

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PIF

Support person present: No

1. My name is PIF. My date of birth is 1957. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

### Life before care

2. I was born in Calderbank House Hospital in the Baillieston area of Glasgow. My mother's name was and my father's name was. I have no memories of my life at home. I've been trying to gather up stories from relatives, to put everything together. I don't think I got to see my mum and dad. My dad used to go out and work. He worked in the bottle works in Shettleston. The story I've heard is that he used to spend all his money on guitars, leaving my mum and me without food.
3. I then ended up in the care of my paternal grandparents in Bailleston. I think my grandmother's name was. My grandad's name was also. He worked on the farm in Baillieston. My memories of being at my gran's are great until I started to get myself into trouble. My grandparents then turned quite evil. My grandad built a table and a chair to put in the corner. If I did anything bad, I had to go and sit in the corner. I still got up to tricks. If my grandad wasn't happy, I got caned across the back by my gran. When I ask anybody, they tell me that didn't happen. They're covering up for my grandparents and I'm trying to uncover the truth. I've been abused from when I was five years old right up until I was old enough to look after myself. It's happened all my life, but it's not happening now.

4. I went to Baillieston Primary School. School was school. I didn't like being told what to do all the time so I'd end up suffering. I would go home with one or two hundred lines, "I must not, I must not, I must not." Then my gran would find out. It was the same with the report cards. My gran read my report and that's when things started with my gran. I started to dodge school when I was about six or seven. I'd just walk in and she'd say, "Where have you been?" I'd tell her I'd been at school. She told me that the school had got hold of her to tell her that I hadn't gone.
5. I used to hang about with two gypsy guys. We ended up breaking into the school. We were taken to the police station. My gran didn't come to get me, but my aunty did. She was my gran's daughter. She took me home and when I got there, my gran said, "You know what's going to happen." She gave me the cane four or five times and then she made me sit in the corner. I started to put vinegar in my tea out of badness. I was five or six years old and I was starting to rebel. Who rebels at that age? I didn't want anybody telling me what to do, even my grandparents. I couldn't speak to people.
6. I think I was dealing with a social worker throughout that time. I think it was the social work department that put me in my gran's care. I used to go and do something wrong because I knew I'd get caned. My gran bought me a lone ranger outfit. I sat in my room with a razor blade and I slashed it all. I loved it because I was getting punished. I never, ever thought things would turn out so badly.
7. My aunty had a boyfriend who stayed overnight. He had a packet of fags. I took a fag out of the packet and smoked it. I was about five or six. He found out one was missing. I was made to smoke a cigarette and keep swallowing the smoke. I wasn't allowed to blow it out. My aunt thought it would teach me a lesson, not to smoke again. It actually taught me the lesson of how to smoke. I was smoking at a very young age.
8. I don't know exactly when I was taken into care. I remember going to Lewis' department store with my aunty in 1962 and getting my photo taken on a donkey, so I know I was still with my gran then. I've never ever found out why I ended up in care. I've only got one surviving aunt from my dad's side and my dad passed away three years ago. The story I've been told by my aunt is that the social work department took

me from my gran because she was unwell. She couldn't cope with me because I was a bit of a rogue. However, I was also telling people what my gran was doing to me so I don't know if someone reported her. I told my classmates and the teachers at school. In school, you got the belt. I used to say to the teachers, "Just bang away because I'm getting it at home anyway." I can't find out the truth because nobody will tell me.

### **Dunclutha Children's Home, Dunoon**

9. I can't be sure about how old I was when I went to Dunclutha. I think it was sometime between 1963 and 1966 though. Dunclutha was just by Kirn in Dunoon. I don't know whether it was ran by the council, so I'm not sure who the staff worked for. It was a big mansion at the front. It had an extension at the side. There were bedrooms on the ground floor of the main building and also upstairs. There were also bedrooms in the attic. There was a big building at the back, like a war shelter. That was where we sat and watched TV and things. The house father, [FFX], had a room at the back of that building. There was a piano in the room and football stuff. I don't know [FFX]'s second name.
10. [SNR] was [RCN]. She was probably in her forties, quite wee with blonde hair. I'm sure there was also a nurse called Nurse [FGH]. She was there to look after the boys and the girls. I think she was [RCN] s [SNR]. She was quite tall and thin. She wore glasses and she had curly blonde hair. She was in her late forties, early fifties. [RCN] wore a blue nurse's outfit and Nurse [FGH] wore a pink one. My mind goes blank about any other staff. I think it's because those three were most in the picture. There were quite a lot of other staff there for cleaning and things like that. We didn't have to do any cleaning or chores ourselves.
11. There were roughly twenty boys and girls at Dunclutha, aged from five to sixteen. There were two separate parts. [FFX] was in charge of the boys' section and [RCN] [RCN] was in charge of the girls' section. Boys and girls mixed, but [FFX] was in charge of the boys and [RCN] was in charge of the girls. Everybody met in the rec room. I met my girlfriend in the rec room and we went everywhere together. After I left, I

would go over to see her most weekends. One night, when I was about ten or eleven. I couldn't get back home because the water was too rough and the ferries were cancelled. I asked the staff in Dunoon if I could stay the night but they said I couldn't so I ended up sleeping rough in a shed in Kirn.

## **Routine at Dunclutha**

### *First Day*

12. Nobody explained why I was going to Dunclutha. I remember a social worker took me to Dunclutha. It wasn't sinking in that I was going there. She was talking away and I was doing my own thing. I think we got the ferry from Gourock or Greenock to Dunoon. On the ferry, the social worker told me that I would like Dunclutha because they would look after me. She said that they would give me things that my grandparents might not be able to afford, like school uniform. She made it sound really, really good. I don't think a lot of people knew what was really going down at Dunclutha.
13. Dunclutha seemed quite nice at first. The social worker came in with me. Right away, I was introduced to FFX and RCN in SNR sitting room. I was told their roles, FFX was the house father and RCN the girls' housekeeper. The social worker spoke more to FFX and RCN but I don't know what she was saying, then she went away.
14. I was shown my bedroom. They showed me how my bed was made and showed me the ropes with the hospital corners and all that. I was then taken down to the air raid shelter place and introduced to everyone else. They said something like, "This is PIF, please take care of him." I didn't feel right that day. I didn't feel like I should be there. I told FFX that I didn't want to be there. FFX said that I had no choice in the matter.

### *Mornings and Bedtime*

15. I can remember an older boy who was in one of the attic rooms, [REDACTED]. He was in the home, but he was one of the boys in charge. He helped out with sports and things like that. His room had everything in it, but the other bedrooms just had beds. There were about eight or nine beds in the bedrooms upstairs, which were like dormitories. The downstairs bedrooms were smaller. I think I was in one of the bedrooms upstairs. It was all boys in the dormitory. You were put wherever they put you rather than according to age.
16. We got up at about 7:00 am or 7:30 am. Sometimes, we had to make our beds and bed block it. If we didn't do it right, they'd pull the place apart and we had to do it again. They'd pull your clothes out of your wardrobe to make sure you put everything back. We'd go for breakfast then go back to our room and get our school uniforms on. We then went back to the rec room and waited to be picked up for school.
17. I didn't wet the bed, but other people did. You always knew the bed wetters because they had a rubber sheet under their bedsheet. I don't really know how they were treated, other than the rubber sheet. We went to bed at around eight o'clock. Bedtime depended on your age. [REDACTED], who stayed in the attic, was fifteen or sixteen. He had his own space so he could stay up until whenever he wanted.

### *Mealtimes/food*

18. We all ate our meals together in the dining room. We got our dinner at around 5:00 pm. The food was alright. If you didn't like something, you just went without.

### *Washing and bathing*

19. We had a wash in the morning. There were toilets with sinks and baths in them. The baths were on one side and the wash basins were on the other. There were four or five baths at Dunclutha. We had a bath every night, but we had privacy. The water was lukewarm. We shared water, so if you were last in it was freezing by the time you

got there. We would be in the rec room and FFX would tell people to go for a bath. I was quite quick so I always made sure I was first to the bath.

### *Clothing*

20. They provided our clothing and our uniform for school. We took our uniform off when we came in from school. I wore a pair of shorts and a t-shirt. I think the social work department supplied the home with clothes. When you arrived, you were fitted out. They gave you the biggest stuff when you were only a wee thing, big jackets and things like that.

### *School*

21. I went to Kirn Primary school. I didn't always stay for the day. I didn't enjoy school. I just couldn't take anything in. I got into trouble loads of times for missing school. I'd get the belt from FFX at home. Sometimes, I got the belt at school as well. It depended who your teacher was. A lot of the female teachers couldn't strike you with the belt. The male teachers used to hide the belt over their shoulder. They'd pull it out. The belt had two wee legs. They would make sure they would hit you with the hardest part of the belt. You'd walk around with two big red marks on your hand. Once, I threw something at the teacher because he was giving me the belt. I thought he was being too rough. I got expelled. I think it was only for two or three days and then I went back to the same school. I got a bad mark for that at the home, but I didn't get whacked or anything.

### *Leisure time*

22. We got back from school around 3:30 pm. We would get changed out of our school uniform and go into the rec room to play games or watch TV. We could also watch TV after dinner until bedtime. There were games like Buckaroo and there was a case of books. would do recreation and sports with us. He arranged football, basketball, racing and all different things. We did that on Saturday. Sunday was a day of rest.

23. The American Navy was based in Dunoon because the HMS Hood was docked there. They used to take us out on a Saturday. When you came off the boat, there was a big leisure centre, ran by the Americans. They would get in touch with SNR and ask for a number of kids who were able to go. We went there almost every Saturday. We would see films. We were given candy. They were quite good that way and those were good times.

#### *Trips and Holidays*

24. I never went on any trips or holidays with the home. I just went out with my gran when she came to visit. She wasn't allowed to leave Dunoon because I was under the care of Dunclutha. Towards the end of my time at Dunclutha, I was allowed to go and stay with my gran for the weekend. It started when I was about seven years old. My gran was meant to meet me from the ferry at the other side, but she never made it. I had to get the train from Greenock or Gourock into Glasgow city centre and then get a bus to Blackhill. I would never get the bus to Blackhill because I would already have spent the half-crown I'd been given. I'd spend the money on fags. I was given tickets for the train into Glasgow, but I'd walk from the city centre to Blackhill. Being at my gran's for weekends was good.

#### *Birthdays and Christmas*

25. At Christmas, we were given a toy and a selection pack. I got Buckaroo. I dismantled it. I was just one of those children. I demolished everything. We had Christmas dinner in the dining room with all the usual things. The Americans did well. They used to take us at Christmas time. They would give us toys and candies. We would watch movies. Only certain people got picked for that. There were the "goods" and the "bads" in the home. I always thought I was in with the bads. I must not have been in the bads because I got picked two or three times. If you did anything wrong, you didn't get the good things. If I got the belt four times in the week, I had been a bad boy that week. I'd get left out of treats like that and all the goody-goodies would get to go. I can't remember any birthdays being celebrated at Dunclutha.

### *Personal possessions*

26. We didn't get any pocket money, but my gran used to buy me the best of stuff. We got to keep our own things. I would ask her for a Dalek and she'd get me a Dalek. I'd ask her for the James Bond motor and she'd get me the James Bond motor. I would swap them for other stuff. That was the kind of thing I would do. I think I was just ungrateful. My gran would ask me what I'd like her to bring the next week and I'd ask for something I knew was worth something else. [REDACTED] had a big gramophone up in his attic room. I used to love it. I tried to swap him for his gramophone. I offered the Dalek, the James Bond motor and a Stingray motor that my gran had brought me. They were all original toys. He didn't go for it.

### *Religious instruction*

27. We had to go to church on a Sunday, which I hated. We went to the Church of Scotland church in Kirn. We didn't have a choice. We had to put our glad rags on and I hated wearing a suit. I also hated it because it was boring. In those days, they sang hymns and the minister would go on and on and on and on. All the boys from the home sat on the balcony above the rest of the congregation, so everybody knew exactly where we were from. I used to say to the wee boys around me, "I wish he'd hurry up."
28. We had to say grace before every meal and a prayer before we went to bed. The staff wanted us to say the prayer at bedtime, that God was always with us. I used to say to myself, "I wish God was here now."

### *Visits/Inspections*

29. My maternal grandmother used to come and visit me nearly every weekend. She'd always ask me what I wanted. She would buy me something every weekend. She would take me into Dunoon, so the staff weren't around. She used to take me to the fun fair and things like that. Sometimes, we would go the tea room and the amusements. We'd then get a couple of ice creams and sit on the pier. We'd watch

the boats going up and down. When I got back, FFX would usually come up and ask, all nicey nicey, "How was your day?" It was all for show.

30. FFX used to threaten me. Because I kept getting the belt, he said that he'd get in touch with my gran and tell her not to visit me because I'd been bad. It never happened because she always came. My paternal grandmother didn't come to visit me. I never had any visits from social workers while I was at Dunclutha. We weren't allowed into the main part of the building so I never saw any official visitors come in from the outside.

#### *Healthcare*

31. I remember Nurse FGH well because she used to give us our medicine at night. She gave us milk of magnesia and black stuff, which was syrup of figs. We were given that every night before bed in a wee room where they kept all the medication. I never got ill in Dunclutha. Maybe it was because I got that medicine every night. I don't remember going to the dentist at Dunclutha.

#### *Running away*

32. I think I ran away three or four times. There was an old scrapyard in Dunoon. I used to hide and sleep in there. I got found out because I lifted a torch from the scrapyard. I was caught by the cops and taken back to Dunclutha. When the police were there, FFX would say, "Don't you ever do that again." After the police left, he would say, "Right, move. You know what's going to happen." You either got a cold shower and sent to your bed without any tea or you were left to sit in a room by yourself, staring at the four walls. You would be left there for an hour or two hours before being sent to bed. All the other children would be watching the TV. I had an uncle in Dunoon, but staying with someone would have made it too handy for the police to catch me.
33. One week, my gran didn't turned up for her visit. I was broken-hearted. I started getting worried. I decided to do a runner. My gran stayed in Blackhill at the time. I was trying to get to Blackhill to make sure she was okay. I got as far as Gourock or Greenock,

wherever the boat goes. The police caught me there and took me back to Dunclutha. My aunt came up the next day and told me not to worry, that my gran had taken unwell.

### **Abuse at Dunclutha**

34. There were three seats outside FFX's room, which was within the rec room. Every time I did something wrong, the first thing FFX would say was, "Take a seat. You know what's going to happen." I would sit there in front of all the other children and they'd take the micky out of me. They would slag me off, saying, "We know what's going to happen. You're going to come out with a sore arse." I was left to sit there for ten or fifteen minutes. I think FFX made us wait in those seats because he got a kick out of it.
35. FFX would then come down and take me into the wee room. It was only ever him in the room. He would say that he'd make sure I'd never sit again. He'd tell me to pull my trousers and underwear down. There was a piano in there and FFX would get the piano stool out and tell me to bend over it. I got about six or seven lashes of the belt on my backside. He used a school belt. After he was finished, he'd tell me to leave. A lot of the time, I knew what I was getting it for but he never, ever said. He did turn round at one point and say, "This will be good for you because it'll teach you a lesson." Little did he know that it just made me worse.
36. I was given the belt in FFX's room four or five times in my first couple of weeks at Dunclutha. It continued to happen throughout my time there. I saw other children sitting on the seats as well, but once they were in that room I don't know what went on. Girls were taken into the room as well. I don't think there was any sexual abuse, but he was heavy-handed with the belt. You'd hear screams. I don't know why FFX was involved in doing that to the girls because RCN was in charge of them.
37. RCN must have known what was happening because of the way FFX acted. The must have discussed things. FFX was a bad person. I think he used to get a kick

out of it because he belted you on your bare backside. You'd walk out holding your backside because it was sore. Everybody would know what had happened.

38. If you were fighting with other children and [FFX] found out, he would say, "Time for boxing gloves." He would then make you box in front of all the other children in the rec room until someone got hurt. [FFX] was probably in his forties. He wasn't skinny and he wasn't fat. He had jet-black hair and one of those faces you can never forget. He always wore a black suit and a white shirt. I kept thinking it was my fault because of the things that I was doing. The very first time I was beaten, I rebelled. I swore nobody would ever do it again. That was me at the age of five or six years old. When I went to Dunclutha, I felt like I wanted to kill [FFX] because of what he was doing. The lesson I learned was to run away.

#### **Reporting of abuse at Dunclutha**

39. After I ran away, the police would take me back to the home. I was too frightened to tell the police what was happening in Dunclutha. I knew that if I grassed [FFX] up, I'd probably get it worse. At that time of my life, I thought it was the usual thing and that it was meant to happen. They looked after you like your parents and they'd do what your parents would do. It's all coming out now because I know that they've done wrong. It was just a nightmare.
40. My maternal gran used to come and visit me every weekend. One weekend, we were sitting on the pier and she asked me why I was so quiet. I told her that [FFX] seemed to be taking the law into his own hands. I told her that he was giving me the belt. She asked me if it was on the hands and I told her it was on the bare backside. She wasn't too happy about it. She took me back to the home, but [FFX] wasn't around at that time. I don't know whether she went to the social work department or where it went from there. It may have been why I left Dunclutha and went to stay with her, but I don't know.

## **Leaving Dunclutha**

41. One weekend, my gran asked if I could go and stay with her. My gran was in her fifties or early sixties. She told me that she'd spoken to RCN and FFX and they'd let me go to her for the weekend. The social work department decided I might go and stay with my gran for good, but it wasn't going to happen there and then. I was to go and stay with her at weekends to see how things would work out. I think everything went okay. Even although I was quite nasty, I think my gran understood the reasons why. FFX took me into a room and sat me down. He said that he had good news and that I was going to stay with my Granny . I then went to stay there for good about three or four months later.
42. I was excited to go to my gran's. It was great to go to grandparents who I belonged to and who didn't want to whack me about. In a family, you have the good bit and the bad bit. Mr and Mrs , my father's parents, were the bad bit. Mr and Mrs , my mother's parents, were the good bit. My dad's mum had put me into care. I ended up staying with my mother's parents. My mum's mum would never hit me. My granda had an accident and lost the use of his two legs, but he would sit at the window and throw his voice. They were great times.

## **Living with grandparents, Blackhill and Tollcross, Glasgow**

43. I didn't stay with my gran for very long. My wee pal drowned, which is the worst part of what happened to me. When I left Dunclutha, my gran was staying in Blackhill. The family were originally from Tollcross and then the family moved back to in the Tollcross area. I hung about with a wee boy called . He was seven and I was twelve. I liked the younger ones because I liked being the boss. The two of us went to Mount Vernon. There were big plastic canisters so we made rafts. I left him doing what he had to do and I went away and did what I had to do. I told him to wait on me. As soon as I turned around, I couldn't see him. The first thing that came into my mind was that he'd gone and left me. I looked around and I saw his raft in the water. I didn't twig that he was in there.

44. For an hour or two, I wandered around the whole of Mount Vernon. He was only a young boy and I was looking for him. On my way back down to where my gran stayed, I went to [REDACTED]'s mum and dad's. I asked whether [REDACTED] was in and they said, "No, he was with you." That made me feel worse. I went to my mum's in Polmadie for a wee while. It was the first time that I had seen my mum in my life. I came away with some story. I didn't tell her about the wee boy. I told her that my gran had said that I could stay with her and my mum said, "Right, that's okay." The next minute, the police were at the door. My mum said, "PIF [REDACTED], the police are at the door looking for you. What have you done?" I said, "Nothing." The police said they needed to talk to her.
45. That's when it all started. They had divers going into the pond and they found [REDACTED]'s body. I was staying with my gran and [REDACTED]'s family were nearby. It was starting to get difficult. They were calling me a murderer because I had been interrogated by the police. The police said that I had pushed [REDACTED] in and they were blaming me for murder. I was interrogated for two days, but I tried to tell the police the story.
46. I went back home to stay at my gran's and everything quietened down, but I still felt the blame. Every time I saw [REDACTED]'s family, I didn't want to talk to them or anything. His mum and dad said it was my fault because I was older and he was in my care. Being called a murderer, it just broke me. I'm still dealing with what happened now. I keep saying to myself that I'm still here. I'll never know what happened to him. I feel it because I showed him what to do. I think about that boy all the time. I don't think I'll ever be able to erase those memories.
47. Around that time, I used to hurry home to watch Joe 90 and my favourite programmes. I saw my gran's purse, sitting on the unit. I went up and opened it to take out some money. I got caught before I took it. I got a slap right across the head from my gran. I turned around and said out of spite, "I'd rather be in a home." My gran said, "If that's what you want, you'll get." Then the social workers came along and I was sent to the next home. The social workers came three or four times to speak to my gran. They told me about the home. They said it was an all-boys' home. I was looking for girls. They told me everybody was treated the same way there and we would be taken on holidays. It all happened really quickly.

## **Gryffe Castle Children's Home, Bridge of Weir**

48. Gryffe was an old castle. It didn't look big from the outside, but you couldn't see what was behind it. There was a big orchard at the back. I think that what used to be the stables had been made into a rec room. At the back of that, there was a table tennis room and games. There were two or three smaller bedrooms on the ground floor of the main house. There were three doors to the main building. We were only allowed to use the back door. The only time we got to go out of the front door was when we had visitors. There were about 26, 27 boys there, ranging from age ten to about fifteen.
49. Gryffe wasn't the best of places. It was a bit better than Dunclotha, but the staff weren't any better. I'm not sure who was running it, but I think the social work department in Johnstone had a lot to do with it. A man and his wife were SNR [REDACTED]. The police told me that their surname was MKS-LYQ [REDACTED]. Mr MKS [REDACTED] dealt with the boys. His wife never got involved in discipline.
50. There were two ladies who took care of the laundry and gave us our medicine at night, called Nurse Smith and Nurse McGarrigle. The other staff were Mr MWM [REDACTED], Mr MWN [REDACTED] and Mr MWD [REDACTED]. There was another one called Angus, but I don't know whether that was his first name or his second name. The boys were quite nasty and they had names for the staff. Mr MWD [REDACTED] was called 'MWD [REDACTED]' and Mr MWN [REDACTED] was called 'MWN [REDACTED]'. The male staff looked after us. They worked shifts, so there were usually two staff on at a time. Mr MWM [REDACTED] was usually on duty at night. He lived in Houston. Mr MWN [REDACTED] lived in Kilmacolm. Mr MWD [REDACTED] stayed in the town.

### **Routine at Gryffe**

#### *First Day*

51. I was brought to Gryffe by a social worker and then taken into Gryffe by a staff member. I can't remember the name of the staff member that took me into Gryffe. I get a bit

mixed up about the names, but the police told me the couple <sup>SNR</sup> were Mr and Mrs <sup>MKS-LYQ</sup>. I was taken into the front of the house. The main bit of the house was theirs. There was a front door and a part for visitors. I got taken in and the staff member sat and spoke about the dos and don'ts. He was telling me that I'd go to Linwood High School and that Gryffe would supply me with the stuff. He said that they didn't supply us with pocket money. After that, I was left in Gryffe's care by the social worker. I was shown to my room, which was called Ben Nevis.

### *Mornings and Bedtime*

52. The bedrooms were all named after mountains. I was in Ben Nevis and there was Mount Everest. Ben Nevis had about ten beds in it and Mount Everest had five beds in it. There were six beds in another room and three or four beds in another room. In Ben Nevis, the boys ranged from aged ten to aged fourteen. Everybody went to bed at the same time. They put us to bed at around 8:00 pm or 8:30 pm. I never wet the bed, but a few boys did. I could tell because they had a big ring on their sheets in the morning. They would then end up with a rubber mat on their bed.
53. There used to be a house father in each room. He would make sure the room was clean and the boys were spotless and ready for the day. I was appointed to that role in my third year. I was quite pleased about that. I've always liked to be in charge. I've been the manager of a security firm and I like to be on top. I thought I was doing really well when I was made house father. The staff had their good points and their bad points.

### *Mealtimes/food*

54. There was a dining room with four or five tables in it. There were four people at each table. There was a top table for six or seven people. That was where all the do-gooders sat. I never got there. The food was okay. It got to the stage where you just ate what they gave you or you'd starve. I think I had enough to eat. Because I was in care, I got free meals at school. The meals at school were better than the meals in the home, so

I didn't worry about getting enough to eat in the home. If you went for second sitting at school, you got a lot more plus you got extras.

55. Because I ended up as leader of the room, I ended up being the leader of the table that I sat at. The boys from my room would sit at my table. I had to make sure that they ate right and that they were okay.

#### *Washing and bathing*

56. There was a washroom with baths in it. There were two or three baths and two or three wash hand basins. We washed our hands before meals. The staff told us when to have a bath, but you could have one whenever you wanted. You were given privacy when you had a bath. If they knew that you were dodging a bath, they'd have something to say about it. They'd look behind your ears and make sure you'd cleaned behind your ears. One boy would get a bath one night and another the next night. Mr MWN would say, "Right, you, you and you, bath time."

#### *Clothing*

57. My gran used to get a cheque for clothing. She would go to get clothes, like a black coat and a pair of black training shoes and things like that. She would take them to the social work department in Johnstone, so I think they were running the home. At school, we wore a blazer and long trousers. In the home, we wore shorts and a t-shirt. They didn't believe in long trousers. When we went on holiday, we were fitted out for new clothes. They were long army-type shorts. The first two years I was given those shorts, but others wore khaki shorts. I ended up being a leader, so in my third year I was given the khaki shorts too, which were nicer.
58. We wore shorts and t-shirts all year round, but it was what we were used to. When I ran away with a friend, we were given a pair of tartan trousers. We thought they were brilliant. When we got back to the home, they gave us shorts again. I told them I wanted the tartan trousers, but I had to wear the shorts. We had to wear whatever they wanted

us to wear. They were quite strict like that. We had to take our school uniform off as soon as we got home from school.

### *Chores*

59. We had to buff the floors. There was a big long pole with a heavy bumper. There were no carpets, but the floors were lino and the rooms were big. There was a rota for the chores. Some would do the buffing, some would do other chores, like cleaning the kitchen. The ones that didn't do the buffing would do the buffing the next time. They had staff to deal with the cleaning but I think they were trying to get us involved a bit. They didn't like us sitting about, doing nothing. The two nurses worked different shifts. They took care of the laundry. Sometimes, you could give the ladies in the laundry a hand if you wanted to. There was no set time for chores, we just did them whenever.

### *School*

60. Apart from holidays, the only time we left Gryffe was when we went to school. I went to Linwood High School while I was at Gryffe. We used to walk down to Gryffe and get the bus to Linwood. It dropped us right off at the school. When we got dropped back, we were dropped off at the police station in Bridge of Weir. It was a big, long road up to the home. We had to enter the home through the back door.
61. I turned into a thief at school. There was a boy from the home called [REDACTED]. We got together to steal. He would sit outside the headmaster's office. I would go in and tell the headmaster that someone wanted him. I would come out and get to one side, the headmaster would leave his room and [REDACTED] would go in and get the money. [REDACTED] would come back out and the headmaster would come back and say to me, "Who was it that was looking for me?" He could never remember. I don't know whether he figured it out. We went through every class for dinner money. People would leave their dinner money on their peg and we turned over every peg. I turned out really bad. At that time, I was proud of myself for doing those things. The school got in contact with Gryffe and told them what we were doing. I got the belt and I was grounded and put to bed without anything to eat.

### *Leisure time*

62. After school, we would go in the back door of the building, go up to our rooms and take our kit off. We would change into our play clothes and go into the rec room. After dinner, we got to go to the rec room again until we went to bed. We could play table tennis in the rec room. If you didn't want to play table tennis, there were other games or you could watch TV. There were benches to sit on, like the ones used for PE at school.
63. We weren't allowed to leave the main gates, unless we were going to school. I don't know how the staff could see, because the gates were miles away from the main house. Gryffe Castle was in amongst a forest. We used to buy ten fags and hide them in the forest. We would smoke in the forest.

### *Trips and Holidays*

64. There were no day trips at Gryffe, but we went on holidays. We went to Garlieston in Galloway. We were away for about a week. It was a seaside resort. All the children in the home went on the holiday. We stayed in a kind of hostel. The man **SNR** of Gryffe came with us, along with his wife and a couple of the other staff. They would take us into the town and keep an eye on us. Mr **MKS** made sure we didn't get up to anything. We used to go dancing, which was good. We would go down to the seaside. There were nice beaches. It wasn't very exciting, but it was an opportunity for a break away from the home. The staff's bad points never happened when we were on holiday.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

65. At Christmas time, we were given a toy and a selection box. We would go into the main living room and they would give us our Christmas presents. We went down to the rec room to open them, but there wasn't much of a Christmas dinner or a celebration. Birthdays weren't celebrated.

*Pocket money/personal possessions*

66. We got pocket money on a Saturday. The only thing to spend it on was sweeties. A wee boy used to skip down to Bridge of Weir to get fags. We would keep watch to make sure nobody would see him. Nothing would be said. I didn't have any personal possessions. I was always a destroyer. I destroyed everything I had. We were given toys at Christmas, but things that they saw fit to give us to do. The room was never stacked up with rubbish because we had to keep it spotless.

*Religious instruction*

67. We went to church on Sunday. It was a Church of Scotland in Bridge of Weir. I didn't like it. We didn't say prayers or grace in the home.

*Visits/Inspections*

68. My gran swore that she would never come and see me. Nobody came to visit me. I didn't have any social work visits. I don't think there were any inspections, but we didn't see a lot of visitors because we were at the back end of the building.

*Healthcare*

69. Somebody told me to eat Japp's Salts and that it was sherbert. You're only meant to take a spoonful, but I was eating it like it was sherbert. I ended up really ill. I was moved to Mount Everest dormitory so that the doctor could come to me. There were five beds in that dormitory. I had overdone it. I got a big, red circle around my crotch area. It was quite sore. I don't know whether it was caused by the Japp's Salts, but the doctor thought that it was. I was bed bound in Mount Everest for a week to two weeks. The staff brought me my meals in there. The staff there were quite good. I didn't want to leave.
70. Apart from that, I never got poorly. We were given milk of magnesia every day and syrup of figs once a week. I don't know whether that was what kept us healthy. I saw

a school dentist on one occasion whilst I was there. I had a tooth taken out. I had eaten too many sweeties. I was always scared of the dentist and needles. I had a tooth taken out when I was staying with my gran. I was given gas and I felt so ill afterwards. It put me off going to the dentist.

### *Running away*

71. When I went back after the holiday, the fun and games started. I started running away. I didn't like school and I didn't like the home. I had nobody to go to. I couldn't go to my family because they would just turn me in. I ended up running away with a boy from the home. He ran away because he was being mentally abused by the boys in the home. He asked me to come with him. The boy had a problem with doing the toilet. He kept wetting himself all the time.
72. The boy wet himself about three or four times after we ran away. I didn't realise how difficult it would be. We were sleeping in a bin shed and it was quite small. He was wetting his trousers and he was stinking the place out. I had gotten to know a guy called [REDACTED] who was a gypsy. When we ran away, we went to see him. I asked him to give my friend a set of clothes. I told him that he'd just done the toilet and that he couldn't help it, he had a health problem. After we got the change of clothing, the boy wet himself again. I ended up saying to him that we were maybe as well just giving ourselves in.
73. We had left the home on Friday and by that time, it was Sunday. We stole two bikes and we were caught by the police. The police said, "You boys look like homers. Which home are you in?" I don't know how they could tell. Quarrier's was nearby as well as Gryffe. We said we weren't from Quarrier's and they realised we must be from Gryffe. The police took us back to the home. They man <sup>SNR</sup> [REDACTED] of Gryffe, Mr <sup>MKS</sup> [REDACTED] said, "No problem, no problem. We'll deal with it." He didn't half deal with it. We were belted for running away. After we were belted, we were sent to our rooms with no TV or anything.

## *Discipline*

74. Mr MWM was quite easy-going. He'd let you do most things. Mr MWN had a [REDACTED] so he [REDACTED]. If you ran, that's what happened. He'd fling it at you because he couldn't run. He'd do that if you wound him up. Mr MKS, the man SNR SNR of the home would belt us and send us to our room without anything to eat.

## **Abuse at Gryffe**

### *Physical abuse*

75. If you did anything wrong, you got the belt. It was always from the man SNR, Mr MKS. If you spoke to anybody else who went to Gryffe, I think they would say the exact same thing. I ran away with another boy. We were taken back to the home by the police. The man SNR of Gryffe told the police that he'd deal with it. He took us down to a room. He told us to get over a table and get our trousers down. He then gave us the belt. He hit us four or five times each. It was always on the backside. I don't understand why. I always used to think it must turn on the staff who did it. At school, they would always belt us on our hands. When you were in the homes, where nobody could see you, it was your bare bum.
76. If you did anything wrong, Mr MWN couldn't catch you. We used to call him 'MWN' because of his [REDACTED]. We would wind him up and he never liked it. We'd just be messing about, calling him MWN, and we'd know when to run. We lived with him for so long, we could always tell by the expression on his face. We always used to run. He would throw his [REDACTED] at us. He must have got used to us because he never missed. Sometimes, I would be injured by that. It depended where it hit me.

## *Bullying*

77. I got bullied quite a lot in Gryffe. Two new brothers came into the home. The other boys told them that I was the hard man, I was the gangster. They encouraged them to take me on. I had to react because there were two brothers against me. I managed to do what I had to do. One day, we were fighting again and they beat me. One of the brothers said, "You're not the hard man that they said you were." I wasn't looking for trouble but they were throwing me into it.
78. Any time someone new came in, the other boys did the same thing. Another two brothers came in as well, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The staff had finished talking to the boys in the rec room. Some of the boys then said to the brothers, "Watch him, he's a bit of a hard man." I said that I wasn't looking for any trouble. They would make me fight with those two brothers. It meant that if I fought with them again and they beat me, I wouldn't be the hard man anymore. It was like a pecking order. They were telling the new boys that I was the top dog, but I wasn't. I just wanted to bide my time and get out of there. I think they were just doing that to punish me.
79. There were boys who would come and take your pocket money off you. The ice cream van came on a Saturday and we got about two bob in pocket money. Some of the boys would tell you to buy them a packet of sweets and put them in the night time box for the telly. I was threatened all the time. I think the staff knew about the bullying, but nothing was ever done about it. I don't think any of them were bothered. It was just one of those things. It was an all-boys' home. Someone had to be boss.

## **Reporting of abuse at Gryffe**

80. When you stay in a place like that, you're scared to tell anybody that you're being abused in case you make it worse. I was being battered about in Gryffe for three years. If I went out to the outside world and broadcasted it, what would have happened when I went back to the home? I had to wait until after I left, but I didn't do that either. I just put it to the side and let it all build up and build up.

## **Leaving Gryffe**

81. When I reached the age of fifteen, the next step would have been to go somewhere else, like a hostel, or go to a family member. My father got in contact with the social work department. The social work then came in to see me. They told me that my father was going to take me. I never knew my father the way that I should have done. I was then told that I was going to stay in London with him. I was quite hyped up about it. I left the home about a week later.
82. I left Gryffe in the morning with a social worker. I was going to Glasgow Airport to get the plane to London, but my flight wasn't until the next day. The social worker took me to stay in her home in Castlemilk for the night so I'd be nearer to the airport. My dad met me at the other side. There was no follow-up from the local authority and I never saw a social worker until I left London.

## **Life after leaving care**

83. When I first moved to London, my dad was staying in the Rotherhithe area. He moved to Surrey Docks, then Blackheath, then somewhere else. The first couple of weeks were okay, but then he started getting heavy-handed. I was hanging around with the wrong people. All I did was steal. My step-mum would say, "Wait till your father comes home." She would tell him things when he got home and then he would be on my case.
84. My dad had been in the Merchant Navy. He brought lots of things back from overseas. He didn't like anybody touching his things, but I had to investigate. He brought back a tape recorder. I didn't realise there was a Dean Martin tape in it and I pressed the record button. I started talking. My dad loved Dean Martin and he went to play his tape later on. It was my voice. He shouted me in and asked me what had happened to his tape. I said, "I don't know, dad, I haven't touched it." He said, "Well why does it have your voice on it?" I said I didn't know, then he gave me a hiding.

85. I worked in London. I made dummies for shops out of fibreglass. I just applied for the job myself. I enjoyed it, but I didn't last long. I also worked in a cushion factory. A big blower would blow the filling in. A woman would sew it up and then I would bag it. I got fed up doing the bagging. I was putting them all in the wrong way. The man that ran the place liked me. He said he'd get me on the blower. Every time I did it, it went everywhere. The guy before me had no trouble with it, but it was quite a powerful machine. I did something in that job that I shouldn't have and I was sacked. Every job I was in was short-lived. My dad would tell me not to come back unless I had a job.

86. I lasted about a year at my dad's. It was a very tough year. My dad was a hard man. He was strict, like my grandpa. It was the [REDACTED] side of the family. My dad said he couldn't look after me anymore because I was too difficult for him. My dad found out that I had been stealing. He told the social work that he couldn't handle me. A social worker came to London and took me back up to Glasgow on the train.

87. I was put into Ardoch Hostel in Ibrox. I still hadn't turned fifteen. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

88. I was at the hostel for just over a year. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later That was then me, down and out, sleeping rough on the streets. I was then living on the streets from the age of about nineteen until my late twenties.

89. I was sleeping rough in the Gorbals. At that time, the Talbot Centre was in the Gorbals. I used that quite a lot. It didn't have any beds. It was like a big hall and we would lie on the floor on bits of newspaper, but at least it was warm and you got a couple of sandwiches and soup. The problem was you had to be out by 7:00 am so they could clean it. We used to go down to Anderston Street Bus Station and get cleaned up. We

would then do the rounds. There was the Legion of Mary in Copland Street and there were the soup kitchens on George Square. There were places you could get fed. There was another shelter near the Pavilion Theatre. You had to be there for a certain time to get a bed. I used that one quite a lot. I used to travel all around Glasgow to find the night shelters. I started to drink and then I turned into an alcoholic. I started hanging about with homeless people, drinking bottles of wine.

90. The man who started the Talbot Centre was called Vincent Buchanan. He bought the Talbot Centre, which used to be a restaurant, because he wanted to help down and outs. He saw me there and said that I was too young to have that kind of lifestyle. His friend, Frank, ran dry houses. Vincent asked Frank if he had a space for me and he had a space in a dry house in Cumberland Street. I had to go to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. I got a job in the Talbot Centre. I was being paid £4 a week, which was a lot of money in those days. All I had to do was go in in the morning, make up sandwiches, make a pot of soup, clean up a little bit and wait for the next shift to come in. I messed that up. When I was in the dry house, I got drunk and they flung me out. My whole life, I've messed up.
91. When I was homeless, I used to hang about with an Irish guy. About seventeen years ago, I went to London and I saw him there. He had a big beard and he was all manky. He was like an old dosser. I told him that I used to drink with him in Scotland. He went into his bag and offered me a drink. I turned it down. He didn't look too healthy.
92. I was on the streets until I joined the army at the age of 29. I was in the Scots Guards for about a year. I didn't last too long. When I was in the army, I had to ask the commander for permission to get married. I've always worked. I worked as a manager for a company in Glasgow that had about ten sites. I worked in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] doing security for about fifteen years. I had to leave because of my physical health. I have a respiratory condition. They paid me off or I'd still be there. They gave me two months wages, which wasn't that much.

## Impact

93. I used to watch people getting abused and you think that was just the way people lived back then, did they deserve it or did they not deserve it? That was the way that I used to look at it. When I saw it come up on the TV about the Inquiry and abuse by nuns, I thought that maybe I was a victim. For years, I'd been trying to get this off my case but I didn't know where to run to. Then, all of a sudden, the thing about the nuns came up and I wondered how I could go about reporting the abuse that happened to me in my younger days.
94. I sit and tell my kids what happened to me and I feel rotten because of what I went through. I have three sons and a daughter. I always swore that it didn't matter what my life was like, I would never touch or harm my kids. My wife did all the shouting and slapping. It worked the way I wanted it to work. My grandparents were really, really rough. My dad was quite a bully as well. I was afraid that I'd take that off him and end up the wrong way, a bully. I swore through my whole life that I would never abuse a child. The only thing I've ever done is cuddle my children.
95. I turned out really bad when I was at Gryffe. I would steal at school. At that time, I was proud of myself for behaving like that. Sometimes, I think that God works in mysterious ways. Maybe this is him getting me back, but I know that's probably just in my mind. I've hurt a lot of people.
96. I think being put in care made me bad and nasty. Nobody can say I haven't been bad and nasty because I have. Now, I regret it. I sit and think to myself, that wasn't me and that shouldn't have been me. I was quite quiet as a boy. I wouldn't talk to anybody and I was quite a shy person. I turned into a rock for the sake of what? People kept beating me up all of the time. I was still getting doings for the slightest mistakes, when I got a bit drunk. I was always stealing.
97. I think my experiences in care had an impact on me offending. The pattern started when I was a kid. I always rebelled. The stealing and the going to jail meant a roof and meals. I had nobody to turn to, nothing to do. I'd go into a shop and steal a packet of

biscuits and get caught. I don't know how many times I got the jail for stealing packets of biscuits and things like that. I think being in care made me like that. I learned in my down and out days that I had to steal to eat.

98. Nowadays, young people get their Job Seeker's Allowance but they sleep on the streets. Nobody understands. They sleep on the streets because they can't take houses on. It's too much. They have to pay rent and things like that. The money they get, they'll drink it or buy drugs. They don't want to be in charge of a house where they have to buy this and buy that. I was like that when I was young. I used to get my giro from the Post Office at the top of the town. The first thing I'd do was buy a bottle of El Dorado wine. I'd drink it on the way down and get the ferry at Minerva Street over to the other side of the water. I would meet up with guys over there and we'd have a few bottles of El Dorado and a few bottles of cider. I didn't know what I wanted in those days. I wanted somewhere to sleep, but I wasn't stable enough to have somewhere to sleep.

99. I went to AA meetings when I was younger and they'd talk about one day at a time. My son is that way just now. I keep saying to my wife that we'll work on it a day at a time. We'll see how he is tomorrow. If he's alright tomorrow then he'll be okay. If he's alright the next day, then that's two days. My son can go a week and then he'll get into bother with drugs and alcohol. I'm hoping he hasn't taken that from my genes, the way I used to carry on. I've said to my wife that my son's like me. I didn't want him turning out like me. He's turned out that way because it's his choice. We've all got a choice to make in life. I didn't make choices. I had choices made for me when I was a child. I see my son as a younger version of me and it's bringing back too many memories. My son has two daughters that he never sees. They're with their maternal grandmother and we never see them. My other son's child is with a foster carer just now. He's fighting to get his son back. My sons are showing me what I used to be like and I wish it would stop.

100. I can't put it back in a box. All I do is think about what happened. My whole life, I've messed things up. I've now got a life with my wife and my kids. I feel quite good, but I don't feel brilliant. I've got all this going on in my head, dragging me down. I'm trying

to talk to people because it's driving me nuts. I'm talking to a psychologist to see if I can get help. I've just been to see a psychologist at the Anchor Centre. I was referred there by Future Pathways. I told the psychologist that I sometimes can't be bothered. She said that she wanted me to come to the Anchor Centre so not to say that I couldn't be bothered going to see her. I've only seen her once, but we talked about my behaviour and suicidal thoughts.

101. My marriage has not been straightforward. Because of the way that I was when I was younger, I wanted that kind of lifestyle. I've lived with gypsies. My father-in-law used to call me, "Gypsy PIF." I've had that kind of life. I always thought that if I got married, I'd get tied down. Things have settled down in the last ten years. Things still go on. If I wasn't physically unwell and on the oxygen, I don't think I'd still be married. I have suicidal thoughts. The hospital has told me to stop smoking. The doctor has told me to stop smoking. I'm smoking to kill myself. Everything has just built up. The past and the future.

### **Reporting of abuse**

102. If I had known that I could have those people prosecuted earlier then I would have done it. Nobody told me how to go about doing it. It was only when I saw all the homes coming up as part of the Inquiry that I realised I could come forward. Dunclutha appeared on the list of homes. I spoke to the Inquiry first and then the police got in touch with me.
103. A police officer from Dunoon came to see me in my house recently. He took a statement from me. He said it would be put in a file. He told me that it was likely nothing would come of it because the perpetrators are all deceased. The police said that they had traced a guy that might be FFX and he had died in 1981 or 1991. I want to tell my story and I'm quite happy for people to know where I've been in life. There's not a lot that can be done because the people are all dead.

104. The police officers I spoke to about Gryffe were really nice. When I told the police about my experiences there, I think they thought that I was kidding on. I think it was a police woman that I spoke to. She mentioned a member of staff that I'd forgotten all about. I said to her, "I hope you don't think I'm lying, just to get myself a name." She said that they'd had a statement from someone else already. I thought that proved that I had been there and that I don't lie. I'm not wanting people to think that I'm lying. I'm 62 and this all happened when I was a kid. I remember the layout of everything at Dunclutha and Gryffe. When the police came to see me, I thought that it was in case they didn't believe me. I said to them they could take me to Gryffe and I would tell them the layout. They would have seen it was exactly as I told them. The police told me that most of the staff were now dead, apart from one guy that they couldn't trace. It makes you wonder.
105. The police can only do what they can do. If the people were still alive then they would go for it. You can't bring them up from the grave. The important thing to me is that I know that my story is right, I know the people who ran it, I know the layout of the building.

### **Records**

106. I'd like to know how to go about getting my records. I don't know whether to approach Glasgow City Council or Dunoon or Bridge of Weir. I only have one picture of Gryffe. I was trying to share my story on [REDACTED]. I shared the picture and people were saying, "That's terrible." I was hoping somebody would correspond with me and say that it did happen. I got bullied quite a lot in Gryffe. I traced someone on [REDACTED] and I think he might have been one of the ones who was bullying me. I recognised the name. He said that he remembered Gryffe but he didn't remember me. I told him that I wasn't doing anything, I just wanted put the story together and the dates and the times. He said he'd get back to me and I never heard from him again.

### **Lessons to be learned**

107. I think there needs to be better care for children. No child should be slapped about. Children need to be better looked after and their families should be involved. A lot of families put children into care and then forget all about them. It's all about the system. The system has to change.
108. The whole system was wrong. The way that people were employed to look after children was wrong. When I was in care, the staff should have been questioned. When children were getting the belt, they should have been asked why and whether that was the only reasonable punishment that they could give you. They never gave you cleaning or anything like that as a punishment. It was always the belt and straight to bed without anything to eat. They were really treating you like a pig.
109. If I was a social worker and I put a child into a home, I'd like to know how that child is progressing. If the child came to me and told me that he was getting beaten, he is either getting beaten by other children or getting beaten by the staff. I didn't have anybody that I could speak to. If I spoke to anybody, it would get back to the person who was beating me. It would have helped me if there had been someone to speak to at school. All I got at school was people from the army, trying to get you to join the army. At the age of fourteen, fifteen, the army was the last thing on my mind. My son deals with a social worker and another worker. They do everything for him. In my younger days, there was nothing like that.

### **Hopes for the Inquiry**

110. I hope that the Inquiry lets people know what really happened. It can't be on the TV all the time. It doesn't tell you the whole story, it just tells part of it. If a child is put into a home and he then says he's being beaten, he's shouldn't be sent back to the home. If he gets sent back, the one who's doing the beating is just going to do it again. In those days, the boys told me to tell somebody at school because it was happening to me so

much. It was frightening because the school would then get in touch with the home.  
What would happen after that?

111. 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... PIF .....

Dated... *1/2/2020* .....