

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HID [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is HID [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1965. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I have two younger sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is two years younger than me and [REDACTED] is three years younger than her. Before we were put into care, Dad was a fisherman. We stayed in [REDACTED] Aberdeen. It's classed as a rough area. Back in our day, it was good because you knew all your neighbours. Everybody was in the same boat, nobody had much money. Mum used to send me next door to get a bowl of sugar and when Dad got paid, I would then go across with the bowl of sugar and give it back. We'd borrow milk and bits and pieces.
3. I first went into care when I was two years old. My mum was having difficulty giving birth to my sister. It was only for one day. I was in the Aberdeen Children's Shelter. It says in the reports that Mum tried to get social work to take me in because I was an unwanted child. She said I was a devil child and she didn't want to have anything to do with me. I can't remember back that far. I try and remember but I say to myself, "How can a two year old be that bad?". But there must have been a reason.
4. Dad would come in from sea drunk and beat up my mum. I was only about three years old, but I would try to stop him from hitting mum because I didn't like it. They were forced together by family because Mum was pregnant. At that time it was expected that they'd get married. Dad was good with his hands. I suspected my

mum was a prostitute, but I never knew for sure until I got my records in the last couple of months. There's a reason for everything, so I'm not holding it against her.

5. I hardly ever saw Mum, and Dad was away at sea. I had to learn at a very early age how to cook and feed my sisters because Mum was never in. She was always going away with strange men. I never clicked on that she was a prostitute. I was just a child. I was a good shop-lifter. I used to go to the shop, and I would steal anything we needed and take it back to my sister.
6. I was almost eight when we got put into Aberdeen Children's Shelter. Mum went out to the bingo and never came back. Dad came home from sea and sold all our furniture, then me and my two sisters got put into care. [REDACTED] was three years old and [REDACTED] was six. We all went in together. It was supposed to be a short stay shelter when your mum was having difficulties. We were there for about eight months.
7. My mum had ran away to Yarmouth with a Dutch guy. He was transferred back to his home country, and then she came back to Aberdeen. Dad always took her back. I don't know if he accepted that she was a prostitute, or if he was living on immoral earnings. I hope not. It's a difficult one because they both lied so much. After mum got back, my parents were lying to everybody. They were staying in a hotel together when we were in care. Really, they weren't keeping up with their responsibilities in looking after us. They were wanting to have their cake and eat it. They wanted their lifestyle of going out, partying with friends, and just to forget about us.

Aberdeen Children's Shelter

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

9. Secondary Institutions - to be published later



10. The social worker told us we were going. My dad was there. He said, "Never mind, it won't be for long, we'll get a place together." But it never happened. I remember going with my dad and my two sisters. [REDACTED] was quite upset. She was always quite emotional. I remember saying, "It'll be okay, I'll look after you." Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Aberdeen Children's Shelter

38. Mum finally got a house, but the social services told her I was a trouble maker, retarded, had severe behavioural problems and wasn't right in the head. They said I caused trouble at the littlest thing. So it was recommended that I didn't get out.
39. I got put into an approved school. I remember looking out the window of the Children's Shelter. [REDACTED] turned back to give me a wave. She had her wee cardigan on and she gave me that lovely smile of hers. I remember it clear as a bell. I smiled at her. I was so happy they got out with Mum [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later My sisters never got taken into care again. They stayed with Mum. Dad would appear now and again.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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Brimmond Assessment Centre, Bucksburn, Aberdeen

42. I was nine when I went to Brimmond. It's still classed as being in Aberdeen, but it's right on the border with Aberdeenshire. I was there for nearly two and a half years. It was a local authority place. Mr and Mrs ERL-ERM SNR . I think they may have and charged the local authority. They in a separate house, joined by a corridor with a highly secure, locked door.
43. There were lots of children there, probably almost a hundred. It was mixed, boys and girls. I think there were more boys than girls. There was a boys' wing, the padded cells, then a secure door, then the girls' wing. I was the youngest, and the ages ranged from my age at the time up to sixteen. The average age was probably fourteen.
44. They didn't want to take me because they thought a nine year old was too young for an approved school. It was for anybody who didn't follow the norm. It was secure. It had plastic windows. I tried to get through them with screwdrivers, but couldn't.

Routine at Brimmond

First day

45. It was late when I arrived at Brimmond, probably about 9 o'clock at night. Everybody was in bed. Two police officers took me there. [ERL-ERM] were waiting. I was quite intimidated by the place. It was quite big. The corridors were long. But I didn't let on that I was intimidated by it. I saw the staff with bunches of keys. They were like jailers. I saw the second door, then the third door. I was told, "Stand there, boy." The social worker was there, but nobody communicated with me.
46. There was no abuse or anything. Nothing happened the first night. I lay in my bed and thought, "This is alright."

Mornings and bedtime

47. Everything was locked up at night. The staff looked like prison wardens with keys hanging down. Bedtime was about 8 or 9 o'clock at night, depending what members of staff were on. There were between four and six people in a dorm.
48. I was terrified because I still wet the bed. I tried to stay up all night so I didn't wet the bed. I kept on having really bad nightmares. You can't hide the smell of urine after a while. I was embarrassed about it, but I couldn't help it. I think I got slagged off in front of everybody: "Smell that pish," stuff like that, up and down the corridor. It wasn't always bad. It depended which member of staff was on. Some days they didn't mind, provided you changed your bed and you went and got a shower.
49. We'd be woken up by a turnkey. A member of staff would come round and bang on the doors, open all the doors and the boys would come out first. The girls would get up after us. They had a separate highly secure door. It was run like a jail. You'd make your bed, get washed, then breakfast, then work, then lunch.

Washing

50. You showered once a week, mid-week, unless you had a medical condition. You could probably have a shower at the weekend as well, depending who was on. If you had a good week, they would be alright with you.

Food

51. Boys and girls would eat together in one big dining room. We used to get ready mixed tea, already made in a big kettle. It had heaps of sugar and it was fine.
52. I remember one lady, KPP She was kitchen staff. She would make your meals and they were really nice. She was great. She was like the mum I never had. She used to help me write a letter home because I couldn't spell properly. She would bring home baked cakes once a month and things like that. She quite religious, so it paid to go to bible class because you got a cookie and a cup of tea.

School/Work

53. If you weren't academic, you got work. I was quite happy with that. I always struggled at school. I got words muddled up. I had no schooling at all. We used to make things to sell, to make a profit for ERL-ERM If you were interested in school you got to go to school, but nine times out of ten they'd try to get you to make things so they could sell them. My project there was making forts because I was good at it. I made forts with drawbridges for kids to play with. I'd get my own corner and keep myself to myself. I used to carve totem poles as well. They were about a metre high and I would carve faces on them. People used to say that they were sullen and sombre. They had wee moon faces with funny eyebrows. They used to get good money for them. They always sold before anything else, because they were different from anything else.
54. Back then, my attitude stunk. The littlest dirty look from somebody and I'd be straight across the table, fighting. I wasn't good academically, but I was good with my hands. So woodwork kept me safe and I enjoyed it. I loved carving. I could make

them money, so I was put to work. It was just my way of not kicking off. It was my time. I was in my own little world, my own little bubble.

Clothes

55. We were given jeans and a jumper by the staff. The girls wore pink and the boys wore blue. The punishment uniform was shiny, green shorts. You'd be in bare feet so you couldn't run away. Aberdeen's that cold, you wouldn't run away in bare feet wearing nothing but a pair of shorts. That was what I wore for most of the two years. I used to make an excuse to go to bible class because I'd get to wear a t-shirt and a pair of flip-flops.

Leisure time

56. You worked till 4 or 5 o'clock, then you got your supper. After supper, you got a bit of recreation time. If you were good, you got to watch TV. All the chairs would be in a row. The TV was tiny. You only watched what the members of staff wanted to watch. If Coronation Street was on, you had to watch Coronation Street.
57. If you were lucky and there were enough staff, you'd get to play five-a-side football. I was always put in the goal because I was good in the goals. You could go to the gym. I used to go in there and train. There were a couple of good boxers in there, so I just trained at the boxing all the time. We had big medicine balls and we would hit them all the time, back and forth, back and forth. I liked five-a-side football and the boxing and I liked the army fitness training in the gym. There was an ex-special services boy who took the training. Then it was lock up time.
58. The girls were kept separate from us apart from at mealtimes. You only got to see them at the gym or when there was disco. That was always good.
59. We had a choice on Sunday: you could either go to the church across the road or for a five mile run up a hill. I was a bit slow and I used to choose the five mile run. I liked to see how quick I could get up the hill and back. Then I thought I should be going to

church and to get a cookie and cup of tea. I did two years of running up the hill and then I decided to go to church. You got to wear your dress clothes to go to church.

What you had when you came in, if you did have clothes, you could wear them. ERL-ERM

ERL-ERM

were elders in the church. They were really into the church big time.

Holidays

60. Sometimes I got to go home. My dad and his brothers came. When my uncles were home on leave from Northern Ireland they would come and pick me up in big four wheel drive things. I would go up to [REDACTED], outside Fort George and stay with the family for the summer holidays. I got to do all the army activities. I used to get taken out shooting and camping. I learned navigation. The family in [REDACTED] were really good with me.

Birthdays and Christmas

61. At Christmas time, there was a tree, you pulled a cracker and maybe got one present.
62. You got a birthday present. Back then, you got one present and that was all you got. I got a football or a pair of goaly gloves or a pair of boxing gloves. I was delighted. I was happy with anything I got. KPP made a chocolate cake for my tenth birthday. It was big and square and everybody got a piece of it. I got two bits because it was my birthday.

Visits/Inspections

63. Mum came to visit once in two and a half years. I never saw my sisters at all. I wasn't worried about them though as I knew they were okay. Dad came with his brothers on a few occasions. Once, they kicked off when they came in. It was the middle of summer and it was a heat-wave with temperatures above seventy degrees. The staff made me wear a parka over my head and a balaclava so you could just see my eyes and mouth. My uncle said, "Get that off your head." I had to strip at the door. ERL-ERM

ERL-ERM were there. Every part of my body was bust up, black and blue from head to toe. My uncle [REDACTED] said, "You, get across here right now." They threatened to get the police. I don't know if the police were called or not.

64. The next time, my uncle [REDACTED] came up in an armoured vehicle. He was a colour sergeant and he'd just come back from Northern Ireland. I was bust up again. My face was all bust and I lifted up my t-shirt. I was black and blue all over and there was one rib poking out. He said, "What happened to you?"

Healthcare

65. There was a female member of staff who did the nursing. I saw a psychiatrist, Dr Brown, every now and again when I was there. He said I was mentally disturbed, a trouble maker and an instigator. You name it, everything bad they could put against me they would. I wouldn't speak to him because I didn't like him. I knew he was something to do with the head. I just ignored him totally. I didn't see a doctor about my physical health for the two and a half years that I was there.

Abuse at Brimmond

66. ERL-ERM [REDACTED] really didn't know much about what was going on. It was well known amongst us that Mrs ERL [REDACTED] was having an affair with KEF [REDACTED], one of the members of staff. He got away with murder. He was the one you kept away from. I could stand up for myself but when KEF [REDACTED] came at you, he came at you with a baseball bat.
67. If you go into an institution, sometimes mental cruelty is worse than an actual, physical hiding. If you can't sleep at night time because you think somebody is going to come in and try and stab you, that's worse than somebody actually coming at you. You're not sure if it's going to happen or if it's not going to happen, so it's always in the back of your mind. I knew what game KEF [REDACTED] was playing quite quickly, so I said, "No, I'm not doing it."

68. Within the first two weeks of being there, KEF was trying to be funny so I told KEF to fuck off. I went into the TV room and he sent two boys in behind me to give me a hiding. Two older boys did his dirty work. They were fifteen and quite hard. They had the run of the place. They did all his beatings. They would bully and steal people's cigarettes and sweets. But they got a shock when they came up against me. I was nine and I smashed the two of them. I'm not proud of what I did, but I had no option back then. KEF was totally disillusioned that his two main hit men got beaten up by a nine year old boy.
69. Then I got grabbed by the hair by a lady member of staff, KEF and GJP. KEF laid into me with a baseball bat. I got left in a pool of blood. I remember them hitting into my neck, hitting into my shoulders. The lady jumped on my private parts. She seemed to be actually trying to kick them back in. KEF was punching me and punching me. They must have laid into me for about twenty minutes. I honestly thought I was dead. I was in bits, I couldn't move. I remember when I came to, I was looking at the cream walls and my blood was right up the wall. They dragged me along the corridor by the hair and the arms, still punching and kicking me. Then I got put in the cell.
70. They took all my clothes off me and I was naked in a padded cell. There was a girl in the cell called [REDACTED]. The first thing I did was cover my privates. She said, "Look at the mess you're in. Were the bastards at it again? What happened?" I said, "He was trying to get [REDACTED] and the boy [REDACTED] to give me a hiding and it backfired. I beat the two of them up, but then they jumped on me."
71. They came in with a plastic mug of water, but I never got anything to eat that night. They came in the next morning and told me to get out of the cell. [REDACTED] was told to stay in the cell. KEF said, "Get against that wall. Stand against that wall. Put your hands behind your back, boy." So I was standing against the wall, naked. The girls door was just next to the cell. He opened the door and he said to the girls, "When you go past, look at his willy and make a comment." It wasn't the girls' fault. If they didn't do what he said, they would get punished as well. They went past, and the

young girls were all giggling. I couldn't do anything because my hands were behind my back. They were told to look at my privates.

72. It was KEF and that other female, LMH. LMH was also having an affair with KEF. The girls would tell me about it. LMH was in charge of the girls' wing. She was at the front of them. She said, "Ha ha, look at that." I just looked straight ahead. I didn't smile, I didn't react. I got put straight back in the cell again.
73. Then I got taken out about an hour later. They chunked me in a pair of green shorts. I got a toothbrush and was made to scrub the floors with it for three months. KEF said, "You'd better say sorry, boy, for what you've done." I said, "Fuck off." I shouldn't have said that, I was in bits. I was told to scrub the toilets until I said sorry. I went through about 30 toothbrushes in 3 months. I just sat there and scrubbed. He'd say, "Have you had enough yet?" And I just laughed. I kept on smiling, I kept on scrubbing. I wouldn't look at him. I kept on scrubbing the toilets and then the stairs. There were about thirty of them. I had to sweep them with a toothbrush, then wet them, then scrub them with the toothbrush. I then had to dry them off and scrub them again with a toothbrush. They were trying to see what they could get away with. They had me down as a trouble maker and a retard. They got that from the Children's Shelter. They were told, "This guy will not break." So they said, "Is that right? We'll see, let's try and break him."
74. After I was picked on the first time, I was in the padded cell for two weeks. [REDACTED] was taken out and another girl was put in the cell. Her name was [REDACTED] She was naked too. I would say to her, "It's okay, I'm not looking at you." I was hiding my privates. She had cuts across her arms and chest. I had never seen that before. I asked her what they were and she said that she had tried to kill herself. It was like a cat had scratched her. I only got out of the cell to clean the toilets. I didn't get out to socialise. My meals were dropped off at the cell door.
75. When I got out after two weeks, I went back to doing woodwork. They weren't watching and I found an old bit of steel. I filed myself a knife. I sharpened it and tucked it down my trousers. I was adamant that next time I was in the cells, I was

going to stab **KEF**. I was walking down the corridor and **GJO** said something to me. I told him to fuck off. I was beaten up again and stripped naked. When they stripped me, they found the knife.

76. I was probably in the cell for a couple of weeks again. I was never out of the cells. I was in there at least one week every two months. Every time I was in there, I was naked. They thought we wouldn't fight as much if we were naked. The first year, I was in there a lot more. The only interaction I had with others was when the girls would walk past me naked, with my hands behind my back. I was given a bucket to do the toilet in. It was exactly like a jail.
77. The police came to have a word with me when I was in the padded cells. I was naked. They came charging in with their batons. The police came in from Bucksburn. It happened twice over the first year, then it never happened again. They came in with their truncheons. There was a girl in with me, screaming. I can't remember whether it was **KEF** or **GJO** I managed to get three of them before I went down. There were truncheons everywhere, and then I was left in a pool of blood.
78. In my first year there, I was going along the corridor and a fight broke out between me and another boy. I won. The staff tried their best to intimidate me. They dived in again. I think I was unconscious in the hallway. I got taken to hospital. I had fractures, bruising and concussion. I was covered in blood again. My dad knew I was taken to hospital at the time, but when I got my medical records there was nothing about it in them.
79. Sometimes, they put me in the dark cupboard next to the cell. I couldn't bend **Secondary Institutions - to be p** **Secondary Institutions - to be p** They didn't know that the dark terrified me, but it did. It was worse than facing somebody putting a gun to your head. I was in there twenty or thirty times over the two to three years I was there.
80. That was just the way of life. It was either bully or be bullied. For a time, I turned into a bully, then I took a step back and stopped it. I would only bully a boy who would give me a fight. For example, if somebody came in who was harder than me, I would

take him on, win or lose. I tried my best to stick up for the boys who were bullied. One of the boys, [REDACTED] was diabetic and the other boys tried to pick on him. He was just a skinny wee thing. I liked him, he was funny. He could read books. I couldn't read, so he would read me stories. I'd be fascinated for hours, just by him reading a book. We didn't have much entertainment. I'd never had a story read to me in my life, not even as a baby. These two boys were picking on him and I said, "That's it, you're not picking on him again." The next day, they picked on him. I went straight up to them and knocked the two of them out. I said, "Don't touch him again."

81. There was no sexual abuse in Brimmond, just beatings. It was part of everyday life and you accepted it. They were trying to make us into decent, quiet citizens. They tried to get stuck into my head that I was a bad person, dishonest and a thief. There were always beatings and punishments. The frequency of the beatings depended upon how many staff were working. They wouldn't come at me if there were just two members of staff. By the time I was 11 or 12, they would need at least 4 or 5 of members of staff because I was quite big.
82. If the baseball bat was used, it was KEF Mr GJO [REDACTED] would use a walking stick, but he wouldn't instigate it. KEF [REDACTED] was in charge of the place and would always instigate it. He could get away with whatever he wanted because of his affair with Mrs ERL [REDACTED] Mrs ERL [REDACTED] didn't know what was going on, but she was management so the buck should have stopped with her.
83. I'm surprised nobody was killed. I was strong, but some of the kids were small. They stamped on us. It depended on their moods, but other children were beaten too. They were sadistic.
84. Towards the end of my time, a coloured boy arrived at Brimmond. There was an uproar with the social workers next to the dining room door. I remember ERL-ERM [REDACTED] ERL-ERM [REDACTED] saying, "We're not having a nigger in this institution". The social workers told them to give him a try. He was about fifteen. He got in and KEF [REDACTED] started using him to do his beatings and punishments. The boy threatened me in the workshop. He had a homemade knife and he said, "You're getting it tonight." I was scared of

the guy. I couldn't admit it to anybody, but I was terrified. When he said he was going to stab me that night, I thought I was going to get stabbed. My head was going round in circles thinking how I could get an advantage over him.

85. I was making tea, and KPP asked me what I was doing. I told her I had a sore head. I put twenty spoons of sugar in the cup and the hottest water. KPP hadn't realised there was no tea bag or anything. I walked across to him and poured a cup of boiling water with sugar over him. It takes the skin off. That's what they do in the prison as a punishment. It gave me a distraction. I was going to have him and KEF on my back, so I knew I had to take this guy out quite quickly. He was lying on his back. I gave him six punches and he was finished. Next thing, I had KEF and loads of staff on me. I got beaten, stripped naked and put in the cell again. I never got any hassle from the boy after that.

Leaving Brimmond

86. When I got out of the cell, I said to my cousin that I needed to kick off. I was sick of KEF. So we started a riot in the upstairs bedroom. I started throwing chairs and tables at the members of staff. The police were called so I lit a fire. I then went into the dorm and barricaded the door. We set the place on fire, but we were inside where the fire was. I was trying to stop the staff getting in but the fire brigade were trying to break down the door.
87. After that, I was transferred to Monken Hadley. They found a place for me there about a week after the fire.

Monken Hadley List D School, Newton Stewart

88. I was taken to Monken Hadley a month before my twelfth birthday. It was an old Victorian mansion in Newton Stewart. There were well over a hundred boys in there, from age six upwards. There were three different groups: juniors, intermediates and

seniors. I was initially in the intermediates but I got put into the senior group after a day. Each group had a different floor of the mansion. It was dark, dingy and smelly. There were stuffed animals all over the walls, stags' heads and eels. I don't think there were that many staff, but I was terrified of them.

Routine at Monken Hadley, Newton Stewart

First day

89. A social worker and **ERM** drove me down. Mr **ERM** told me on the journey I'd better not step out of line and that there were boys waiting for me. He told me I was in for a shock. I was met by Mr **HSP**, who **██████████**. He was wearing a mortarboard and cloak, and was holding a cane.

Mornings and bedtime

90. The senior floor was run by a boy from Edinburgh called **██████████**. He was 15 years old going on 16. They put me in with him because they thought I was a handful. Me and him hit it off straight away because of boxing. I was the only one who would go into a ring with him and give him as good as he gave me. I was in a dorm with **██████████** and another couple of boys. There were between 4 and 6 of us to a room.
91. You were woken up by an alarm bell. There was no rush to get to breakfast because you hardly got fed. Bedtime was fairly relaxed because we were seniors. We would go to bed around ten.

Food

92. The food was terrible. You hardly got anything. Mr **HIF** used to flick his cigar ash into the soup and stir it. I kicked off once with him. I shouldn't have done it because I paid for it again. He flicked ash in the porridge and I said, "What are you doing?" He said, "Move on, boy, move on." It was porridge every day. You never got

milk with it, just lumpy, salty porridge. You got one slice of bread with margarine on it.

93. On a Sunday, you'd get a slice of toast with margarine and a cup of tea. At dinner time, you'd get soup and a slice of bread. At night time you'd get mince and tatties, but you'd be finished it in two seconds – there was very little. You had to sit with your arms folded and look straight ahead. When the governor said, "Eat", you could eat but you weren't allowed to talk.

School/Work

94. I didn't get any schooling there at all. After breakfast, I would go to work. We did pottery. I quite liked it. I learned how to work a kiln. I would make bowls and vases and they used to sell them. I ended up being in charge of the pottery. I didn't kick off that much there because I knew the reprisal would be severe.

Holidays

95. Once a year you'd get to go home. I didn't want to go home to my mum so I'd stay in a children's home in Aberdeen. I'd stay there for the full six weeks of the summer holidays. I would go to Broomhill Children's Home.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Leisure time

96. I was in an approved school. The only way to get by was to do the sports that the housemaster approved of, and that was boxing. I took to boxing like a duck to water. All my uncles were army and SAS personnel, and I wanted to go into the army. . Because of this they liked me, and also because I was one of the best boxers. We used to fight other approved schools and guys from jail. I had fifty four fights and I wasn't beaten once. I was good. But I trained really hard. The way I looked at it was that it got staff off my back.

97. One of the members of staff was ex-SAS. He was alright. He took a liking to me and [REDACTED] because we wanted to join the army. He said, "I'm going to make you the best soldiers. Some of the things he did wouldn't be acceptable in this day and age. He used to have me out at 6 in the morning, doing 50 press-ups. We would do sit ups and running. I'd go for 20 mile runs every weekend, up the hills. It was brilliant. Me and [REDACTED] used to go to his apartment. He would speak to us about his army days. We'd look at all his trophies.
98. There was a lot of leisure time. I'd do archery, shooting, canoeing, rambling in the hills, running and the gym. I liked the leisure time.

Christmas

99. Christmas was just a normal day.

Visits/Inspections

100. I had one visit whilst I was there. Dad was trying to reconcile with Mum and they came down. Me and Mum didn't speak because I blamed her for splitting up the family. I wasn't worried about myself because I could handle it. But I blamed her for her part [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Healthcare

101. I never saw a doctor at Monken Hadley.

Abuse at Monken Hadley

102. The second day I was there, I was in the showers. Mr ^{HIF} [REDACTED] was in charge of the intermediates. He was like a gangster, with big eyebrows. He was wearing a tweed suit, waistcoat and one of those old fashioned watches on a gold chain. He tried to

feel some of the boys' privates. I kicked off. My two best mates were in the showers. It felt uncomfortable because he was watching us. I told him to fuck off. The two [REDACTED] brothers got stuck into him. They were the same age as me. There was a carry on with members of staff and the next thing I knew I was put upstairs with the seniors.

103. The only time I was apprehensive was in the showers. I only had a shower once a month. I tried to wash in my bedroom sink. So much happened in the showers, you didn't want to go there. The showers for everybody was at the intermediate level. I would go with [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] brothers. Two of us would shower and two of us would keep watch, ready to fight. We would try and have a shower when Mr HIF [REDACTED] was out.
104. On day four, I got taken to SNR [REDACTED] room for an introduction. I didn't get it on my first day because I was late coming down from Aberdeen. I was standing there with my hands in my pockets. I got told to stand up straight. I didn't. I said something rude. I shouldn't have done it. There were two members of staff behind me and SNR [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] was standing there with his cloak, his hat and his cane. He said, "HID [REDACTED], we don't take no shit here. If you step out of line, we'll fucking kill you." I thought it was funny and I started laughing. Next thing I knew, somebody dug into my spine and then somebody hit me on the other side. They all had canes and they battered with me with the canes.
105. I got dragged out by the hair and left in the corridor with all the stuffed animals. If you look at something long enough, you think it's moving. I'd never seen stuffed animals before, and I thought the stag's head was moving. I was left there the whole night. My body was so broken. I couldn't move, so I had to lie there the whole night. It was dark. That was the only thing that got to me. There was no light at all. I couldn't move for days after that. I never stepped out of line again.
106. The guys that ran it were ex-special forces. It wasn't so bad there, it was just the brutality. You knew what to do. If you stepped out of line, you'd be hospitalised. For example, at breakfast you sat and you looked straight. You never spoke during

meals. If you stepped out of line the staff would take you into the middle of the floor and leave you in a pool of blood, just for unfolding your arms.

Leaving Monken Hadley

107. I was there about a year and a half. It was simple enough. It was good for me there. It was quite relaxed for me, providing I stuck by the rules. I was getting closer to being sixteen. I wanted to realise my dream and join the army. My dad kept on complaining that I was put in Monken Hadley as a punishment. They finally relented because they said my behaviour was much better.

Craigielea Children's Centre, Aberdeen

108. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

109.

110.

111.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

112.

113.

114.

Oakbank Residential School, Aberdeen

115. I was moved to Oakbank when I was fifteen years old. I was there for about a year and a half. It was brilliant in there with good food and good staff. The main building was secure but you could escape from it without any bother if you wanted.

116. I didn't see much of Mum and Dad so I didn't have any money. They never came to see me once at Oakbank. I did run away once to see them. I went up to my mum's

and got something to eat. I was out for about nine days. I had a good time, going to parties and seeing my mates. I got caught by the police and went back in handcuffs.

117. When I was fifteen, I'd wisened up a bit. I didn't want any hassle. I wanted to join the army. I had to try and be good for a year so I had no criminal convictions. All I did was go to the gym and train.
118. I got put into EJW joiners and workshop. I didn't go to school when I was at Oakbank. I went to joinery workshops. You didn't get Mars bars and Coca Cola at school. So common sense prevailed and I made picture frames. It was the governor's cash, money on the side. If we made more than four or five frames a day to a high standard, he could sell them. We'd get a Mars bar, a Coke and ten fags.
119. Oakbank was good. I had a lot of mates in there. There was very little trouble. If there was any trouble, it was usually with the Dundee boys.

Reporting of abuse

120. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

121.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

122. When I was in Brimmond, my uncle, Colour Sergeant [REDACTED], threatened to give them all a hiding because of the mess that I was in. That happened two or three times. He was going to beat them up. My dad was going nuts. My uncle [REDACTED] has the quickest temper in the world. He was going to beat them up too. I told them at the time what was happening. Everybody knew what was happening to me, but I think they just accepted that that was what happened in that day and age in an approved school. I don't know if the police were called when I was at Brimmond.
123. I told social workers what happened, but there's nothing in my records. I told Kay Chisolm and [REDACTED] ^{HZJ} There were quite a few others that I told through the years. [REDACTED] ^{HZJ} was good friends with the family that ran Monken Hadley. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
124. The whole family knows what happened to me. In those days, approved schools weren't just a slap on the wrist. There was no sexual abuse at Brimmond, just emotional and physical. I class that as a good school because there was no sexual abuse. At Monken Hadley, you knew you shouldn't step out of line. The way I look at it is that it was acceptable in that day and age. It was part of daily routine in an approved school. It was cruel, it was brutal, but it was all we knew. It was the daily routine - somebody got it and you just hoped it wasn't you that day.
125. I tried to claim compensation in the civil courts around twelve years ago. I got a letter back saying they couldn't find any details of any negligence or abuse. I've never reported my abuse to the police.

Life after being in care

126. Before I left Oakbank, the social worker said, "That's it, on you go." I knew I was going a couple of weeks beforehand. There was no offer of help or a house or anything like that.
127. My head was really messed up when I came out of care. I didn't want to live with my parents. I didn't want anything to do with them. I wanted to keep away from my mates as much as possible. At that point, I realised I hadn't been accepted for the army. I was gutted. I passed the medical but failed the written test.
128. There was one member of staff at Oakbank who gave me hassle. Budgy was his nickname. He was just a big bully. I got out when I was sixteen, just before I got put into prison. I met Budgy in the jobcentre. I was in signing on and he was there and I confronted him. I said, "See when you get outside, you're getting a hiding." The guy was massive, like the wrestler Giant Haystacks. He got security and got the police. He was the only bad thing about Oakbank.
129. When I got out of approved school, I was going to rob a post office. I was supposed to meet the [REDACTED] brothers. There were three warrants out for my arrest. On the day of the robbery, I got arrested and put into Craiginchies prison so I couldn't meet them. Somebody was looking after me. They went without me. The guy gave them the money and they killed him. I saw them when they came into prison. I said, "Why did you kill him? He gave you the money." They said they were out of their faces on drugs. Both of them got maximum security and both of them committed suicide in jail.
130. Because I had turned sixteen, there were warrants out for my arrest. I think they were for assault and theft. I think they left it deliberately until I'd left so they could move me. I was put in front of a female judge [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED]. She put me straight on remand.
131. I knew lots of people in prison from approved school. Prison was like a holiday camp compared to Brimmond. I wasn't well educated, but I was more educated than the

rest of them. I got a job working in the library. It was a great job. I used to go round with the trolley. If somebody wanted something special, I would charge a fag for it. If somebody wanted an adult magazine, especially if it was a new one, that would be two fags. I always had plenty of fags. I could sell them for a Mars bar or a can of juice.

132. I was in jail for 9 days initially, then about 7 months on remand. When I came out of prison, I slept rough at Aberdeen beach. I couldn't cope with things. I tried to stay away from my mates and stay away from trouble. I slept rough for about a year. I couldn't keep going, I couldn't keep living like that.
133. I went walking round places to ask for a job. I got a job in a fish house. Within two weeks, I got promoted to trainee filleter. Four weeks later, I was actually promoted to filleter. Instead of £25 per week, I was put up to £80 a week. I did that for about nine months. I stayed in a bed and breakfast. Then a skipper came in from a fishing boat. He was a man short and asked if I'd give it a try. So I went away for four days and came home with £750 for four days fishing. Then I said to myself, "I'm not going back to the fish house." I put my head down and tried to forget about the past. I tried to keep away from all my mates. I had a huge problem with alcohol for a lot of years. I used to love to get drunk back then.
134. I was on the boat for twelve years. Then I bought my own boat. I gave my dad the easy job, inside doing the steering. We got on when we weren't at sea, but we never got on when we were at sea. He thought he was God when he was inside, shouting out his little window. I was outside, freezing to death with the waves coming over the boat. I was hauling the nets in and sorting the fish, and he was sitting drinking coffee. He never offered me a coffee. It was so cold, I couldn't feel my fingers. I worked with my dad for ten years.
135. Then the government came in with their fishing quotas. We were told we could only catch twenty boxes a week. We were catching a hundred boxes a day. I loved the fishing, but I left that and worked on the pilot boat at Aberdeen harbour for three years. I left the pilot boat and started my own business. I didn't have much money,

so I started off as a handyman. I've not been able to work for one year and two months, but I have my two nephews working for me. I still have a big client base. I organise and plan things for them. I feel I've achieved a lot. Considering what I've been through, I've done not bad.

136. Two years ago, I got a test and was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder. I supposed to go back to be tested for autism, but I didn't go back because I knew I didn't have it. This would explain why I struggled so much with paperwork. If I see something once, I can normally do it. I'll watch and try to do it a different way to make it better. I went to computer classes. I don't enjoy computers but computers are the future. I've got to learn. I had a website for my company.
137. I met my ex-partner, [REDACTED] in 2000. She had three children, who I brought up as my own. She has nothing to do with her children but I still support them.
138. I was devastated when my uncle [REDACTED] died. I found it hard to get over that. I always thought he was my dad. Supposedly, mum was having an affair with him before I was born. I look more like him. He always came straight to see me when he got back from a tour of duty. He would bring presents. I wanted to help him as much as I could. I thought the world of him and also, I wanted to return the favour, because when I was in approved school, he'd come straight to see me.

Impact

139. I never got a hug until I was sixteen. I didn't know what a cuddle was until I was sixteen. I was at a family party and my cousin hadn't seen me for a while. She gave me a hug. Honestly, I shook. The kindness made me think, "What's going on here?"
140. I had a lot of charges on my record for police assaults and for assaults committed when I was drunk. The only way I knew how to react was with violence. About 3 or 4 years ago, there was an incident in a pub with my nephew. I spent four days in the

cells as a result. The judge said it was my last chance, or I was going to get a serious sentence. I was sent to anger management training through the court social work. It was either that or the jail, because I'd been ending up in the cells every weekend.

141. I knew I had to try my best at the anger management, but it was hard going. My attitude did stink. I sat with my arms folded for three months. I was going to get sent back to the court. Then I started opening up. At the end of the interview, Tina said my biggest problem was [REDACTED] and rejection. That's messed me up since I left school. I understand what the word means, but I can't get my head around the fact that that one simple word can mess you up so much. Everything I do is because of rejection. I won't make a move if there's a chance of being rejected. Unless there's a guarantee, I won't make a move and nothing in this life is guaranteed. The anger management was the best thing I've ever done.
142. Commitment always scared me. [REDACTED] was the love of my life, but she was the wrong choice. I didn't know she was an alcoholic. She could be violent and aggressive. I was five minutes late getting to her friend's house because I was stuck in traffic and she threatened me with a knife. My family couldn't understand why I stood by her and put up with it. After being in approved schools and seeing what my dad did to my mum, I never lifted my hand to her once. I put up with seventeen years of abuse. We split up about three years ago. It was so hard. Then I found out that I couldn't handle rejection and that's why I found it so hard. I still paid all her bills for two and a half years.
143. My parents should never have got together, then I wouldn't have been here. I actually said that to them last year, "Why did you get together, you had nothing in common?". They've been separated for thirty years. My dad is just hanging on and no more than that. My parents lied so much. I pulled them up for that. Over the last few years, I've been excluded from the house. I've been banned because of some of the questions I was asking. I said, "Why did you lie to us so much? Why were you living in a hotel and why were you living it up [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] They never answered me.

144. Because of the beatings I had at a young age, my bones started to deteriorate when I got older. When I was younger, I had so much muscle I could tolerate it. As I got older, the bones have started to crumble with the damage that was done when I was younger. My consultant surgeon, Dr Mahmoud Kamel, thought I must've been hit with baseball bats because of the mess my body is in. He examined my neck at the department of neurology at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. He couldn't believe I was still walking. He said the joints of my neck were all out of place and my spinal cord is compressed. I've never had an accident.
145. I didn't tell the surgeon I was beaten in approved school. I'm not going to tell him that because I'm ashamed. I'm a patient and he respects me. He says when I'm better, I can do his property up. The last thing I want to do is tell him I was a little villain in an approved school. I wasn't a little villain. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- Secondary Institutions - to be published later
146. I've had trouble with my GP for a number of years. Lately, I applied for my childhood medical records. They thought I wanted to take them to court, but I wanted to obtain my records for the Inquiry. I don't feel I've had appropriate treatment from my GP. They were aware that I had a diagnosis of spina bifida in January, but they didn't tell me. I only found that out because I submitted a freedom of information request.
147. Because of that, I asked Future Pathways to pay for a medical assessment in Edinburgh and they supported me to attend. I got four MRI scans and was given a diagnosis. They found that the cervical cord is split in two. My second, third and fourth lumbar vertebrae are severely damaged. I was referred to a surgeon at the Western General Hospital, who is the only surgeon in Scotland who can perform such a big operation. I'm waiting for that referral.
148. I don't want to have an operation until I've given my evidence to the Inquiry. I'm not scared of dying but I want the opportunity to give evidence. It's been a long time

coming . The surgeon says it will either fix me or paralyse me, possibly from the neck down.

149. The evidence of the doctor and surgeon helped me to get the Department for Work and Pensions off my back for the time being. I've been fighting them for a year and two months since I became ill. It's like you're still fighting the system all the time. My body's in bits and I'm sore all the time, but I'm made out to be a liar. I wish I was a liar, trying to play the system. I wouldn't want their charity if I could work. I could potentially earn £2500 to £3000 a week, but I'm not fit. They've now told me I have to go for another medical.
150. My time in care also affected me mentally. When I left approved school, I had a terrible attitude and a terrible temper. The only real skill I had was fighting. I was totally ill-equipped for the world. I've cut my nose off to spite my face so many times in my life.
151. I want to put this behind me and move on. My psychiatrist has helped. I'm pushing myself to get out now because I've been hiding myself away from everybody. I've just been going out when it's necessary and then going straight home, and that's not me. I used to be the most outgoing person in the world. I disassociated myself from everybody I used to get into trouble with, for example boxers, kick fighters, cage fighters. I don't go drinking. I don't go out on the town because I don't get excited by people getting knocked out, bouncers getting knocked out. That was my old life. My new life is if somebody is decent with me, I'm decent with them.
152. I got hypnosis through Health in Mind. It's brought back a lot. I was finding things hard to deal with. My memory loss after the ten hour operation was quite big. I have to write everything down every day, or I forget. Also, the tablets I was given at the shelter preyed on my mind. I couldn't figure out what happened for days at a time. I thought hypnosis might help. The hypnotherapist said if I had been unconscious, it wasn't going to work. I had hypnotherapy for four hours to try and break into it. I couldn't get anything out. It was one point I wanted to go to, even though whatever came out of it might be uncomfortable. It's the not knowing that I don't like.

153. They hypnotherapist got good bits of information. She also helped with trauma. Over the last couple of years, I've received treatment for the trauma of uncle [REDACTED] passing away, and I got treatment for the trauma of splitting up with [REDACTED]
154. My younger sister will say, "I love you to bits, but you're so fucked up." Compared to other survivors, I'm not that bad. I'm not looking to be any better than anybody else, but at least I can go out to the shops. Some of them hide behind doors and can't go out. Some of them can't function without drink or drugs. I'm maybe lucky. Many of my close friends from approved school have committed suicide, died due to drug overdoses or alcohol misuse. Out of ten close friends I had at approved school, there are only two of us still alive.
155. I still get a lot of nightmares. Because of being locked in the cupboard, the dark scares me. I can't sleep without the light on.

Records

156. I applied for my records from Aberdeen Council a couple of months ago. I have a two inch stack of records at home. I read through them, but it was all negative. It was me doing something wrong and being made out to have mental health problems.

Lessons learned

157. I think there should be security checks and everybody vetted very thoroughly. For example, there's Disclosure Scotland. I've had a disclosure check and anybody that's worked for me in the past has got that. I turn a blind eye to somebody who's made a genuine mistake, who's been drunk and in a fight or something like that. But anything to do with child abuse and a person shouldn't get near children. They wouldn't get near my work place, because I have contracts for schools and prisons and police stations. There should definitely be full disclosure and police reports.

158. They need to dig really deep when people have responsibilities towards children. If you have a guy going into an approved school and he likes boys, put him in a girls' approved school. If you've got a guy who likes girls, put him in a boys' approved school. It would save the risk of it happening.
159. Everything should be investigated, no matter how minor. But if the person making the claim is found to be lying, they should be severely punished too. There are people who cry wolf and nothing ever happens to them.
160. I never thought this would happen in my lifetime. For all these years, nobody has ever believed us. We weren't even believed by our own families. When I look through my records, it's all negative. I get 100% of the blame. There's a lot of people that won't come and give statements. This hasn't got anything to do with compensation. This has got to do with the future. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
Secondary Institutions - to be published later No matter what Mum and Dad did, we should have been shown an as normal as possible loving and caring environment.
161. In the future, I just hope that nothing happens to any innocent people who end up in care, through no fault of their own. They should be cared for and looked after. If they have any issues, they should get help to get over them when they're young enough. If they have behavioural problems - like they said I had - they should have help to get over it. Instead, I was encouraged to be more violent. The last thing they should have let me do was martial arts and boxing. I should have been doing jigsaws and things like that.
162. The past is the past, the future is the future. I just want to get on with it. I'm no angel. I'll take my share of the blame. But we shouldn't have been treated like this. Hopefully this doesn't happen to any other kids again.

Other information

163. 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..... 06.10.2017