

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of GBA

GBA

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is GBA. Most people refer to me as GBA. My date of birth is 1969. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I have two brothers. They are younger than me. is five or six years younger than me. is maybe only three years younger than me. They are both to my mum and dad. I also have a sister. She is about two years older than me. My mum is her mum but she has a different dad.
3. We originally stayed in Stirling. We later on moved to Dunfermline. My mum and dad were constantly splitting up. They ultimately split up after we moved to Dunfermline. The social work started to become involved because my mum was struggling to cope with us after she had split up with my dad. During this time we spent some time with foster carers. Me and my brothers and sister all went there. We went to stay with foster carers on two occasions.
4. I went to Lynburn Primary School. I was misbehaving in class. I was only in primary two or three. My mum was away from my dad at that time. We went to visit Ovenstone to start with. I remember visiting with my mum. I didn't think anything of it at the time. I thought we were just going to go somewhere to have a look about. I eventually got sent to Ovenstone because I wasn't behaving at school.

Foster care

5. The first time I was in foster care was when me, my two brothers and my sister were sent somewhere. I was about five. That was okay. Nothing happened. It was just for a week of something.
6. The second time I was in foster care I was on my own. I stayed with a family in Rosyth. I don't remember the exact road of the house we stayed in but I remember it was off of [REDACTED]. I was about six years old. I was only there for two weeks. I went there to give my mum a break. It was the worst two weeks of my life.
7. The people in the house in Rosyth consisted of a lady, a man and their two kids. The kids were a similar age to me. The son was about my age. The daughter was about a year older. The lady and the man were drinkers. The dad of the house was an ex-navy man. I can't remember his name. I was put to my bed early all of the time. Their kids were allowed to stay up.
8. The dad attacked me a few times. He hit me with tyre wraps. He used to batter me with them. One time I wet the bed. I was made to sleep in the wet bed. I remember that one time the social work came to see me and I locked myself in his car. I wanted to go back home. They wouldn't allow me to though.
9. I used to go to a camp down in Peebles that was run by the NSPCC. I think the camp was called Eddlestone or something like that. The camps went on for years. They were held in the summer. I went to the camp a couple of years on the trot. I was at one of these camps a few years after I had been in foster care. I would have been about eight or nine. At that camp I met the two kids of the foster parents from Rosyth. I can't remember the kids' names. When I met the kids it sort of brought everything back.

Ovenstone Residential School, Pittenweem, Fife

10. It was a mixture of boys and girls. We were all between the ages of seven and nine. We were all wee. In total there were maybe about thirty kids there. There were more boys than girls. I think there were maybe only about four girls there. The kids who went there were there because they had been disruptive at school.
11. I think Fife Council ran the place. It wasn't a List D school or an approved school. It was just a residential place. I don't know what it came under. I don't know whether you could call it a children's home because it was more structured. In some ways it was more like an approved school.
12. It was an open place. The grounds were not secured. If you wanted to run away you could have. You didn't think like that at that age. The regime of the place was mad. They were quite strict.
13. I went there from the age of approximately seven years old. That means I probably went there in about 1976. I was there for about a year. I used to go there during the week for five days and go back to my mum's at the weekends. I did that throughout my whole period there. I went there on my own. My two brothers and my sister stayed with my mum.
14. I don't remember there being any chats with a social worker before I went to Ovenstone. There were no children's hearings. There was nothing like that. I eventually found out that the reason I was sent there was because I had been disruptive at school and my mum couldn't cope with me.

Staff

15. SNR [REDACTED] was called either Mr GBB [REDACTED] His wife, Mrs IAL [REDACTED] IAL [REDACTED], also worked there. She ran the school. She was a teacher. The other teacher in the school was called Grant Munro.

16. There were two other staff members in our wing who looked after us. The first was called Aunt Miriam. She stayed in Lundin Links. I remember being taken to her house a few times. I can't remember anything happening there. The other staff member was called KUE [REDACTED]. He stayed in [REDACTED].

Routine at Ovenstone

First day

17. One Monday everybody was acting weird about me. I was put in a car with my mum and social worker. I was taken to Ovenstone. I was taken into one wing of the place. I think my mum was taken into the other. I thought I was going to get taken home after that. However, that was it. I was left. That was me in there. I didn't see my mum again until the following weekend. I was then taken to the wing I would be staying in. I was shown where my bed was and where I would be staying.

Daily routine

18. It was the same routine every day. You would get up at seven thirty or something like that. You would then make your bed. Then you would get your breakfast in the dining room. They used to ring a bell to tell you that it was time to go to the school block. School always started at nine. Classes went on through the morning. I think we had a break mid-morning. I think we got to go back to our dormitory for fifteen minutes to have a juice and a biscuit. We later had lunch in the dining hall. We spent the afternoons mostly in class.
19. There were two afternoons a week when we went to a leisure centre. The place was called the Glenrothes Institute. We mainly did swimming there. There was also a wee assault course for us. On Fridays we finished at about twelve. That was when we would be taken home.

20. On the days we weren't going home, we finished our day at about three. We would then go back to our dormitories to change into our day clothes. In the evenings we got to play in the grounds. We were supervised. We would play football or play around a climbing frame that was in the shape of a fort. In the evenings they would sometimes take us to the local swimming pool or take us for a walk in the country. There was always a member of staff with us.
21. Dinner was had at about four. Later on in the evening we had supper in a wee dormitory which had a kitchen. It also had a games room outside it. We would have hot chocolate. After that we went to our own dorm for bed. We were always bedded by eight. That's when the lights went out.

Sleeping arrangements

22. We slept in dormitories. I can't remember exactly how many beds were in my dorm. I think there were three bunk beds and a couple of single beds. I slept in a bunk bed. It was all boys in my dorm. Downstairs there were a couple of wee rooms where the girls slept.
23. There were two members of staff assigned to each dorm. The staff used to sleep in a wee bedroom by the dorm. They had a wee window so that they could look into the dorm. The window was curtained. The staff could open the curtains to see whether we were sleeping. There was a toilet right by the dorm. My bed was right by where the toilet was. You could go to that through the night if you needed to go.

Washing and bathing

24. I think we all used to shower and wash together in the morning. I think there were a couple of showers in the toilets. I don't think we showered every day.

Food

25. There was a dining hall. We all had to eat our dinner in there. They made sure you ate everything. There were always a couple of us who couldn't eat something. If you didn't eat your food you would be given that for your next meal. If you didn't eat it then, you would get it for the following meal and so on.
26. I didn't like boiled potatoes. GBB [REDACTED] made sure I would get them the following meal if I didn't eat them. One time the stuff had been lying for two days. I refused to eat it. I was trying to hide it in my pockets. GBB [REDACTED] caught me. He then pulled my head back and tried to force the potatoes into my mouth. I saw that happen to another boy as well. The boy's name was [REDACTED]. That happened on a few occasions to me. It was mad. They wanted you to eat everything put in front of you. There were incidents when GBB [REDACTED] would rub boys' faces in their dinner if they weren't eating it. He was trying to force them to eat it.

Possessions and clothes

27. All I had was a set of school clothes and my clothes to wear at night. All my clothes were supplied by my mum.
28. You were only allowed two pence pocket money. There was a wee van that used to come into the grounds of the place. You would get to spend your two pence there. It was like a tuck shop. You would buy chews from there with your two pence.

School

29. There was a school in there. There were two teachers, Mrs IAL [REDACTED] and Grant Munro. We were split up between the two teachers. It was all mixed boys and girls. I think most of the time I was there I was in Mrs IAL [REDACTED]'s class. We did different things with her. You did things like English and Maths.

30. If you weren't doing something right, or misbehaving, in Mrs IAL's class you would be sent up to her husband. If you had to go to GBB's office you knew you weren't just going to get spoken to. You knew you were going to get punished. He would hit you with his gym shoe.

Religion

31. It wasn't a religious place. There was nothing like that.

Holidays and trips

32. There was nothing like trips or holidays away from the place during the week.

Leisure time

33. I think there was a TV in the wee dorm. The wee dorm was like a playroom. There were games and you could do things in there like colouring in.

Birthdays and Christmas

34. I think I had a birthday in there. Birthdays were never celebrated there. That didn't happen. I remember my birthday just being another day. I think we got home for a week at Christmas time. After that we were picked up and taken back.

Visits / Inspections

35. Nobody came to visit me during the week. Social workers didn't come to visit. There was nothing like phones or anything. There was no contact with the outside world.
36. I remember one meeting with a social worker. My mum was there. That was the only meeting I remember.
37. There were never any inspections or inspectors that came in.

Trips home at weekends

38. We got to go home at twelve o'clock on Fridays. They used to take us home in a minibus. They would take me to my mum's. I stayed at my mums over the weekend. I was picked up from my mum's house on a Sunday at about two or three. That's when I went back to Ovenstone.
39. KUE [REDACTED] or Auntie Miriam drove the bus. Sometimes GBB [REDACTED] used to come along. I never used to get back to the place until seven or eight in the evening. It was always dark. We got in so late because we had to go around to collect all the other kids from their homes.

Healthcare

40. I can't remember seeing a matron or a doctor. I think there was maybe a doctor we got taken to if we were ill. I don't remember anyone coming in.

Bed-wetting

41. The first night I was there I wet the bed. I had a bed-wetting problem. I don't know whether the social worker told them about it. GBB [REDACTED] came in the following morning. He went around feeling all the beds. He discovered mine was wet. He made me stand by the side of my bed. He took off his slipper and made me bend over. He hit me on my backside. That carried on throughout my time there. If you wet your bed you were made to strip your sheets and take them to the laundry.

Abuse at Ovenstone

42. I had a pair of shoes. I remember the front of one of them got a hole in it. I was using them to brake when I was on my bike during the weekends at home. GBB [REDACTED] GBB [REDACTED] said to me, before I went home for one weekend, "Tell your mum that you need new shoes." I told my mum but she didn't get me any. When I went back

on the Sunday the first thing that happened was that GBB asked me whether I got any new shoes. I told him I hadn't. He gave me the slipper for that. You would've thought he would have just spoken to my mum. I think it was all just an excuse to assault me.

43. Sometimes, when the minibus came to collect us on Sundays, there were kids who didn't want to go back. They would be crying when the minibus came to pick them up. There was one incident with a girl called . She came from Kincardine. She cried every time she was getting picked up. On one occasion, GBB was hiding behind one of the seats in the minibus. When got on the bus she sat down. As soon as the bus started moving GBB jumped out from behind the seat. He had a gym shoe in his hand. He threatened that if she didn't stop crying she would "get it". She didn't stop crying. They then stopped the bus in the country. was taken behind a bush by GBB and battered with the gym shoe. We all used to be petrified if he was there.
44. Years later I thought about and GBB. Looking back, I think that she was being abused by GBB. She was really really frightened to be in his company. GBB wasn't shy about getting the driver of the minibus to stop the bus so that he could take her behind a bush. I never saw anything but I remember her always being really upset.
45. Sometimes GBB would grab you in a headlock and rub your head. He would think it was playful but it wasn't. He was always assaulting kids. When I think back now it was sly some of the things that GBB did. He was just a bully. If he didn't like you, that was it. You were picked on.
46. Mrs IAL was really bad. She was a bitch. She once wrote something on the blackboard for us all to copy out. I copied it out a few times. I thought that was what she had told us to do. It wasn't what she wanted me to do though. She had an internal phone up to GBB's office. She rang GBB and told him that I was coming up. When I went up I stood outside GBB's office. He roared at me to come in. I didn't get a chance to explain

myself. He made me bend over the desk. He took my trousers down. He then hit me with his gym shoe on the bum and the back of the legs. It was like a plimsoll. It had a rubber sole.

47. I was punished a few times by GBB [REDACTED] GBB [REDACTED] hitting you was the way they punished you. It was always the same every time. The only difference was that GBB [REDACTED] used a slipper in the mornings and a gym shoe the rest of the time.
48. One day we were in the classroom. There was a boy who used to make up stories and things like that. GBB [REDACTED] took the boy into one of the offices. This time he didn't just use his gym shoe. He ended up physically beating the boy. I heard the boy screaming and stuff being moved around. I remember that Grant Munro went into the office and physically stopped GBB [REDACTED] doing what he was doing to the boy. I saw the boy afterwards. He was crying. He was in a state. He had bruises all over him. The bruises were on his arms and his body. He told us about the attack.
49. My dad has said to me that when I came out of Ovenstone my bum and my legs were all bruised. He said that that it must have been from constantly being hit with a gym shoe or a slipper by GBB [REDACTED].
50. You wonder how some of the other staff didn't know what was going on. They must have known what was going on because they saw GBB [REDACTED] doing things. I always wondered why KUE [REDACTED] and Auntie Miriam never got involved. They were meant to be looking after us. I don't understand why they turned a blind eye to it.

Leaving Ovenstone

51. My mum had a lot of problems at home. She was addicted to prescription drugs. She had a lot of young people hanging about her house. Something serious happened during the period I was in Ovenstone. I don't know what it was. My dad

came back up from England. My mum told my dad that she didn't want me and my two brothers. My dad got custody of me and my two brothers. My sister stayed with my grandma.

52. I was told by my dad one Sunday what was happening. I remember telling him that I got the slipper and that we only got two pence pocket money. I didn't tell him about the force feeding. I don't know why I didn't. Maybe I thought that was normal at the time. When they came in the minibus to pick me up that afternoon he gave the woman in the minibus fifty pence to give to me. The woman was Aunt Miriam. Aunt Miriam said "No he is not allowed that, he is only allowed two pence." I remember my dad then saying "I'm going to get my son out of there."
53. It was only a matter of two weeks before I was out. I know my dad did go to the social work. I don't think he made any complaints. All I remember is one day after my dad speaking to the Aunt Miriam in the minibus they said "Get your stuff together." When I left the place I was just taken out as if it was another Friday. I was taken out of Ovenstone and dropped off at a homeless place. My dad was there. I was dropped off and told that I wasn't going back. That was all I was told.

Time at home with Dad between Ovenstone and Dr Guthrie's

54. Me and my two brothers went to stay with my dad in about 1977. To begin with, we stayed with our dad in a homeless shelter in Cowdenbeath. The place was by Cowdenbeath cemetery. We stayed there in a one bedroom place for about three months. We later on moved to Cowdenbeath when my dad got a place. We stayed with him on and off until 1979. My dad had a drinking problem. He was an alcoholic. He found it hard bringing us up.

Rimbleton House, Glenrothes, Fife

55. Rimbleton was an assessment centre. It was council run. Boys and girls went there. There were about fifty or sixty kids there. There were four different bits to the place. There was a short term and a long term bit. I was always kept in the short term bit. Rimbleton was alright. I have not got any problems with there. They never did anything to me or my brothers. It was nothing like Ovenstone.
56. Over the period we went back to stay with my dad we went to the assessment centre. It all started going wrong about the time that my dad got the flat in Cowdenbeath. My dad was going out drinking and leaving us on our own. The police then got involved. Then the social work and NSPCC became involved. The first time I went to the assessment centre was after about eighteen months. They tried different things but my dad ultimately had a breakdown.
57. In all, we must have been in and out of Rimbleton for about six or seven times. It could've been more times. There were no children's hearings or anything like that throughout this period. Each time we went there we were there for about two or three months at a time.
58. When I was about ten I was back staying with my dad. My dad was going out drinking. I was going out getting in trouble. I was stealing things. I wasn't going to school. I got into a lot of trouble with four other people for stealing a lot of money from an old woman. We all got taken to court. All the blame seemed to get put on me. All the other people got probation. An order was made for me to be put somewhere for my own safety. They wanted to put me there because of my dad's drinking problems and things like that. That's how I ended up the last time in Rimbleton before Dr Guthrie's. That would have been in about 1979.
59. During the last time I was at Rimbleton my social worker came to speak with me. He spoke to me in Rimbleton House. He said that my dad wasn't coping and, because I was getting in all sorts of trouble, I was going to end up getting put away. There was then a children's hearing. I remember my dad being there with my social

worker. The panel decided at that hearing that I was going to be sent to Dr Guthrie's. I think I went back to Rimbleton from the hearing before being taken to Dr Guthrie's.

60. My youngest brother went to stay with my mum. My other brother stayed on in Rimbleton house. He stayed there for six years. He ended up being adopted by one of the members of staff there.

Dr Guthrie's, Lasswade Road, Liberton, Edinburgh

61. I went to Dr Guthrie's when I was about ten. That would have been in about 1979. I was there until I was about twelve. It was all boys. There were a lot of us there. I couldn't say how many. The age range was between ten and eighteen. I was probably the youngest there. There were boys who just came in during the day and went home at night. I was there permanently. They had us in the place with boys who had done things that were a lot more worse than what I had done. There were people there who had done all sorts of things.
62. It was a big massive imposing building. It was an approved school. It was a List D school. I couldn't tell you what council ran the place. It had two wings. There were three dormitories in each wing. It was more closed than Ovenstone. Everything was done in the building. You couldn't just walk off site. To run away from the place you needed to find an opportunity.
63. They had a big courtyard. That was where all the boys used to congregate after meals. There was a place in the courtyard called "the pans". It had urinals in there. The staff would open the pans up. The staff would go in there and smoke. Some of the boys went to smoke in there as well. There was a lot of bullying and sexual assaults in there. It was amazing the things that I saw in there.

Staff

64. Mr ^{GFC} [REDACTED] was ^{SNR} [REDACTED]. ^{GBC} [REDACTED] was a member of the residential staff. His nickname was "^{GBC} [REDACTED]". There was a teacher who was also a social worker called Mr ^{GBD} [REDACTED]
65. You had a key worker in the place. Mine was called Graeme McCulloch. He was a young guy. He was a good guy. I had no problems with him. You could speak to your key worker if you had any problems. There was a lot going on in there that you were scared to speak about.
66. There was a matron. I can't remember her name.
67. There was a janitor. I can't remember the janitor's name. For some reason I think his first name might have been ^{GBE} [REDACTED]. He was an old guy. He was maybe in his fifties. He only worked on Thursday nights in the residential bit. The rest of the week he worked as a sort of groundskeeper.
68. There were quite a lot of teachers. There were maybe ten or more teachers. I didn't have any problems with any of the teachers. It was just the residential staff I had problems with.

Routine at Dr Guthrie's*First day*

69. I was taken to Dr Guthrie's from Rimpleton House in a car with my social worker. When I first got there, all the other boys were on two weeks' leave. There were no boys in the place. The matron showed me around the place. I was issued with my clothes. They provided them. I met with the headmaster. He told me what the place was about. He told me about the regime. For the first one or two weeks I just spent my days vegetating until the other boys came back.

Daily routine

70. You got up in the morning. You got up about seven. They used to come in and flick all the lights on in the dormitory. We then had to make our beds and tidy and sweep the dorm. You would then have to go for a shower. That happened every morning. You then got dressed. You went down to breakfast. After breakfast you went to the courtyard. You would line up in your classes. There were ten or twelve different classes. During the day you would also go to the gym and go swimming.

Sleeping arrangements

71. We slept in dorms. There were about twelve boys in my dorm. There were all different ages of boys in the dorms. We were all mixed in. There were about three boys the same age as me in my dorm. We were the youngest. The rest of the boys were a lot older. There were boys as old as sixteen in my dorm. The door wasn't locked at night. It was always open. There was a night watchman who supervised at night.

Washing and bathing

72. There was a big shower block. We all had to go into the shower together and shower in front of one another. There were about ten of us at a time. It was all different ages of boys who were in there at the one time.

Food

73. Mealtimes were all had in the dining hall. There was breakfast, lunch and tea. Everybody ate at the same time apart from lunchtime. They had a system where each class took turns. They rotated which class got their lunch first. I think they gave you a bun or a cake at suppertime. You could leave what you wanted to. If you didn't want it you didn't have to eat it. The food was alright.

Clothes and possessions

74. You were issued with your clothes. There were two outfits. There was one for going to school and another for wearing at night. The clothes were a pair of jeans and a jumper which said Dr Guthrie's on it. We wore Jesus sandals.
75. You weren't allowed anything of your own in the place. You weren't allowed to smoke but a lot of the boys brought tobacco in with them.

School

76. We went to school in the place. When I first went there I was still primary school age. Because of that I was kept in a class all day with the same teacher. I'm sure I spent my first six or seven months with just the one teacher. After that I was high school age. That's when I started going to Art, Maths and History classes. You would go around the place going from one class to another. There were different teachers for different subjects.

Religious instruction

77. Every Sunday they made us go to the local church just outside the school. We had to go there if we hadn't gone home. It didn't matter if you were a Protestant or a Catholic. You were made to go. I didn't like it. No stuff happened there.

Holidays and trips

78. There was a student who used to come up to see me at the weekends. I think she was a student social worker. She used to come up and take me out into Edinburgh on a Saturday afternoon. There were two different students who did that. They were alright.
79. One of the other boys and I were involved with the NSPCC. We were part of a club run by them. One weeknight a week Dr Guthrie's used to let us put our own clothes

on and go out in Edinburgh with the club. We went out ice skating or went to the pictures. We did things like that.

Visits home

80. I'm pretty sure that you got to go home every second weekend. You would go home on a Friday at twelve o'clock and come back on the Sunday. I never got to go home. The first weekend I went home to see my dad I decided that I didn't want to go home and stay with him at the weekends. He was still drinking. That was my decision. I then didn't have contact with him for about a year. I did go home to my mum's but it wasn't often.

Leisure time

81. There was a TV in our dorm. There was a bit carpeted off where you could sit and watch the TV in the evenings. In the other dorm there was a table tennis table and a couple of pool tables. There were no books, toys, games or anything like that. We used to go between the two dorms doing things. A member of staff used to sit in the corridor and sometimes in the dorm to supervise.
82. There was nothing like grounds or a playground which we could go out and play in in our leisure time. There was a swimming pool and a gym though. On a Wednesday or a Thursday night it was up to a member of staff to decide whether we could go to the swimming pool or to the gym to play football.

Birthdays and Christmas

83. There were no celebrations of birthdays. It was just another day. I never got home for the Christmas I was there. There was only me and one other boy who got left in there. They were alright with us. I think we got one present each. We had a Christmas dinner.

Visits / Inspections

84. My mum never came near the place. She was never there.
85. I didn't have any contact with my dad during the first year I was there. When my dad did make contact it was in the lead up to my gran and my granddad dying a week apart from each other. He took me to see my gran in hospital. I didn't know she was dying at the time. My dad then took me back to Dr Guthrie's. My gran and granddad then died. The headmaster told me that had happened. After that my dad came to visit and I was in contact with him again. My dad came up to visit sporadically after that. No one watched us when I had visits.
86. Now and again the social worker would suddenly appear. Judith Bell was originally my social worker. Charlie McMutchie became my social worker while I was in Dr Guthrie's. He's now in charge of community services in Fife.
87. There were never any inspections or inspectors came in.

Healthcare

88. There was a matron there. She used to deal with us if we had any problems or injuries. I don't remember any doctors.

Discipline

89. I always remember that on Fridays a meeting was held. The residential staff were there. The meeting was held to talk about how you had got on during the week. There was always a teacher there. If you had one bad report you didn't get to go home until the Saturday morning. If you had two bad reports you didn't get to go out until Saturday afternoon. If you got three bad reports you never got to go home for the weekend. If you were good, and got a teacher's nomination, you got home on Friday at twelve o'clock.

Bed-wetting

90. I had stopped bed-wetting by the time I went to Dr Guthrie's. There were a lot of bed-wetters though. They never really got punished. If they wet the bed they were given a water proof mattress. They changed the downy cover if boys wet the bed.

Abuse at Dr Guthrie's

91. There was that much happened in Dr Guthrie's that it's difficult to remember it all.
92. GBC [REDACTED] got his nickname because he used to go around grabbing boys by their lower lip. He'd push his fingers down your mouth, grab your lip and twist it. You would end up with a bust lip. He did that to me a couple of times. One of the times he did that to me was just before I was due to go home to my mum's. My mum saw what had happened to me. I told her what had happened. She called the headmaster the following Monday morning. I don't know what happened after that. I think it was swept under the carpet.
93. GBC [REDACTED] used to set boys onto other boys. If you gave him cheek, and he couldn't get you, he would open the pans, throw you in and get another boy to come in and batter you. He had boys who he would give cigarettes to do that.
94. Mr GBD [REDACTED] was quite physical. He could be alright sometimes but other times he could be a right cunt. I was punched by him. I saw him punch other boys.
95. Mr GBD [REDACTED] was in the building during some nights. If you misbehaved in the dormitory at night, and he heard something, he used to shout out to the night watchman "I'm in room thirteen GUH [REDACTED] if you need me. If any of the boys are playing up just come and get me." If we carried on misbehaving he would come into the dormitory, flick the lights on, get everyone out of their bed, line us up with our hands out and hit us on the knuckles with a clog. He would slap you and grab you. That happened every Thursday night he stayed. He sometimes used to make you stand

in the corridor in the freezing cold for hours on end. If you spoke or moved you got a slap.

96. Mr GBD used to call assemblies if there were things happened. He would assault boys in front of everybody. There was a boy who got hung with a scarf in the pans. He got pulled up over a pipe with a scarf around his neck by one of the other boys. There was a few of us saw that. The boy had a big mark on his neck. One of the members of staff got hold of that. Mr GBD then called an assembly about what had happened. He grabbed the boy who had hung the other boy and pushed him about in front of us all. He slapped the boy in front of everybody and said "How would you like that if someone did that to you?"
97. A swimming class was held every Thursday. The janitor would pick the boys that he wanted to take to the swimming pool. He would supervise us when we went to the pool. The matron would also sometimes be there. We never got any trunks to wear. We all had to be naked. When the matron wasn't there, this janitor would take photos of us whilst we were running around the pool naked. He made us play this game. It was like tig but, instead of touching each other's arms, we would have to pull each other's private parts. That went on for ages. At the time we thought nothing of it.
98. Older boys used to come up to you and say "You're on the gasp." That meant that you weren't allowed to smoke. The older boys would then attack you if they caught you smoking. They were just being bullies.
99. Some of the older boys would make the younger boys masturbate them for a draw of a fag. The main bully was called [REDACTED]. He was much older than me. He showed me his penis. He tried to touch me with it. He said that if I didn't do it he would batter me. I refused to do it. I was frightened. I ended up getting flung into the urinals in the pans. I landed in all of the urine. He then battered me. He did that because I wouldn't masturbate him. Whilst I was there I did see older boys make younger boys masturbate them. I saw older boys making younger boys suck them off. That all went on in the pans.

100. There was a lot of carry on in the dormitories at night. You made sure everybody was asleep before you went to sleep. Boys would masturbate on top of other boys whilst they were sleeping. Some of the boys would pee on you whilst you were asleep. I was masturbated on and pee'd on whilst I was asleep. I would find that out in the morning when I woke up from one of the other boys. The staff just turned a blind eye to it. They must have known stuff was going on. I can't pinpoint any specific incident where a staff member witnessed things though.

Leaving Dr Guthrie's

101. Before I left Dr Guthrie's there was a meeting in the place. My social worker, the head social worker for Dr Guthrie's, my dad and my key worker were there. I was asked if I wanted to go to an outside high school. They wanted me to go and stay with a family. It wasn't foster care it was more like supported living. I didn't want to go with a family because of my experiences from when I was fostered. I asked to go to a children's home. That's when St David's came up.
102. Later on two staff members came to Dr Guthrie's from St David's. Their names were Aunt Lena and Uncle Ed. They were very nice people. They took me out for my dinner. Later on still they took me to St David's over a weekend. Secondary Institutions - to be published later I then got to go to St David's during my weekend leave. I did that for about three months. In the end, at the start of the summer's six week holiday, I got released from Dr Guthrie's to stay at St David's.

St David's, St Andrews, Fife

103. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

104.



Rossie Farm, Montrose, Angus

105. I would have been between eleven and a half and twelve when I first went there. That would have been in about 1981. The first time I was there I was there until I was about fourteen. I would have left there in about 1983. I came back to Rossie Farm again later on. The second time was when I came back from Melville House when I was about fifteen. That would have been in about 1984. I stayed there until I was about fifteen and a half. I went back to Melville House after that. That would have been in about 1985.
106. Rossie Farm was in the country. It was in the middle of nowhere. It had its own gardens and its own forest. It was a List D school. It was all boys. I don't know whether it might have been a private place. I think it was run by a board of governors. I remember some of the staff talking about that. I never saw the governors though.
107. There were two bits to Rossie Farm. There was the closed unit and the big open school. I think I was the youngest person who ever went there. There were boys

aged up to sixteen and seventeen in with me at the same time. We were all mixed together. It was a hard place to run away from. The only way you could really run away is through taking your chance during the day when you were with your work party. It was quite a long drop if you wanted to jump out of a window.

108. I was in there because I had been sent there by a children's hearing. Mine was just for stealing. There were other guys there for sexual things, attempted murder and murder. I remember being in there with a guy who had murdered his mother. There was a boy in there who had raped a pensioner. We were all mixed in together.

The open part

109. I went to the open school when I first went there. There were maybe about forty to fifty boys in the open part. Everything was regimented. You had to fold your clothes up neatly. In the mornings you had to stand to attention. It was like being in a young offenders.
110. When I was in Rossie Farm, St David's didn't wash their hands of me. After the fifth weekend in Rossie Farm I got to go to St David's for the Friday through to the Monday. That went on for about a year. After that, St David's tried to integrate me into the local high school. It didn't work. I wasn't behaving myself. I was drinking and sniffing glue and whatever. When that didn't work St David's decided that they didn't want to have me anymore. That's when I stopped going there. After that I was back in Rossie Farm permanently.

The closed part

111. The first couple of years I was at Rossie Farm I was in the open school. Things went downhill. After I had been told that I wouldn't be getting back to St David's, I started running away a lot. The day after I was told that I ran away for six weeks. They caught me. That's when they decided they wanted to put me in the closed part. A children's hearing was held. They took me to see the panel and they made a nine months secure order. From then on I was in the closed part.

112. Closed conditions is just like being in prison. There were bars on the windows. You were locked into your room at night. If you banged on the windows an alarm would go off. You were exercised in a courtyard which had massive walls around it. You didn't get to do your work. You went to school all the time. You did English, Maths, Woodwork and Art.

Staff

113. There were some staff that were alright and there were others who weren't. There ones that couldn't take cheek. The staff in the closed part were brilliant.
114. Mr ^{LOH} was ^{SNR}. He was an alright guy.
115. My key worker was called Mr ^{GWC}. He was alright. I used to ask him if I could get out to go hill walking or skiing or something like that. He used to say "I will see what I can do."
116. There were various teachers. They went through that many teachers. I don't think the teachers knew what they were letting themselves in for when they first came. They stayed in flats on the grounds. There was a woodwork teacher called Mr ^{GBI}.
117. There was a janitor. His name was ^{GBF}. He was in his late twenties. He was a little balding. He started working there some time after I started at Rossie Farm.

Routine at Rossie Farm*First day*

118. I was taken up to Rossie Farm at night straight from the panel. My dad went with me. I got there about eight at night. The first night I was there I was put in my dormitory. Things happened that night and the following night. I was battered by the other boys in there.

Daily routine

119. We got up about half six. Someone used to come in the room and turn a key that turned on the lights. They would then go around waking you up. The staff would shout at everybody to get out of their beds. You would then go in to have a shower. You then had to get changed into your work clothes. You then went down to breakfast. We all ate together. That lasted about half an hour. After that we all had to go to the boot room to polish our boots. You had a pair of black trousers and a borstal jacket. You had to make sure you were all smart. We then had to stand in our dormitory lines in the cloakroom. You all stood to attention. The headmaster would then walk in. He had a list. He told you where you were going to go. You then went to do your jobs throughout the day. After you had done your job you came back. You then had a shower and changed into your other clothes. You then had your dinner. After your dinner you got to go to the recreation room. At about half eight or nine everybody went to bed.

Sleeping arrangements

120. We slept in dorms. There were about seven or eight of us in my dormitory. The doors were not locked. We had to press a buzzer to get the night watchman's attention if we wanted to go out of the dorm at night. If you didn't press the buzzer, and you went through the door, an alarm would go off.

Washing and bathing

121. We all had to have a shower in the morning. You also had showers at night time. It was all boys of different ages in the shower together. It was a big open shower. That's when you had to change out of your work clothes into your night clothes.
122. There were cubby holes where you kept all of your stuff. You kept your clothes there. You kept your own razor and toothbrush in there too. The razor and toothbrush had your number on them.
123. They used to make me shave in the mornings. They even had me do that at the age of eleven. I didn't need to shave. They wanted everyone to do it. It didn't matter if you didn't have anything on your face, you still had to shave. They would check your razor to see if it was wet to make sure you were shaving. It was a mad set up.

Food

124. The food was rotten. It was really bad. They used to have an urn which they made one big pot of tea in for everybody. The meals were rubbish. You ate it because you were hungry from being at work during the day. Everything was alright in terms of leaving food. If you didn't want anything you just left it.

School and work

125. In the open part you didn't go to school or anything like that. You got one hour's education a week. You did that in a class on a Wednesday afternoon. There were maybe five of us in the class. You just sat and drew or something like that. I'd done a lot of reading and writing in Dr Guthrie's so that was okay when I went to Rossie Farm. However, all the time I was in the open part of Rossie Farm I didn't do any reading or writing. There was a school in the closed bit. You were allowed to smoke in there. When I went to the closed bit of Rossie Farm I went to school all day.

Religious instruction

126. There was no religious stuff.

Holidays and trips

127. Sometimes the staff took you out hill walking. There would be a minibus full of boys. It could be up to fifteen boys. You were supervised. You would do that during the day. They gave you your lunch to take with you. They gave you things you needed to cook, like sausages, whilst you were on the walks. They also took us skiing and camping. You were sometimes away for up to a week.
128. There were a few things they took you out to do. You were always in the middle of nowhere. They made sure you were in the remote parts of Scotland and not mingling with anybody. I used to get out to do something like that every fortnight. It was not bad that way.

Leisure time

129. You weren't allowed out of the grounds in your leisure time. The only time you were allowed into the grounds was when you were with your work party.
130. You would spend your time in the recreation room. It was a big room. There was table tennis, snooker and pool. There was a record player in there. You could play the records you brought back from your home leave there. I don't remember there being any books or anything like that.

Birthdays and Christmas

131. There wasn't any celebration for your birthday or anything like that. I had a Christmas locked up in there during the time I was under closed conditions the first time I was at Rossie Farm. That was in the closed block. They were alright with us.

There weren't a lot of boys there because they tried to get as many boys home as they could. They made it as best as they could.

Visits / Inspections

132. They used to search visitors when they came in. That was in case they had anything that could help you break out. My dad came to visit me a couple of times. My sister visited sometimes as well. They used to put us in a wee room. The staff would pop their head round the door every fifteen minutes just to check everything was okay.
133. My social worker came up for meetings with myself, my dad and my key worker. I didn't feel I could talk about things in the meetings. The decisions were all being made for you.
134. There were never any inspections or inspectors came in.

Healthcare

135. There was an old matron in there. There was a doctor who came in from outside if people were not well.

Bed-wetting

136. I can't remember any bed-wetters during my time there. I remember all the mattresses had rubber covers on them. I don't remember there being anyone who wet the bed in my dorm. I'd stopped wetting the bed by the time I was in Rossie Farm.

Discipline

137. If you didn't behave yourself they had two cells in a segregation block that they put you in. You could be in there for anything up to a week. I was in there a few times.

There was no heating. There was a mattress in the cell and that was it. You were chunked in there and forgotten about.

138. If one of the boys in the dorm did something wrong, like not make his bed right or not folding his clothes right, all the other boys would suffer for it. That was the way the staff punished you. All the boys in the dorm would not be allowed to smoke, or something like that, as punishment for that boy's actions. Because of that the boy would be singled out by the other boys in the dorm. He would get it.
139. If you behaved in the closed part you started to get back your privileges. There were meetings to decide whether you had behaved. The first thing you would get back is access to the gym in the open bit. If you were good you got that back after about three months. They would hold you when you first started going there. They did that to make sure you didn't run away. After you went there for a few sessions another meeting was held. If you were behaving you could start going to the swimming pool. You were held when you went there as well. After a while there would be another meeting. If you were behaving they would then allow you to go out on walks in the country. Once you had proved yourself they would finally let you go to work in the open bit. I never got to go back permanently to the open bit because they closed it down whilst I was under closed conditions.

Abuse at Rossie Farm

140. There were boys who misbehaved and lashed out at staff. They were just restrained and then put in the cells in the isolation wing. They weren't physically assaulted. There was nothing like Dr Guthrie's where staff hit the kids.
141. There was a lot went on in the dorms at night. There were a lot of assaults and fights. I never really saw anything sexual happening. I did see a lot of boys physically assaulted by other boys though.

142. On my first day I got sent up to my dorm. One of the boys there said to me "Have you had your dorm-doing?" I said "What a is dorm-doing?" He said "You'll find out when the lights go out." When the lights went out all the other boys jumped on me an battered me. One of the boys then said "That's your dorm-doing."
143. The next morning I was all sore. I went down to the school bit. I found out there was also something called a "school-doing". I got a "school-doing" from the bullies. The "doings" were like an initiation. The staff turned a blind eye to it.
144. There was one boy who was always either assaulting someone or being assaulted himself. He tattooed himself and so on. I think he was a bit of a lost cause. I remember on one occasion seeing this boy get a black eye in the morning off of one of the other boys. In the afternoon he got another black eye. Later on he got another set of black eyes. He had black eyes for about six weeks. The staff knew about it but the boy wouldn't say who it was. Nobody was willing to speak. There was a fear factor there.
145. I only had one directly bad experience with the staff. It was with a janitor called GBF. One Sunday we were all watching the snooker final. Steve Davis was playing somebody else. We were all sitting on chairs watching the TV. The janitor walked in and said "You better get up and go up to your rooms. You will need to get yourself washed and come back down for your tea." I said that I wasn't moving. The janitor then booted me in my stomach. I fell back in my chair. I banged my head. He then came over the top of me and punched me a couple of times. I was doubled up on the floor for about a good five minutes. I was winded.
146. I didn't say anything to anybody about it. A few weeks later we were out for a walk with SNR, Mr LOH. One of the other boys told him what had happened to me. He was a boy who had seen what had happened and said to me that he couldn't believe what the janitor had done. Mr LOH said that that should never have happened. When we got back to the school he must have told the headmaster.

147. Later on the headmaster called a meeting. He made the janitor come in in front of me. He made him apologise to me. The next day they took me out of my work party and made me work with the janitor. I had to do that for two weeks. I think they were just trying to smooth it over. The janitor never laid a finger on me again.
148. The janitor assaulted some of the other boys on other occasions. It wasn't the first time he had assaulted one of the boys when he did what he did to me.
149. There were staff members that used to give boys a couple of fags to go and do their dirty work. They would go and batter a boy for them. Mr GBI used to tell boys in the closed unit what other boys were in the unit for. We wouldn't know what boys were in for until he told us.
150. It was always boys who were in for sexual stuff that Mr GBI set the other boys on. He had a thing about that. There was a boy in there for raping his wee sister. The boy never washed himself. Mr GBI saw that the boy was never going to have a shower. He said "Grab him and chuck him in the showers. I'll turn a blind eye." I never got involved but some boys did grab the boy who wasn't washing. They threw him in the shower. They tore off all of his clothes and poured bleach over him. They bust his nose.

Leaving Rossie Farm

The first time

151. There was a wee half way house. It was like a flat. Four or five of us could stay in there. Towards the end of my first time at Rossie Farm I went to live in there. I went to live in there because my order ran out. They hadn't managed to take me to a children's panel in time to renew the secure closed order. I had also been keeping out of trouble.

152. There was a meeting held in Rossie Farm. My social worker, my dad and key worker were there. I think they spoke to Melville House after that. There was another meeting. After that meeting I got to go down to Melville House to meet the headmaster. I spent a couple of hours there. After that it was decided that I could go for a week's trial before I went there to see if I liked it. I did that. It was decided after that week that I could go there full time. After that there was a children's hearing. An order was made that I should go to Melville House. I think I then went to Rossie Farm that night with my social worker to pick my stuff up. I remember asking whether I could stay in the half way house that night. I was told that I couldn't stay there because they would be breaking the law if I didn't go straight away. I was then taken straight down to Melville House.

Melville House, Cupar, Fife

153. I was at Melville House twice. The first time was when I was fourteen. During the first period I was at Melville House I went on the run. That was within about the first three months. I got taken to a police station. They then put me in Rimbleton House for one night. The following morning I was taken to another children's hearing. The panel decided to put me back to Rossie Farm in secure accommodation. I was at Rossie Farm for another six months or so until I was fifteen and a half. After that I went back to Melville House. I stayed in Melville House until I turned sixteen.
154. When I returned to Melville House the second time I was told by my social worker in a meeting at Melville House that if I didn't behave I would be handed over to the prison system. That put the fear of life into me. I had no option but to behave. They held a children's hearing before I was sent back to Melville House the second time. When I went back to Melville House the second time it wasn't as bad because I was going to college and avoiding GBK.
155. It was all boys. There were a vast range of ages at the house. The boys ranged from about eleven to sixteen. There were maybe fifty lads there. It wasn't a secure

place. It was just a big mansion house with big grounds around it. They called it a List G place. It was an alright place. It was a good establishment. It was a lot more relaxed than Rossie Farm.

Staff

156. SNR [REDACTED] was called GBJ [REDACTED] He's dead now. SNR [REDACTED] was called Mr KTZ [REDACTED] I never had any "run ins" with him. The two of them had come up from Wales. [REDACTED]
157. GBK [REDACTED] was one of the staff members. He was an ex-marine. He was English. He was between his late twenties and his early thirties. His dad was the local minister in Cupar. There was something not right about the guy.
158. There was another guy called Danny McGinlay. He was in his early fifties. His nickname was "SAS McGinlay". I don't think I ever had any "run ins" with him.

Routine at Melville House

Daily routine

159. You got up about half seven. You would then go to breakfast. You would then go outside for ten or fifteen minutes. At ten to nine they held a meeting in the big meeting room upstairs. Everybody went to that. After the meeting you went to your classes. In the summer they sometimes took you out in the minibus to do activities during the day.

Sleeping arrangements

160. We were in dormitories. They weren't as big as Rossie Farm or Dr Guthrie's. The first time I was there I was in a dormitory with six people. The second time I was there I was in a room to myself.

Food

161. The food was brilliant. It was like a hotel.

Clothes and possessions

162. The only stuff you had were your clothes. You got issued your stuff. You wore their clothes during the week and got to wear your own clothes during the weekend.

School and work

163. There was a school built into the place. You had to go there. The school had a gym in it. You were in permanent classes. There was no moving about between classes. You had the same teacher all day. I remember doing a lot of English. I don't think I did any maths. The only time you had a different teacher was if you had PE during the day.
164. When I went back the second time I didn't have to go to the school in Melville House. I went to a college in Glenrothes. I got to go there for three months. I got to do all different things. It was all stuff about getting you ready for being sixteen.
165. When I left the college I had another couple of months to go before I left Melville House. I wanted to do catering. They got me to work alongside the cooks in the kitchen. I didn't get paid for that.

Religious instruction

166. I was a Catholic. I used to go down to the chapel at weekends I was kept in. You had to go. If there were no staff around, GBK would make a beeline for me and drag me to his dad's church instead. It was a Protestant church. I didn't want to go.

167. GBK [REDACTED] used to sometimes make us go out at night during the week to help his dad out if there was anything going on in the community concerning his church. You would have to do things like help out at cake and coffee evenings with the pensioners.

Holidays and trips

168. I had a couple of holidays with them when I went there. We went to Skye, Eyemouth, Holy Island and places like that. They used to take you out to do loads of activities. I remember doing canoeing and hill walking.

Birthdays and Christmas

169. I had my birthday whilst I was in there. I remember going out with my sister for the day. I didn't get a Christmas in Melville House.

Visits / Inspections

170. I never had any visits there. The social worker only visited me just before I was about to be released. There was nothing like inspections when I was there.

Meetings

171. Every morning there was a big meeting held in a big old banqueting hall they had there. All the staff were at the meeting. Even the cleaners and the cooks. Everybody was there. All the boys would sit in the meeting. If you did something SNR [REDACTED] would get told what you had done wrong in the meeting. SNR [REDACTED] would then make you stand. He would single you out. He would belittle you in front of everybody.
172. It was embarrassing discussing private things in front of everybody. There were things that came out at those meetings that other people shouldn't have heard. He would say things to some of the boys like "You are not going home this weekend.

The reason you are not going home this weekend is because your mum doesn't want you." It was stuff like that. Looking back I don't know why he did that. Why say these things front of people like the cleaners, people who had nothing to do with things? It was a weird way of dealing with things. It made you not want to express how you felt.

Healthcare

173. There was a matron. She was called Mrs [REDACTED]. She was Mr [REDACTED] wife. There was also a woman called Mrs Mooney who was also a matron. Any illnesses you had you would see them. They would take you into Cupar to see a doctor if you needed to.

Discipline

174. There was no place to put anybody who was causing mischief. There wasn't anywhere like the isolation rooms at Rossie Farm. If you needed to get disciplined it was either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. They were there to deal with any unruly behaviour. They would take you aside into a room and sort you.

Abuse at Melville House

175. If you met [REDACTED] you would think that he was a nice old man. Behind closed doors he didn't think twice about hitting you, punching you or flinging you over a desk. I was assaulted a couple of times by him. I said to [REDACTED] once "You're needing to get that [REDACTED] stopped for hitting boys." I ended up getting assaulted by [REDACTED] for saying that.
176. During my trial week [REDACTED] played this game. He called it "the wide game". He used to make us play that throughout my time there. He would split us up into teams and make one team go hide in the woods. The other team would then go and look for the other team in the woods. Me and this boy had a disagreement whilst we

were playing this game. We got into a fight. I bust this boy's nose. GBK found out about it. When we got back to Melville House, GBK took me into a room and pushed me against a wall. He said "I'm not having you Rossie boys coming down here and causing all sorts of trouble. I'm just warning you now. Dinnae start any of your carry on." I was like "nae bother."

177. During my two spells in Melville House I was assaulted on numerous occasions by GBK. I was assaulted loads of times by him. I was punched, kicked and battered by him. I got given black eyes. It wasn't just a slap. He used to give you full blown punches. He would attack you like he was fighting another grown man. I know that he assaulted other boys too. It was all physical stuff. He would cover it up. I remember him saying that I had fallen down the stairs one time after I got given a black eye by him.
178. One time we were on a trip to Eyemouth. We went there with him and another member of staff. I wandered off from the campsite with a couple of other boys. We hadn't gone far. We were sitting on a wall. GBK came sneaking up on us from behind. He dragged me from off the wall and kicked me with his steel cap boots. He kicked me about my face. I got my hands up. He gave me bruises all over my hands and arms. He gave me a black eye. One of the other boys there got kicked in between the legs. The other boy managed to get away.
179. When we got back to the campsite everybody knew what had happened. I told the other boys. I said "I'm going to get the police on him" and "I'm going to get him charged and make sure he gets it." Later on GBK came up to me when I was in the toilets. He said "You say anything and I'll get you." He then tried to be my pal.
180. GBK would take you back to his house. He had a wee cottage. He had a set of antlers on the wall. On the antlers were hanging pairs of knickers. He used to point to the knickers and say "Those were that member of staff's" and "I've been with this member of staff" and things like that. We all thought it was funny at the time. Looking back it was a bit sinister. He used to let the boys

watch porn in his cottage. He used to sit and watch it with us. He never did anything. He never took his tackle out or anything like that.

181. There were a lot of young female members of staff. I remember that when a new female member of staff would join Melville House he would say "I'm going to get her" and "What do you think my chances are with her?" He would say these things to the boys. Looking back on it now it wasn't appropriate.

Leaving Melville House

The first time

182. It was all getting out of hand. I just didn't want to be in his company. He had a thing about me. He would target me and make sure I was around him. The first time I ran away was after GBK tripped me up going down the stairs one day. He took a couple of punches at me. I ran away that morning. I got caught. I was taken to SNR. I told him about what had happened and the reason I ran away. That was the first time I told SNR about what had been happening with GBK. SNR said I was talking "a load of crap" and said that he had never had any complaints about him. He then slapped me. He told me that if I ran away again I would be going back to Rossie Farm. At that time I actually wanted to go back to Rossie Farm because I wasn't enjoying Melville House.
183. I ran away again later on. I got taken up to SNR. There was a pile of twenty pences on his desk. It was money which had been taken off of me. SNR said to me "Do you want your money back?" I then went to take it. As I went to grab the coins SNR grabbed me and flung me in the corner. The money went everywhere. I got kicked and punched by SNR.
184. I ran away four or five times. I kept on running away until they put me back into Rossie Farm. Each time I ran away I was away for between two days and a week.

The last time I ran away a children's hearing was held and I was put away into Rossie Farm.

The second time

185. There was a place called the "Leavers Unit" in Melville House. I went there with three or four boys before I left. It was like the half-way house at Rossie Farm but you did more for yourselves. You weren't supervised. You did your own cooking and things like that.
186. Before I left Melville House for good, a social worker came up to me to ask me what I wanted to do when I left Melville House. I always wanted to stay with my mum. She didn't want to do that though. That was when the social worker arranged supported lodgings in Dunfermline.
187. A children's hearing was held just before I was released from Melville House. The chairman of the panel said "If you don't screw the nut now we're going to have to escalate this. We're going to have to ask the PF to deal with you. At that point we will wash our hands of you."

Reporting of abuse whilst in care

Ovenstone

188. I remember telling my mum what was going on at Ovenstone when I went home. I don't think she believed me. I also told my dad about what was happening. I remember telling him that I got the slipper and that we only got two pence pocket money. I didn't tell him about being force fed until I left Ovenstone. I told him about that not that long after I told him what had happened. I think he contacted the social work.

Dr Guthrie's

189. Whilst I was in Dr Guthrie's the only person I spoke to about anything that happened was my mum. I only spoke to her about the incident with GBC and my lip.
190. You didn't think to talk about things. I didn't think about talking to my key worker. I think there was a fear of being seen to be grassing on other boys. If you did say anything, and it got back to one of the other boys, your life wouldn't have been worth living. There would have been consequences.
191. I probably could have spoken to my key worker or social worker about what the staff were doing. I never did though. I honestly can't explain that to myself. I just thought when staff abused you that was what you got for being in there.

Rossie Farm

192. You couldn't say nothing to the staff. If you had a bust nose or a black eye you still couldn't say anything. You'd be a grass if you did.
193. I couldn't speak to any of the staff about the bullying. You just didn't do that. If you did that you would have to suffer the consequences from the other boys.

Melville House

194. It didn't matter what you said about GBK I remember telling SNR SNR. Nothing was done about it.

Reporting of abuse after leaving care

195. It wasn't until years later I thought that I shouldn't be living with what had happened to me. I had seen other people speaking about their experiences in the media and I

thought that I shouldn't be on my own. I started thinking that I should be starting to speak to people about what had been going on.

To the police

196. I was getting a social enquiry report done in about 1995. I was about twenty five. I spoke to a social worker during the enquiry. He asked me about Ovenstone. He told me that he had met someone else who had been in Ovenstone. That person had told him what had happened in there. I then told the social worker what had happened to me. He said "Look you need to go to the police with this." I then got in contact with the police.
197. Two policemen then came round to my flat. I was all over the place when they came round. I wasn't in the right place when I spoke to the police the first time. My life was chaotic. I was on drugs. When they spoke to me they asked me whether I wanted to continue with things. They said that if I didn't want to continue I needed to sign a piece of paper they had. At the time I just wanted done with it. I just signed the piece of paper. I seem to remember that another boy came forward with allegations and that's why they wanted me to sign the piece of paper. I just signed it because I didn't want to face up to things.
198. Years later, I started opening up to my counsellor about what had happened. She told me that just because I had signed a piece of paper back then doesn't mean I couldn't go back and report things now. She said I could still tell the police about what had happened.
199. I'd seen something about people coming forward who had been in care in the news in 2017. My partner's cousin spoke to me. I talked with him about things. He had spoken to the Inquiry because he had been abused in care. He just said "Don't hold out, just speak about it."
200. I then decided that I would email the police. They emailed me back. They sent out two officers. I had had a past with one of the officers and I said forget it. Later on a

young lassie officer came out. I hit it off with her. I then had six or seven sessions with her. I told her everything that had happened in care. I was told by the police officer that the piece of paper I signed the first time I spoke to the police meant nothing. I was told that there was a big investigation into **GBK**. Apparently there have been a number of complaints made about him.

Life after being in care

201. When I got out of care I got into supported lodgings in Dunfermline. I stayed with a guy who worked for the social work. I rented a room off him. I ended up staying with him for about a year. I worked on a YTS course in catering. I did that for eighteen months.
202. I suppose living in supported lodgings went alright. The guy had to put up with a lot from me though. I was all over the shop. I was glue sniffing, drinking and getting lifted by the police.
203. I never really had my own address until I met my partner **█** some years later. That would have been when I was twenty three. **█** was the one who got me sorted out. My life had been chaotic before then.

Impact

204. There was no support from social services after I left Melville House. There was one visit from someone who worked at Melville House. He was an old guy called **KYD** **█**. He was a minister. He saw me for half an hour. He just asked me how I was getting on. There was nothing he could really do. That's all the support I got.
205. I don't think I was prepared when I came out of care. I ended up being in and out of jail. I ended up having a drug problem. My drinking and substance abuse was definitely down to my time in care.

206. Being in care has had an impact on my mental health. When I first came out of care I tried to commit suicide a couple of times. I took overdoses. I wanted to end it all.
207. I was quite an angry person. I was violent. I think that was all down to the way I had been treated. I was treating folk the way I had been treated in care. I had been in and out of care my whole life.
208. I had hardly been at home at all over the years I was in care. I was probably mentally the same age when I left care as I had been when I went into care. That's how I felt. Time had stopped. I felt younger than I was. I was immature. I wasn't prepared for life outside of care.
209. For years I had kept it all bottled up. I didn't want to think about it. All I wanted to do, when I thought about it, was get wrecked, high or lash out. I then saw numerous counsellors over the years. There was only one counsellor I trusted. That was in about 2000. She was the one I felt I could go into things with. She helped me a lot. She had had a drug problem herself. She'd also been in care. I took a lot of sessions with her. She helped me to put a lot of things to sleep. It took me a lot of time to get to that point. It's only since speaking to her that I have opened up.
210. I see a drug counsellor. I have spoken with her about what happened. I see her once every two months. She's said that she can put me in contact with people who I can speak to. The police have said the same thing. It's hard speaking to someone. I'd rather just speak to my wife.
211. If I hadn't have ended up in care my life could have turned out totally different. I'm the only one in my family that's been in prison and been in trouble with the police. My brothers and sister have all gone on to different things.

Records

212. I've been trying to get access to my records. I gave permission to the police that they could obtain my records. I'd like to look into things to get my records.

Other information*Final thoughts*

213. I was worried, if I reported anything, my name would get back to the people caring for me. Whoever was available was part of the system. I couldn't speak to them. There should have been someone not connected to the system. There should have been someone available who I could trust. Somebody who could speak on my behalf. Somebody who had the power to do things.
214. I didn't speak to my social workers about what was happening whilst I was in care because I viewed my social workers as part of the establishment. They were part of the system that had put me into care. I never got on with my social worker. I remember my social worker saying to me, whilst I was in Rossie Farm, that he thought he would be reading about me in the papers in the future. He said that I'd end up in the jail. Back then I didn't think about it. He was right in the end though.
215. I hope that something comes good out of the Inquiry. I hope that any other kid in my predicament wouldn't end up in care with rapists, murderers and paedophiles. You should be kept in the category you are in. You shouldn't be mixed in with people who have done much worse things. You shouldn't be mixed with older boys who could put you in harm's way.
216. 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.

GBA

Signed.....

Dated..... 7/5/18