

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HPY [REDACTED]

Support person present: No.

1. My name is HPY [REDACTED] however the name I was known by in care was HPY [REDACTED] although I call this my dead name. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1971. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I don't know anything about my life before care apart from the social misfit of a young girl giving birth out of wedlock. Apparently I was about four weeks old when I went into care but how true that is I don't know because I have been told so many lies from social workers and care staff members. I don't know how reliable that information is.

Carsewood House, Howwood, Refrewshire

3. This was my first children's home I was in and I think I stayed here for twelve years.

4. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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24. I remember spending time in the Queen Mother's Hospital in Glasgow because I took an allergic reaction to Ritalin. I took this because I had attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). My whole body went into something like rigor mortis it just completely locked up my jaw and I couldn't open my mouth or talk. I started on the Ritalin when I was a child and I was also on caffeine tablets. Ritalin is what nowadays I like to call speed for kids. I think I was getting treated for ADHD until I left Ladyfield.

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Potential Adoption

33. There was a couple I think of most days and they are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I fell in love with them. I slipped up one day I was out with them. I had been told to call them aunt and uncle but one day I forgot and I called them mum and dad and as a result that adoption didn't go ahead. I was still a child when this happened. It was before I was a teenager and before I went to Ladyfield. They used to come and take me out and I would go to their house. One Christmas I went and spent a Saturday with them. When I walked in under the Christmas tree there were presents for me. The social work decided not to let me go with them and I wasn't allowed to take my toys with me. I know it was a social work decision.

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Leaving Carsewood House, Howwood, Refrewshire

41. I made it known I wanted to move to Beech Avenue Children's Home because Beech Avenue and Carsewood unbeknownst to me went to the same caravan park in Anstruther.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Ladyfield West Children's Hospital, Dumfries

42. I was put into a psychiatric unit for children at Ladyfield West which was part of the old Crichton Royal Hospital. I was ten when I was sent here and I stayed for a couple of years as I left here when I was twelve. I stayed here during the week and returned to Carsewood at the weekends. I honestly do not have any clue why I had this living arrangement.
43. I was sent here because I had ADHD allegedly and back in the days I was treated with drugs like Ritalin. I ended up in the Queen Mother's hospital for a day because of the

severe allergic reaction I took and I was sectioned which was why I went to Ladyfield. That is what I believe because I had no choice. As an adult I think I was sent here to be out of sight and out of mind.

44. Ladyfield was set within its own grounds and from the main road you would just think it was a private driveway. The building had a lawn with a couple of trees in front. To the left hand side it had a walled garden. At the back it had a playground which had a proper fort built with logs. The right hand side was fields. There was a school in Ladyfield which I went to.
45. I think there were four children in my bedroom. My bedroom was on the ground floor. There were offices and treatments rooms on the top floor including the attic. There was a long annexe building for therapy and then there was a separate annexe with the classrooms.

Routine at Ladyfield West Children's Hospital, Dumfries

First day

46. I don't remember my first day.

Mealtimes/Food

47. The food was horrendous. I can think about stew which was just full of gristle and fat with about one percent meat.

Washing/bathing

48. It was all communal showers and baths so if someone was having a bath you could be in there brushing your teeth. Ladyfield was my first experience of a shower in a building other than a swimming pool. We had to shower every day.

Leisure time

49. In Carsewood at least I could go and roam outside the grounds but in Ladyfield you had to stay within the grounds and if you went out the grounds you got disciplined. I remember leaving the grounds and going to a walled garden not far from the hospital. I was made to wear my pyjamas and stay in bed.

Schooling

50. I didn't get an education and if I did have any I wouldn't have been able to understand it for the simple fact I got diagnosed with dyslexia when I was seventeen or eighteen.

Healthcare / medication

51. I jumped from a tree [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] it has left a scar [REDACTED] which is still there today. I would have been eleven years old. No-one spoke to me about why it happened. All they did was stitch it up. It was treated as if it was an accident. Not just an accident but self-seeking.
52. I can't remember the day to day side of therapy and I honestly cannot remember getting any therapy.

Religious instruction

53. I remember being forced to go to chapel because there were a couple of ladies who were from some church or something and they used to come and preach the gospel.

Discipline

54. They would make me wear my pyjamas and stay in bed as a punishment and this could last anything from a few hours to a week.

Abuse at Ladyfield West Children's Hospital, Dumfries

55. There was a service tunnel and I was made to keep the door open for hours and if I moved away from there I would be battered by the nurses. The nurses injected me with an empty needle and I was punched to my stomach. They knew exactly where to punch me to wind me.
56. If they thought I had done something really wrong I used to get whacked with a ruler and threatened with a syringe which had a needle. They knew I was terrified of needles. The nurses would do this to me. I was punched in the stomach by male nurses and this happened regularly.
57. Nothing happened in the therapy rooms but I remember being pinned down on the staircase up to them and getting threatened with a needle.

Reporting of abuse at Ladyfield West Children's Hospital, Dumfries

58. I never reported any of the abuse at Ladyfield at the time I was there.


Leaving Ladyfield West Children's Hospital, Dumfries

59. I left Ladyfield because I was told I was too old to be there. That meant I was staying back at Carsewood full time until I moved to Beech Avenue.

Beech Avenue Children's Home, Paisley

60. I went to Beech Avenue when I was twelve years old until I was either fifteen or sixteen.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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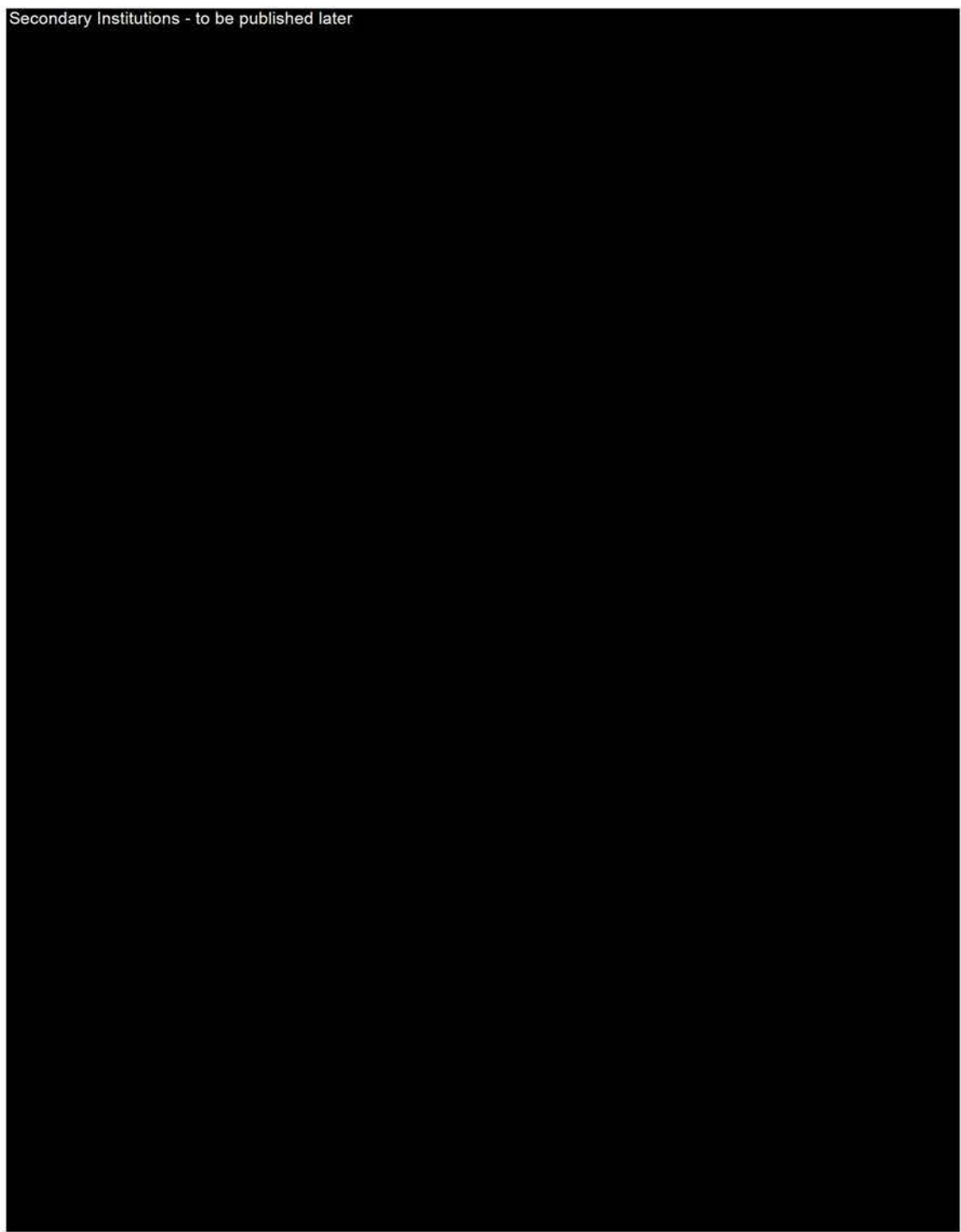
Schooling

67. I was going to Quarriers school during the day within Quarriers Village and then going back to Beech Avenue. I don't know why I left Quarriers school as a pupil but I was made to go to Muirfield Assessment Centre. I cannot remember any of the teachers but there was a lot of bullying between the pupils.
68. I attended Muirfield Assessment Centre which is in Johnstone but I was not there for any great length of time. I cannot remember any of the staff at all and the education had no influence on me. I think when you have been told you are stupid all your life you fall into believing that. Muirfield was a secure unit so once you set foot inside you are not allowed out until it was time to go home. Muirfield was a mixed unit with children who were residential as well as those of us who went only for daily schooling.
69. I ended up going to Balrossie for my schooling and I was a day pupil. I went to Balrossie when I was fourteen and left there in 1987. If you were to look up Balrossie online it would say it was an orphanage but it was never set up to be an orphanage anyhow. In my opinion it was a borstal and it changed from that to a List D school. I would say there were fifty pupils all male and all teenagers. I was getting battered here so on my last day I was relieved because I knew I would be escaping the physical abuse.

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71. I only went away once on a holiday with Balrossie to Faskally outdoor centre outside Pitlochry. I wasn't allowed to smoke at Balrossie but it was strange because when I was up at Faskally I was allowed to there.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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Abuse at Muirfield Assessment Centre Whilst Attending as a Day Pupil

87. I can't remember any of the staff however they were really heavy handed at times. They had a room they would drag you to for punishment and it was called the green room. You would be put in there on your own as a punishment for things they would call disruptive behaviour. I would say they didn't understand how to support a child with a learning disability. I know locking a child in a room alone is psychological abuse.
88. I was given the occasional slap across the face by some of the teachers but I cannot remember any of their names or what they looked like.

Abuse at Balrossie Whilst Attending as a Day Pupil

89. HGE and zGVW used to batter me at Balrossie School. I felt I got no respite at all because I was being battered at school. Secondary Institutions - to be published later. Secondary Institutions - to be published later. HGE and zGVW were a tag team. They would put me in a choke hold. I would be getting HGE's full weight on my neck with his knees whilst zGVW was securing my legs so I couldn't escape. It was HGE who put me in the choke hold. I think they used restraint as an excuse and I think they got a kick out of it. I believe that their philosophy was spare the rod spoil the child. This would happen to me at least a couple of times a week. At one point I was literally in tears when I was getting picked up. Secondary Institutions - to be published later. zGVW came to the taxi and said something like 'we shall see you next week' with a smile on his face. There was no reason they would restrain me and I think they done it because they could. I would say it happened in an area like an inside courtyard outside the art room. I only know of one person who was restrained like me and unfortunately he is no longer with us.
90. One day in Balrossie I was pushed down a flight of stairs by another pupil. I think just talking about these things stirs up a lot of memories.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Temporary stay at Gryffe Children's Home, Bridge of Weir

93. Secondary Institutions - to be published later I was placed in Gryffe temporarily. Secondary Institutions -

Secondary Institutions - to be published later Social work

put me back to Beech Avenue a couple of weeks later. Secondary Institutions - to be published late

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Beech Avenue Children's Home, Paisley

95. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be pu I was fifteen and a half or sixteen when I left Beech Avenue. I was not involved in the decision making.

Redheugh Adolescent Unit, Kilbirnie

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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I didn't stay here long at all, it was probably no more than a year.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Redheugh Adolescent Unit, Kilbirnie

109. Secondary Institutions - to be published later I never returned to Redheugh. I went straight to Chapel House Secondary Institution I wasn't involved in the decision making for this move. I was just picked up Secondary Institutions - not knowing where I was going to

be ending up. A social worker took me but I can't tell you if it was my social worker or just any social worker.

Chapel House Children's Home, Paisley

110. Secondary Institutions - to be published later I was sixteen when I moved to Chapel House and stayed there until I was eighteen.

111. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Chapel House Children's Home, Paisley

115. I was still eighteen and social work were trying to push me out of Chapel House into supported accommodation called Steps to Independence. That eventually happened and I got my own flat in Johnstone and the whole building was ex-care kids. One of the neighbours found out about my women's clothes so I got bullied by my neighbours. I remember vaguely that I passed out with something on the stove and that set fire to the flat. I got kicked out after that and I was homeless.

Life after being in care

116. I ended up becoming a member of a cult in England and then I left there and settled down in Weston-super-Mare. I got married and one day I came to, in a cell in a police station. I was given the option of get sectioned or move back up to Scotland. I chose to move to Scotland.
117. I had kept in touch with Secondary Institutions - to be published later
Secondary Institutions - to be published later. As far as I am concerned today it was a mistake for me to live with them. They robbed me of my disability living allowance (DLA) and my income support. Out of about £600 a month I was getting something like 40-50 quid and they got the rest. I was getting DLA for addictions and mental health. I was addicted to everything. I could get a buzz out of such as Valium, diazepam, smack, cocaine, Ketamine, acid, ecstasy, paste and jellies. If you were to look at my arms and groin today you wouldn't think I was an addict but back then you would as you couldn't see my veins as they were collapsed in. I eventually left Secondary Institut and became homeless again.
118. I remember approaching the social work department in Paisley in my early thirties telling them I needed support but they said they didn't think I did. I asked them why they thought I needed support for the first eighteen years of my life and then not beyond then.

119. I was in a hotel in Linwood and I was offered a house in Thrushcraigs which is the other side of the hill from Chapel House. I was getting hassled by my neighbours so I was moved to another house in Foxbar but the council evicted me because they said that I abandoned my tenancy. They took the words of the neighbours in the close and yet I didn't know any of my neighbours. I ended up on the streets again and then there was a hate campaign in Glasgow because of my transgender status. I ended up moving to Edinburgh and living on the streets.
120. I got married again and my second wife was a mistake. I woke up the following morning and thought what have I done. You know how you know you have made a mistake and you can't get out of it. I thought I don't love or even like this woman. I called that a rebound marriage. I was due to get married again but fortunately for me I worked out that he was an abusive partner. I kicked him out but I seem to have abusive relationships.
121. I got a tenancy in Edinburgh and this is the longest tenancy I have ever had. I only got support after I was arrested for having a flashback in a train station. I got involved in the Willow Project which is in partnership with the NHS Lothian and the City of Edinburgh Council to address the social, health and welfare needs of women in the criminal justice system.
122. I have not worked for a long time, I mean a very long time. There was a community run café up in Fountainbridge, Edinburgh. It was [REDACTED]. I was walking past one day a few years back with my dog and I liked the look of it so I went in for a coffee. I asked how I could get involved with it and they showed me the diary and told me to put my name in the dates I wanted to do a shift. That was the last time I worked in a professional kitchen. I started to find it a bit too much.
123. I joined [REDACTED] Church and they showed me what unconditional love is. The church is part of a few churches, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] For a change I am in the majority because there are more lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex + (LGBTQI+) people than non LGBTQI+ people. It is not only safe but when I was confined to my

house for six weeks whilst I had Covid I had several members of my church come to visit with food parcels paid for from their own money. Not only that when I phone any of my church family they will give me their time without saying they have to go. It is the first place I feel I can be myself without putting a mask on. They are aware of what has happened to me in my past and are aware of this meeting today. It is only in the last couple of years I have discovered what unconditional love is. I have also found this unconditional love through the fellowship of Alcoholic Anonymous and more recently through [REDACTED]

Impact

124. I have post-traumatic stress disorder, borderline personality disorder, depression, severe anxiety, night terrors and insomnia. I suffer panic attacks, have problems with addiction, self-harm, and have recently been diagnosed with anorexia and bulimia. All of which I link to the abuse I experienced in care.
125. My addictions involve alcohol but I have also been addicted to heroin, Ketamine and crack cocaine. There are many creative ways to self-harm and my alcoholism is part of that. I am alcohol dependant and will soon be going into hospital to go through a detox programme.
126. Psychiatric hospitals have been a feature of my adult life which have provided medicated support.
127. I can drink 30-40 cups of coffee throughout the day and I would probably sleep pretty well at night so for me caffeine isn't a stimulant, it is a relaxant. Whereas if anyone else drank that amount of coffee they would be wired to the moon for the rest of the day. As an adult when I tried cocaine it didn't do anything for me, it just made me fall asleep, so that was the only drug I didn't get addicted to. This is because Ritalin is classed as an upper but for me it is a downer.

128. I think when I was a child and started identifying as female this was not dealt with properly. The simple fact today is that if I was a child or a teenager and I approached a doctor about my transgender status I would be given blockers to stop puberty. I am really resentful today about the LGBT youth because they have got places to go for support. They have got their own places to go to where they can feel safe. I was made to feel like a freak, how I was made to feel was bad and wrong. At one point I was told that it would have been better for me not to be born. I was also told that people like me should be locked up to protect the rest of the world.
129. I think about my life and I think, what life? The impact of going to sleep fearing that I would be abused has stayed with me all my life. All the abuse that happened to me in care left me feeling relieved when I got kicked out of care, if that makes sense? It makes me angry to say that because I wasn't ready to be on my own. The definition of care to me is to look after the most vulnerable in society and not to abuse that power of care.
130. I have always struggled with tenancies and I feel I never had the right sort of support growing up. I also feel that when my neighbours made complaints they were listened to but my side of things was never asked.
131. I can honestly say that I know I only had one true love in my life who was my first wife who I still talk to today. I actually travelled down to attend her mum's funeral. I have always been in abusive relationships. How can I know what a healthy relationship is when I was never taught what a healthy relationship means. Being brought up in care the way they worked with me was, we will give you this is you do something for it or tell me if I did what they wanted they would give me something. It was always getting something with conditions and never can you have this because we want to give you it. I find it very hard to this day to trust people. I never grew up knowing what love was. How can you love someone when you don't love yourself and how can you love yourself when you have not been shown what love is?
132. A number of years ago I was in a taxi and my bank card wouldn't work so I freaked out. The taxi driver was a male who locked the back doors to prevent me getting out.

I ended up getting fined £140 for Breach of the Peace. I had a flashback in that taxi
Secondary Institutions - to be published later I felt the Sheriff didn't give a shit. The Sheriff
was a male and so was the Procurator Fiscal and I felt I was getting punished by men
all over again. I am calling for people like myself to have their criminal records wiped
clean because of it. This is because I wouldn't have been put in that situation of being
trapped in the back of a black cab with post-traumatic stress disorder Secondary Institutions
Secondary Ins I have a criminal record and there are places I would love to go but because
of that I am not allowed into some countries. I would love to go to Australia to spend
some time with the Aborigines and I would love to go to San Francisco the birthplace
of the gay rights movement but I can't because of what men have done to me. I think
this is all very unfair.

133. All my problems in life have been with men and that has continued into my adult life. I
was in some train station where this guy saw me in distress. I thought he was coming
to abuse me but that wasn't the case and I ended up in Sheriff Court. This
Sheriff spotted that there was something wrong with me psychologically and
historically and she put me on a community payback order and a social work referral.
That was the best outcome for me because I know when I go home today I am going
to get a phone call from my support worker. She is impeccable and she showed me
that not all social workers are a waste of space, complete and utter bastards and
deserve to die for what they put me through.
134. My trust issues with men are part of life I won't even let a workman into my house or
a male police officer.
135. If I hear music from the 1970s or 1980s especially my teenage years that should be
my happiest years ever. I can't listen to songs from this time without dread because
they remind me of the abuse Secondary Institutions - to be published later
136. Secondary Institutions - to be published later I have night terrors and
flashbacks every night about this. I have self-harmed and have scars on my body as
a result. Anytime I am having a bath or shower or getting my legs waxed I can see the
scars and the beauticians are asking me what happened.

137. My education was non-existent. At school I was always told I was a waste of space and there was no point in me even being there if I wasn't prepared to learn. It wasn't the fact that I wasn't prepared to learn it was the fact that I couldn't understand what they were trying to teach me. It was just one of these incidents where I was in another ward in a psychiatric hospital and the psychiatrist at the time asked a psychologist to see me and have a chat. It was her who diagnosed me with dyslexia and that was all it was. My first wife really encouraged me in adult education. I enrolled into the local college to learn the basics. I went as far as I could go with college and then I taught myself. I taught myself more and learned more in the first two years of my adult basic education than my entire education as a child.
138. I was prescribed sleeping tablets on repeat prescription for years and this was because of my difficulty dealing with night terrors. The problem was I could get to sleep but couldn't stay asleep or if I was in a night terror I couldn't waken up. Nowadays I will only be give a seven day supply after a consultation with my GP. I am being weaned off tramadol which was prescribed for chronic pain after two accidents.
139. I don't trust the police because when I report things to them they say I need a witness.
140. With that case in America with Chauvin the police officer who had his knee on George Floyd's neck when I see that video it just takes me right back to how I was restrained as a teenager. Imagine two adults on a child and multiply that one hundred fold.

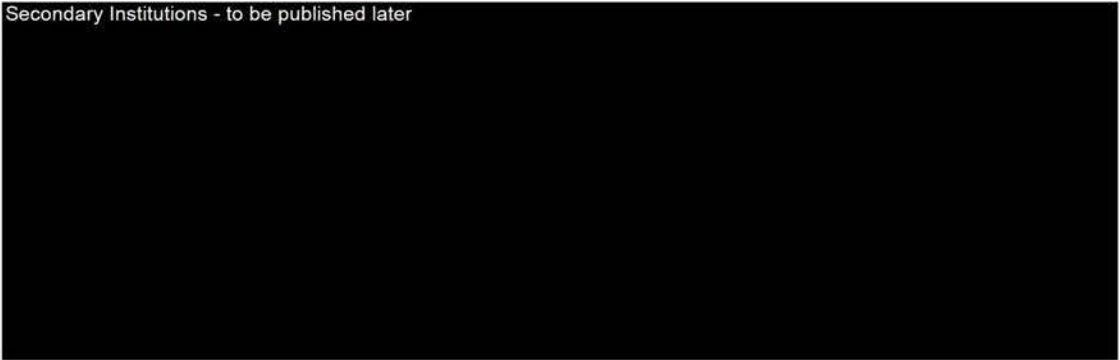
Treatment/support

141. About twenty years ago I went back to Carsewood to see what it was like. Secondary Inst
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
Secondary Instituti The building was still there but it was no longer operating as a children's home.

142. I heard that Chapel House closed down and I just wanted to see what happened. There were one or two changes but nothing had happened.
143. To prepare myself for court and meeting the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry (SCAI) I revisited Balrossie. It was difficult emotionally. I went into a shop in the village to ask where I could get a bus back to Glasgow. I got angry because the two women who were working in the shop both admitted they had known what was going on there. I asked why they didn't speak out but they said they didn't speak about things like that back then. I asked them what was the difference between people being abused today to me being abused back then.
144. I have not had any counselling until I started with the Willow Project. I had a bit of counselling then but Susi moved on and that was then withdrawn. I have been told that once I do my detox I will be able to link into the medical side of Turning Point and this means I have an occupational therapist who is called Marie and I still have my counsellor Katie.

Reporting of Abuse

145. I reported the abuse that happened to me at Ladyfield East Children's Hospital to the police but I have not heard anything back from them. I made the report years ago as an adult.

146. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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147. Secondary Institutions - to be published later


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Secon I was sexually assaulted a couple of years ago at the Grassmarket Community Project and they did nothing to support me. A dear friend of mine gave me the number for Rape Crisis and the Domestic Abuse Team. My social worker couldn't really get me a place to speak to Scott Hendry who was investigating HGE. The worker at Rape Crisis managed to agree with Scott Hendry and myself to meet at their office to give a statement so that it would keep it outside my house. This is when I really opened up and told them everything. I was relieved when I heard that HGE and zGVW were mentioned in Balrossie. Unfortunately zGVW passed away so he has a clean slate. HGE is waiting to go to court for the abuse I reported at Balrossie. I have a solicitor through Digby Brown and what I have been saying to them about HGE is that unfortunately his other victim passed away with cancer. I do not know the other victim's name. That was the only reason I was able to get it through this stupid Scottish law of corroboration.

149. I have also told psychiatrists from Dykebar Hospital in Paisley and also the psychiatric department at Weston-super-Mare that I was abused and sexually assaulted. Not one of them contacted the police. They were saying that I was a fantasist and that I imagined it. This was all done when I left care when I was about eighteen. How dare they say I was a fantasist. If I was a fantasist, do you think I would have the self-inflicted scars over my body?

150. I was out walking my dog Max when the Family and Children's Unit from Renfrew Police Station called me. It was a few years ago after I had moved to Edinburgh. I was surprised they managed to track me down as I have not used my dead name for years.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



Records and Compensation

151. My lawyer is finding it hard to get my records because of the boundary changes. Back in my days I was in care when it was Strathclyde Regional Council.
152. Kim Leslie's team from Digby Brown who is representing me said that the onus is more on the abuser to prove themselves guilty or innocent. The only reason I chose my lawyer is that I saw them on the TV asking if people had experiences in certain children's home. Kim Leslie was being interviewed and she is the main lawyer for Digby Brown. I am seeking compensation from every organisation that was responsible for looking after me as well as the Scottish and Westminster Governments. It is mainly the Westminster government because it was them who were my acting parents at the time. It is also the reason I am here today to tell you about what happened to me in care. This has never been about the money because I have had money and it caused nothing but misery. In fact most of the most miserable people out there are millionaires.
153. I just want it acknowledged that I was not protected and cherished as a child should be. I want it on record.

Lessons to be Learned

154. The thought I have in my head is are we going to be having this same conversation about abuse in care of vulnerable children fifty years down the road? Where adults who have been so called Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) checked and just because they have been PVG checked does not mean they are not a threat to children.
155. I think it is wrong that people like social workers are getting pensions when they haven't done the job they were paid to do. Under the Proceeds of Crimes Act if I was a drug dealer I would have all my assets frozen. Why aren't people like social workers who do not protect children from abuse or whose professional behaviour is abusive not getting their assets frozen?
156. I don't believe the rubbish that comes from psychologists and psychiatrists that the abusee becomes the abuser. That is just nonsense in my opinion. Why would I ever want to put a child through what I went through? It makes me angry that the system uses it as an argument to justify the perpetrators. There is more money invested in the perpetrators of paedophilia and rape than I have ever had spent on me. To be honest there was a lot more money spent on keeping me addicted to drugs than keeping me clean. I do not feel there is the support for the children who have been raped and abused. Victim's lives matter.
157. The only time I hear about historic abuse of children in care is if it has to do with something SCAI is doing. Why don't we hear about it more? [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
158. I think my life could have been so different if I had been successfully adopted by people like [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
159. I don't think the local authority and the police should be in the same bed. I think back to the time I did report things to social work in my thirties and they didn't take it forward.

160. What I found in adulthood, and how they think this can be morally right is why victims of sexual abuse or rape need to have a second witness. I think there should be a change in the law. I also think the not proven verdict should be scrapped. It is only in Scotland that this verdict can be given and it makes no sense at all.

Other information

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

Signed.. .....

Dated...6TH OCT 2021.....