

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LLX [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is LLX [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1955. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Perth. I lived with my mum and dad. My dad was called [REDACTED] and my mum was called [REDACTED]. I had two brothers, [REDACTED] who was born in 1953 and [REDACTED] who was born in 1960. My dad was never there because he was in the special forces but life in Perth was great.
3. I was expelled from Caledonian Road Primary School when I was in Primary 4 for stealing the canteen money and the biscuit money and I was sent to St Ninian's School. I was anti-discipline and I always did the opposite of what my mother told me. Two or three afternoons a week I attended a place where I was assessed because I was disruptive in school. It was on Rose Terrace in North Inch which was twenty minutes away. My mum didn't tell me the result of the assessments.
4. The first time I went to court was to Perth Juvenile Court in 1965. The juvenile court was always held on a Friday afternoon in the Sheriff Court. I was represented by a lawyer called 'Jailer Smith'. He would never plead 'not guilty' so everybody just stuck their hands up to what they had done. I was in court for going on the railway lines and for breaking into the buffet cars on the trains. We had the cattle market behind us and the railway goods yard right beside us. It was a play area for a large number

of us. I was given probation. I was sent to approved school the second time I appeared in court which was in late 1965 or early 1966.

Balgowan Approved School, Dundee

5. Balgowan was a big building like something from the Adams family. It was a long building with dormitories on each end and administration in the middle. LIF [REDACTED] was SNR [REDACTED] of Balgowan and SNR [REDACTED] was Mr LSB [REDACTED] was GNC [REDACTED].
6. Balgowan was a culture shock for me at first because I was a scared ten year old. There were about 120 boys there. The four dormitories were called Scott, Wallace, Bruce and Duncan. I started off in Scott. Wallace was for people younger than me. The youngest boy to be put into Balgowan was called [REDACTED] and he had just turned nine years old. After a certain age you moved into Bruce house. When you hit fourteen or fifteen you went into Duncan house which was the senior house.
7. They opened a new block which was called the cottage block and it was only for 21 people. My cousin, [REDACTED] and I were the first two in it. He was put into Balgowan before me for trespassing on the railway lines too.
8. When you went into Balgowan you started off on grade four, which was for four weeks then grade three which was twelve weeks. You spent twenty four weeks in grade two and twelve weeks in grade one. If you were a good boy you moved up a grade every week. Once you hit twelve weeks you were allowed out for leave on a Saturday. Sometimes you got bonus weeks so you jumped two weeks.
9. After four weeks I was allowed to go home. Just after dinner on a Saturday you got five hours of free time and I managed to get home to Perth and back to Balgowan for tea time. If you got a good report, which was a red tick, you got a weekend leave. You had to go in the back of the 'meat wagon'. This was a big van with no windows which was an old potato bus. They would drop you off and collect you. Eventually I

was getting a weekend leave every week. Sometimes I was getting ten or twelve good reports a week.

10. I had the best job which was in the back kitchen. I had to prepare sandwiches and butter and put them in the dining room for when everybody came in. This meant I could eat anything I wanted.

Routine at Balgowan

First day

11. The first people you saw when you walked in were Mr and Mrs Ness. I was taken to SNR [REDACTED]'s office to speak to him and then I was kitted out and given my number, which was [REDACTED]

12. I got peas, mashed potatoes and two sausages for my dinner on the evening I arrived.

Running away

13. If you ran away you got strapped with a belt six times on the bare backside. I never ran away and I never had a bad mark against me.

Bed Wetting

14. On my first night at Balgowan, someone urinated in my bed, which was an initiation. The staff kept the boys who had a bed wetting problem near the door of the dorm and the night watchman, who we called Joe the Skull, woke them up during the night to go to the toilet.

Leaving Balgowan

15. I was out in under a year. The governor was a Mr Dunphy and I asked him when I could get out. He asked me when my birthday was and I told him [REDACTED]. He said that I would be out for my birthday. A few weeks after that he told me that he couldn't release me on my birthday because of the way it landed so he told me to go home until my birthday and then come back. I was sent home for about three weeks holiday, then I went back to Balgowan and I was discharged.
16. I was out for a period of time. I went back to Goodlyburn school and then I got a recall to Balgowan for shoplifting. I was back in Balgowan for seven or eight months and then I got out again.
17. The only place I experienced anything sexual was in Dumbarton remand home which was called Bellfield House. This was an assessment centre where you went for reports. This was during the time I had first left Balgowan and my recall to Balgowan. I was about ten years old. When I first arrived in Bellfield House I was taken for a shower and a man started to wash me down. He was called LIG [REDACTED] and he had half a thumb missing. Another member of staff called KFN [REDACTED] came in and then LIG [REDACTED] stopped.
18. Shortly after I was released from Balgowan the second time I was caught for shoplifting in Dundee. Four of us bunked off school one day and we went through to Dundee. We were remanded to Herstane remand home in Dundee. My friends all got probation but because I had been in a List D school before I was sent to Oakbank.

Oakbank Residential School, Aberdeen

19. I went into Oakbank during [REDACTED] 1969. Miss MCF [REDACTED] social worker got involved with me when I was in Oakbank.

20. The only time I got into trouble in Oakbank was the weekend Aberdeen won the Scottish cup in 1969 and they paraded through Aberdeen. Some of us jumped over the fence to watch them and the staff thought we had absconded. Mr ERM saw us because he was watching the parade too. I wasn't put on report and I wasn't belted because they had banned the belt whenever Mr GZH, who was SNR previously, had retired.
21. When I left Oakbank I went back to Perth. My mum got me a job as a fitter with a firm called [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] 1970. I was in and out of court and being admonished up until the age of fourteen.
22. I was sent to Rossie Farm for fighting at a football match. It was a St Johnstone versus Aberdeen game which was played in Perth. The fight took place outside the football park but it happened not long after the Ibrox disaster and this was mentioned in court. I was sent to Herstane remand home for a couple of weeks and then I was sent to Rossie Farm. LOF took me there from Herstane. He was a governor and he was a police bailey at [REDACTED] Court. He also frequented Herstane. Rossie Farm was where all the trouble started.

Rossie School, Montrose, Angus

23. Rossie Farm was a working farm. The main building was massive, white art deco and it was the training school. There was also a closed block. The closed block was a secure unit for 25 people and Mr LOH was in charge of it. Pupils had been sent to the closed block from other schools. There was one member of staff for every two pupils. It was all single cells except for two dormitories with about five in each dorm. The cells had a big observation window.
24. I refer to LLY throughout this statement as LLY because I don't want to give him the respect of calling him Mister and so that I have a small bit of power over him after what he did to me.

25. In the training school there was a swimming pool, a big dining hall, a welfare office, reception, LLY's office and a recreation area. LLY was SNR but I didn't speak to him for a couple of days. My communication was through Mr GZS who was a welfare officer. I don't think there was anybody younger than fourteen in Rossie Farm.
26. Rossie Farm was all boys except for one girl called who was in the closed block. There was a big write up at the time about being kept there because she was only about thirteen or fourteen. Now and again she would come into the training school. LLY used to bring her into the recreation area. She was always accompanied by a matron. If you talked to her, LLY would go crazy. seemed to have the freedom to do anything she wanted.
27. There were two cells in the training school. If you were put into these you could speak to the person in the cell next to you. You could actually slip the lock and open the door. The staff would only come along to feed you, not to check on you. If you wanted a drink of water you had to take it out of the toilet cistern.
28. There were also cells in the closed block. If you were in the closed block cells you were checked quite a lot. There were windows in the closed block cells but you couldn't see out of them because they were so heavily reinforced. Mr LOH was a decent guy. He took me out of the cells a couple of times when he wasn't supposed to because I was under LLY's jurisdiction.
29. There were cliques in Rossie Farm. The boys from Glasgow were the biggest group and the next was Aberdeen. There were about ten Aberdonians, ten from Dundee and three from Perth. Some of the Glaswegians sharpened up a hacksaw but it was never used for violence. A boy called bullied me and my friend and we had a fight in the toilet. Before I went to Rossie Farm I almost signed as an amateur boxer so I had a good punch.

Routine at Rossie Farm

First day

30. I was taken along, I had to take my clothes off and I was given the uniform which was moleskin battle dress. When I first arrived most of the school, apart from thirty or forty, were on home leave. A group of us went out for a walk and when we came back the others had returned from home leave. I was allocated my room later that night. I had a shower and got my pyjamas on. There was a pigeon hole in the shower room where you put your clothes and the room was locked up.
31. There was a double staircase and the new boys would stand at the top of the stairs, waiting to be allocated a room. That was when I first came into contact with LLY [REDACTED].
32. There were about ten in a room. The boys in the dorm were the same age as me. I think the dorms were numbered. I had a small cabinet beside my bed. You were allowed to keep your cigarettes and lighter and your other bits and pieces like a parcel from home in your locker.

Mornings and bedtime

33. The night watchman, who we called 'GQE [REDACTED]', came in to the dorm and woke us up around 7am or 7.30am. We went to the ablutions and did our teeth and washed. The staff opened the gates into the shower room and we got changed into our clothes and left our pyjamas in the pigeon hole. Then we went downstairs to assembly and then to breakfast.
34. We went to bed at 9pm with lights out at 10pm.

Mealtimes / Food

35. There was a large dining room which had rows of tables. We all ate together. The staff plated up in the kitchen and brought the food out. Breakfast was porridge, a piece of toast and sometimes a fried haggis sausage. I was always hungry. I used to eat my friend's porridge because he didn't like it. You got cornflakes on a Sunday with sugar. The food was good but you just never got enough. We didn't get any supper.

Washing / bathing

36. There was a large shower room and twenty or thirty boys could shower at a time. We didn't shower in the morning but every night we had to wash our feet and we got a clean pair of socks. We had a shower every second night. We assembled in the shower room when we got back from recreation and everybody stripped off, showered and got their pyjamas on. The showers were supervised by the staff members on duty. Then you went to your room or, if you were on discipline, you stood at the top of the stairs until the staff decided what time you were allowed to go to bed.

Religion

37. Rossie Farm was mainly a protestant school but I never saw a minister. I think a priest came in now and again.

Clothing / uniform

38. We always wore moleskin battle dress. Our clothes were locked up at night. There was a pigeon hole in the shower room where we put our clothes. The boys who got weekend leave were allowed to wear their own clothes then.

Work

39. After breakfast we went back to assembly and then we went to our jobs. You were allocated your jobs by LLY [REDACTED]. There was no schooling at Rossie Farm. We worked from 8am or 9am to 4pm. My first job was in the joiner's shop with BFV [REDACTED] BFV [REDACTED] the woodwork instructor. Mr BFV [REDACTED] had lost [REDACTED] in a plane. He was a decent guy. I made an egg box for my brother because he saved eggs. I enjoyed that.
40. After that I worked in the cobbler's shop. This was with Mr Faulkner. He was known as 'wee bottle' Faulkner. He had been a colonel in the Black Watch. He was highly decorated and I think he had been awarded the military medal. He was alright.
41. I also worked on the farm and I enjoyed this. It was run by farmer Brown. I got thrown off the farm because I went into the chicken hut and took eggs. We went and boiled them before we went back to the training school and I was caught by a farm labourer. LLY [REDACTED] gave me six of the belt for that and I got put in the cobblers' section.
42. You were supposed to get paid for working in the workshops but I never got any money. During the summer you had to go berry picking or carrot topping. You got five pence for topping a hundred weight of carrots and it took you nearly all day.
43. You had to be in Rossie for three months before you got out for half a day but I never got out. If you got out on a Saturday you were given eight bob to spend and if you didn't go out you were given either eight bob or six bars of strawberry flavoured toffee which depended on your work. You had to walk into Montrose to spend your pocket money or you could walk to the main road and take a bus coming from Dundee into Montrose. I never got out so I never experienced this.
44. I should have received eight months of wages when I left and I got one of the staff at Polmont to contact Rossie Farm about my money. They said I had none because it

had been used up in petrol for bringing me back and forth from court and back from when I had run away.

Trips / Holidays

45. We went to a summer camp in Glenmarchie Lodge. This was up Kirriemuir way in Angus. It was owned by Rossie Farm and it was a big place. There were forty or fifty of us and we were taken there by a single decker bus and a minibus. Each group had a housemaster and the matron was always there. I think Mr Smith was in charge overall. There were three or four large rooms with bunk beds and there were competitions for the best bed block and best tidying. Everybody had to chip in and peel potatoes.
46. We went for a month. I loved it because LLY [REDACTED] wasn't there. We went for five days, back to Rossie Farm for the weekend and then back to Glenmarchie Lodge on the Monday. The reason being that some of the boys went home for the weekend or had day release on a Saturday.
47. We would go for walks with a packed lunch. The only time you got enough food was when we were at summer camp because when you went on the walks the cook sometimes came along and he brought extra food which was brilliant.
48. LLY [REDACTED] appeared once for about a week. He was learning to play golf and when he was at the lodge he would hit balls and make us go to the burn and bring them back up.
49. As soon as breakfast was over someone was held back to prepare the dinner at night and all the rest went on a walk. We would walk twenty miles. We walked close to Kirriemuir or Blairgowrie or we would climb Mount Blair which was the highest mountain in the area.

Leisure Time

50. Every night in Rossie Farm when recreation started LLY would come in and everybody would line up for the recreation activity they wanted to do. This was in the large room where we had assembly. There were sinks in this room and a toilet at the back. About fifteen could watch television. The rest could either go to football in the gym or play table tennis or snooker. LLY decided who did what. I never once got to the television room. I was always sent on walks which didn't bother me because I liked walking. I was an outdoor person. Sometimes I stood in the queue for football and LLY took me out and put me in the queue for the walk. He did this with a lot of other boys too.

Birthday/Christmas

51. I got a birthday card from home and a parcel but my birthday wasn't celebrated in the home. I went to Rossie Farm in 1971 and I went to Polmont so I wasn't in Rossie Farm for Christmas. I was there for nine months in total.

Visits

52. I had one or two visits from my mother and they were held in the television room and that was the only time I saw the television. My mother just appeared. I never knew in advance when she was coming because she was holding down three jobs. She had a cleaning job morning and night. She always made sure I had plenty of tobacco and cigarettes. Doc Marten boots and Levi jeans were popular at that time and she got those for me. My dad was travelling overseas. I always saw him on bounty day when he got his big bounty at the end of the year and he was on his back, drunk. He was a good dad, however.
53. We were able to write letters home. I wrote a letter to my girlfriend and what I had said to her in the letter was brought up at a meeting by Mr GZS. Mr GZS was my team leader and ten of us would sit around and discuss things. Another ten would be

with LMV and so on. I knew they read the letters but Mr GZS broadcast it in front of the group.

Healthcare

54. If you reported sick you saw the matron first and she decided if you needed to see the doctor. I think the matron was having a relationship with LLY because she was never out of his house. His house was [REDACTED] and his car was parked outside. It was a white Volvo 240. A doctor came into Rossie Farm to see anybody who was sick but I was never sick.

Running away

55. One day [REDACTED] and I ran away when we were on the three mile walk. [REDACTED] just started to run and I followed him. My intention was to go to my grandmother who lived in Yorkshire but I was caught the following day. I ran away three times in total. This was because of the situation with LLY [REDACTED].
56. The first time we ran away we were taken to Forfar Sheriff Court and I was sent back to the training school at Rossie Farm. The second time I ran away with [REDACTED] and I was away for up to five days. I stayed in my mate's, [REDACTED] Auntie [REDACTED]'s house because he was on the run too. He had been out for ages. [REDACTED] was a bad area but the people stuck together and he could go to any house and people would put him up.
57. At midnight on the dot every night the night watchman would go to the closed block and give the staff there a hand to let the boys all out to go to the toilet. You had a thirty minute window and that was when [REDACTED] and I ran away. We knew we could get away by the time the night watchman came back.
58. Some boys that went on the run didn't get taken to the closed block when they were caught. They just got put in the cells in the training school for a day or two and then

they would go into LLY's office and get strapped but for me it was different. I was kept in the closed block.

59. Once, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I tried to get out of the closed block. We barricaded ourselves into the dormitory and we tried to get out of a window. We hit the bars of the windows but we couldn't get out. The staff had us seen by a psychiatrist. He gave us something to take and Mr LOH who was in charge of the closed block asked the doctor what it was. The next thing I remember was being back in the cells but I can't remember how I got there. I was given this drug two or three times by this doctor. We called it liquid cosh and I now know it was Largactil. It just knocked you out. The second time I got it I was in the cells and then I was put back to the training school.
60. [REDACTED] in front of LLY at the window because he loved playing football and LLY stopped him going out into the small yard. His wounds were stitched in Rossie Farm.
61. [REDACTED] and I were treated badly. One day [REDACTED] ran away from Rossie Farm and he didn't come back. The next time I saw him was in Polmont. After that he was certified to Carstairs. He then was in Murray Royal in Perth. He walked out of it and took his own life. I put that down to what happened to him at Rossie Farm.

Bed Wetting

62. I was in the dorm for bed wetters for about two weeks. The night watchman came in every couple of hours to wake boys up to go to the toilet. You were woken at least twice a night. I don't think this made any difference as you would still see the bed wetters carrying out their bundles of sheets in the morning. They had to take them downstairs to the laundry room which was next to the assembly room. The other boys would tease them.

Abuse at Rossie Farm

63. I got up during the night after I had been there about a week to go to the toilet and when I came back one of the other boys had urinated in my bed. This was a sort of initiation. I threw the wet sheet on the floor and turned the mattress over. The next day the night watchman told me to turn over the mattress. He was called GQE because he used to ask the boys, "Do you wet the bed and do you wank?" He pronounced as GQE told me I had to go to the 'piss bed dorm'.
64. This was a dormitory specifically for boys who wet the bed. It was an embarrassment because everybody teased you. There were about eight or ten in the dorm and GQE would wake them up every couple of hours to go to the toilet. I refused to go into the dorm. I was in a corridor that led to the closed block and LLY punched me in the gut. This was the first time he ever hit me. Needless to say, I went into the dorm.
65. That was my first encounter with LLY. That was the first ever time he said anything to me. He basically said that I was going into the piss bed dorm, end of story. I explained that I hadn't wet the bed but he wouldn't listen. I had to spend quite a while in that dorm before I got out.
66. The only two I had trouble with in Rossie Farm were LLY and Mr LLZ. Mr LLZ was LLY's right hand man. I think LLY was a bomb disposal expert during the war. He was an evil, sadistic bully. Mr LLZ was a big man and he was always smoking a pipe.
67. When I was in Dumbarton remand home, I had had a fight with a boy. It turned out he was in Rossie Farm at the same time as me. He came back from home leave and we saw each other.
68. If you didn't get allocated to television or snooker you were sent out for a walk. There was a three mile walk, a five mile walk and a seven mile walk. During one walk I was with my friend, who was my friend in school. He was from Perth and

so was [REDACTED]. The next thing I was hit on the head with a brick. One of the teachers witnessed this but nothing was said to me.

69. When I got back into the training school I got pulled aside by LLY [REDACTED] because the teacher must have reported it. He asked me who had done it but I didn't know. I had my suspicions that it was the boy I had the fight with in Dumbarton remand home but I wouldn't have told him anyway. I told him that I didn't know and he pushed my head, which was injured and bleeding, and it hit the corner of the wall. He also gave me a punch. I didn't get any medical treatment for my head injury.
70. That night my friend [REDACTED] and I ran away. We climbed into the changing room, got our clothes and climbed out through the window and out. We headed to Perth but I got caught the next day. I was kept in a separate part of the police station because I was too young for the cells. LLY [REDACTED] and Mr LLZ [REDACTED] came to pick me up. They took me back to Rossie Farm where I went directly into the closed block. There were two cells in it and they were frightening. There was a big steel door which looked like you were going into a gas chamber. You went through this door and then there were two cells. I was put into the first one which had an observation door which meant it had a spy hole and a hatch. I asked when I would get out and they told me not until [REDACTED] was caught.
71. I didn't get out for any social activities, not even Halloween. There was just a dry bed, which was the springs, and a chair in the cell. Sometimes I would lie on the springs and doze and then I would be aware of LLY [REDACTED] standing at the window staring me out. If I stared back at him, that would set him off. He would come in and give me a punch or a slap.
72. LLY [REDACTED] never held back. I think I was kept in the cells for so long because I had bruising on my back and my backside from Mr LLZ [REDACTED] belting me. Eventually LLY [REDACTED] let me out to eat my breakfast and dinner downstairs but I was on 'non-association' for ages. I was in solitary confinement for ten days, 24 hours a day, and the only thing I had to talk to was a spider.

73. After ten days the light went on and the door opened. LLY [REDACTED] and two policemen were standing with [REDACTED] who had dyed his hair. [REDACTED] was naturally very blond but he had dyed his hair black and pencilled in a moustache. He had denied he was [REDACTED] but I didn't know this when he walked in. LLY [REDACTED] knew I initially recognised [REDACTED] but by this time I had clicked and I said I didn't. [REDACTED] had a tattoo with [REDACTED] and LLY [REDACTED] showed it to me but I said that [REDACTED] didn't have a tattoo. I was taken back into the cell and LLY [REDACTED] gave me a back hander. I moved my head and he caught me right in the mouth. This loosened my teeth and my mouth was bleeding.
74. I wasn't allowed to see a dentist to get my teeth fixed. A dentist came in every week or fortnight and you joined the queue if you wanted to see him or her. By this time I was back in the training school after ten days in the cells. LLY [REDACTED] removed me from the queue for the dentist twice. There were eight or nine of us in the queue and LLY [REDACTED] came along and pulled me out and sent me on my way. The same happened the next time. LLY [REDACTED] told me there was nothing wrong with me. I had a good set of teeth but I eventually lost my front two teeth. In fairness, if I hadn't moved, he wouldn't have caught me in the mouth, he would have caught me in the face.
75. LLY [REDACTED] punched me, slapped me and kicked me. I can't remember Mr LLZ [REDACTED] lifting his hands to me. He never hit me apart from the belt and he just belted me once on the instructions of LLY [REDACTED]. When he belted me I asked him to stop after the third one but he continued to six. LMV [REDACTED] held my legs and Mr LMK [REDACTED] also held me down. This happened in the closed block cells. After LMV [REDACTED] held me down, he gave me a cigarette. I can't hold it against him because he was terrified of LLY [REDACTED] too.
76. I got the belt for running away with [REDACTED]. Mr LLZ [REDACTED] kept the belt in his jacket. There was a black side and a brown side. He could wrap it round his hand three times. It was a solid belt and he always carried it. I never witnessed other boys getting belted but I heard about it. Sometimes you could hear it. I was bruised after he strapped me.

77. LLY [REDACTED] also gave me the belt a few times and that was always done in the office. The secretary must have known what was happening in Rossie because her office adjoined LLY [REDACTED]'s office. She was young, in her early twenties, and had ginger hair.
78. There were no doors on the toilet cubicles so when I was on the toilet LLY [REDACTED] would stand and stare at me.
79. I have always put LLY [REDACTED]'s behaviour towards me down to my refusal to go into the dorm with the bed wetters. LLY [REDACTED] never hit you in front of anybody. He took you to a corridor or to his office. LLY [REDACTED] ruled with a rod of iron and even the staff were scared of him. They jumped just as quick as we jumped. LLZ [REDACTED] would nudge you into a space so you were trapped.
80. On sport's day I won five events and was runner up in two. [REDACTED] won two races and was runner up in five and he was awarded the winner's watch. Years later [REDACTED] and I laughed about it. LLY [REDACTED] just didn't like me and I don't know why.
81. The bad boys who were being disciplined would stand at the top of the stairs with their backs to the wall. They would keep you standing at the top of the stairs as a punishment until 1am. You were in your bare feet and standing on a marble floor. It was up to GQE [REDACTED] what time you went to bed. If you were being punished you would be made to clean the toilets or another job until he allowed you to go to bed. Cleaning the toilets, the stairs or the corridor were punishments in Rossie and you did these at night. You had to sweep the floors and bumper them. You then got back in line until GQE [REDACTED] said you could go to bed. Quite a lot of the times LLY [REDACTED] was present.
82. One time LLY [REDACTED] got told off by the desk sergeant in Perth cells because he was dragging me about. I know this sergeant is still alive because I have seen him on Facebook but I don't know his name. He always used to give me a cigarette. LLY [REDACTED] and Mr LLZ [REDACTED] came to pick me up from Perth police station. LLY [REDACTED]

handcuffed me and the sergeant told him that he couldn't do that. LLY told him that I was in his custody and that he could do what he liked. I was handcuffed the whole way back to Rossie Farm. LLY also gave me a slap in the car on the way back to Rossie Farm because I was fidgeting.

83. suffered from asthma and he took a bad asthma attack when we were at summer camp but the staff never took him to hospital. It was just luck that Mr LMK who was also an asthmatic had an inhaler with him. was never given an inhaler at Rossie Farm.
84. was a resident and he was gay. He was in Balgowan with me too. He was caught in the laundry room with another boy. This boy was given a terrible beating by LLY and he ran away. We heard the beating take place. I never saw this boy again but wasn't punished
85. I have been told that a month or two before I went to Rossie Farm three or four guys tried to get out by going through the closed block at night. They got caught and were given a severe beating by LLY using 'night sticks' which were big truncheons. One of them was called . They were sent to Polmont for trying to escape.
86. I know somebody tried to poison LLY by putting poison on his vegetables. This happened while I was there. A boy died as a result of drinking just after I left.
87. When I was fourteen or fifteen I knew about the sexual abuse that was being carried out in Catholic institutions. Everybody knew because it was general knowledge.

Reporting of abuse at Rossie Farm

88. I told Miss MCF, the social worker when she visited me what was happening with LLY and she told Mr GZS, who was the welfare officer. I think Mr GZS told

LLY [REDACTED] that I had mentioned something. When Miss MCF [REDACTED] came to visit me in Polmont I just walked away from her because I asked her if she had said something to Mr GZS [REDACTED] and she didn't deny it. She never did anything about the abuse by LLY [REDACTED]. She never helped anybody as far as I am concerned.

Leaving Rossie Farm

89. On my sixteenth birthday I was in Forfar Sheriff Court and I asked LLY [REDACTED] if he was sending me to Polmont but he told me he could keep me at Rossie Farm until I was seventeen. It was the same judge, Cormack, who also travelled to Perth, and he admonished me and returned me to Rossie.
90. The last time I was taken out of the closed block to go to court, Sheriff Cormack was going to admonish me and return me to Rossie Farm but [REDACTED] and I kicked off in the dock and said that we weren't going back. This was when Mr GZS [REDACTED] stood up and the Sheriff asked him something. The reply was that I was going back to the closed block and that [REDACTED] was going back to the training school. I told Mr GZS [REDACTED] that I would barricade myself in again and [REDACTED] said he would run away. Then Mr GZS [REDACTED] said as from that moment we were no longer pupils at Rossie Farm. Sheriff Cormack sent us to Polmont. That was [REDACTED] 1971.

Polmont

91. I went to Perth prison from the court for two weeks and I went straight to Polmont from there. I was kept in the borstal dormitory in Perth prison. Boys came from as far away as Aberdeen to Perth prison and the bus took them from there to Polmont.
92. As soon as you went into Polmont you were given a number and if you couldn't remember your number you got a slap. Mine was [REDACTED]. With my reputation for running away, when I went to Polmont I wasn't allowed to go outside until it was

considered that that risk was lifted and then I was put with the painters and decorators.

93. I was in Polmont for eleven months, from [REDACTED] 1971 to [REDACTED] 1972, although my original sentence was three years. It was reduced to two years and I was out in eleven months. This was down to good behaviour. I was never in trouble there and I never had a bad report. Polmont was far easier than Rossie Farm. You got a slap and told to get something done but you never got beaten up.
94. You had to be in Polmont for at least a year before you could be considered for release but I had my blue shirt in five months. You got a red shirt when you arrived and once you got your blue shirt you could work on getting out. When I was in Polmont I took part in an east to west canoe race. This was racing the canals from the east coast to the west coast and we won it.
95. When I was getting out in [REDACTED] 1972 I was also part of the swimming team and I asked them if they would let me stay another week or two to take part in a competition because I was the best swimmer in Polmont.

Life after being in care

96. I went back home to Perth and my mother got me a job on a cargo ship. I worked at sea and travelled all over Europe. I went back to Rossie Farm in 1973 with the intention of meeting up with LLY [REDACTED] but I left without seeing him. I spent seven years working in Belfast as a pipe fitter for Harland and Woolf. I then worked in England in a power station and then for a company in London doing dry risers. I am on long term sick due to problems with my shoulder. I have three children and I have a good relationship with them although I am separated from their mother.
97. I was back in prison a couple of times in my earlier days but I haven't been inside a court for forty years except for a litter offence last year.

Impact

98. When I go to bed at night all I can think about is LLY [REDACTED]. I think about what I could have done and what I should have done. I hope that LLY [REDACTED] and Mr LLZ [REDACTED] face justice for what they did.
99. Rossie Farm is never far from my mind. I don't go to sleep without thinking about it. I curse LLY [REDACTED] every night and I have done this for forty years. I never smile in photographs because I don't have the smile I used to have. Your mouth changes after you lose teeth. I had a nice smile and I had perfect teeth. I think my teeth could have been fixed if LLY [REDACTED] hadn't taken me out of the queue for the dentist. My first tooth fell out in Polmont and it was too late to do anything at that stage.
100. Being in care has made me more reserved. I hate being in company and I make excuses to get away. I hate anybody knowing that I have a couple of false teeth.
101. I am quite close to my brother, [REDACTED] but not so much with [REDACTED]. My dad has been dead for quite a while but my mum is still alive. I have never been able to thank my mother for trailing all over Scotland to see me when I was in care or tell her that I love her. She made sure I never wanted for anything.

Reporting of Abuse

102. I reported my abuse when I was in Polmont to the matron in East Wing. She was called Mrs Knipe. MCF [REDACTED] knew about it too.

Records

103. I have looked on the internet for information about my time in care but I have never obtained my records. I would like to get my records to show that I was not a problem anywhere else except Rossie Farm.

Lessons to be Learned

104. People like LLY [REDACTED] should be properly scrutinised. There needs to be more care when employing staff to look after vulnerable children.

Other Information

105. I was in Perth in September 2020 and I met up with my old friend, [REDACTED] He said that LLY [REDACTED] used to give me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] a hard time in Rossie Farm.
106. The police contacted me a couple of months ago regarding what had happened with LIG [REDACTED] in Bellfield House and asked me if I wanted them to investigate it. He would be dead now so I told them not to bother.
107. 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.

LLX [REDACTED]

Signed.....

Dated..... 29.03.2021