

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GCT

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is GCT. My date of birth is /63. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My father and mother broke up when we were living in London. After that my mother got a boyfriend and we moved up to Edinburgh. I moved up with my sister and my older brother in about 1973 or 1974. I found it difficult with the boyfriend in the house. There was a wee bit of upheaval in the house. I struggled. I was struggling with the emotional side of things. I was struggling with the break-up of my father and my mother.
3. I went to Muirhouse Primary School. I ended up only going there for about less than a year. My mother never had much money. I stood out from the crowd with the clothes that I wore. I used to wear wellies and stuff. I had a wee bit of an English accent. I was picked on. I used to skip school because of that.
4. I didn't want to go home at night. I didn't want to sit in with my mum and her boyfriend. I found it difficult accepting someone else in the household. I ended up hanging about with people at night. I got into trouble for climbing on the school roof and petty theft. I was doing it to fit in with the crowd. The social work and the police started to become involved.

5. I ended up having to go to a children's hearing to see the panel. I think it was up in the Newington area. It was just off of Nicholson Square. I went with my mother and a social worker. At the hearing I agreed that I would go to school and come in at night. They tried to get me to buckle down. I didn't do that in the end. I didn't do what was expected of me.
6. There was another children's hearing. My mum said to the panel that she couldn't handle me any longer. I think the reason they decided to send me to Liberton was to try and get me back in line. They wanted to put some sort of structure and routine back into my life.
7. I remember the shock of being told that I wasn't going home. I wasn't told how long I was going to be there. I got to speak to my mother. I was tearful. All I remember is my mum saying that she was going to come and see me later and that's about it. I don't think I realised the consequences at that age. The next thing I knew I was taken in a car to Liberton. I think a social worker took me.

Howdenhall Assessment Centre, 39 Howden Hall Rd, Liberton, Edinburgh (the first time)

8. Howdenhall Assessment Centre was in Howden Hall, near Liberton. I just referred to it as Liberton. I don't know who ran it. It could have been the council. I was about eleven years old when I went there. That means I was there in about 1974 or 1975. I was in there for about three to six months. I was in Liberton on two occasions. The second time I went there was in either 1976 or 1977.
9. It was all boys. There would have been about twenty or thirty of us there. They were all between eleven and fifteen or sixteen. It was a lock-down unit. You couldn't just walk in and out. There were two sections, a junior section and a senior section. They put me in the junior side of the centre.

10. We didn't have watches or anything like that. We just did what they told us to do. That was really the structure in place. It was a horrible place. All I remember is grief and hardship in there. My experience in the other places I went to after Liberton were completely different. They were nothing in comparison.

Staff

11. The staff must have worked on shifts because they weren't always there. I don't know whether they allocated a particular member of staff to each boy but they could have done.
12. Mr McKiernan was the headmaster. He was Irish. He had big white teeth.
13. MTM [REDACTED] was a big guy. He looked after us. MTM [REDACTED] was just his nickname. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I think he was called that because of his stature and because he was a [REDACTED]
14. There was a PTI instructor there. I don't remember his name. He had black hair. The name Macleod rings a bell but I am not sure whether that is right.
15. Mr EWA [REDACTED] was another staff member. I didn't know his first name when I was there. I later found out he was called EWA [REDACTED]. I learnt that when I reported him to the police. He was an evil man. He could have been my allocated member of staff. He seemed to be the member of staff who paid the most attention to me throughout my stay.

Support from staff

16. There was no emotional support or anything like that. I don't remember any of the staff offering me support after I became tearful or emotional. Mr EWA [REDACTED] did do that but I now know that there were other motives there.

17. You were dependent on the other boys for help. There was a lot of bullying came off of the back of that. The bullies would ask for your pudding or your sweeties or something in return for helping you out.

Routine at Howdenhall Assessment Centre

First day

18. I was shown through a door. The door was locked behind me. I remember the noise. Everybody was shouting. It was like walking into a hall where there was noise everywhere. I was quiet and timid when I went in. I went to see the headmaster. I was then shown around. I think it was the headmaster who did that. It was a man in a suit. My social worker was there. I was introduced to the staff. The social worker then said "I'm away" and that was kind of it. I was told I would get tea later on and shown to my room.
19. I remember I was tearful on my first night there. I tried to keep that quiet because there were other people in the room. I was a wee bit wary of what was going on.

Mornings and bedtime

20. You were got up. I can't remember the exact time you got up. The door would be opened and MTM would shout "Right". There was then the noise of everybody getting up. You had to pull your bed over and tidy up. You then went down the stairs to the dining hall for your breakfast. Breakfast lasted for about an hour. After breakfast you went to do your activities.
21. Someone would shout "Right bed" when we all had to go to bed. That was it. You went up into your dorms. The door was then locked. The lights went out at a certain time of night. It was nine o'clock or something like that. There wasn't much coming and checking up on you through the night.

Sleeping arrangements

22. The dormitories were up the stairs. I shared a room with five other boys. They were all juniors. We didn't mix with the seniors until we went down to the dining hall in the mornings. You had to change and make your own beds. The beds had to be made the way they wanted. You were expected to keep your side of the room tidy.

Washing and bathing

23. You got showered after PT. PT could be in the morning or in the afternoon. You got showered when you needed to. There was no structure or routine to when you got showered.

Food

24. There was breakfast, lunch and dinner. The food was ok. I think it was a take it or leave it situation. There were no choices. We all sat together in the dining hall. The staff would walk up and down between the tables as you ate.
25. They used to force you to eat the veg. I never liked brussel sprouts as a kid. I remember bowking as they tried to make me eat them. If you didn't eat them you would get a slap across the head and forced to finish it.
26. If there was something served in a jug at the table, like custard, some boys got more than you. You would get less. There weren't even amounts given out.

School and activities

27. I don't remember getting any schooling in there. There was no education there or anything like that. I may have shut myself down but I don't remember anything like that whilst I was in there. It was mostly just tidying up and activities.

28. There was no timetable. You were told where to go and what you would be doing. I can't remember any classroom or lessons. It was all football and gym and things like that. There were gardens at the back. You had to be more of a senior to work out there. You would do jobs like sweeping the carpets.

Religious instruction

29. I never attended any church or did anything like that whilst I was there. I don't remember anybody else doing anything like that.

Holidays and trips

30. I remember going out in the van before I left Liberton. I'm sure I was taken to Dr Guthrie's Home. That was another boy's home. I remember going with other boys. It was maybe because our football team was playing there.

Visits home

31. I didn't get any trips home. It was a lock- down situation at Liberton. You were in there and that was it.

Leisure time

32. There was a games room with a pool table, games and a table tennis table. There was a gym. There was a television. I don't remember any books or reading there.

Birthdays and Christmas

33. I never had a cake or anything like that for my birthday. I don't remember any celebration or anything. I can't remember being in there at Christmas time.

Visits / Inspections

34. There was a room at the front of the building where you saw your visitors. There was a plastic window with like a wire through it. You could sit in that room with your social worker or your visitor. There was always a member of staff watching you when you had your visitors.
35. My mother didn't visit all that much. She never had much money. It was a bus journey across town. She visited maybe once or twice a week. I was tearful when she visited.
36. The social work didn't come to see me much. They came to visit once every three weeks to a month. They were few and far between. My mum would tell me she had spoken to them either by letter or in person when they gave her a lift.
37. I was not aware of any inspections during my time there.

Possessions

38. When we had visitors they sometimes brought us sweets. My mother would bring me some sweets. When people brought in sweets for you the staff put the sweets in a brown bag with your name written on it. The bag and sweeties were kept in a brown cabinet in a room. You would have to go up about seven o'clock in the evening to ask for your sweets. You would only get your sweets if you were good.
39. I remember going up to ask for my sweeties after my mother had visited. I was told that there was nothing there by Mr EWA. I complained. I told Mr EWA and he just smirked at me. He said that he could stop that.

Healthcare

40. I remember a doctor coming in. He came in to do check-ups. It was around about the time that Mr EWA was on my case. If I went to the doctor or nurse when there

were marks on me Mr EWA would just say to them that I had been fighting or something like that. He covered up everything. I don't know whether that is in my medical notes.

41. I got chicken pox when I was in there. There were a few of us got it. We were taken up the stairs to have a bath. That was unusual because we only usually got showers. I remember Mr EWA coming in and inspecting us. I wasn't well. He asked me to stand up. He came close up. I asked him to get away from me. I remember screaming just leave me alone. I was distressed. He then became violent to me. He grabbed me around the back of the neck. He was strong. I grimaced and just wanted to curl up. It was sore. He then left.

Bed-wetting

42. I wasn't a bed-wetter but other boys were. The boys who did it would get humiliated by the other boys. They would be called "pee'd the bed" and things like that.

Abuse at Howdenhall Assessment Centre

General discipline

43. If you did something wrong you got the belt. The headmaster would give you that on the bum. I got that a few times during the first time I was in Liberton. I got it once after I absconded. I just accepted it. There was no one to tell me why I was getting punished. I accepted it as the norm. I normally got disciplined by the headmaster because of accusations Mr EWA had made up.
44. You could get your privileges taken off you. You wouldn't be allowed out in the gardens or anything like that. You wouldn't be allowed your sweeties. You got treated like crap when you had your privileges taken off of you.

45. You could be told to stand up and be humiliated. That sort of thing went on. You would become the focus of whatever had gone on. The television could sometimes be turned off if you were misbehaving. If that happened all the other boys would blame you and you would get kicked, punched and slapped off of them.
46. Mr ^{EWA} tried to make me the focus of things like that quite a lot. I felt if I was good to him then he wouldn't allow that to happen.
47. If nobody was about you would get slapped about by the staff. You got back-handers and things like that. I mostly got that from Mr ^{EWA}. It was a scuff around the head. You thought that was acceptable at the time. You thought that that was just the regime of where you were at the time. Nowadays I know that that wasn't acceptable.
48. If there was a fight the staff would step in. They did boxing in the gym. They would take the boys down there to sort it out between themselves. The PT instructor would supervise. That happened once with me after I had had an argument with another chap and ended up fighting.
49. When people were fighting they could be taken away and put in a room. It was like an isolation room. The room had a plastic window on it so the staff could see inside. At one point I started thinking that if I got into trouble I would be taken away to this room and avoid being around Mr ^{EWA}. I thought that he would not be able to get near me if I got sent up there.

Mr ^{EWA}

50. On one occasion I was crying after my mum had visited. I don't know whether I stuck out of the crowd because I was tearful. Mr ^{EWA} came up to me. He put his hand on the back of my neck and squeezed it. I went up to my room. He came into the room and asked me whether I was ok. He tried to be my friend. He tried to be this sort of fatherly figure. He asked me whether I wanted to help him tidy up and do this and that. I thought he was trying to be good to me.

51. There was an incident with one of the seniors. I ended up getting bullied. The bullies were asking me to give them my sweeties. I went to speak to Mr EWA. I spoke to him in the bedroom. He gave me a cuddle. He then said "Come on, you need to go back down the stairs." I thought, because of that, he was ok.
52. Another time my mother came to visit. I asked her when I was going to get out. She said that she didn't know. I was crying. I went to the toilet. Mr EWA came in. He gave me a cuddle. I felt something. I now know that he was aroused. I froze. I then just moved away. I left the toilet. After that he would look at me. I tried to stay away from him.
53. One day, I was fighting with one of the other boys. I got taken up to the isolation room by Mr EWA. I was struggling. That was the first time Mr EWA was violent with me. He picked me up. As he was picking me up he put his hands around my testicles and squeezed them. He then threw me. I ended up being kept in the isolation room for a while. I was supposedly kept in there until I calmed down.
54. Later on, after I had been punished for absconding, Mr EWA told me to help him to tidy up. I was still in the shorts and sandals. I thought it was a punishment. He took me up to this cupboard. We went in to get the brushes. He then shut the door and tried to feel me and stuff. He also made me clean the bathrooms on my own. I think he was doing that to try and isolate me. I think he was trying to keep me separate so that he could do things to me.
55. There was an older boy that came up to me and said "You better start being good to EWA." That was when I just wanted to get out of there. It was coming from all angles. I don't know whether this was the boy who was getting the sweeties out of my bag.
56. Mr EWA was just drawn to me like a magnet. He never ever raped me but he was "touchy feely". At times he wanted me to touch him and things like that. Every chance he got he grabbed me in the same way. That was his power thing. I never

saw Mr EWA doing things to anybody else. He isolated me. He knew exactly what he was doing. He would put his foot against the door and get you alone in the room.

57. Mr EWA knew exactly what was happening at the children's hearings. Somebody in the home must have been sharing that information with him. I remember him knowing my home address. I remember him saying to me "I see that your mum was at the hearing with you." He would say that he knew what was being said. He also said "I see that they were going to give you the chance to go home but you're not getting to go home because you're not behaving in here. You could behave in here and do what I say." I didn't trust the children's hearings because it was all coming back to Mr EWA. The only person I trusted when I went to those hearings was my mother.
58. I think that the way that the place was set up meant that Mr EWA didn't rape me. I think that if he had had the chance he probably would have done that. I think that to this day.

Absconding from the assessment centre

59. Things got on top of me through the things happening to me with Mr EWA. I absconded. I was in the garden one Sunday. I saw my chance. I went over the fence. The other side of the fence was Gracemount. I didn't know where I was going. I eventually got back to my mum's house. My mum was out. I climbed in the back window. My mum then came back. She told me that she needed to go out to the shops. She then went out and phoned the people at the assessment centre to come and get me.
60. A van came out to get me. There were two members of staff in the van. One was in the front and the other was in the back. I think it was the PT instructor in the back and MTM in the front. There was also a senior boy in the back of the van. I think the boy's name was [REDACTED]. I assume he was brought along to catch me if I tried to run off again. The boy hit me in the back of the van. He told me that

he was missing a football match on the TV or the radio. That was a punishment that was dished out to me. I was expected to take it.

61. When they took me back they put me in the isolation room. Mr EWA gave me shorts without pockets and plastic sandals. They used to give you those sandals so that you couldn't run away again. I wouldn't put the shorts and sandals on. Mr EWA then ripped my clothes off me. He put his hands around my testicles. He squeezed me like you wouldn't believe. He was vicious. I remember wetting myself because I was scared. I then put on the clothes. I think I must have been in those plastic sandals for about a month.
62. The next day I was taken to see Mr McKiernan. He gave me the belt across my bum. It was five or six hits. After I was given the belt by the headmaster I went back to my room. Mr EWA came in. He said "You've got bruises, I need to check." He said he had to check to see that I wasn't cut. I had to pull my shorts down.
63. I think I tried to abscond on one other occasion. I threw a brush handle at a window. The window didn't break though.

Leaving Howdenhall Assessment Centre (the first time)

64. Towards the end of my time at Liberton the social work came to visit me. I told them that I was going to run away again. I couldn't wait to get away. I think, after that, they started the process of trying to get me into another home.
65. I went to another children's hearing whilst I was in Liberton. The hearing was held in Newington. I went to see the panel at the same place again. I am not sure whether it was held for any specific reason but it was held when things were getting a bit more severe with Mr EWA. It was constant at that point. He was touchy feely and all the rest of it. After the hearing I went to run away. Someone stopped me. They caught me at the bottom of the stairs. I remember my mum saying "No GCT" and

I stopped and looked at her. I wanted to say then and there that I was being really badly treated. I went back to the assessment centre after that hearing.

66. After that I was taken to look at some other homes to have a look around. I think they wanted to put me somewhere across in the west to stop me from wanting to run away. I looked at The Kibble in Paisley and Geilsland in Ayrshire. I also went to see Balrossie in Kilmacolm. My social worker took me to see those places. I just wanted away. I wanted to get away from Liberton.
67. Later on, another children's hearing was held. That was just before I left Liberton. They decided to place me at Balrossie. I was then taken directly from the children's hearing from that hearing by my social worker.

Balrossie, Kilmacolm, Inverclyde

68. I went to Balrossie in 1974 or 1975. I was there for about fifteen months. It was a big house in the country. It was a List D school. I think it was run by Glasgow Council. It was all boys. It was an open place. The doors weren't locked at night. There was a wee bit of bullying at Balrossie but it was all taken care of.
69. When I went to Balrossie I got myself tuned into PT and things like that. Balrossie was a totally different regime to Liberton. It had a relaxed atmosphere. I had a total different life. You were able to progress there. You felt part of something. You got given a purpose. You got to do things.

Staff

70. The staff were all nice compared to what was at Liberton. When I went to Balrossie I would cringe away from any male staff member who came close to me. I struggled to get close to the male teachers because of what had happened to me at Liberton.

71. There were a couple of teachers there that I got on with. There was Mr Bucks. He was my Maths teacher. He was very good to me. He would talk to me and all the rest of it. There was also Mr Scott. At one point I did feel he was getting too close to me but I now know he was actually a good guy. He would play chess with me. He would speak to me and tell me that I had a lot of potential.

Routine at Balrossie

School

72. I got schooling. There were classrooms and lessons. There were teachers. I got to do Maths and English. I remember doing Drama and getting to do a play at Christmas time.

Leisure time

73. There was a big TV room where we could watch TV. There were games and things like that. There were books. We got taught how to play chess. There were big playing fields at the back. We got out to play on those. We could do archery. There were swings.

Visits / Inspections

74. My mum did come to visit. However, because of the distance she had to rely on social workers to bring her through. They would bring her through to see how I was getting on. We would all sit in a room upstairs together. There was always someone about watching.
75. I was not aware of any inspections during my time there.

Visits home

76. After about six weeks I got to go home. It wasn't a good situation at home. Because of that I sometimes used to just decide to stay in Balrossie rather than visit home.

Absconding from Balrossie

77. I did abscond from Balrossie. I think that my mother didn't come to visit me one day and I just took off. I remember walking along the road and seeing some guys who were working on the road. I told them I was lost and they gave me some money for bus fares. I eventually got all the way back to Edinburgh. I went to see my brother's girlfriend on Leith Walk. I stayed there.

Leaving Balrossie

78. There were children's hearings throughout my time at Balrossie. I remember being brought through to Edinburgh for them. I think there were two or three to see how I was getting on.
79. At the final children's hearing the panel said that I could go home. I didn't really understand what they were saying. My mum then told me that I was going home. I remember the excitement of being told that. I got to go home there and then. I went home with my mum and the social worker in a car.

Life at home in-between Balrossie and Howdenhall Assessment Centre (the second time)

80. My mum had changed areas and got a new house. She had moved to the Pennywell area in Muirhouse. I stayed with my mother for about seven months. I tried going to school again. I went to Craigroyston Secondary School. I found

mainstream education difficult. I think I was used to the regime of being in homes. I was at the back of the class. I struggled with reading and writing.

81. I started skipping school. The skipping officer came to my mum's. There was another children's hearing. I was ultimately sent back to Liberton for misbehaving.

Howdenhall Assessment Centre, 39 Howden Hall Rd, Liberton, Edinburgh (the second time)

82. I went back to Liberton in about 1976 or 1977. I don't think I was at Liberton all that long the second time. It was maybe only three months. I was a senior when I returned. I was put in the senior section. Everything was the same.
83. I would just fight. I resisted people. That meant I got the belt quite a few times off of Mr McKeirnan. I would get put into the isolation room quite a bit.

Staff

84. It was all the same staff. Mr McKeirnan and [MTM] were still there. Mr [EWA] was still there. It was exactly same as the first time.

Routine at Howdenhall Assessment Centre (the second time)

Differences in routine to first time

85. You maybe did more of the physical education side of things. I'm sure we got taken out to play football and stuff like that. I decided to just channel myself into PT. Doing that meant that I could get away from Mr [EWA] I found that if I was doing that sort of stuff then I could avoid him getting a grip of me.

School

86. Like the first time, I can't remember getting any schooling. I don't remember any one-to-ones or anything like that to address my reading and writing.

Visits / Inspections

87. It was the same as before in terms of visits. My mother came either by bus or with social work.
88. I was not aware of any inspections during my time there the second time.

Abuse at Howdenhall Assessment Centre (the second time)

89. Mr EWA was a lot more "on me" the second time. He had more access to me because I was a senior. I was in the gardens and things like that. He just did the same stuff again. He intimidated me. The nastiness happened again. It was the same touching and feeling. It was like it had never stopped. I still had a fear of Mr EWA like you wouldn't believe.

Leaving Howdenhall Assessment Centre (for the second time)

90. There were other children's hearings. At the final children's hearing I was told that I had had a chance to go back to a mainstream school and that I had blew it. I was told that I would be going to Wellington Farm. I was then taken straight there.

Wellington Farm School for Boys, Penicuik, Midlothian

91. I was about fourteen when I went to Wellington Farm. I would have gone there in about 1977. I was there for about two years. I was there until I was sixteen.

92. Wellington Farm was originally a borstal. It had later on been turned into a List D school. It was all boys. The age range was between about twelve and thirteen. It was all very much about preparing you for adulthood. It was open. You could leave the site. If you were a senior you were allowed out into the community. At night the doors were locked. There were night staff walking about checking on you.
93. There was structure. You got treated as an individual person. You were treated with a lot more respect when compared to Liberton and Balrossie. If you did something wrong they sat you down and talked to you. There were no incidents whatsoever at Wellington Farm in terms of abuse.

Staff

94. There were both male and female staff members there. There was a PT instructor who was good to me. He was called Manny Scott. I got into my PT. That's where I lost myself. I used to do a lot of marathons and stuff. That was done through the school. Through that, and working with Manny Scott, I started trusting being around older male adults again. Before that I wasn't too keen on being left alone with anybody who was male.

Routine at Wellington Farm

School

95. On the educational side of things I felt that I couldn't keep up. There was the option for the classroom stuff but it was only for a couple of hours in the morning. It wasn't like you would do at normal mainstream school. It was more about getting you into the work side of things. You did metalwork and joinery. It was more the vocational type of stuff.

Activities

96. There was a daily run. I got involved. I went to the gym every day. I helped set up all of the weights and things for people. I got awards one, two and three for advanced gymnastics.
97. They took us on camping trips. They took us hill-walking in the Pentlands. We did a sponsored walk for the Year of the Child in 1979. We walked from Inverness to Edinburgh. We got given a big certificate. The army came to see us to talk about army cadets. I did think about joining that.

Work

98. They got me a job in a garden centre. I would leave Wellington Farm during the day to work there and then come back. You could also do some work for farmers and things like that. At bailing time you would go and help stack the bails.

Visits / Inspections

99. Social work did come to visit me but it was more relaxed. I think I was finishing with them by then. I was not aware of any inspections during my time there.

Visits home

100. You got to go home at weekends. They took you in the minibus home. They would drop you off in your area. I would visit my mum. They would collect you on a Monday morning and take you back.

Leaving Wellington Farm

101. I was due to get out of Wellington Farm after my first nine months. I felt safe there. I felt ok there. That's why I ran away. I wanted to stay there longer. The environment

was actually ok. Running away didn't work. I was approaching sixteen and that was the time when I had to leave.

102. Before the age of sixteen they came up to me and made me aware that I would be leaving soon. I got an interview for a job with [REDACTED] through the careers service. That was in 1979. They were based on Seaford Road. I went down for the interview. The chap who interviewed me owned the place. I had a chat with him. He told me he was adopted. He told me there was an opening for a car cleaner. I thought "Aye I will do that" and that's what I did.

Reporting of abuse at Howdenhall Assessment Centre

Whilst in Howdenhall Assessment Centre

103. I found it difficult to express or say to anybody what had happened to me. It was maybe a weakness. Maybe I thought I couldn't protect myself. I knew that anything I said would just get back to Mr EWA. There was a fear factor there.
104. I remember going to see the headmaster about the time that Mr EWA was giving me grief. I told him that I was behaving and Mr EWA was constantly on my case.
105. I told MTM [REDACTED] about the way I was being treated. I told him that Mr EWA was being really bad to me. I remember the look off of him. I then didn't see MTM [REDACTED] for a couple of days. I don't know whether he was off or something. Mr EWA then came up to me. He said to me "What have you been saying about me? I hear everything." MTM [REDACTED] must have told him what I had been saying. The abuse continued afterwards. Mr EWA came back at me with a vengeance.
106. I remember a lady coming in. She might have been a volunteer. She had glasses and dark hair. She was very nice to me. I don't know whether she might have been doing art or something. I felt like telling her what was going on. I was frightened to

do that because of what had happened after I told [MTM]. I ended up not telling her anything.

107. After the check-up I had with the doctor, Mr [EWA] came up to me and asked me what I had said to the doctor. He thought I had said something to the doctor. I hadn't. Anybody who spoke to me he wanted to know what I had been saying.
108. After I absconded, and was punished by the headmaster and Mr [EWA] my mother came in to visit me. I told her that I was being treated really badly. I did told her that I was getting hit and treated horrible. She said "Just keep your head down son." I didn't want to say to my mum "Mum I'm being abused here." I couldn't tell her about the sexual stuff. Maybe if we were more on our own I might have said something. I don't know. If I had said something to her she probably wouldn't have wanted to rock the boat anyway.
109. As far as I was concerned my social worker was the person who had put me into the system. He should have seen the changes in myself when he came up with my mother. I did say to him that I was being bullied. I saw him as connected to the system. I didn't say anything else to him.

Whilst in Balrossie and Wellington Farm

110. I kept what happened to me at Liberton "in" when I was at Balrossie. You probably could have gone to speak to people but I never went. My trust had all been blown through my experiences in Liberton.
111. I did tell my brother's girlfriend what had happened to me when I absconded from Balrossie. I told her what had happened in Liberton. I think she just said "Keep your head down" or something like that.
112. I never ever spoke to anybody about anything that happened at Liberton at Wellington Farm. I think they did try to give you emotional support at Wellington Farm. However, I had "gone deep" with my experiences from Liberton. I wasn't

keen on sharing anything with anybody by that time. I still had a fear that if I divulged anything Mr EWA would find out and come after me.

To family in later life

113. In the eighties I was having a drink at New Year with my older brother [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had gone from Liberton to Dr Guthrie's. He probably would have been a senior when he was at Liberton. He said to me "How did you get on in the assessment centre whilst you were there? Did you meet EWA?" I said "Aye." The look that my brother then gave me made me think that he was going to say something. I just got up and walked out the room. I didn't want to speak about it. My brother died in 1995. To this day I think he wanted to tell me something.

To a counsellor

114. I came across a death at my work in later life. In 2014 my colleague was offered some counselling because of trauma. I was asked whether I would also like to attend some sessions. I went along to it. I saw a woman called Pauline Ross. During the sessions she asked me whether I would like to go back a few years and talk about how I was when I was younger. She asked me whether I wanted to go back. I had expressed anger at a few things. She said she could see in my face that I felt uncomfortable talking about that period in my life. During a later session I told her about what had happened to me. She told me that what I had experienced was abuse.
115. I only had a few sessions with Pauline Ross. I did ask her, when the sessions were coming to an end, whether I could continue seeing her. I felt I was opening up. I felt if I had gone to more sessions I would have opened up about it all a bit more. However, I didn't go to any other sessions.
116. When I went to the counselling I still felt that anything I said might get back to my work. That was because it had been my work who had referred me to the

counsellor. For some reason I thought that things might get back. I felt that my personal stuff might get back to my work if I talked about it too much.

To the Inquiry

117. I was sitting in the car when I heard about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. I heard an advert on the radio. If I hadn't been sitting in the traffic I may still be sitting with all of this inside me today. It was just something that clicked with me that day. I started thinking that I might not be the only one out there. At that point I thought that Mr EWA was still alive. Maybe I wanted revenge. I don't know.

To the police

118. After I spoke to the Inquiry the police came to my house. They came to see me in February 2017. They wanted to speak to me about what had happened with Mr EWA. It was two male officers who came. They were in plainclothes. We had a wee chat. They asked me about MTM.
119. I hadn't spoken about what had happened to me before. When the policemen started asking me questions I felt uncomfortable. They asked me questions like "Was Mr EWA hard?" They asked me whether Mr EWA had penetrated me and things like that. I just shut down. For some reason speaking to these men felt awkward. I got tearful when I was talking to them. I told them I was struggling. I don't know whether it would have been different if one of the officers had been a woman.
120. In June 2017 a policeman called me. I was on holiday at the time. He told me that Mr EWA had passed away and that he was "A horrible man". He told me that Mr EWA had been really really nasty to other people as well.
121. Hearing that Mr EWA was dead made me feel good in the sense that he was no longer able to abuse anybody else. However, I do feel robbed of seeing justice done to that man. I started thinking "Maybe if I had talked to someone back then he may have not been a position to do anything to anybody else." However, I'd always felt

as if I was just on my own. I felt alone back then. There was nobody there I could have spoken to.

Life after being in care

122. When I left Wellington Farm I moved into my mum's. I did the car cleaner job for a month. I was then offered an apprenticeship as a spray-painter. I accepted the offer. I stayed with my mum until 1982. That's when I moved in with my girlfriend.
123. I taught myself how to read and write. I later on went to college to do an SVQ in what I am doing now. I worked in a drop-in centre as a crisis intervention worker with the Salvation Army. I worked with the homeless dealing with whatever crises that came in through the door.
124. I am now a senior support worker with the [REDACTED] in Edinburgh. I've been working with them as a support worker since 2008. I am an outreach worker. I work with former homeless people who are now in a tenancy or have just got a tenancy. I help them throughout the period when they are getting used to it all.

Impact

125. It has affected me most of my life. I have gone through some bad times. To this day there is a fear factor. There is an anger that is within me. Sometimes it comes back. I thought about it all on my wedding day. It was all good and then I had a drink at night. It came back. My mother passed away in 2011. It all came back then as well. I just tried to tuck it away.
126. Mr [REDACTED] EWA has shaped my life for so long. He caused me to run away. He made me think of bad things when things were good. He has ruined the moment. He has done that over the years.

127. When my kids were born it was still affecting me. If I saw a teacher touching my child I would be on edge. I am very protective of my children and the people I work with today.
128. I seem to get on more with motherly figures and females than males. It has affected relationships. The cuddly loving stuff can be good but sometimes it can all come back. I can be holding hands and it all just comes back to me.
129. I've worked with people who have told me things. They have talked about the abuse they have suffered. I hear them talk about these things when I am supporting them during their counselling sessions. I sometimes think that, when they are talking about the things that happened to them, "These things have happened to me." I just think it's my stuff and that is their stuff. I try to disassociate myself away from it. It's difficult.
130. Since seeing the police I have gone to see my doctor. That was in May 2017. I said to my doctor that "I felt like driving into a wall". At the time I was also going "a hundred miles per hour" at my work. I was doing too much. My doctor diagnosed me with depression. He put me on anti-depressants. He has prescribed me fluoxetine. I'm on 20mls a day. The anti-depressants have helped. I see him once a month to review how my medication is. I've only told him that "I was abused in the system" and nothing further. My doctor hasn't referred me to counselling.
131. I've had to use everything I have got through my work in terms of support. I speak to my chaplain. I have also had to do self-help. I know today that I need to get it all out. That is why I decided to speak to the Inquiry. I needed to get the secret that has been with me for all of that time out.

Records

132. I didn't even know you could access your records. I've never seen anything. Nobody has offered me any of them. I do remember people writing down things at

the children's hearings. It would be nice to go and have a look and see what has been written down about me. I'd like to see whether it was written down that there were changes in my behaviour.

Other information

133. At no time during all of the children's hearings did anybody ask me why I was running away. Looking back now, I think there should have been more focus on why I was wanting to run away from the places I was in. It all seemed to be more that they were trying to get the places themselves to help me. If I had been asked about why I was running away then it might have come out.
134. I think there should have been someone independent available who I could have talked with. Someone who I could have built up trust with. That may have been a way that would have allowed someone to find out what is happening. If there was someone independent at the children's hearings, and it was explained to me that they were here purely for me to help me and the List D schools would not hear about anything that had been discussed, I might have opened up and divulged things.
135. Nowadays you have the Care Inspectorate. I'm aware of that because of the work I do now. Back then, though, I never got asked by anybody in that system how things were with me. I never had anybody speak to me. Maybe if I had someone outwith the places I was in to speak to then I might have spoken.
136. I would have preferred it if I was left alone with my mother to speak to her. I might have found it easier to say things to her. I was watched and all the rest of it though.
137. I only know what happened to me whilst I was there under their regime. I don't know whether things could have been done better by the people who were overseeing Liberton. I don't know whether they could have made things easier for me. To me they were a law unto their own. They could do what they wanted to do to you after those doors were closed. They were in control.

138. I just want to break the curse of what he has done to me. I've got to try and get it all out. Maybe then I can just "let it go" like a balloon.

139. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed ^{GCT} [REDACTED]

Dated 26-10-2017