

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GSE

Support person present: No

1. My name is GSE. My date of birth is 1969. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Dundee and I was put in care not long after I was born. My dad's name was and my mother was called . They are still alive. I don't have any contact with them. I have one full brother and he is called . He is eighteen months older than me. I also have five half brothers and sisters from my parents' later relationships.
3. My father is apparently mentally ill and has been in institutions for the last forty to fifty years. As soon as me and were fostered my dad was put into hospital and he's been in ever since. My social work records say both my parents were hospitalised with nervous disorders when I was a baby. As soon as we were put in care my mother went off with somebody else and got married and had three more children with her new husband.
4. Me and were initially taken into care and put in a children's shelter in Dundee, I believe 1969. I think I was in the children's shelter for one to two years and I've read in my records that I went to the children's shelter twice. The first time was 1971 and again in 1971. I don't know where I was in between times. My records say I was moved five times in 1971.

5. My Auntie [REDACTED] told me some things about my early life. My Auntie [REDACTED] was my dad's aunt, so she's actually my great aunt. She's the only person who took any interest in us as children. She came to visit us later on in the children's homes. She was very old at the time and she died in 1995. She told me about my family when I was a young teenager and she said we were abandoned outside a shop in Charleston in Dundee and taken into the shelter from there. There was no detail in the records about why that happened.
6. Sometime in 1971 a single women came along to foster us, me and my brother, and she was called [REDACTED]. That's when Dundee Council were involved. Not much longer after she took us, she got married to a man called GSG [REDACTED] and that became her surname. I can't remember anything until after she married GSG [REDACTED]. My first memories are from when I was about four and I was already living with foster parents by that stage.

Foster care with GSG-SPO [REDACTED]

7. When [REDACTED] first took me and my brother she lived in Dundee. At first the three of us were on our own there for a short time. Then she met GSG [REDACTED] and they got married quite quickly and moved to Arbroath. At first, we were living in [REDACTED] and I started school at Wardykes Primary School in Arbroath when I was four. I was a year younger than everybody else. I don't have any memories of being in foster care until we lived in [REDACTED].
8. Soon after we moved to [REDACTED] and they moved me to a different primary school called Inverbrothock. I might have just started in primary 2 by this stage and stayed there until primary 3. Then we moved to Carnoustie at [REDACTED] and I spent primary 4 and primary 5 living at that address. It was during primary 5 that I went into a children's home. I went to Carlogie Primary School and I found out from my records recently that I was in another school from 1979 to 1980 called Panbride Primary School, in a tiny place called Panbride just outside of Carnoustie. I can remember going there and I can remember a girl there and that's it.

9. The GSG-SPO were well spoken, posh people. [REDACTED] was a very nice woman, but GSG was the opposite. In the household there was GSG, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and me. Then they had a daughter a couple of years later and she was called [REDACTED]. She was four or five years younger than me. I shared a bedroom with my brother all the time. Then, when [REDACTED] came along, she had her own room. The houses we lived in were very nice and they were semi-detached buildings and all on two storeys.
10. I was well looked after and [REDACTED] was a great mother, she was really nice. I called her and GSG mum and dad. As soon as we were both fostered, we became known as [REDACTED]. I didn't know my surname was GSE until I was a lot older.

Routine in foster care

Mornings and bedtimes

11. On a morning I was up very early by myself.

Religion

12. GSG [REDACTED] was a religious man from the Jehovah's Witnesses. When they married, [REDACTED] became a Jehovah's Witness too. We were brought up in that religion. They had a very strict regime and we couldn't have any friends outside of the congregation. They didn't celebrate birthdays or Christmas or anything at all and they didn't drink or smoke.
13. The Jehovah's Witnesses had people called Elders who run different congregations and GSG [REDACTED]. This made him very strict. We went to a church three times a week and then twice a week at home we had meetings because he was [REDACTED]. Everybody used to come to our home, the circuit overseers and ministerial servants and the higher-up people. They would go to big meetings elsewhere in Scotland like at Murrayfield in Edinburgh.

Clothes and uniform

14. We were expected to dress in a shirt and tie and wear a suit from when I was only five. That was for church meetings. I didn't have to dress like that at home if there wasn't a meeting. The clothes were paid for by the social work department in Dundee. I didn't know that at the time and I've read it in the records since.
15. At school I had to wear a uniform and when I came home, I changed into my own clothes and if we were going out it would be a shirt and tie.

Food/mealtimes

16. I was well fed. We didn't have a special diet, but as they were Jehovah's Witnesses they couldn't eat anything with blood in it, like black pudding.

School

17. I could read before I went to school and [REDACTED] taught me. In Carnoustie our school was [REDACTED] and it was [REDACTED] walk away. It was difficult for me at school being a Jehovah's Witness. I wasn't allowed to take religious education or anything else Jehovah's Witnesses didn't like us to be involved in. I couldn't do anything in school associated with Christmas.
18. Other children can easily take a dislike to somebody like that. I didn't get such a hard time in the primary schools as Carnoustie and Arbroath were nice places and not that rough. I felt set apart from other children though, when I had to tell them I didn't get any presents for my birthday or Christmas. I was very young at the time and I just accepted that was how things were and I was brainwashed by the religion.
19. I didn't get on well at school. I reacted badly to the home situation at school and I was badly behaved. I was in fear of punishment at home. I wouldn't get punished at school in the same manner, I'd get the belt and that sort of thing and that was quickly over and done with. I wouldn't get severe spankings at school.

20. I was clever and I used to get books out of the library so I could read a lot at home. I didn't have any personal possessions of my own.

Leisure time

21. After school it's hard to remember what I did as there was a lot of religious stuff going on, every day. That involved bible study, going to meetings and prayer. They don't associate with anyone apart from their own people. I had some friends of my age amongst that group. We had to go round the doors all the time and I had to stand beside them in my shirt and tie as they knocked on doors.
22. We weren't allowed to play with anyone else and we didn't have any toys and we didn't get gifts. Especially as GSG disliked me so much and he made out there was something wrong with me. Because my biological dad had a mental illness, he claimed that I had that as well. From a very early age of five or six, GSG was telling social work that he thought I had a mental illness. I found that in my records, He said that because I rebelled against what they were making us do. I refused to do some of it and didn't comply as I got older.

Trips and holidays

23. They got money to take us on holidays and I saw that in the records too. They were well off as well. GSG worked with computers which were very new at the time. He was a computer operator manager and he was well paid. He had his own house and his own car.

Chores

24. I had chores to do. It's hard to remember exactly, but I had to keep the house clean and tidy and it was very strict. I got a little bit of pocket money, enough to buy a bag of sweets from the shop.

Visits

25. I had very little contact with my parents. I knew my dad was in hospital and occasionally I got to speak to him on the phone and he'd ring and say he was coming round and I got excited and he never did come. I didn't see him until I went into children's homes and then social workers took me to the hospital to see him.
26. I didn't get any visits from my Auntie [REDACTED] as she didn't like my foster parents. Now I know it's because of them being Jehovah's Witnesses. She didn't like GSG [REDACTED] at all. He didn't like her and she wasn't allowed to come anywhere near, but he couldn't wait to get me out of the house so, me and [REDACTED] were allowed to go and stay with Auntie [REDACTED] sometimes. She had a one-bedroom house and she was old.
27. When I was in foster care I had contact with social workers. We'd become known to social work in 1971 and we were then in their care so they had to check on us every now and again. For a few years it would be the same person, then they'd get promoted and move on and I'd get someone different. I had three or four over the years.
28. The first one was in Arbroath and Carnoustie and he was called Peter Devlin. He was my social worker for a number of years. His boss was called Hugh Gaston. The pair of them used to come round. They were both Dundee social workers. I think the GSG-SPO [REDACTED] contacted them more than social work contacted us. GSG [REDACTED] would be onto the social work department all the time about me and my behaviour and he was wanting this and that and saying he couldn't handle me anymore. Social work would then be coming round to see what was going on.
29. They would speak to me on my own in the house. I was just a young lad and I wasn't able to say what was happening in the house when I was expected to apologise for my behaviour. I don't think they asked how I was feeling, it was just a job for them. They did ask how GSG [REDACTED] was treating me and I don't think I said much at the time and I think it was more afterwards that I told them what happened back then. I probably said at the time that I did get punished, but it was my own fault.

Running away

30. I tried running away loads of times. I came back after a while freezing cold. I don't think I was ever away overnight when I was in foster care. I think the police brought me back before I was away that long. The GSG-SPO had notified the social workers and the social workers would tell the police.
31. I can't remember what happened when I was taken back. They'd be all 'nicey-nice' in front of other people, but they'd be different when the social workers had gone and they'd be very angry. When the police asked why I'd run away I told them I didn't want to live there and I can't remember exactly what I told them. Regardless of what I told them I was taken back.

Bedwetting

32. I had a problem with bedwetting. I was punished by GSG. I was never punished by [REDACTED]. I think the bedwetting was as a result of my sleep pattern and not being able to sleep and being anxious all the time. It was a terrible time. I wet the bed all the time. In 1974 there was a metal thing that he used to put under the bed that was called a buzzer. It set an alarm off if I wet the bed and would wake me up. It would wake him up as well and he'd be very angry. I didn't see the point in having that at all. I wet the bed all my life until I left care.

Discipline

33. Discipline in the GSG-SPO household was getting slapped. It wasn't once a week, it was constant day after day. I think the social workers, Devlin and Gaston, were aware GSG was smacking and belting me. It was no big thing then, it's what happened in those days. It happened to a lot of people. I never once saw GSG doing this to my brother [REDACTED] and not once to [REDACTED]. It was just me. It's hard to remember what I did to make him do this to me. I might have said something wrong. We weren't allowed to speak and there were some words we couldn't say. They had strange ideas, we weren't allowed to support a football team, or Scotland, in a tournament.

Abuse in foster care

34. GSG [REDACTED] was violent. As I got older, I started to retaliate and as I got bigger he couldn't cope with me anymore because I was hitting back. I was rebelling because it was an abnormal thing and my natural instincts told me that.
35. GSG [REDACTED] used to be a schoolteacher before he got married and he had the old fashioned belt from school. It had three tongues on it. He used to give me and [REDACTED] the belt on the hands. At school they were only allowed to hit you six times and he stuck by those rules so he gave us six. I was injured as a result of that because he would hit me right up my arm and I'd be bruised. I used to get the belt at school as well and I got bruised there too. If you got bruised from the belt it was your fault for getting the belt in the first place. That was their rationale at the time.
36. GSG [REDACTED] would smack me too, with his hand. He'd put me over his knee with my pants down. I'd seen other Jehovah Witness children getting smacked a lot and they'd get half a dozen at a time at the most and they'd be screaming. With GSG [REDACTED] it would be continuous and it felt like thirty or forty smacks. It was hard to judge how many times and it seemed to go on for ten minutes. I'd be screaming and nearly passing out and he'd be telling me to shut up and stop screaming and he wouldn't stop.
37. I wet the bed and I used to soil myself as well and because of that he was cruel. I soiled myself a few times and he'd go crazy. I'd get smacked badly for that. I got a really hard time. I was only young and I don't know why I did it. It must have been because I was scared and I started to do it all the time. He used to beat hell out of me for that. He didn't punch me, but I got smacked.
38. I can't remember what he used to say to me, but he used to take me to the toilet and because I soiled myself, I was dirty. He'd tell me to clean myself and he'd be screaming at me in the toilet. He bend me over the toilet and he'd be smacking me and I'd be screaming. He'd be cleaning me and teaching me how to clean myself and he'd be doing it.

39. At the time I was at Carlogie school and I was in primary 4 or primary 5 so I'd be eight or nine years old and he'd be physically cleaning me with his own fingers and it hurt. That's what I thought he was doing anyway. It wasn't at all, it wasn't until much later in life that I remembered all that. It's not a normal thing to do. He used to be gay before he got married which was quite a big thing back then. I saw that in the social work records that I had copies of in the 1990s. I was surprised when I read all these things about him being a homosexual.
40. He physically hurt me. I had to go to see a doctor and to the hospital to get examined because of the damage caused to my intestines. He didn't just wipe my bottom, he cleaned the inside of me with his bare hand. I had a few appointments at the hospital for that and had examinations. The hospital was in Dundee and I can't recall the name. I can't remember any of the doctor's names that I saw. I wasn't admitted into hospital overnight.
41. [REDACTED] was a nice woman, but she was aware of how GSG [REDACTED] was treating me. She didn't like it and he was the same to her as well. I think he was violent towards her as well. Back in the 1970s a man could slap their wife in the face and get away with it. I saw that a couple of times.
42. When their daughter [REDACTED] came along I got on great with her. I don't think she was treated differently to me and [REDACTED]. I can't really remember. She was genetically their kid. It was different for her as she was a girl and girls get treated differently.

Leaving foster care for the first time

43. I went to the Liff Hospital unit, I think, when I was still at Carlogie Primary School. I went to Liff because of my behavioural problems and I wasn't doing what I was told. It was GSG [REDACTED] who told me that. He was telling the social workers that I had a mental illness and I went to Liff unit to be assessed. There were other people there and even at my young age I knew they had severe mental problems. Liff is on the outskirts of

Dundee at Charleston. It's a unit for assessment only and it's not a place where people stay long term. After my assessment I went back to live in Carnoustie.

Liff children's unit, Charleston, Dundee

44. The unit in Liff Hospital is a psychiatric unit. By coincidence my father was in the hospital. I was in the children's unit. That was my first time away from the [REDACTED] GSG-SPO. I would have been around eight years old at the time.
45. I can't remember much about being in the Liff unit apart from the other children that were there. It's hard to say how many there were, maybe ten or a dozen there. They were all roughly ages with me. I slept in a dormitory. I can't say how they went about assessing me. I can't remember going for meetings with professionals, but I suppose I must have done. I can remember it was winter and it being freezing cold in the grounds outside when we were playing.
46. I can remember one female member of staff and she was called Nurse Cole. I liked her. I can't remember anything bad happening to me in there. I've no idea if I still went to school in there. I can remember wanting to go home and not wanting to be in Liff. The hospital said I was fine and there was nothing wrong with me and I went back to the [REDACTED] GSG-SPO.

Leaving foster care for the second time

47. According to my records I was in Liff hospital in 1977 and I was there for five months and then I was returned to my foster parents and went back to Carnoustie for a good while. We went on holiday to Tunisia. I've read in my records since that it was paid for by the council. After we came back, we were meant to be going on another holiday to Italy. They were well off I was getting older all the time and getting angrier back to them. I hadn't complied with something and they put me into Rhoineach Mhor children's home just a couple of days before they went to Italy. That was when I went to live in Rhoineach Mhor because [REDACTED] GSG couldn't handle me. I think, I was aged ten.

48. I clearly remember leaving their house with the social worker in the car and the tears. I didn't know what it was I was going to. I was going away because I was bad. GSG told me that. They were going on holiday and GSG didn't want me to go and he said I was spoiling it for them. They all went away on holiday and left me behind for a fortnight.
49. I never went back to them. I think I went back for weekends to try living with them but it never worked. After that, I was in children's homes from 1979 onwards.

Rhoineach Mhor children's home, Downfield, Dundee

50. I went to Rhoineach Mhor sometime around 1979. It's on the outskirts of Dundee in a place called Downfield. It was a very old-fashioned stone building, and I was very overwhelmed when I got there to see the place. It was scary to me. It looked like a hospital. It stood in its own grounds. As you walked in the property there was a big set of stairs and an entrance hallway and a reception area. To the left was a huge kitchen and dining room. Then a hallway with a playroom and a second playroom further on and a staircase up to the dormitories.
51. I don't know if the home was privately run. There was a very rich man that owned the place and he was called Mr EIT. He was SNR of the place. We didn't see him very often. He didn't work in there. He lived in a big house close by. I think there was three or four staff on at one time. There was a senior member of staff with two or three other staff. It was a different class of people in Dundee from what I was used to in Arbroath and Carnoustie. They spoke differently. I was very well spoken to people from some parts of Dundee and to them I was a posh kid compared to them. I was also a Jehovah's Witness.
52. I was disliked by everybody. The staff didn't like me because of the way I spoke and I was a Jehovah's Witness and I was crying and I wet the bed. I read in my records, that I saw in the 1990s, reports that staff had to write about me. It was obvious that they hated me. I don't know how they could write some of these things about a ten-

year-old boy. They said I wasn't a nice person and I thought I was better than everybody else. This was because they were telling me I was better than everybody else and they said I was acting all-important. As I got older they said it got worse.

53. There were boys and girls in there and there were more boys than girls. There was at least half a dozen girls and more than ten boys. There were kids a lot older than me, and not many younger than me. I was one of the youngest and I was aged about ten. The oldest kid would be at the high school and in their early teens. There was a lot of fighting amongst the kids. There was one boy that was the leader. You get that in every place. There wasn't any drugs abuse and drugs weren't a thing back then.
54. I didn't like Rhoineach Mhor. It was a dirty place compared to what I'd come from. I remember the bed sheets had blood stains on them and they were dirty. It was disgusting and I hated it.

Routine at Rhoineach Mhor

First day

55. I can remember arriving there. Mr Devlin the social worker took me with Mr Gaston and they picked me up and there were tears in Carnoustie as I left. They took me to Rhoineach Mhor and I didn't want to go away from the family home.

Mornings and bedtimes

56. I don't know how many dormitories there were. I was in a dormitory and I can't remember how many boys I shared with. There were a lot of empty beds. There were maybe six or eight beds in a room and only three people sleeping in there.
57. I can't remember what time we were woken up. We went for a walk every morning. A member of staff took us for a walk. We got to smoke on our walk. I was only ten. I think our morning walk was after breakfast, but I'm not sure. I know we got to smoke on the

walk and I enjoyed it at the time. I didn't smoke when I arrived. I'd tried it in the foster home at school because the other kids did. It was against their religion and I was told I couldn't do that as it was a big sin. I didn't like it so I didn't smoke then.

58. When I went to Rhoineach Mhor I was allowed to smoke. We were allowed six cigarettes a day. There was a big box for the cigarettes and the kids had their names on them. Then the box got brought out for your six cigarettes a day, at breakfast, break time, dinner time, tea break, teatime and supper.

Washing and bathing

59. I can't remember if there were bathrooms for us to use. I can't remember what the arrangements were for getting washed at Rhoineach Mhor, but I can for other places.

Food and mealtimes

60. Mealtimes were in the big dining room. Apparently, I ate like an animal. It said in the home's reports that it was disgusting. I don't know why they would say these things about a kid. I didn't have any manners and things like that. I had to have impeccable manners at the [GSG-SPO] but because it was in the children's home, I must have turned the other way and I didn't have to do that anymore.
61. All I can remember of the food they gave us was mince and tatties and I enjoyed that. I don't remember not liking anything and how that was dealt with. I didn't see anyone getting made to eat anything they didn't want to eat.

Leisure time

62. After school we were allowed to play outside in the grounds. There might have been a football to play with, I can't remember. I was disliked so I didn't have any friends there. I tried to make friends but it didn't work.

Religion

63. I thought of myself as a Jehovah's Witness at this time and I'd tell people that was what I was. The other children didn't have to go to church on a Sunday. My religion didn't continue in there as there was no religious doings in there at all I wasn't helped to try to follow my religion.
64. I got schooling in the home with the other children. I don't remember the schooling at Rhoineach Mhor. I just remember it being easy. The home sent a psychologist to visit me called Dr Jean Uangle, she was an old lady then. She recommended that my IQ was tested and I had an IQ of 140, so they made me out to be a genius. They said in the reports I was in the top 5% in Scotland.
65. They then decided I would be sent to Robert Gordon's School which was one of the best schools in Scotland at the time. I went to loads of different schools to be assessed to see if they would take me in such as Melville College, Edinburgh High, Dollar Academy but they wouldn't accept me because of my behaviour. I was fighting back.

Healthcare

66. I can't remember anything about healthcare in Rhoineach Mhor.

Chores

67. I don't have any memories of having to do work or chores in Rhoineach Mhor.

Birthdays and Christmas

68. I didn't get a birthday at all. The first birthday present I ever had in my life was later on in the home at Ann Street children's home when I was about twelve. There was a big Christmas tree up in the home and if anybody had friends or family, they'd get gifts. Some kids had nobody and they wouldn't get anything. The staff would get them a gift

and perhaps get money from the council, I don't know how it worked, but I didn't get anything.

Personal possessions

69. I can't remember if we had lockers to keep our clothes in. there was one room where everybody had a cubby hole and any personal possessions went in there.

Visitors

70. You could have visitors. My Auntie [REDACTED] came to see me. She used to come and see me in the homes all the way through. She lived in Dundee. She used to bring me stuff. Everybody had a box of sweets in the cubby hole and she'd bring me sweets and bananas, the things I liked.
71. She didn't get to take me away anywhere. The dining room at Rhoineach Mhor was the visitor's room. There were other people in there too seeing visitors, depending on what time it was. Occasionally we'd be on our own. I think there were set visit times but I can't remember. I don't think there was a member of staff present when I was seeing her and I was able to speak freely with her. I didn't tell her how I was feeling, but she was worried about me getting into trouble for my behaviour.
72. I think my social worker was still Mr Devlin up to me being in Rhoineach Mhor. The social workers Devlin and Gaston came to see me at Rhoineach Mhor and not because they wanted to, but because they had to. Every now and again they were forced to. I say that because I knew what the routine was and they had to come and see me at a certain time.
73. I'd get a Children's Panel every now and again. The panels took place in Dundee. There was a Children's Panel every year, or if you'd committed any crime there would be a panel and the social workers have to pay you a visit. I spoke to them over the phone as well. I didn't feel I could speak to them about how I was feeling. I was too young then to be able to tell them what was happening.

74. At the panel hearings I got the chance to speak to them. They'd ask you if you were happy with where you were staying. Most of the time at panels I'd be fearful that they were going to send me to Rossie Farm. That was the big threat from staff every time anyone got into a fight that you'd be in front of a panel next week and you'd be sent to Rossie Farm. They'd recommend it in their reports as well. I'd be scared I'd be sent off to Montrose, but it never happened.

Bed wetting

75. At least the bedding got cleaned every day. You got clean sheets and you could turn the mattress over every day. I was verbally punished for bed wetting, but not physically. I was called 'piss the bed' in front of other people and the other boys called me that too.

Abuse at Rhoineach Mhor

76. The staff used restraints a lot and I'd be sat on. That was the common restraint back then. Now there's different restraints used. Back then they'd just sit on top of you and you were just a child. It was hard to restrain a kid for a big, heavy adult and a lot of the staff were like that.
77. There was one staff member in particular, called **EIQ**, and the police contacted me about him not long ago. It wasn't just me that he abused, I saw him assaulting others. He did it to loads of people and it wasn't just him either. He didn't punch me in the face, that wasn't allowed. They used to say that all the time that they're not allowed to do this or that, but we're allowed to do these other things. They could restrain you by getting your arm bent up your back or you'd be sat on and all sorts of knuckles on the head and things to hurt you and make you scream.
78. **EIQ** used to force us to box. They used to have an attic in Rhoineach Mhor and it was a scary place. They set up a boxing ring. Anytime anyone had a squabble,

and there were squabbles all the time, you'd be up there getting gloves on and you'd be forced to box. There was a guy of about fourteen and a guy of about nine. The young boy would be shitting himself he was so scared and forced to box. It wasn't just me who'd be crying, there'd be other people too. We were wearing boxing gloves. They were far too big for us, they were for adults.

79. **EIQ** was violent and he was the one who used to force me to fight in the gym. He hated me more than anybody else. He used to bend my arm up my back until I was screaming and I thought my arm was breaking. I could see the enjoyment in his face. He used to say, 'are you liking this son, we'll get this out of you'. He used to say some horrible things. I saw **EIQ** about ten years ago when I was walking through Dundee and recognised him straight away. I think he was ex-military. When I knew him in Rhoineach Mhor he must have been in his forties.
80. A woman who was there, Mrs **EIP**, she was evil, and she used to do it as well, force people to fight. I phoned the police not long ago after the Inquiry told me they'd passed on the details of what I'd told them. The police told me they were taking a case on against **EIQ**. Then they asked if I remembered a Mrs **EIP**? They told me they were investigating her as well, because of what other people said. She did things to me to begin with. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
Secondar. She used to slap children on the face and I saw her doing it a lot. I thought she was an old lady at the time.
81. She did it to me when I first went there. She did it two or three times. I hit her back and she never did it to me again. I hit her straight in the face, it was the wrong thing to do. The staff made a big deal out of that, me hitting a woman, but there was no mention of this woman hitting kids. Me hitting her early on might have been part of the reason for the staff's attitude towards me. It was mentioned in my records that I hit women and that I was a bully.
82. They used to tell you what they could do to you and what they weren't allowed to do. They couldn't punch you in the face and they'd say that all the time, but instead they'd get you in a neck hold and knuckle you on top of your head until you were screaming.

There was another staff member called EIR [REDACTED]. I think he was SNR [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] EIR [REDACTED] knuckled me on the head. It wasn't just me, I've got friends now who were in that home too and they said EIR [REDACTED] used to do it to them too, but behind closed doors.

83. A lot more abuse happened to me in Rhoineach Mhor than I can remember. Being restrained was a daily event in Rhoineach Mhor. They didn't have a strong room that they could put you into to spend time on your own. Instead, I had someone sitting on top of me for ages. There were lots of staff whose names I can't remember. There was one staff called Mr GSF [REDACTED] and that's all I can recall.
84. To sum up my time in Rhoineach Mhor, it was a nightmare. I'd never been physically beaten up until then and that was due to EIQ [REDACTED]. In the big playroom, I can't remember the details of why he did it. There was one boy who was a lot older and he was a big tough guy to me and EIQ [REDACTED] put me in the playroom. EIQ [REDACTED] then got the big boy in the playroom and locked us in there. The big lad just got on top of me and I was on the floor and he had his knees on top of my arms and sat on top of me and punched hell out of me.
85. I was only ten. This boy was a teenager, I think the boy's name was [REDACTED], but I'm not sure. Then he left it a few minutes and I was screaming like a baby and EIQ [REDACTED] came back and let the boy out. He went back up to his room. It was a punishment beating. I didn't have any broken bones or it would have been documented, but my face was bloodied. That was a scary time for me. I'd had a few beatings but it was the first time I had a lad on top of me. EIQ [REDACTED], EIR [REDACTED] and female staff member Mrs Hepburn said to me afterwards, 'this is what you'll get'.
86. There's a lot about Rhoineach Mhor I can't remember about the people who were there. I don't know how long I was in Rhoineach Mhor, but maybe it was about a year. It closed down and everyone from that home moved to a place called Ann Street children's home.


Robert Gordon's School, Aberdeen

87. I can't remember where I was before I went to Robert Gordon's as I was in and out of homes so often. My records say I was admitted to Robert Gordon's in 1981. I might have been in Burnside at the time, but I feel sure I was at Rhoineach Mhor, but my records suggest I was at Ann Street at the time. I sat an IQ test and a report was done by Dr Uangle and they sent me to Robert Gordon's School because I was clever.
88. They took me round to be assessed by different boarding schools. Those assessments were to see if they would accept me. I can't remember if I had to sit any tests. I just remember being taken round to the schools and meeting headmasters and then going back to the home I was living in. When they said 'no' it was based on the reports staff had made about my behavioural problems. But Robert Gordon's accepted me.

89. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

90.

91. Secondary Institutions - to be published later



92.

Leaving Robert Gordon's School

93. Secondary Institutions - to be published later




Ann Street Children's Home, Ann Street, Dundee

94. My records say I was admitted to Ann Street in 1981, I'm not sure how long I ended up in Ann Street for, but it was a good while.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



95. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Ann Street Children's Home

113. Secondary Institutions - to be published later I was at Ann Street for about a year, but I'm not sure. It was a children's panel that decided I should move to Burnside. My records say I was admitted to Burnside in both 1981 and in 1982, then I went back to Ann Street and then they moved me to Burnside again. Any movement to another home has got to be agreed by a panel.

Burnside House Assessment Centre, Dundee

114. Burnside was on the outskirts of Dundee in an area called Kirkton. It looked more like a detention centre. There was a big concrete fence all the way around and it had graffiti on it saying 'Belsen' on the gates. At the time I didn't know what Belsen was and I thought it was a gang member. It was a forbidden place and nobody like to go there.
115. The whole grounds were surrounded by the concrete fence so we couldn't see in or out. The main building looked a bit like a school. There were three different wings, two storeys high, a gymnasium at the end which was quite modern. There was three units on the upper level. On the lower level was the dining room, the kitchen and the education blocks.
116. On the top level there was a secure locked door that you couldn't get in or out without a key and that was the assessment unit. The windows were barred on that unit. Post-assessment one was next to it and that was open and the same as post-assessment two downstairs and that was open.
117. I think I was sent there because of behavioural problems and I wasn't wanted wherever I was before. Ann Street wouldn't accept me back and there was nowhere else for me to go. I was initially sent there as an emergency, not by a panel. You can be admitted as an emergency assessment and then you go to a panel later and they then decide. My records say I was initially admitted to Burnside in 1981. I was backwards and forwards between Ann Street and Burnside.
118. I was one of the longest at Burnside. It's a place where you're sent for three weeks assessment and then you're moved on or moved out of the assessment unit. They had three different units, the assessment unit and post-assessment one and post-assessment two. There was maybe six or seven or eight people in each of the post-assessment units long term and two or three members of staff, one senior staff member and two staff.

119. The numbers in the assessment unit changed on a daily basis as there was always people coming in and out and I'd say fifteen at a guess. After your initial assessment you either moved back to your home situation or you went to a post-assessment unit. Some people stayed there for quite a long time, but nobody stayed in the assessment unit for more than three weeks. But I was there, on the actual assessment unit, for years. The other two units didn't want me after a while.
120. There were boys and girls at Burnside. They were mostly from Tayside. We stayed in dormitories. There were more boys than girls. They were mixed, they weren't segregated. There was easy access from the lad's dormitory to get to the girls' dormitory. There were more people in there than in the other places.
121. The owner at Burnside was Miss Hutchison. I thought she owned it but apparently there was a Mr Ramsey, or a name like that, who actually owned the place and I never knew that. I always thought it was Miss Hutchison and I've seen the name Ramsey in my records very recently. I thought she was the owner as there was a private house in the grounds and that's where she lived. We never really saw her.
122. I was scared when I got to Burnside because I'd heard a lot about it before I went there. I knew a lot of people by that time and heard a lot of stories. I'd heard about the staff and violence. I can't remember how it was worded back then when I was only young. I was scared when I got there and everybody was a lot older than me and again a different class of people. There were people there who were close to becoming criminals and would be in prison a year on from Burnside.

Assessment unit

123. After I arrived, I was kept locked in the assessment unit all the time. I was there just under three years all together but had been moved to the post-assessment units sometimes and tried out in there but failed, and I was sent back for assessment. I was in the assessment unit for a long time at the start before I was moved out. When I was in the assessment unit I was locked in all the time. The dormitory door wasn't locked,

but the entry door to the assessment unit was locked all the time and you couldn't get out. The only way to get out would be to smash a window and jump from the second floor. I did it many times. A lot of people did.

124. The assessment wing had no facilities. There was a tv room. There were dormitories and a hallway. There was another hallway with a couple of single rooms. I eventually got one of them. There was also an office.

Clothing/uniform

125. The staff didn't wear a uniform. I didn't have to wear a uniform. I just wore my own clothes. They might have given clothes to some people who didn't have any.

Food/mealtimes

126. We ate downstairs in the dining room at a different time from the other residents for all meals. I don't have any memories of the food or mealtimes. None of the places I was at have left me with memories of the food, so there mustn't have been anything remarkable at all about them.

School

127. There was an education department on the bottom floor and a gym. At the start I got schooled inside Burnside before I got shipped off. The schooling was basic and far too basic for me. I'm going by the reports that I've read that said my academic needs were much higher than they could provide.
128. At some time at Burnside I had private tutors for English, physics and arithmetic when I was fourteen. I assume the council paid for these teachers to come in. I read in my records recently that at the time I was telling people I wasn't learning very much from them and they were saying I was learning more than I thought. It's very hard thing, to learn physics as its not interesting for a child. I don't know why those subjects were chosen for me. Nobody else got private tuition. It cost a lot for the local authority and

this was made a big thing about me getting special treatment. I also had 'open learning' where you study at home as opposed to going to school. I was fifteen.

129. I was also going to Balgowan in Dundee as a day pupil, but I wasn't spending all day there. I was sometimes just going there for a single class for maybe an hour or two and then going back to Burnside. Having private tutors was to put me through my O'Grades. I got O'Grades in prison ten years later, but not at this time.

Leisure time

130. There were big grounds outside. For me in the assessment wing I could only use the gym at certain times when people from the other wings weren't going to be there. We didn't get gym time every day. It was maybe once a week, but I can't remember for sure. The staff told you what to do and when to do it.

Visits

131. It wasn't until I moved onto Burnside children's home that I had a different social worker and she was called Margaret Davies. Then she was my social worker for a number of years. She was a nice lady. The social workers helped a bit, Margaret Davies was one that I liked. She saw it herself, the way that the staff treated me and spoke to me. She said she wasn't surprised that I acted the way I did. She was defending me and she liked me. She could see that but nobody else did.

Leisure

132. Down time was spent in the lounge and tv room and that was all.

Trips and holidays

133. Sometimes they took us on walks in my group from the assessment unit. They'd take us on walks on the Sidlaw Hills in the countryside and day trips in the van to Glenshee and Glen Isla. One time we went to Glencoe in a transit van with two long benches

along the sides. The van was full of boys and girls and there was two members of staff in the back and a driver. It was a great trip and I loved it.

134. In the van coming back, was a staff member called GSH [REDACTED]. He was one of the staff who I fought with many times, and I'd fought with them all. He had a hat on which he wore all the time because he had long hair like a hippy. He was in his thirties and physically strong. In high jinks I grabbed his hat off his head. He thought I'd spat on his hat so he grabbed me and pulled me on the floor in the middle of the van and got on top of me so I couldn't move and he got hold of me by the throat. He spat in my face.
135. I couldn't speak out about this before, it's disgraceful and disgusting. He spat all his phlegm all over me. It's one of the worst things that's ever happened to me and I've had spankings and doings. He did it two or three times and rubbed it all over my face. I couldn't move. I was going to be sick.
136. The driver stopped the van and we were by a river and I ran out and I jumped in the river because I felt filthy. The van went away and drove off. I was in shock. I was stranded in Glenshee and thought they'd gone and left me. I was wandering away and walking up the hills not knowing what I was doing and after about fifteen minutes the van came back.
137. I'd been in Burnside for some time by then and had many fights with GSH [REDACTED] and it might have happened in 1982 or 1983, so I was maybe fourteen by then. He ended up going out, with one of the women staff called [REDACTED]. I think they ended up getting married. I saw two or three couples who got together in the children's homes.
138. Many years later I spoke to someone about GSH [REDACTED], that was maybe ten or fifteen years ago, and mentioned it to them. He said that GSH [REDACTED] got arrested over an incident with a young girl in Burnside. I didn't know about this, but it doesn't surprise me, he was a nasty piece of work.

Religion

139. The records continued to state I was a Jehovah's Witness so I couldn't get foods like black pudding. If I'd wanted to go to a Catholic Church or if I wanted to eat black pudding I could have done and got what I wanted. I didn't though. Other youngsters didn't have to go to church.

Personal possessions

140. There was a locked room like with the cubby holes in the other home, but it was bigger than the cubby holes. Peoples personal stuff was kept in the locked room that you couldn't have in your room. That was for you to collect when you got out of the home.

Visits

141. My Auntie [REDACTED] continued to come and see me in Burnside right through my time. I think she had to phone up to make an appointment to come to see me. From day to day the situation changed and there was an incident of some sort every day. When she did come I saw her in the dining room on our own. Social work continued to take me to see my dad at Burnside. My visits got less and less as I didn't want to go.
142. When I was at Burnside, Margaret Davies became my social worker. I think the social worker I had before, had left the job. I think Margaret was then my social worker until I was old enough to leave care. She was from Dundee council as well. She knew how I was being treated, but she didn't see it as they weren't going to restrain someone when their social worker was there. I don't think there was a lot she could do about it.

Reconnecting with my birth mother

143. When I was fourteen and in Burnside, out of the blue, my birth mother got in touch and wanted to come to see me. I'd not seen her before and then I met her at fourteen. They didn't do any vetting on my mother. When she came to see me, I quickly found out where she lived and tried to move in with her straight away. It was a terrible

situation where she lived and she had serious problems herself. She had three children by a different marriage and they were living in a terrible state of deprivation.

144. It's only now and I look back and think the social worker should have come and had a look and seen where I was going. They just let me do as I pleased. I used to run away all the time and go to stay at my mother's or my aunties. I was on the run all the time.

Running away

145. One time we ran away from Burnside, me and a couple of lads. We got caught in England. We got all the way to London on the train and didn't even get off and just came back up and got caught in Newcastle on the way back up. We were young and stupid and probably aged thirteen or fourteen. We were put in a children's home in Newcastle for a couple of days. I can't remember what it was called. A social worker, who we didn't know, came down to get us and take us back. We ran away again when we got to Edinburgh and made our own way to Dundee later. I ran away numerous times.

Abuse at Burnside

146. On a typical day I'd be fighting someone. I'd fight with staff without fail either defending myself or provoking it myself. In my records it says it happened daily and it did happen daily for years. It said in my records that I was angry from the moment I woke up. I'm not surprised because the night before something would have occurred and I'd been restrained or battered or something like that and I was still raging from the night before. It would start again the next day and keep on going and never ending.
147. My social worker, Margaret Davies faced up to the biggest bully in there, MYD [REDACTED]. He was the worst of them all apart from the guy who spat in my face. MYD [REDACTED] was a huge man and he hurt everybody. We called him MYD [REDACTED] and I don't know why. Margaret told him not to speak to me in the way that he did and he shouldn't treat me in the way that he did. I can't remember what MYD [REDACTED] said in response to her. What was she

going to do? She couldn't rock the boat. She couldn't phone the police, what are the police going to say or do. She'd probably lose her job if she kicked up too much of a fuss.

148. MYD [REDACTED] was a huge man of about eighteen stone. A bully. He didn't have to do much to squash you. If he sat on top of you, you couldn't move. In Burnside the staff put you in 'the box', that's the strong room, and you got locked up for it. He bundled me into 'the box'. It was just like a solitary confinement cell in a prison and it's a concrete cell. They call it 'the digger' in Scotland. I've done quite a lot of solitary confinement in prison and you're in a cell with nothing at all. In the box at Burnside it was worse than that and there was no toilet facility. There was two small rooms and two doors. The first one had a locked door and there was a toilet in the first room and then the second room had its own door and that was the cell with a concrete floor. There was a bulletproof window in the cell that you can't see out of.
149. You were lying on concrete base and it was freezing cold. There was no bed. If you wanted to use the toilet you'd have to get through the door first. I used to kick hell out of the door every time they put me in. I made so much noise they wouldn't leave that first door open so I had no access to the toilet at all. I had to piss and defecate in the cell. Then they made me clean it myself the next day and they'd throw in towels and cleaning gear.
150. I wouldn't be in there for a week or anything like that. You'd be put in there until you calmed down and you would calm down after a while. I was in there overnight many times. I hardly ever saw it being used by other people, occasionally I did see it for severe fighting. There were some tough nuts coming in sometimes and they'd be put in there, but not for long. I was in and out of there so much I probably spent more time in there than in my own room, depending on how I behaved. If I calmed down they let me out. I can't remember if I got meals brought to me in there. I can't remember how I got fed. I must have done.
151. With MYD [REDACTED], every conflict I had with him was a bad occasion. There wasn't one that stood out from others. There was one time during a struggle he did punch me

completely in the face. I'd get elbowed, I'd get kicked, I'd get kneed, but never normally punched in the face. MYD didn't use his knuckles on my head like EIR did. He'd squash me and I couldn't breathe. He did that to everybody. He'd start the trouble as well and he'd want it to happen. He'd be antagonistic. He was the senior officer and not just a member of staff, he was called an 'S.O'. He could make decisions that other officers couldn't. He'd come on shift saying to me 'alright, piss the bed. How are you?' What reaction was he expecting to get from a kid who was emotionally messed up.

152. There was another member of staff in Burnside called IXO. He never assaulted me but I heard he was arrested later on. I read it in the newspaper online that he'd been arrested over a sexual relationship with a girl in Burnside. I knew nothing about this.
153. I'm still friends on Facebook with a couple of staff from Burnside. Some of them were ok. They would have been aware of how GSH and MYD were treating me. Why would any of them try to do anything about it? It was a different time. Back then it was normal.
154. I went to some other places, but I kept going back to Burnside House and I was the longest ever resident there.

Balgowan, Dundee

155. I went to Balgowan just for schooling and I wasn't a resident there. It was a List D school and I was a day pupil and I returned to Burnside at night. When I went to school at Balgowan I had to walk there on my own. It was very close to Burnside. I can only remember doing woodwork and the teacher and me making stuff. I've still got the stuff that I made. I can't remember lessons in English and maths.
156. LID was SNR at Balgowan, SNR SNR at the time. I saw him playing football in the yard one time in breaktime. I said something to him and he replied, 'who the F*** are you, talking to me like that?'

Somebody kicked the ball and pushed me and I went flying into the wall. I was knocked out and unconscious and had two big black eyes and split my lip. I had to go to the Dundee Royal Infirmary and had stiches in my lip and concussion. I was in hospital for a while and then they took me back to Burnside. They said I'd injured myself playing football or something like that. I was smashed into the wall and knocked unconscious.

157. LID [REDACTED] was an old man who'd been in the army. He used to wear the military suits and had a big, long moustache and looked like a military man from the 1960s. He was about sixty-odd. He had a son [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sycamore House, Kirkcaldy

158. From the assessment wing in Burnside, they tried me out in different places to live. The first one was a children's home in Kirkcaldy called Sycamore House in 1982.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

159. Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] Then I went back to Burnside to the assessment wing again. Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED]

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Starley Hall, Aberdour, Fife

160. They also tried me out to a place called Starley Hall, I think in 1982. I wasn't in Starley Hall for long, just weeks, I think. They had an education department and I can remember an incident in there, fighting staff again, but I can't remember the details.

161. I was hospitalised and then moved out and back to Burnside. I was hospitalised twice. In Starley Hall I was assaulted by Mr **FXE**, **[REDACTED]**, and I had fourteen stitches in the head and I have a hole in my head to this day, because I was glassed on my head. Starley Hall had a tower and we were in the top floor of the tower where the playroom was. The room was full of kids and staff.
162. I can't remember why I was arguing and fighting with Mr **FXE**. He picked me up and threw me straight through the window headfirst. I can remember hanging out of the window and I could see how high it was and I was very scared. He pulled me back in. I had a big hole in my head from the glass. He took me to the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy to have the glass removed and the cut stitched up. I don't know if anyone asked me how I'd been injured. The police didn't speak to me at that point. In the reports to the social worker the home said I was aggressive to Mr **FXE** and I assaulted him.
163. After I'd been in hospital, Starley Hall refused to take me back afterwards. Apparently, Burnside refused to take me at that point as well. I was worried they were going to put me in Rossie Farm. I can see in my records there was a big discussion about where I could go and they ended up sending me to Howdenhall in Edinburgh.

Howdenhall Secure Unit, Edinburgh

164. I think I went to Howdenhall in Edinburgh because Burnside refused to take me back and nobody would have me. I had to go to a locked unit and Howdenhall was a secure unit. It was much like Rossie Farm for security. I was petrified being put in there.
165. I can't remember what the reception process was like. I can remember being in the room and I can remember mixing with some of the other lads who were a lot bigger than me. My bedroom was like a prison cell and the door locked at night. I can't remember if there was a toilet in it. The rooms were like a prison cell. There was a red light on the ceiling of my room and it was on all night and I couldn't sleep.

166. I can remember one time playing football on the yard with a load of people I didn't know who had funny accents that I couldn't understand. They couldn't understand me either. I can't think of anything that I would consider abusive happening. If it did happen, the kids in there would be too scared to make a fuss because they knew what the repercussions would be. They'd get a doing. I didn't get any doings. Everyone was mostly well behaved. Other, bigger lads, told me I couldn't behave the way I used because I'd get done in.
167. I wasn't in Howdenhall for long, it could have been just days, I'm not sure. Then I was back to Burnside.

Leaving Burnside

168. I think I had fourteen moves in care in total. I left Burnside on my sixteenth birthday. I'd been living with private foster parents since 1984, I think it was [REDACTED] that I moved in with them. Initially I'd been going to a thing called The Mars Project in Dundee, I'm not sure what 'Mars' stands for now. I was fifteen and I was still in Burnside and a psychologist referred me to these people at the project and I was going there every day. It was some sort of therapy, I don't know what it was, but there was only me in there and four adults working there, social workers or something like that. I left Burnside every day to go there and helped them out and worked with them. They had somebody coming in to do painting and decorating at the place and I helped the guy to do this for a couple of weeks. I can't remember what else I was doing on the Mars Project
169. This guy and his wife ended up fostering me. It was arranged privately. They were at the time advertising me to be fostered. It was in [REDACTED] at the time with a headline saying, [REDACTED] and I still have a copy of this article. The article said I was an intelligent boy and I had a few problems when I was younger. It was [REDACTED] as well. There weren't any responses to that. The couple must have seen it. It was the social work department who put the adverts [REDACTED].

170. The people who fostered me were a married couple called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They lived [REDACTED] in a tiny cottage on the outskirts of Dundee and in the countryside. It was fantastic there. I loved it there. [REDACTED] had three children but they didn't live with them, it was just me. I didn't get on well there, the other children were teenagers and older than me. I was a bit jealous when they came round, I don't know why. I think they lived with their father. I was still working with [REDACTED] at the Mars project. I was going to be a joiner. I can remember doing some joinery work with him on a job somewhere in Dundee, not with the Mars project though. He also taught me how to drive.
171. I lived there for about six months until it broke down on [REDACTED] 1984. I was just about to turn sixteen on the [REDACTED]. I got drunk and apparently I assaulted a man and they put me back into Burnside [REDACTED]. I stayed there until [REDACTED] 1985 and they had to let me go because I was sixteen. They didn't want me to stay there and I didn't want to stay there either. I decided I'd rather go my own way and I thought it was brilliant to get away from Burnside. For a day it was brilliant. They put me in some horrible hotel, it was really dirty and you had to pay rent there. I never paid my rent so I couldn't live there anymore and I was homeless. I had nowhere to go. The next few months were terrible. I was drinking and I was homeless
172. They might have given me a bit of cash, but I can't remember. I had to claim benefits. From then on I had to look after myself, I'd never had to feed myself before. I had no idea how to cook. I'd had no experience of looking after myself. I had no idea how to budget and every time I got some money, I was spending it on alcohol. I had to turn to crime straight away. It was only a matter of days after my birthday before I got arrested. I was sent straight to prison.
173. By the time I left at sixteen I knew my mother and I was getting involved in drinking heavily with her as well and sometimes staying over with her when I was homeless. I had to sleep outside sometimes because of the drink. I was hospitalised with hypothermia twice. No-one tried to help me and when I was released from hospital, I

was back to being homeless. I was an adult then of sixteen. I don't know if social workers were even told or not.

Perth prison

174. The first prison I went to was Perth Prison in [REDACTED] and on remand. It was an adult prison and I was straight in at the deep end and on a wing with murderers. It was very foreboding. At that time, I had somewhere to sleep and I was getting fed. After a few weeks on remand, I was back to court and sentenced and sent to Friarton Detention Centre. It was sixty days the first time and in military style detention. The regime in the detention centres is abusive in itself.
175. At Perth prison, the reception was the same as any prison. You go in and you get searched and they take your clothes off you and you get the uniform to put on and then off to the wing. You always get a health check when you first go into prison and back then they would de-louse you on arrival. They don't do it now. You initially go into dog-boxes, not like a big room full of prisoners and you're dealt with separately. There was no privacy and you had to take all your clothes off and get showered in the ablutions. I hated it and it was very strange to begin with, but I got used to it.
176. In Perth prison at sixteen I was a young impressionable person and wanted to graduate to be like the other people in there. I had to slop out at Perth prison and slopping out continued throughout my time in prison. It was 1992 when I was released the last time.
177. When I first went to Perth, I tried acting like the big man to the prison officers, the screws, and refused to take orders. I was put in the punishment cells that were known as 'the digger' to teach me a lesson. It was a cell that was pitch black, filthy and wet and soaking. There was water everywhere and cockroaches. It scared the hell out of me and they'd threaten I'd have just bread and water to eat. They let me back on the wing and I behaved myself. I was in the digger for maybe half an hour just to frighten me.

178. I had to share a cell with two other people. We were in a bunk bed and a single bed. The other two were much older than me. I got exercise but I was more or less a twenty three hour bang up. I wasn't segregated from other prisoners when I was on exercise, despite being only sixteen.
179. I didn't have any chores to do in Perth prison, I was on remand and I was just locked up. In Perth prison you could smoke and it was noisy and you could virtually do what you wanted and there were people smoking pot in there. It was different in the detention centre.
180. I didn't get any visitors and my Auntie [REDACTED] didn't come to see me. I was only there a couple of weeks before I was sent to Friarton for sixty days.
181. I can just remember the filthiness of it all as the prisons were filthy back then and the people were dirty as well. I've always had a thing about cleanliness and I hated the prisons for being dirty.

Friarton Detention Centre, Friarton, Perth

182. The reception system there was the same. In the detention centres we couldn't speak in the reception areas. We had to march everywhere, once we'd learned how to do it. If you've been away, you know exactly what to do when you come back, but you have to learn the drill first of all.
183. I was in a single cell in Friarton. In detention it's all single cells. The prison officers were called 'Sir' in Friarton. The routine was regimented you had to do as you're told and speak when spoken to. You'd get a slap about the head if you did something wrong.
184. I liked the detention centres because they were spotlessly clean. Things like your bed block were folded up neatly. The place was cleaned thoroughly. From the minute they get you up to the minute you go to bed you're constantly busy. There's no minute to

yourself. There's no lying on your bed doing nothing, you weren't allowed to. All your stuff had to be kept pristine and folded up on your bed in a certain order and you couldn't lie on the bed, you could only sit on your chair in your cell. You could be in work all day. I worked in so many things in prison that I can't remember what I did in detention. You did chores like cleaning the floor with a toothbrush.

185. I wasn't getting any education at this stage now that I'd turned sixteen. My education had stopped in second year of school. I didn't really get anything after that and I didn't go to school. I was slopping out in Friarton. I got another health check on arrival at Friarton.
186. I had one visitor, my girlfriend came to visit me one time in Friarton. When I was in prison up between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, I didn't have any social work involvement. I did get visits in prison from the different on-call social workers. They came in to take notes so they could say they'd been to see me.
187. We couldn't smoke at all and that was the biggest thing, but you could in the prisons and you could smoke in Polmont and in Young Offenders Institutions. You can't smoke at all in Detention Centres so everybody has to stop smoking. That was good as when I came out, I was fit because I'd spent so much time in the gym doing circuit training with other inmates and supervised by a PTI. We had to run a mile at half past five in the morning. We had to run round the football pitch and do the mile in a certain time. I had to do that at Friarton and at Glenochil. You could lose some of the remission days off your sentence if you failed to do the run in a certain time and you'd be put on report. We got to play football as well sometimes. That was my routine for the time I was there.
188. The food there was tremendous, the best food in prison service. They had to keep us well fed because of the physical regime we had. We ate at tables for four people with four chairs and the chairs had to be lifted and banged down on the floor at the same time in military style. If you didn't do it right, you'd be on report. There were rules about what we could do and the way we ate the food. I had to learn the rules as I went along and watching other people and I realised I'd be on report if I got it wrong.

189. If I was on report, it meant going in front of the governor the next day and back then he could take remission days off you or you lost recreation or you lost canteen. Loss of canteen referred to loss of pocket money that you got to spend in the canteen and you wouldn't be able to buy tobacco in the canteen. I served forty days of the sixty days detention as I only had to serve two-thirds. I lost a few days remission and it was just over forty days that I did.

Polmont Young Offenders Institution, Polmont

190. After I was in Friarton I got arrested again and was sent back to Perth prison. I was in Perth prison about five times as you have to go there initially on remand, then you're sentenced to either Young Offenders or detention and it was mostly Young Offenders that I got. I got detention twice and Young Offenders I got five or six times.
191. You go to Polmont to be assessed and given a category, either an open prison, Castle Huntly or Noranside or put on the allocation unit in Polmont. On that unit everyone has to be the toughest guy in the jail and its constant warfare in there. You have to be on your toes the whole time for the bullying. Its better now in Polmont. Back then prison was a dangerous place in the 1970s and early 80s for the tanking you could get from the officers and not so much as time went on. In Young Offenders your fear would come from other inmates, but I didn't get beaten up by screws there. I didn't feel safe and you're on your toes the whole time. I was seriously injured in there, but I've seen other people get seriously slashed in there. I had to fight all the time.
192. In the allocation unit in Polmont there wasn't much of a daily routine and you wouldn't be in there for long, two weeks maybe. There was some sort of classes we went to and education, just to be assessed really. I can't remember what that was like. There was a lot of dope smoking in there. I'd never come across drugs before I went to Polmont and it was rife in there.
193. The governor used to come round every day to inspect but there were no outside inspections that I saw ever in any place I was at. I don't think you got a job in the

allocation unit. I don't think you got allocated a job until you got to the prison for your sentence.

194. From the allocation wing you could go to one of the other wings in Polmont or one of the two open prisons. I went to every one of them at some stage. The screws would just tell you where you were being placed. I think you're assessed according to the crime that you're in for, and not on what might be best for you.
195. The military nature of the regime in detention sticks with me to this day. If somebody told me to do a bed-pack I could still do it in the way I was supposed to do in prison. In a way I think that's a good thing and I've always kept myself spick and span and I keep my things in order at home. It didn't do anything to stop my offending at the time. I'd be in and out of prison all the time. The only differences between the institutions was in the levels of security.

Prison system in Scotland and England

196. Between first being arrested in [REDACTED] 1985 and finally being released in [REDACTED] 1992 I'd only ever been out of prison for a couple of weeks at the most. So, I was in and out of prison and detention all the time. I think I had twelve different sentences in total and eight different prisons in England and seven in Scotland. I was in Castle Huntly for a period of time. It was an open prison and you could climb out of your window if you wanted but the cell door was locked at night. You could escape if you wanted to but, if you did, you'd get picked up and sent back to Polmont.
197. I was in prisons for crimes of dishonesty, car theft, assaults and over the years it got worse. The institutions in England were much better and much more easy going. When I first got arrested in England, I got sent to Risley Remand Centre and it was overrun with drugs. Inmates could drink beer, I couldn't believe it. Prisoners could get a visit and get a can of beer handed in on a visit they could take it back to their cell. They can't do that anymore. Prisoners could have food handed in for them in England. There were no checks so the prison was rife with drugs. It was a better regime in the English

prisons than in Scotland. There was less bullying. In Scotland there was bullying and taxing all the time and fighting amongst the prisoners.

Life after being in care

198. I moved to England when I was seventeen. I met a girl who was from England when she was on holiday in Dundee. I was on the run at the time. I went back to England with her. We ended up having a kid together, a boy. I got arrested in Stoke-on-Trent in England. My son's aged thirty-four now. He's called [REDACTED] and we're in touch with each other. My relationship with his mum didn't continue.
199. Around 1989 or 1990 I was in Walton Prison in Liverpool and sat some exams and got O'levels in Maths and Arithmetic. That was easy for me, they were my best subjects in school.
200. In [REDACTED] 1992 I was released from Stafford prison and then I moved from Stoke-on-Trent to London. By that time my son was living with his gran and that was a great environment for him and he was doing well. I decided to move back to Scotland and met up with my sister's boyfriend who worked in London and he said he'd get me a job there. So I went to London and moved into a nice area of the city and got well-paid work straight away. It was a big turn around for me.
201. I was in London for seventeen years in total. I got married a year later and we had a daughter and she's grown up and now aged twenty-two and at university. She and her mum moved to live in Scotland. The building work I was doing in London started to run dry so I moved back to Scotland in 2009 and it meant I could see more of my daughter. I've stayed in Scotland since and continue to have a relation with both of my children.
202. I wasn't in prison at all until 2017 and served a year's sentence. I was very surprised to be imprisoned again after so long. Now I live on my own and I do work for my son who's a joiner with his own company.

Impact

203. My childhood experiences have impacted me. It was written in my records that I didn't trust anyone when I was in care, but I don't think I have any issues with trust anymore. I was moved around between various institutions over a short period of time and that's has had an impact on my ability to settle in one place. If I hadn't been involved in fighting in Burnside **Secondary Institution** I wouldn't have become an aggressive person later on. If I'd never been beaten up or been fighting I wouldn't have got into fights later on.
204. I've spoken to psychiatrists in the past and told them about what has happened to me and how it's affected me years later and I've been diagnosed with complex PTSD and that was in 2010. I was referred there by my GP and in England at first. I was referred for counselling, but I was so busy at work that I never followed it through. I've discussed it with my GP in Scotland too. I've been on medication to manage my mood since 2010 or 2011. It's not so bad now and I don't think about it at all.
205. I've instructed a solicitor on a civil claim about my time in care and he has requested unredacted records of my time in care. I have access to redacted copies at home now. I'll be glad when that legal matter is over so I can put it all to bed. I'll be pleased to find out the details that I don't know about the early children's shelters.
206. I don't have any contact with my brother **██████** these days. I just know that he lives in York and that's as much as I know. I saw him about twenty years ago, but haven't been in contact with him since then. He continued to live with the original foster parents and he became a Jehovah's Witness and continues to practise as one.

Reporting of Abuse

207. I reported the assaults to an organisation, not the Inquiry, and they passed on the information to police who then got in touch. I think this was in 2019. The officers were from Glenrothes in Fife. I told the police when they came to see me at home about three years ago. I gave them a statement and told them about **EIQ ████████** in

Dundee and Mr [REDACTED] in Starley Hall. I never heard a thing back. I think I've spoken to them twice. I tried contacting them to find out what was happening. I think they send a letter back to say nothing had happened. I've heard from the Procurator Fiscal about [REDACTED] to say that reports have been submitted to them.

208. I also spoke to a solicitor from Thorntons solicitors in Dundee in January 2022 about my time in care and he's told me there's three different routes I can go down. There's Scottish redress or make a civil claim or a criminal compensation claim. I wouldn't be entitled to that, because I was arrested five years ago and jailed. He doesn't have all the records yet so he's not sure what to advise. We're waiting for Dundee Council to send the unredacted records.

Records

209. I had all the records in the 1990s. I lived in London at the time and I had to come up to Dundee social work to try to get them and for some reason, I can't remember why, I didn't get them there and then. They posted the documents to me in London so a big parcel arrived for me. There were a few bits and pieces that were redacted but not much. I threw away the first lot of records I had as they were too distressing to have.
210. Then in January 2022 I asked for them again and that's when I received the redacted version. The records I got later on from the council have no order to them and they don't begin and end anywhere. There's no details at all from 1969 and its only in 1971 that there is a mention, so the first two years there's no records at all. The documents were redacted. But the second time everything was blacked out. My solicitor is going to get the records for legal reasons and get the redaction removed and I'll get more information in future about my early life.
211. Then my solicitor got his own digital set of them from his own request. I would estimate that thirty percent of the information in the records is redacted. There are fifty or sixty pages that are totally blacked out. I think it's unreasonable, they're my records and I still don't know things I want to know.

Lessons to be Learned

212. After my experience of living with GSG, I would not recommend that any council should put any child in foster care with a Jehovah's Witness and for the child to be forced into that religion. It's an abnormal religion. All my disruptiveness and violence was against him or him against me there was no violence against my foster mother. If I was the bad person they were saying I would have been disruptive to everyone, but it was only GSG because he was a bad man.
213. I think a lot of changes have been made in the care system from my time in care and that was a long time ago. I've no idea what children's homes are like now. I'm sure they're nothing like how they were in the eighties. Looking back it wasn't right that I had so many moves when I was in the care system.

Hopes for the Inquiry

214. I just hope that GSH and MYD get arrested and questioned by the police.

Other information

215. 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..... GSE

Dated..... 28 November 2022