

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PBD

Support person present: No.

1. My name is PBD. My date of birth is 1971. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Paisley maternity hospital and brought up in Barrhead, Glasgow. My mum and dad are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I have one brother, [REDACTED] who is six years older than me and two sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is two years older than me. [REDACTED] is actually my half-sister as my parents split up in the 1970s and my dad went on to have [REDACTED] with another woman in his second marriage. I have always just considered [REDACTED] to be my wee sister. I have other step-brothers and sisters. My mum treats her like she is her own. My dad worked as an electrician and my mum brought up the children.
3. I was a cheeky wee boy when I was growing up. My mum has told me from when I was born I didn't sleep a lot. Even the doctor at the time told my mum that if she needed a rest she should give me a wee toddy now and then. I was about four when my mum and dad split up and it was because she caught him having an affair. I heard everything that was being said between my mum and dad and they thought this was the reason I was being mischievous. The first time I met my dad's new partner I kicked her and called her a cow. I would only have been four or five. My mum brought me up from then, on her own, and I saw my dad most Saturdays.

4. My dad was never physical with me and to be honest that could have been part of my problem. Maybe I needed a bit stricter discipline which might have improved my behaviour. When my brother [REDACTED] was about fifteen he moved to live with my dad. This was about the same time that [REDACTED] was born. It was just me, [REDACTED] and my mum living at home after that. I was quite happy at home and some of my friends were jealous of the things that I had. They told me in later years that I just had to ask for something and my mum did her hardest to make sure I got it.
5. There was no social work involvement with my family until much later on and everything, as far as I remember, was fine at home. My first primary school was Springhill primary in Barrhead and when I was there I started to see a child psychologist. I didn't get on very well with the headmistress Miss Knox because I was cheeky to the teachers. I was doing the work in the classroom and intellectually I was doing fine, but I was the class clown. I spent a lot of time in her office and thinking back I probably would have deserved a slap. I got the belt many times in there. She had a black book where the names of the bad boys was kept. The only names in there were mine and one other boy's.
6. I started to see a child psychologist, Mr Cummings, who came to the school to see me. I saw him on my own in an office. I don't think they could figure out what was going on with me so I ended up going to a place called Westmount. I went there two afternoons every week. There I sat with a psychologist, but I am not sure if it was Mr Cummings, and his boss who was a psychiatrist. I think I did this for a couple of years but probably less.
7. When I was in P6 at primary school I was diagnosed with ADHD and put on Ritalin. At the end of P6 my mother moved me to Auchenback primary school because she felt the headmistress was picking on me. I was about ten years old. My behaviour was much the same at Auchenback primary and the teacher gave me the belt quite often. I finished at primary school then moved on to Barrhead high school when I was twelve.

8. The first few months at Barrhead high school were fine. I was still the class clown along with another boy. One time we splashed each other with paint and then painted the back of Mr Mitchell, the teacher's, jacket. He caught us and marched us along to the headmasters office. Mr Boyd, the headmaster, actually thought it was funny. It was just stupid stuff I was doing. For some reason and I am not sure why but I started dogging school. The education department were going to take my mother to court and fine her. Mr Boyd stood up for my mum and told them that he saw my mum walking with me to school and she waited at the gate until I went in the building then, after she turned away, I would run out the school.
9. When I was at Barrhead high school the psychiatrist and psychologist made me do a couple of IQ tests. The results were 116 and 118 so my average was 117. They said that my IQ was just above average. They said I was capable and probably acting up because I was bored in the classes. I read this in my medical report I recently got from my GP.
10. I was also getting involved in stealing cars and driving about in them but I was parking them round the corner from where I stole them. I was just really using their fuel. I wasn't charged by the police with any of that stuff but they knew what I was up to. I've had a fascination with cars since I was a wee boy.
11. I'm not sure when I first got a social worker but I would have been about twelve. At some point I had a social worker called David Cosgrove. One of my friends had him first and I tried to go along with him to the social work department but he wouldn't let me into the building. He ended up being my social worker, but I never wanted anything to do with him because he wouldn't let me in that night.
12. After a few months of me starting to dog school I was taken to a children's panel. I didn't go to the panel in Barrhead and I think this was because one of the neighbours, only a few doors away, was on the panel. I went to the children's panel in Paisley. My mum was there along with a female social worker. At the children's panel I was put into care because I was dogging school and was outwith parental control. This was the first ever children's panel that I went to. I was still only twelve.

13. I was told I was going to the short stay unit at Newfield where I was to stay for three months to be assessed. When I heard this I was scared. I had seen a film called 'Scum' which was about the brutal life in a borstal and I thought that was what I was going to. I hadn't heard or knew anything about Newfield, but I thought it was going to be hell. They took me through to a room where I was given the chance to say cheerio to my mother but I saw an open door and I ran out and away.
14. I went home later that evening when I was hungry and the police came and caught me in the house. I was cheeky to the policeman. The Professionals was on the television and I asked the policeman if he liked watching it. He said he did, so I turned the television off. I was blaming my mum too, telling her that she had got me put away. A police van came and I was handcuffed to the policeman in the back of the van. Because I had been cheeky to him he got a key and started scoring the back of my hand with it. At school we called this a chicken bite. He was just breaking the skin, and it was sore. When he was doing it he was calling me a cheeky wee bastard. He rubbed it until it was bleeding. I was taken to Barrhead or Paisley police station then the night shift duty social workers came and got me and took me to Newfield. I didn't need medical attention for my hand and it didn't leave a scar.

Newfield Assessment Centre, Johnstone

15. Newfield Assessment Centre was just in the outskirts of Johnstone, but half of the building has now been demolished. It sat in its own grounds with a small river running through it. It was off the main road and there was a mental hospital just round the corner. A bypass has been built next to it now. The building was L-shaped and the reception was on the right as you went in the main door. Three members of staff worked on the reception desk. One was called Margaret and she was a lovely lady. There was a gymnasium and classrooms. Upstairs were the bedrooms. Our bedroom doors were never locked and I'm not sure if the doors leading outside were locked through the night. It wasn't a secure unit.

16. Newfield was mixed with boys and girls and the age range must have been from twelve up to eighteen. We weren't split up into different dorms but we were all in single rooms. The boys weren't supposed to go into the girls' bedrooms and if you were caught the staff would just tell you to get out. I think the maximum number of children that could live there was about fifty.
17. Newfield was split up into units. They were Glennifer, Kilpatrick, Campsie, short stay and another unit that was empty. All these units were upstairs. Glennifer and Kilpatrick were back-to-back and they were for three week assessments which sometimes turned into six weeks. The children in these units tended not to be at Newfield for very long. Campsie was the long term unit.
18. There were about eight of us in the short stay unit. Below the short stay units was the main area with the offices of the headmaster and his deputies. Beside that were the two rooms that were called interview rooms. They were basically small empty rooms. They were carpeted and apart from one window there was nothing, not even a chair. Down the stairs from there was a meeting room with soft chairs. Off that meeting room were two classrooms then the woodwork department through a couple of double doors. There was also a gym.
19. Rather than going to the stairs at reception, if you went left it would take you through to the dining room. There were other classes in other parts of the building and they all had different teachers for different subjects. Within the Campsie unit where I was for six months there was a room called the quiet room. There was also a tuck shop where you could buy sweets and juice. Sometimes I went with the staff to the shops to buy the stuff for the tuck shop.
20. Chris Warbrick was the headmaster of the whole of Newfield. Below him was a female deputy but I can't remember her name. She was a nice woman. Below her was a man called Derek Bibby. He was a good guy too. In charge of the short stay unit was a woman called Jan Meldrum. When she left, which was after I had left, she took charge of an assessment centre in Helensburgh. I got on well with her. There were cooks and dinner ladies and they were brilliant. The care staff in the short stay

unit were called Yvonne, I can't recall her surname, and Tom McDougall. I think Tom, who was about thirty, was my key worker. There were also zKSM and [REDACTED]. Generally the staff were paired up and were on at the same time. I don't think zKSM and [REDACTED] should have been on shift together at work because they were also in a relationship. They were both care staff. There was always night staff on too during the night if we needed anything.

21. SNR [REDACTED] of the education side was PBO [REDACTED]. He was maybe in his forties. I know he ran a minibus company on the side outwith Newfield. The woodwork teacher was possibly called KHQ [REDACTED]. He wasn't a good guy. There was an art teacher who was into weight lifting and he stayed in [REDACTED] in Paisley. He used to have a gold VW Jetta. His name was KGY [REDACTED] but we called him KGY [REDACTED]. He was only in his late twenties then. Other teachers were David, I can't remember his last name, but he was a good guy. Then there was KKL [REDACTED] and David Carragher. David Carragher was a brilliant teacher. Miss Dubar was the only female teacher.
22. My bedroom in short stay had a Velux window which only opened a few inches. I managed to figure out how to open it wide enough to climb out if I wanted to. All that was in my room was a bed and a chest of drawers. On the wall was a poster board where I could pin things up.

Routine at Newfield

23. I was still twelve when I went to Newfield because you weren't allowed to smoke until you were thirteen and I had to wait a couple of months before they let me.

First day

24. I don't remember getting taken to Newfield for the first time. My first memory is getting woken up one morning and the staff were really chirpy and I was thinking that the place was actually okay and not as bad as I had expected. When I went through

for breakfast I saw there was an Atari computer and a television and it made me wonder why I had run away.

Mornings and bedtime

25. The staff woke us up in the morning and we would get up and go for a wash. They might have let us have a cigarette first but I am not sure. We would then go down for breakfast.
26. In the evening after we had eaten our dinner we would go back to the unit and sit about. The staff would tell us when it was bed time but I can't remember if it was at a specific time. We would then get ready for bed and put our pyjamas on. We were supposed to then go to bed but quite often we had a carry-on where the staff couldn't see us. Before we went to bed we had supper. There was a toaster and a kettle in the unit and we just made it ourselves. There was a dining table in the unit.

Mealtimes/Food

27. We collected our food from a servery and there was usually a choice. The food was generally quite good. We might have sat with the rest of the unit but I also feel we could mix with the other units. There were never any issues if you didn't like any particular food.

Washing/bathing

28. There were showers and baths and we could do either whenever we wanted. In Newfield the bath was just off the telly room.

Clothing/uniform

29. Most of the time I wore my own clothes which I got from home. I also got a clothes allowance and the staff must have taken me to buy new clothes sometimes.

Leisure time

30. We were allowed seven cigarettes a day at Newfield. I had to persuade my mum to come up to Newfield and sign a permission form. She was reluctant but I managed to talk her into signing it. We were also given pocket money but I can't remember how much. There was a sitting area where we could watch the television in the evenings. I would usually bring vinyl records in when I was home from leave so quite often we would just sit and listen to music.
31. At the end of the school day I would just go back to the unit. I would probably just sit around watching the television, sit and chat or play on the computer. We could go to the gym and do some exercise even though there was no staff there. There was a rope swing outside or we could just do other things outside like play football. Beside the gym there was a pool table. There was always things to do to keep us busy. If we wanted to go swimming or something like that we could ask staff and they would give us money from a tin and let us go. If at any time we wanted to leave the grounds we just had to ask. The care staff were mostly pretty good to us.
32. We could mix with everyone in the other units. One time I was caught lying, fully clothed on the bed with my girlfriend in her room and we were just blethering. A member of staff caught us and told me I was to out of there within fifteen minutes. I can't remember who this member of staff was. I was thirteen and she was fifteen. It was frowned upon by the staff for the boys to be in the girls' rooms but it was quite relaxed.

Schooling

33. When I started at the school within Newfield I was still misbehaving just the same, but I quickly realised that they wouldn't put up with it the same as the other schools I had been to. There was usually only five or six children in each class. I don't know how we were split up into classes and whether we all stayed together at all the classes or not. We would go from class to class depending on the timetable but I can't remember how I knew what the order of classes was. The teachers stayed in

their class. We had a break from classes in the morning and we got cold toast and a cup of tea. It was brilliant and I still love cold toast now. I never got any homework.

34. Because of my behaviour at school I was eventually expelled. I am not sure exactly why I was expelled. I know that the heads of the social work department in Paisley and the heads of the heads had a meeting at some point, and they told the education department at Newfield that they couldn't expel me. Newfield were refusing to take me back into the classrooms even though I didn't think my behaviour was that bad.
35. They tried to get me to go to a school in Quarriers during the day. This was apparently the only school that was prepared to take me. I thought I would see what it was like and I went for a day or two. The children in there had Down's syndrome, in wheelchairs and things like that so I decided it wasn't for me. All I remember doing there was running round a football pitch a couple of times because I was a runner. I stopped going.
36. After I had been expelled, the teachers David Carragher and Miss Dubar still let me into their classes. I enjoyed their classes and they knew how to treat and deal with me. David Carragher taught maths and Miss Dubar taught English.
37. I didn't get much of an education at Newfield and I ended up spending most of the school day with the janitor. I can't remember his name but he was quite old. I ended up painting the two interview rooms for education. I suppose the education was there if I wanted it and I didn't have any problems doing the work when I was in the class, but I know my behaviour wasn't good.

Assessment

38. I was sent to Newfield for three months to be assessed. I am not aware of ever being assessed as such. Maybe the teachers were assessing me in the classrooms but I wasn't aware of it. I did have chats with my key worker but not in any detail, just general chat. I suppose Jan Meldrum, who was the head of the short term unit, might have been assessing me but my chats with her were just banter, nothing more.

Healthcare

39. There wasn't a nurse or matron at Newfield. I think any health issues would have been left for the care staff to deal with. I was only ever taken to the hospital once when I was with Tom and I fell off a rope. I had some issues with my throat and I remember being taken out to see a doctor in Johnstone.
40. I don't think I saw a psychologist or psychiatrist at Newfield.

Trips and holidays

41. I don't remember ever going on holiday at Newfield. We went on day trips here and there but never anywhere for a holiday.

Weekend Leave

42. I got weekend leave every weekend apart from maybe the first weekend I was there. If I had run away my next weekend leave would be cancelled so I had to stay at Newfield over the weekend. If your weekend leave was cancelled they kept us busy with things to do and would take us places like ice skating or swimming and things like that.

Work

43. I can't remember if we had any cleaning chores or anything like that to do.

Birthdays and Christmas

44. Because I was suspended from school the staff took me shopping for Christmas presents for all the other children. I remember I wanted a particular Christmas record from 1984 and I got it. Everyone got leave over Christmas so I went home and spent it with my mum. I can't remember how long I was off over Christmas.

45. I can't remember what happened for children's birthdays but they would have been celebrated in some way. Some of the staff were really nice, considerate people.

Bed Wetting

46. I never had an issue with wetting the bed. I know of one girl called [REDACTED] who used to wet the bed. She would have been thirteen and stayed in [REDACTED] Barrhead. She slept in the room opposite me when I got moved into the Campsie unit in Newfield.
47. I am not sure how the staff dealt with it when she wet the bed because when it happened we were all told by staff to go back to our bedrooms and that there was nothing to see. You could tell by the smell that she had wet her bed and other people would be saying things, and the staff would be talking about getting clean sheets. I never heard the staff ridiculing her or trying to embarrass her in any way.
48. [REDACTED] had nightmares and I heard her shouting things like "Daddy, daddy stop it". Her dad used to do bad things to her when she got home. The staff still let her go home at the weekends to stay with her dad even though everyone knew what he was doing to her.

Visitors/family contact

49. None of my family visited me at Newfield. There was no real need because I was getting home leave every weekend unless it had been stopped because of bad behaviour or running away. I only ever asked my mum to come once and that was to sign the permission form so I could smoke.
50. When I went home for weekend leave my brother would pick me up and I would stay at my mother's house. I saw my brother most times I was home for weekend leave. Although he was staying with my dad he came down to see me and we hung about

together or else I'd go to see my pals. When it came time to go back to Newfield, my brother would drive me in. I saw my sisters at the weekend too.

Review of care / detention

51. I got children's panels quite regularly. In Newfield I remember a social worker I had, the first one was David Cosgrove and I wouldn't talk to him. He'd come in to Newfield and try to talk to me and I'd just ignore him. I ended up with another one called Dorothy Anne Cairns Smith. She used to come up to Newfield and take me out to my own house and sit and have a chat with my mum. I remember her car was a Citroen 2CV.
52. Tom was my key worker and his role was to sit down and have a blether with me to find out how I was getting on and what was happening. I think he reported back to Jan Meldrum who was in charge of the short stay unit. I regularly chatted to him and other staff, apart from **zKSM** and **[REDACTED]**. I didn't get on well with them.
53. I was supposed to only be at Newfield for three months to be assessed but I went back to the children's panel a few times and my three months was extended for another three months. I was in the short stay unit for those first six months. After the end of that six months I was moved within Newfield to the Campsie Unit. The short stay unit said I couldn't stay there any longer. I spent another six months in Campsie unit. I went to panels quite regularly, always in Paisley. I can't remember much about what was said at the panel. I wasn't really interested and didn't pay attention.
54. I only remember my dad ever coming to one children's panel. He never said anything positive about me to the panel about any good things I had done. That was the only day I listened to anything that was said. I don't know why he came that day. My mum came to every panel. I think that the panels would have been discussing my education because I got on well with the care staff and there were no real issues within the units.

External Inspections

55. I am not aware of ever seeing anyone coming in to do any kind of inspection at Newfield. You would have thought that there would have been inspections but I never saw any and no one ever spoke to me about how things were being run.

Running away

56. I was quite bad for running away. I often absconded. I ran off many different ways. Sometimes it was just when I was on my way to school I would decide not to go. I was usually caught in Paisley, although one time it was in Stirling. I was usually away for at most a couple of nights. Neither the police who caught me or the staff at Newfield ever asked me why I was running away. I don't remember anyone ever asking me. Usually I was running away because it was an adventure. When I was caught the police would take me back to the police station then the social workers would come and take me back to Newfield.
57. There was one night where all the boys planned to run away. Forty-six of the forty-eight boys and girls ran away. We had managed to get a case of beer so we were drunk, then we just went back ourselves. I was thirteen at the time. When we got back some of us climbed on the roof and were throwing things down. The police were called and a couple of my friends were taken away by them. I wasn't. I don't recall getting into trouble with the staff for what I did. The next morning there was a big meeting with everyone and I was sitting there in my pyjamas to stop us from running away. It was just a big adventure for me.

Discipline

58. Their main way of disciplining you if you did something wrong was to stop you getting your cigarettes or if more serious they would stop your weekend leave. Cheek and insolence might stop your cigarettes. Running away would stop your weekend leave. This happened to me a few times.

59. There was one of the care staff, GNU [REDACTED], and he was a big guy. I remember I was way out of control and was screaming, spitting and kicking. He was a big gentle giant and he just restrained me in a professional way. If anyone would have been justified in hitting me it would have been him. He never hit me once and just held me. I would love to meet him and apologise for my behaviour that day. I don't want him getting into trouble for that because what he did that time would have been justified and he never hurt me, he just held me and stopped me from acting out.

Campsie Unit

60. I spent my second six months in Campsie unit I still had a single room. The routine was much the same as in the short stay unit but they tried to make it feel a bit more of a family atmosphere.

Abuse at Newfield

61. PBO [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] of the education department. He was the worst abuser at Newfield. The teacher called KKL [REDACTED] got involved a couple of times but nothing like to the same extent as the woodwork teacher.
62. I can't remember when it first started but it was probably me being cheeky. There would always be two of them in the restraint that was really an assault. PBO [REDACTED] would be the main one and either KKL [REDACTED] or the woodwork teacher would back him up. Most of the time it was the woodwork teacher, who might have been called KHQ [REDACTED] who was with PBO [REDACTED]. There was always two of them there and it was always PBO [REDACTED] and one other. PBO [REDACTED] would never do it on his own. The art teacher KGY [REDACTED] was only involved in a couple of restraints.
63. When it started they were meant just to be restraining me, but then it was happening sometimes twice a week. They got away with it because they said that they were restraining me.

64. After I had been expelled from the school I might have been standing somewhere I wasn't supposed to be, and instead of asking me to leave they would grab and violently restrain me. I think they must have been trained to do it. The holds were similar to how they did it in the prison. There were a lot of wrists locks and using pressure points. They then marched me along the corridors still in the wrist locks and would be punching my body. I never knew who it was that was punching me because I couldn't see what was happening. I will be honest and say that sometimes I might have deserved to be restrained, but I didn't deserve to be punched. I would have been raging with anger and I am sure I would have been struggling. I saw them doing the same thing to other boys too. One boy who it happened to was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was from Renfrew. He was a bit older than me.
65. PBO [REDACTED] would often put me in one of the supposed interview rooms. There was nothing in them and they're not interview rooms. He did it just to get me away from the class. I would be left in there for a while. I can't remember how I got out but the door wasn't locked. I think they left me there until I had calmed down. They'd stay with me for a wee while, but it meant they'd be leaving classrooms with people in them. I'd never leave the interview room with them. I think the receptionist, Margaret, had a lot to do with me getting back out again. I think they would have had to report it to Chris Warbrick, he was the head of Newfield, so I think it would have been recorded somewhere.
66. When I was getting restrained and taken to the interview room by PBO [REDACTED] and whoever the other one was, I would get pulled past Chris Warbrick's office, but he would just have thought I was being restrained. I am sure he would have heard me getting beaten. I was also being taken right by the office for that woman who was second in charge and she was good to us. I can't remember her name. I could walk into her office and make myself a cuppa. They must have heard what happened to me.
67. I know the reception staff would have known about it. The long blonde-haired one, Margaret, at least I think that was her name, who worked on reception was a lovely

lady. When I had been put in the interview rooms by Mr PBO she would come in, chat with me and put her arms around me to give me a hug because she would have been able to see I was upset. She probably knew what was going on but I never discussed anything with her and she probably wouldn't want to say anything to anybody or she might lose her job. I think she would have known that it was more than restraint that was going on.

68. In my mind it was happening to me every day but it couldn't have been. I just feel that it was happening regularly, possibly a couple of times a week. We wanted to get PBO into the gym one day and take him out the back door. People in the place they knew about what PBO did to us but they might have thought that was just us being restrained, they might not have known what was actually happening.
69. I told my brother about what they did to me at the time and I mentioned to it to him again recently and he can't remember me telling him. I must have told him but he says he couldn't have because the family would have gone up to Newfield and done something about it.
70. One time I was out with Tom McDougall, one of the care staff, in the grounds. He must have been young at the time. I was climbing up a zip rope and he and another boy started shaking the rope. I can't remember who the boy was. I was up quite high and I fell off and I was knocked out. Yvonne, the other member of staff took me to hospital and I was checked over. Nothing was broken and I didn't need to stay overnight in the hospital.

Leaving Newfield

71. I got moved to Balrossie and I don't know why. I think it was because of the type of school it was, a List D. It must have been decided by a children's panel meeting, but I can't remember them saying it at a panel. I don't remember going to a panel hearing when they told me I was going to Balrossie. I wanted to stay at Newfield rather than go to Balrossie which meant facing the unknown. Without PBO

PBO [REDACTED] being there, my time at Newfield would have been alright. I'd have probably still run away, but maybe not as regular.

Balrossie List D School, Kilmacolm

72. SNR [REDACTED] at Balrossie was [REDACTED] I'm sure his name was either LWH [REDACTED] or LWH [REDACTED] and he was known as LWH [REDACTED]. He was supposedly an [REDACTED] rugby player. He stayed in Kilmacolm. It is possible I am mixed up with names of SNR [REDACTED] at the two schools, but I don't think so.
73. My key worker in Balrossie was called Liz. She was married to Tom who had been my key worker at Newfield. When I was in Balrossie they were having their first child and I remember my mum knitted baby clothes for them. I got on alright with Liz and I got on alright with a lot of the staff in Balrossie. I was getting an education in Balrossie. They had their own teachers as well as care staff in the units.
74. Balrossie was divided up into units. There was Bute, Arran, Lomond and Cumbria. There was two units in the main building and two units in the annexe. I was in the annexe. It was dorms in there with six to a dorm and twelve to a unit. I was in the upstairs one and I'm sure it was called Lomond. I was in a dorm of six. It was all boys in Balrossie and there was maybe forty-eight boys in there. I think it could have gone up to sixty boys because I don't know about the other units. I went there when I was thirteen, nearly fourteen, and I think the boys could be there up to sixteen. I knew people in my unit who were from my area.
75. When I went into Balrossie I didn't know how long I was going to be in there for.
76. I took one of the boys home for Christmas, he was by himself and had no mother or father. I had to ask permission. His weekend leave was to a children's home in Greenock. I asked my mum if it was ok, it wasn't actually Christmas day, but it was around that time.

Routine at Balrossie

First day

77. I would have got to Balrossie in what we used to call a 'Germolene Tub', because they were the same colour as the containers Germolene was in. They were blue and beige and they said 'social work' on the side of them. I remember the motor, it was a Mark 3 Escort estate. When I arrived I remember thinking Balrossie was a castle. I don't remember how I was welcomed. I remember going up the stairs to the unit I was put into and people were alright.

Washing and bathing

78. I can only remember when you came back from weekend leave you went into the shower and that was all I remember. They used to supervise this by standing inside the door. In Balrossie I just remember it being once a week. I don't think you could have a bath or shower at other times if you wanted to.

Clothing

79. I think you only had a couple of sets of underwear. You got clothes from home as well, but I'm sure you had a clothing allowance as well. I can't remember if they took you out to choose clothes or if they just bought the clothes for you.

Mealtimes and food

80. The food wasn't on par with Newfield. Newfield food was a bit better, but it was probably all made in the same place. You ate your breakfast in the unit, there were tables in there. Sometimes, you'd have to go out to get a crate and there'd be a few loaves in it and the milk. You'd always want to be the one who went and got that because when you were outside you'd have a quick smoke.

81. I can't remember if your main meals were in the main dining room, but I remember I had breakfast in the unit. There was an area where they had the discos where all the stainless steel containers were and maybe that was where they heated up the food. I can't really remember it. I can't remember if there were any issues if you didn't like the food.

School

82. At Balrossie in the morning, you'd go in and LWH would sit at the front with his guitar and sing songs and you'd have a meeting in the education department. It was an assembly. There might have been prayers, but they were made into songs.
83. Through the day it was much the same as Newfield and there was school in a newer building. There would have been lessons in English and maths, but I can't remember them. They ended up getting a different science teacher in and he was brilliant. I was always interested in science. He'd ask questions and I'd be the one answering them. The science teacher said the other ones in the class weren't getting a chance. Three of us ended up in this class, but this guy, Dougie Wingate, was brilliant. I got moved to his class. We called him the mad scientist, he was crazy. He drove a Rover car, one of the SD1s.
84. The woodwork teacher was brand new, he was a good wee guy, we called him Charlie Bucket. His name must have really been Charlie, but I also have a feeling KHQ was his real name and we just called him Charlie Bucket, and he accepted that.
85. There was PE, because there was a PE teacher. I can't remember his real name, but we called him GJF because of his tight, curly hair. I was always lazy at PE and he used to let me sit at the side and just be lazy. He told me we were going out to practice for sports day and I was to do it as well and I'd have to be active. So we went outside and did the hundred metres and I finished it and he showed me his stop

watch and then clipped me round the back of the head and said 'you never told me you could run like that'. That's how I ended up being put into a running club.

86. In the classes I wasn't cheeky and disruptive like I was before, it was only now and again. I was doing what I enjoyed. I've been mad on Ford Escort cars all my life from being a wee boy. The science teacher Dougie Wingate brought in a video tape of a Ford Escort car just for me.
87. I was in a running club as well. Me and the guy whose dad was a runner, [REDACTED] and the PE teacher went to LWH [REDACTED] and said to him that we were both good runners. We then went to the Kilbarchan Harriers a couple of times a week, but we were going there in a Germolene tub and the other were coming from big snobby houses. The PE teacher sent me and [REDACTED] out on a running route a couple of times a week instead.
88. The teachers Charlie Bucket and Dougie Wingate got together and wanted me to sit for O-Levels and early. I don't think I was far enough on in the maths and English. I didn't do the O-Levels at that stage and it didn't end up happening.

Leisure time

89. Like in Newfield they had a telly and an Atari and record players.
90. After the school day was finished there was a swing park. We were allowed to go outside and wander about the grounds. If you had permission you could leave the grounds and walk down to Kilmacolm. They started you a Post Office account as well, so you'd walk down to the Post Office to put money in your account and go back to Balrossie to show the staff your account book. They'd try to teach you about money. I don't remember them teaching us any other life skills like cooking.
91. We were going along the road one day because I didn't want to go fishing with the other boys. Dougie Wingate said 'I'm stuck with you today, where d'you want to go?'. I want to go to Rouken Glen Park because it was [REDACTED] from my house.

We ended up at my house anyway. As we were going along the road we were talking about his car and he started driving fast. I was loving it.

92. You weren't allowed to smoke in Balrossie but you'd take your own tobacco and cigarette papers in with you because they never gave you your seven smokes a day. LWH [REDACTED] caught me with my tobacco one day and told me to go to his office. There were toilets that weren't used anymore and we called them the 'outsies' because they were outside toilets and that's where you went for your smoke. So he walked in and I was making a roll-up and he saw me and told me to go to his office. When I walked in there he handed me the pack and said 'don't do it in front of the younger ones'. I'd heard he was strictly against smoking but he gave it me back.
93. We used to have discos in Balrossie. The lassies from what used to be called St Euphrasia's would come from Bishopton. I think it's now called The Good Shepherd. LWH [REDACTED] told me not to get caught getting too close to the girls and he came up to me and tapped me on the shoulder saying 'now, now' and walked away.

Trips and holidays

94. A couple of times they took us on holidays. They rented log cabins beside a loch and the heating was done with wood. Balrossie had its own canoes. We'd go up there in the transit van with a trailer. They rented the cabins for a month and each unit would get a week up there. They also took us to Castle Semple loch. We went camping on Arran for a week as well.

Chores

95. I don't remember having to do any cleaning chores at Balrossie.

Birthdays and Christmas

96. I don't think birthdays were celebrated in Balrossie

Visits/inspections

97. I got regular weekend leave at Balrossie unless I did something wrong. I saw my family on weekend leave. On sports day my mother came up to Balrossie with my grandmother. One of the other boys' dad used to be a runner, [REDACTED] from Glenburn in Paisley and I was racing against his son and he was shouting 'c'mon PBD [REDACTED] to me. There was no point in him shouting on his son because I was so far ahead.
98. In Balrossie I don't know if my social worker was still Dorothy Anne Cairns Smith and I don't remember seeing a social worker at Balrossie.
99. I'm not aware of any external inspections at Balrossie.

Running away

100. Now and again I'd run away from there as well, but I quite enjoyed Balrossie. It wasn't a secure place. Running away from a place like Balrossie was an experience and an adventure. You wouldn't get weekend leave for the next weekend after running away. Sometimes they would shorten your weekend leave as a punishment.

Bedwetting

101. I don't know of any issues with bedwetting in my unit in Balrossie.

Abuse at Balrossie

102. When I was at Balrossie I still had a girlfriend, [REDACTED] from Newfield. I was thirteen and she was fifteen. On my first weekend leave at Balrossie I went to Newfield on the Friday to see her because the bus went right past the door.

103. I was hanging about outside hiding in the bushes at the edge of the field waiting to see [REDACTED]. The staff saw me and came out and told me to go away because she wasn't allowed to come out and see me. I refused for ages to go away but eventually went to my mum's house.
104. Newfield contacted Balrossie and the next day a 'Germolene tub' appeared outside my mum's house and it was the 'handyman-gofer' guy. He told me I was wanted back, and I knew what it was for. Balrossie always had two Germolenes, one was a Mark 2 transit van, Newfield only had a transit, but Balrossie had a transit van and an Escort estate as well. The Escort estate pulled up outside the house and I knew straight away.
105. Balrossie staff took me back to see LWH [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] to get my row and I was told not to do it again and to keep away from Newfield. LWH [REDACTED] LWH [REDACTED] was poking me in the chest and I reacted and called him a prick. Instantly, I was in a headlock and he punched me in the face. I didn't know he was a rugby player. It was just him and me in there. It was LWH [REDACTED] just teaching me this is the rules and this is the way it's going to be in here. I had on a light blue jumper with a pattern on it, when I was a young guy I never wore jeans and I always wore my dress trousers and shirts.
106. LWH [REDACTED] told me to go and get washed. I think he punched me in the face a couple of times. He burst my lip and there was blood on the wrist of my jumper. I didn't need any medical treatment. As soon as I'd been and got washed like LWH [REDACTED] told me, and he told me to wash the sleeve as well. As soon as that was done I got put back in the Escort and taken home. My mother can't remember it though. I deliberately kept blood on the sleeve to show her, but she's 83 now and I'm having to speak for her now.
107. I'm not sure how long I'd been in Balrossie when it happened. I think I might have got leave the first week I was there, but I think they didn't give you leave on your first weekend in there. I would have been in there less than 14 days. There wasn't

anybody else in ^{LWH} office when he put me in a headlock. After it happened I got on alright with him.

108. When I went back home and I showed my mum the blood. Back then attitudes were different and she told me 'you need tobering'. That meant I needed to be taught a lesson. That was the end of the issue.
109. Like at Newfield, we all planned to run away, but I was the only idiot who got up to put my clothes on. ^{KGZ} the night staff, who was perhaps in his fifties, came into the dorms to check on the weans and he opened the door to my dorm and my bed was empty. He went into the next dorm and put the light on and I remember I was under somebody's bed, the first bed as you came in on the right. I was clambering back out and he walked right up to me and punched me in the face. It was an adult hit in the face and my legs went. ^{KGZ} said 'come with me' and 'you don't do this when I'm on, do it when anyone else is on' he didn't want me to make out he wasn't doing his job right.
110. Then he told me to go into a room with him. As you went in the toilets there was two urinals, a shower and I think a couple of sinks and then behind a separate door was the toilet by its self. He handed me a B&H cigarette and said 'that won't happen again, will it?'. I agreed it wouldn't happen again. After that I got on alright with him as he had a Ford Cortina car and I was mad about Ford cars. I didn't need any medical attention after the punch, but it would have been sore.

Leaving Balrossie

111. I thought my time in Balrossie was alright. It was better than Newfield and the teachers were much better. I think they knew better how to interact with us. I was in Balrossie for a year and a half. I think I was fifteen when I left.
112. When I left Balrossie I went home to live at my mum's. I felt brilliant about that.

The Kibble, Paisley

113. It must have been at the panel that I heard I was going to go to the Kibble, but the staff at Balrossie would have told me about it as well and we would have spoken about it as well. I wasn't residential at the Kibble and I think the care staff at Balrossie must have said I'd done ok with them. I was expected to go to the Kibble for the day and come back to my mum's overnight. I can't say how many times I went to the Kibble, but it wasn't many times. I was going there just over a period of a couple of months. I used to just not go.
114. In the Kibble I was just a day boy, but even being a day boy they gave me a unit to go to. I'm sure the unit I was in was called Moss Edge North. The Kibble is a List D school. I got there on the bus from my mum's house with a couple of boys I knew from my area. I would have had to be there for 9am. Then I'd get the bus back at the end of the school day.
115. In the morning I'd do normal school work and in the afternoon I got put into the electrician class. My dad had his own company and if he was wiring a house I got sent in under the floorboards to pass wires up, so I knew a lot of basics anyway. That was an electrician teaching us and I think I must have chosen that class myself. If there'd been a workshop for motors I'd have been in that one, but I chose the electricians class because I wasn't into brick laying or painting.
116. I went to the school classes and the electrical classes a few, but then me and my mate, [REDACTED], started not going. We'd meet up in the morning and decide we weren't going in for the day. I might have been going to classes for over two months, then I was brought to a panel and written off. I can't think if I was at the Kibble more than ten times over those two months or so.
117. I can't remember who was head of the education or the names of the teachers there. I had one teacher in the morning and then the electrician in the afternoon. I was going to classes with pupils who were residential at the Kibble. At lunchtime and in

breaks we were going back to the unit with them. I couldn't say how many day pupils there were going in. As well as me there were two other boys from my area, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We hung around together at night. I was looking forward to going to the Kibble as a day boy because a couple of my pals were there as well.

118. There was no abuse at the Kibble. I wasn't there long enough. Seeing it through an adult's eyes now, I should have been taken to a children's panel and made residential at the Kibble. They shouldn't have just decided I wasn't going to classes and to forget about it. I'm sure it was still a few months before my sixteenth birthday. I got my girlfriend pregnant two months before my sixteenth birthday and I'd left the Kibble three months before that. I was roughly fifteen and a half when I left the Kibble.
119. There had to have been a panel to sign me off, but I don't remember it. I must have been told that was the social work department finished with me. They could have extended it until I was eighteen and thinking back as an adult they should have made me residential again. When I went back home I didn't see a social worker again.

Life after being in care

120. After the wean was born I told myself I needed to get my act together. I went and applied at a college that was next to Hampden, it's not there now, it was called Glasgow Training Group Motor Trade Ltd. I went there and did their test and I actually got a B in maths when I thought I was going to fail on the maths. I got an A in the mechanical efficiency and that was enough to get me in. I got in there but I was adamant I wanted to go to work in a Ford dealership and the only thing they had available was coach building. So then I was an apprentice coach builder. They thought I didn't have a clue and they didn't realise I'd been working with motors from being a wee boy. It wasn't for me, I liked the mechanical side of things so once I was finished my work I'd go and help the mechanics.

121. The wean was called [REDACTED]. I stopped going out with the wean's mother. Something happened with the wean's chest and she got an infection for a week. The wean's mother was going up to the hospital with her all the time and my mum was going with her and the wean's grandmother was going up as well. The hospital told my mother that [REDACTED] was ready to be let out but the mother and father were too young and they didn't want to release the child to my ex's mother. My mum was then asked if it was ok for them to go and live at her house. By this time I wasn't going out with the wean's mother and I had to move out to my dad's place because my ex-girlfriend moved into my mother's with the wean. She ended up going away and I thought I would never see the wean again and that's what happened. I think that's where my depression comes from.
122. After my ex left my mum's house I moved back there. Then I told myself that motors was a hobby and I chucked my job as well. I went to a place where my pals were in Barrhead, it was called [REDACTED]. I was doing things like upholstery. It was a YTS for £35 a week. I was seventeen by then. I got put in a placement to a builders in Paisley as a store keeper. They saw I liked mechanical things as well and I had my provisional licence and they let me drive the forklift.
123. There were people building flats just outside of the yard and I used to fix their vans for them and I got extra money for that on top of what the government gave me. I was driving the forklift and fixing the vans and I was going to be the only storeman there as the other one was starting work on a building site in Renfrew. But I ended up losing my job as the police accused the company of obstructing the road when a big pile of bricks was being moved and I was the one to put cones up round it.
124. Since then all the jobs I've have been casual work.

Impact

125. I don't know if my time in care had anything to do with my depression. I used to be on anti-depressants but I can't take them. I thought I could fly one day because of

them and it scared me. My dreams of flying were real. I went to the doctor after I started taking drugs after I'd left care to get rid of something then started taking antidepressants. I don't know if I started taking them because of thinking of being in care or my ex taking the wean away, or a combination. It just got worse. It took the depression away, but then it wears off and the depression came back with a vengeance. Then after a while I got my act together. Alcohol has never been an issue for me as I don't like the taste of it.

126. I don't think the education in care is any good. They let you choose the work you want to do, at least that's the impression I got of it. In Balrossie the two teachers were saying they thought I was capable of passing O-level exams and one was science and the other was woodwork.
127. I've been involved in crime and been through the system because of my love of cars. I don't know if that was as a result of my time in care or if it would have happened anyway.

Treatment/support

128. Apart from seeing the GP about depression. I've got a drug worker now. I saw the child psychologist's report about me at the GPs years ago now. A long time later I was at an appointment with the doctor and asked if I could get a copy. Now I've got a copy of it at home. I was diagnosed with ADHD, but it was a mis-diagnosis and they phoned my mother to ask her to take me down to the health centre to discuss my medication. I was at Auchenback primary school at the time and on Ritalin. I remember sitting in their meeting with them saying Ritalin was coming off the market and I was being weaned off them because it couldn't be stopped instantly. Then when I was going to this place to see the psychiatrist and the psychologist at the same time they said I didn't have ADHD and I was mis-diagnosed and I needed to be taken off the tablets.
129. I think back to my time in care regularly and with mixed emotions.

Reporting of Abuse

130. I've never reported any abuse to police after I left care. I didn't see what I went through as being abuse. It was only when I read about the Inquiry on-line on my phone that I thought differently.

Records

131. When I was at my GP's surgery a number of years ago I saw that in my file was a child psychiatric report. I asked for a copy of this report which he printed off for me. I have read through this report which was compiled over a couple of years around the time I was at primary school.

Lessons to be learned

132. I take it that things in the care system have changed. There should be staff vetting and scrutiny. If there's one staff taking a child somewhere there should be corroboration. No one member of staff should be left with a child, but then there was the woodwork teacher and the head teacher both together. Things have got to have changed radically since then.
133. A bit more patience and understanding, I don't think you could train somebody to have more patience. It was a different time back then and semi-acceptable to 'tober' you up. Why did I go to Balrossie and all the teachers were brilliant?. What was the difference there? There were a couple of incidents at Balrossie, but after that things were alright.
134. There could be an outside telephone number for children in a home to ring to complain about how they're treated. It would have to be a short number, with maybe

only three digits and gives quick access to an outside phone line. You wouldn't want to be complaining to someone about somebody they work with. It could be Samaritans or an organisation like that who could do something about it.

Compensation

135. Thompsons solicitors are pursuing a claim for compensation on my behalf. Someone recommended that I make a claim, I can't remember who. Thompsons have now obtained my medical records and they cover some of my social work history.

Other information

136. 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.

PBD

Signed....

Dated... 18/4/24