
136. MTT [REDACTED] contacted my father and told him that I was having to leave Kerelaw. He told my father that if I went back to Livingston and stayed with my grandmother and mother I was just going to get into trouble. He asked him what he was going to do.
137. On the [REDACTED] 1981 my father picked me up at Kerelaw and I started an apprenticeship with him in his roofing company. My father was quite dictatorial. I was staying in a YMCA called Lindsay House in East Kilbride and was not allowed to stay with him and his new wife.
138. I lasted until the July of that year when I had a fall out with my dad. My life started to spiral out of control again. I had started drinking in the local pub. I was the youngest in Lindsay House but I made a few friends there.

139. I went back to Livingston to my grandmother's and the next thing I knew I was getting into trouble with the Police again. All of my offences were drink related. I had literally pressed the self-destruct button. I appeared at court and was sentenced to three years in a Young Offenders. I was nearly eighteen years old.
140. I spent part of my sentence at Glenochil Young Offenders and was then moved to Jessiefield Prison in Dumfries. Whilst I was there I was editing the prison magazine and this earned me parole.

Life after being in care

141. After I was released from Jessiefield Prison I managed to stay out of trouble for the next twenty years apart from the odd drink related offence.
142. I got into promoting live bands who performed at venues in Glasgow and some of the local pubs in the Lothian's. I did marry but my drinking was bad and my wife didn't stay with me. I was at a very low ebb when my wife left me.
143. Two years and eight months ago I was in a very poor place but had stopped drinking. I realised that I had to turn things round. I had contemplated suicide and had [REDACTED]. The only thing that stopped me was that my young daughter might blame herself because I was not being allowed to see her at that time.

Impact

144. I was suffering from PTSD and all my dreams were around having to walk downstairs with broken ankles. I had also witnessed as an eight year old child in Blackhill, Glasgow a fire that killed five children. I couldn't get that out of my head seeing the dead children again. I was having panic attacks that I had no control of.

145. I was drinking heavily and my life was again spiralling out of control. I was running my own company promoting local musical bands. I was married but my marriage broke up. I needed help.
146. I went to an agency called West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Services and dealt with a Counsellor there called Fiona Brown. She put me in touch with other agencies and slowly I started to turn things round. I realised that I was strong enough to fight my addictions and I stopped taking antidepressants tablets. When I broke my ankles I was a broken child. Up until two and a half years ago I would have described myself as a broken child in an adult's body that is what it is like.
147. I attended a doctor called Sarah Long who treated me with twelve sessions of REM therapy. This was extremely effective and it took me right back in time. I would go home after a session and look at things differently without alcohol. I stopped blaming other people and started taking responsibility for my own life.
148. I still have days when I am not so well but my new partner [REDACTED] is a great help to me and she is guiding me through. I recently started taking prescribed drugs again for depression, anxiety, insomnia and PTSD. I attribute my PTSD directly to my time in care. I find it very therapeutic to talk about my time in care.

Reporting of Abuse at Kerelaw

149. At Kerelaw there was no one to report the abuse to and I didn't understand at that time that I was being groomed. I didn't associate [REDACTED] MTT's behaviour with sexual abuse. There was no system in place for reporting abuse and you couldn't tell tales on your peers.
150. About nine years ago the Police contacted me in connection with an inquiry into Kerelaw. I think that Matt George had already been dealt with through the courts but they were asking me about [REDACTED] MTT. They called to my house but I was

drinking heavily and was not ready to discuss what happened to me at Kerelaw and I didn't want to speak to them.

151. Last year in 2018 I contacted the Police to tell them about my experiences in care at Kerelaw and Howdenhall. I gave them a statement. The officer, whose name I can't remember, got back to me to say that they could not find any trace of me being at The Princess Margaret Rose Hospital. They also told me that they would keep my statement on file until they got corroboration from someone else coming forward.
152. I was again interviewed by the Police in 2019 regarding my time at Kerelaw and Howdenhall although the focus of their enquiries was on Matt George at Kerelaw. I think that they contacted me as a result of the disclosures I made to The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry.

Records

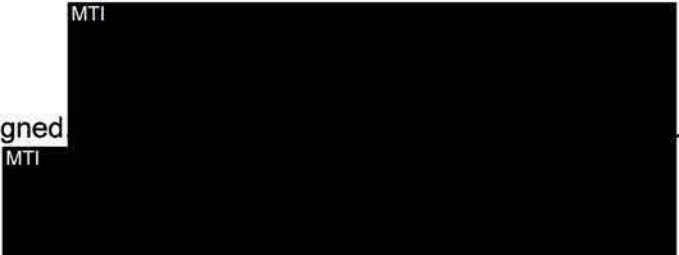
153. I tried to get records from the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital but they didn't have any. There were plenty of people visited me in the hospital who can confirm that I was there. I have never tried to get hold of my social work records but I would be interested in looking at them.

Lessons to be learned

154. The children in care should be loved and cared for. You were made to believe that you were bad and that is why you were in care. It always seemed that the staff in the care system and the Police were in cahoots and you wouldn't be believed. That needs to change.
155. The staff at children's homes should be rigorously checked. They should be spoken to by professionals like Doctor Sarah Long who would be able to help them. There

should be regular visits from inspection teams that would be able to identify any problems or issues. The inspectors should have access to the children to listen to them.

156. 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 
MTI

Dated 24 / 04 / 2019