

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

MVS

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is MVS. My date of birth is 1960. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. My father was called [REDACTED] and my mother is called [REDACTED]. My older brother's name is [REDACTED], we called him [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is three years older than me. My younger brother's name is [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is three years younger than me. My father worked for a grocer, [REDACTED]'s, in Glasgow. [REDACTED] opened a shop down in Ayr and asked my father to manage it for it him. My father was quite clever. My earliest memories are living in a place in Ayr. My father used to be part of a Temperance movement and he never drank. We lived in a nice bungalow and I started school. My father started drinking whilst he was in Ayr and he never stopped.
3. I can remember arguments between my father and my mother, not seeing it but hearing it. All in all, it was quite a happy time. I went out guising at Halloween and got apples and nuts for singing a wee song. I was doing all the things that you would do at five years of age.
4. From there, something went drastically wrong. We ended up in a place in Springburn, in Glasgow. It was a single end house. My brothers and I had coats covering us in the bedroom. My father was nowhere to be seen. My older brother and I messed about in

the railway yards. From Springburn, my two brothers and I, my mother and my father, ended up in Shawlands. We were in a one bedroom flat. My mother and father had a pull-down bed in the kitchen. There was a steel bath in the kitchen. There was a lot of drinking and parties, with my dad bringing his cronies back from the pub. There was a lot of screaming, shouting and arguments between my mother and father.

5. I remember getting up in the morning and going into the kitchen but my mother wasn't there, neither was my father. My older brother got us ready and we went to school. I think we were in the flat for three days on our own. I didn't know at the time but my mother had gone to her sister's, my Aunty [REDACTED]. I found out later that Aunty [REDACTED] called the social services, who turned up and took the three of us away.

#### **Being taken into care**

6. My brothers and I were taken to a place in Auldhouse. I was seven years of age. We stayed in Auldhouse for a few days. Then we went to Catherine Mary's in Dunoon for nine months. From Catherine Mary's, I went to a different place in Dunoon overnight. Then, I was taken to another place where I was on my own for about a week. I couldn't tell you the name of the place or where it was.
7. From there, I was taken to Greenock, to Caladh House. I was there for maybe a year. I was at primary school at Caladh House. That's where my younger brother, [REDACTED] was. One day, they separated me from [REDACTED]. The staff took me to Gryffe, where I spent the remainder of my time, which was nearly four years. I left Gryffe when I was thirteen or fourteen years old. I went to stay at my uncle's in East Kilbride.

**Unknown Institution, Auldhouse**

8.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later The third day, a black car turned up and took me and my older brother, [REDACTED], away. [REDACTED] and I were asking where our mum and dad were. The staff said that we were going to meet them. We weren't going to meet them.

9.

The staff took us to a place in Dunoon, called Catherine Mary's. We didn't know where my young brother was. It was a long journey. [REDACTED] and I were bewildered and upset.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

**Catherine Mary's Home, Argyll Road, Dunoon**

10.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

11.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] and I were separated Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
Secondary Institutions - to be published later I don't remember anyone

coming up and talking to me. They just took me to this place overnight. I didn't have a clue what was going on. I didn't say goodbye to [REDACTED]. I was about eight years of age.

**Unknown Institutions**

12. I know the third place I was in, was in Dunoon because the place was up the hill and Catherine Mary's was on the shoreline. I was there overnight. Secondary Institutions - to be pub

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

13. The next place I was in, I couldn't tell you where it was or anything about it. It wasn't in Dunoon. These places were the early stages, until they decided what was happening and what was not happening. I was there for a week. I was there on my own. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

**Caladh House, Greenock**

14. I was about eight years of age, turning nine, when I went to Caladh House. I was at Caladh House for about a year, maybe less. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later  
My younger brother, [REDACTED], was there. [REDACTED] was very young, he was five years old. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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 Caladh House

26. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary I was removed from Caladh House. I went to Gryffe. I remember the drive, it was something different. Gryffe wasn't far away. I must have been about nine years old.

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

27. When you arrive at Gryffe, you go in off the main road through two big gates. Gryffe was a big, old house in the country. It had lots of land and grounds. I think it had been left for the poor children of Glasgow and that was all it was to be used for. We were known as the Gryffies by the village kids. You weren't allowed to use the front entrance, you had to use the back entrance. When you came up the drive, it split into two. When you went in the back entrance, there was a long corridor. The small boy's dormitory was on the bottom level, there was a bathroom and shower-room and a small, single dormitory.
28. There were stairs to where Mr MKS and his wife had his private apartments. Then there was the long corridor, towards the cookhouse, dining-room. There was a little room off to one side. At the very end of the corridor, there was a coal cellar. To the right, there was a recreation hall. The recreation hall had wooden floors, with the benches you'd get in a park around the walls. There was another small corridor, a room where the boys shoes were kept, another hall where you could play football and the big boy's cloakroom. At the back of there, there were a couple of halls.
29. You were separated into primary school and secondary school, little boys and big boys. When you started at the big school, you got moved upstairs. There were four or five dormitories upstairs. I wasn't in all of them. You weren't treated any differently in the big boys bit, it was just a different room. The people I remember were there long term, like the [REDACTED] brothers, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. There were about thirty boys in Gryffe. They ranged from five years of age right through to age sixteen. The staff always called you by your surname. Gryffe was austere. There was no love, no kindness.

#### *Staff at Gryffe Children's Home*

30. Mr MKS was SNR. There were long term staff. Mrs Brechin was there when I arrived but not for long. She was an old woman. There was Mr MWD, Mr MWM, Mr

MWN, Mrs RHI and Mrs Smith. Mr MWM was Irish. Mrs Smith was lovely, everyone liked her. She was younger, in her twenties maybe. I really liked her. She reminded me of my mother. She had long dark hair. There were a few staff who came and went that I didn't get to know.

31. As far as I was concerned, Mr MKS was SNR in a prison, SNR. The other staff were the warders. They didn't treat us as anything other than inmates. There was no-one to stop them doing what they wanted, when they wanted. The staff were very clever at Gryffe. They were in control.
32. I imagine the staff worked in shifts. You went to school, so you were never aware of their shift patterns. You saw MKS most days. MKS wasn't taking part in the day to day running of the care of us. He was always in the background somewhere.

### **Routine at Gryffe Children's Home**

#### *First day*

33. I remember arriving at Gryffe because I got the shock of my life. We went to the back entrance. I was being taken up the long corridor. A boy, [REDACTED] was bumping the floor with the big hand bumpers. He was putting wax down with dusters. Mr MKS was walking down the corridor. Mr MKS slapped [REDACTED] right across the face. I thought, my god, what's he done? I found out later that [REDACTED] was slapped because he hadn't saluted Mr MKS as he had gone past. [REDACTED] was a similar age to me. I was in shock. I thought, here we go, what's going on here?
34. I was taken to a woman called Mrs RHI. She wore a nurse's uniform. We called her RHI. I don't know if that was a nickname. I was given my bed in a dormitory. Mrs RHI showed me my bed and my locker. The dormitory was called Glen Falloch. All of the dormitories were named after glens and mountains. There were twelve or more kids in the dormitory, all boys.

35. I don't remember being issued with the clothes they provided. I got changed into shorts and I ended up in the recreation hall. That's when I saw my older brother, [REDACTED]. I was delighted. [REDACTED] asked if I'd seen our younger brother, [REDACTED]. I told him what I knew.

*General Routine*

36. You were woken up by whoever was on duty at that time. It was usually Mrs [RHI] or Mrs Smith. You got up and you had to make your bed, with hospital corners, and put the counter-pane over it. You got washed and dressed. The counter-pane was to make it look pretty. You would then go to the cookhouse, the dining-room. Bedtime was quite early.
37. Every Sunday, you had your toenails done by Mrs [RHI]. You were lined up and you would have a shower. The baths were kept for special occasions. The only time I had a bath was when I was made to take a cold bath to prove I was ill.
38. I had nothing, so all the clothes you had were provided. We wore shorts and if you needed shoes, you went to the shoe cupboard.
39. You were given a mouthful of castor oil and a mouthful of milk of magnesium once a week. I never saw a doctor in the time I was at Gryffe. You saw Mrs [RHI]. I developed psoriasis, badly. Mrs [RHI] gave me Germoline for it. I've since found out that that's the worst thing for it. The Germoline made the psoriasis worse. All the kids used to call me 'scabby'. I was covered with psoriasis, all down my legs, my groin and my arms. I never saw a dentist.
40. I have a bible in the house with perfect attendance from Freelands Church, Bridge of Weir. You weren't asked if you wanted to go to church. You were marched there every Sunday morning. There's not many kids who can say they managed to go to church every Sunday for a year. In my case, it was forced attendance.

*Mealtimes / Food*

41. Meals were in the dining-room. There were about seven tables. The table I was at, was at a window. You had a set place to sit. Wee boys sat with wee boys. There was a serving hatch where you got your food. You got porridge every morning, apart from a Sunday when they gave you cornflakes. You were always hungry. If you wanted any more food, you had to put your hand up for extras, and ask. Whoever was on duty that day would pick who they thought was more deserving than anybody else.
42. We had lunch at school. When we came back from school, we got changed and went to the recreation hall. The staff would shout you for your dinner. We would all line up in the corridor, then the staff would open up the dining-hall and let you in. Staff had separate breaks from us. They would be watching us in the dining-hall.
43. For your evening meal, you went up to the hatch to get your meal. There was no choice. You were given what the staff put on the plate. I've nothing to compare the food with. The meat was fatty and rubbery. It was eaten because you were always starving. If you didn't like the food, you didn't eat it.

*Chores*

44. You had to do loads of chores. You did chores after school and at weekends. You had to clear the tables and do the dishes for all the boys. You had to bumper all the floors. The bumpers had a big wooden handle with bristles on it. You would hand wax the floor then put the cloth on the brush. You'd be polishing the floors all day. It wasn't easy. You had to wash all the walls down. The little boys had to do the big boy's shoes for school. You would be put down on the list for when it was your time to do that.
45. We cut the grass outside. We cut the football pitch with hand mowers. If the staff wanted the recreation hall painted, we painted it. The tasks were given by MKS or passed down the line. We didn't choose what to do. We were told what to do. If the staff weren't happy with what you'd done, you would be kept doing it.

*School*

46. I went to Bridge of Weir Primary School for a couple of years. We were picked on because we were the Gryffies. We were always fighting the local kids. We were separated from the local kids and treated differently. When the kids at school had their birthday parties, we weren't invited. When the hairstyles changed, we were still getting the same haircut. We were different.
47. My brother used to help me with my homework. I didn't have a clue because I'd missed so much schooling. After primary school, I went to Linwood High School.

*Leisure time*

48. You got an hour of TV at night before bedtime. Two wooden benches were put together in the recreation hall. The little boys sat on the bit on the back, with their legs between the shoulders of the big boys. The big boys sat at the front. If there was no room left on the wooden benches, the others had to sit on the wooden floor. There were no other toys to play with or books.
49. At weekends, you were able to play football at the home's football park. We all loved football. I was really good at football. There was a table tennis table in the very back.
50. Once a week, the ice-cream van came up to Gryffe. You got a bag of sweets. I got sherbet lemons every week. Now and again the staff would have a treasure hunt in the grounds, they would hide Easter eggs.
51. From Gryffe, you could see Quarrier's in the distance. I always wondered what it was. I thought there was a river between Gryffe and Quarrier's because the road was often wet and the sun was on it. The road looked like water. Once, we ventured out to see what Quarrier's was. We got to the outskirts of it. Quarrier's looked like something out of Gulliver's Travels. We got a wee bit scared and headed back to Gryffe.

*Trips / Holidays*

52. The staff took us to Garliston, in Wigtonshire, for two weeks in the summertime. There were hundreds of kids from different establishments, all over Scotland. You were given two new t-shirts and shorts to go there. I think it was to put a show on for the rest of them.
53. I loved Garliston. We would go along the beach, and get the rocks and the crabs. There were bamboo bits that you could play in. You were pretty much left alone because there was other people there. We played the local football team from Newton Stewart.
54. The staff would take us swimming, once a week, to Paisley. We went in a coach. We had our swim and then went back to Gryffe.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

55. I don't remember having a birthday in any of the places I was in until I was in Gryffe. When it was your birthday, you'd be given a card and a little box of chocolates. There was no cake, that I remember. There were no presents or new shoes or clothes.
56. At Christmas, Gryffe got some Chad Valley games in, all wrapped up. You were given one. What you got was what you got. You were never asked what you wanted for Christmas. The toys got broken quite quickly. Everyone was playing with everyone's things.

*Visits*

57. I got one visit from my mother and my Uncle [REDACTED] my mother's brother. I was about twelve years old. [REDACTED] my older brother, told me years later that he told the staff that he didn't want them back, it was too upsetting. I thought, it's my mum, why can't she

take us with her? My mother gave me a wee toy that you wound up and it clattered about. That was the only possession I had. It went missing from my locker.

58. [REDACTED] was there the same as I was. We had time to play together. We had our friends that we played with too. I didn't know a thing about [REDACTED].
59. I didn't see any social workers at Gryffe.

*Running away*

60. You were always wanting to run away. I ran away twice. I was just young. I jumped the train from Bridge of Weir to Glasgow and walked all the way to the house in Shawlands. The woman who stayed across the road opened the door. She said, "Your mum and dad's not in, son. Come on and wait in mine."
61. The woman called the police. I was upset. I was thinking, why have you called the police? The police took me back to Gryffe. They didn't interview me. I knew I was going to get a kicking. I got battered for that by [REDACTED] MKS [REDACTED].

**Abuse at Gryffe Children's Home**

62. My experience at Gryffe was pain, suffering and abuse. I was abused physically, mentally, as well as sexually on one occasion. The staff never smashed your face in because you had to go to school. They weren't stupid. The possibility you were going to get a slapping or something done to you, whether it was a member of staff or another boy, was the norm. Gryffe was a violent place.
63. Mr [REDACTED] MWM [REDACTED] could turn. What you couldn't understand as a kid was why he would turn. Mr [REDACTED] MWM [REDACTED] would punch you. Mr [REDACTED] MWM [REDACTED] punched me once.
64. Mr [REDACTED] MWN [REDACTED] had a [REDACTED]. We called him [REDACTED] MWN [REDACTED] because his name was [REDACTED] MWN [REDACTED]. He was a disciplinarian. Mr [REDACTED] MWN [REDACTED] had a [REDACTED] he would throw

at you, for instance, if you sat on the radiators because you were cold. Mr MWN would grab your hair at the sideburns and lift you up. He did it to everybody. It was painful. That was his favourite thing, if he could get a grip of you. We ran about the recreation hall, doing what kids do. If it were my kids, I'd tell them to calm it down. I wouldn't be picking them up by the hair.

65. Mr MKS had a belt. He made you put your hand out. If you took your hand away, he would give you a few punches. After I ran away, I got a kicking from Mr MKS. It was in the room at the back, at the side of the long corridor, where you could go to do your homework. It had a table and chairs in it. I pulled my hands away and Mr MKS punched me on the body. It was painful.
66. Mr MWD was something different. He was a heavy-handed brute. Mr MWD didn't just give you a clip round the ear. Mr MWD would knock the wind out of you. He would punch you. You'd be lying there, you couldn't breathe and you'd think you were dying.
67. The first time Mr MWD hit me I was standing up on a locker. There was a bar across the ceiling. It was a dare, to see if you could jump off the locker, grab the bar and swing onto the next one. Mr MWD caught me and shouted me down. Mr MWD punched me in the chest and winded me. I was built like a jockey's whip then.
68. One day, I wasn't very well. I was in the upstairs dormitory by this stage. I told Mr MWD that I didn't feel well. Mr MWD thought there was nothing wrong with me. He filled up a cold bath of water. Mr MWD said if I was ill, I could get in the cold bath and then go to my bed. That was my choice, if I had the cold bath, I was ill and I could get into bed. If I didn't have the cold bath, there was nothing wrong with me and I could go to school. I decided to have the cold bath.
69. Mr MWD came into the dormitories with a torch at night. You had two blankets in the winter and one in the summer. There was a counter-pane that was rolled down. The counter-pane was only to put on during the day when you had made your bed.

There was heating in the place, radiators, but you were always freezing. If you pulled the counter-pane up, Mr MWD would slap you.

70. The sexual abuse happened to me once. I was ten or eleven years old. I was upstairs in the big boy's room. At night, we were in bed sleeping. I used to pull my sheet over my head and make a wee hole. I don't know if it was for security or what. This particular night, MWD was on duty. MWD came in and got me out of my bed. I asked him what was going on. He told me to move. I got out into the corridor. I tried to turn round. MWD had a torch. I asked him what was wrong. MWD told me to shut up or he'd batter me. I knew what he was like, so I shut it.
71. MWD took me along the corridor and downstairs into the room where we'd do our homework. He shut the door and got his penis out and told me to masturbate him, which I did. MWD ejaculated. He had come prepared. Before we left, he said, "If you tell anybody, I'll fucking kill you." MWD took me back upstairs. That was it. He never did it again. I never said a word to anybody. I was terrified of that man. MWD should have been nowhere near children, especially children who were vulnerable and bewildered.
72. One time, one of the brothers was getting older and was ready to leave Gryffe. A staff member said something to him. He was ready for it with the staff and was talking back to the staff. He was getting to the age where he could start looking after himself. The staff were losing control. The staff member left and never came back. I think he got a fright. It was the same with my older brother. He had a confrontation just before he left Gryffe. He had a fight with one of the staff in the dining-room. When you became big and strong enough to take it on, that's when Gryffe started to look to getting rid of you.

#### **Peer Abuse at Gryffe Children's Home**

73. One of the games the older boys played, when the staff were on their breaks, was to get two small boys to fight. Everybody would sit round, in the recreation hall, the two small boys would stand in the middle. You would have to fight. I had to fight

██████ I didn't want to fight ██████. I was thinking, why would I fight him? My older brother, ██████, pushed me into ██████. ██████ had two brothers. My brother ended up fighting with them. The staff knew the fights went on because all the kids were screaming, shouting and clapping. Without a shadow of doubt, the staff heard it but nothing was done.

74. My older brother, ██████, battered a boy called ██████. He was the hard man in Gryffe. ██████ and I had built a den in the grounds. It had a bit of old carpet in it. ██████ said he was taking the carpet. My brother said ██████ would have to fight him for the carpet. My brother battered ██████ senseless. I felt sorry for ██████. The staff did nothing about it. I thought my brother was going to get into serious trouble. Gryffe was violence all the time, every day. It was brutal.
75. We used to play a game, where you went into a cornfield. The other boys would stand behind the fence and throw rocks up to try and hit you.

#### **Leaving Gryffe Children's Home**

76. My brother and I started having visits from my dad's brother. My dad's brother went through the procedures to take us out of Gryffe over a number of years. The authorities took you quick enough but they didn't let you go quickly. My uncle had to go through the courts, all the way up to Edinburgh, to get us to go and live with him. It started off that we'd go to my uncle's in East Kilbride for the weekend. We'd get the bus from Bridge of Weir to Glasgow, then to East Kilbride. Eventually, we went to live there.
77. When I was fifteen, I spent time in a Children's Home in Straven and when I was sixteen, in a Young Offender's Institution in Blantyre and Glenochil Young Offender's Institution. I was in Barlinnie Prison for two weeks before I went to Glenochil. When I was seventeen, I was on remand in Craiginches Prison in Aberdeen, for stealing a motorbike.

**Life after being in care**

78. I hated living at my uncle's. I thought it would become normal but too much had happened. I thought the world of my uncle. I can't stand my aunty. My aunty had a son who'd had a private education. She obviously didn't want us there. My uncle thought he was doing the right thing. He probably would have been better just leaving me where I was. It was too late. The damage was done by then.
79. I went to Claremont High School. They put me in the dunces room, for disruptive kids. I just sat there. I didn't have a clue what they were talking about because I'd missed so much. I was disruptive at school. The only reason I went was because I was in the football team. My uncle paid for me to go with the school on a football tournament to Guernsey. He got me a new pair of football boots for it. We won the tournament. I was the top goal-scorer in the tournament. Manchester United wanted me to sign the schoolboy forms, to join them, but I chucked football.
80. I went off the rails and I started drinking. I was getting into trouble with the police and running away. I was sleeping rough, stealing from shops and living off milk from people's doorways. I put a brick through the Co-Op window. I was cold and wanted a sleeping bag from the window. My uncle came looking for me. He got me and took me back to the house. My uncle told me to get upstairs and get a bath. I had a bath, changed my clothes and jumped out of the window. I was off again.
81. I've been running all my life. I joined the British Army, the Scots Guards, when I was about eighteen years old. I got thrown out in Hong Kong for fighting all the time. After that, I was on the oil rigs. My mum was in Folkestone. I quite liked the place. I met a guy at Gatwick Airport who offered me a job, so I moved to Folkestone. I was still drinking and getting into trouble.
82. Then I started to work on the railways. I've worked on the railways for eighteen years, since I was forty years old. I'm self-employed. I do safety critical work, like taking track

measurements when work is being done and checking, after the work is done, that the track is fit for the passenger trains.

### **Impact**

83. Abandoned children in Scotland in the sixties must have been rife. Moving kids in care from place to place was not discussed with the kids. Every decision was taken for me by people who decided what was best for me, without discussing it with me. No-one asked, "How would you feel if we removed you from your brother to be with your other brother?" You were totally bewildered by the whole thing. You were in a state of shock. You didn't have a clue what was going on.
84. The whole thing was a bad experience. I was quite a sensitive kid. There was no explanation of why you were in care or what had happened. No-one sat you down, spoke to you and said that your parents had abandoned you. One minute you were here, the next minute you were there, then the next minute you were here. You had to get on with it. You were scared of adults, so you didn't ask any questions.
85. I didn't speak to my brothers about being in care. I don't speak to either of my brothers now. I just want to be left alone. Drink got the better of my older brother, he's a functioning alcoholic. He's very successful. My younger brother is an alcoholic too. My life has been ruined and both my brothers lives have been ruined. I tried to help my younger brother, [REDACTED] here in Folkestone. He just brought trouble to me with his drinking. I blame my parents as much as I blame the institutions. If my parents had done what they were meant to do, we wouldn't have ended up in care.
86. There was no duty of care shown to us in these places. At Catherine Mary's, the problem was being split from my brothers. By the time I was in Caladh House, I'd given up hope of seeing my parents. It had been such a long period of time. You were pining for them. I never understood why we couldn't go back to my mother or my father. No-

one's explained that to me, to this day. I have a photo of me, my mum and dad, and my two brothers, before we went into care. I'm just a happy little kid in it.

87. I tracked both my mum and dad down. My father wouldn't tell me anything. He had gone off with his fancy woman. My father got married again. I have two half-brothers. My mother just blamed my father. My mother said, "What about my childhood?" I said to her that I wasn't a part of her childhood, it was nothing to do with me. I was trying to deal with my childhood. My mum said, "I love you son." I can't say it to her because I don't. I haven't spoken to my mum for two years. My mum is so self-centred. My mum said she had lost her children. If she hadn't gone off, she'd still have them.
88. My father passed away five years ago. I didn't have the slightest bit of sadness about his passing. I carried his coffin and put it to rest. At first, my older brother refused to carry the coffin. My older brother said that my father had never carried him, why should he carry my father? I said to my brother that he wasn't to phone me up greeting like a big baby, saying he wished he'd done this and that. This was his chance to put it to rest. In the end my brother did carry the coffin.
89. A few years back, I was thinking of tracking down [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and giving them a leathering. I thought, I can't, what happened to them? Letting go of stuff like that has not been easy. It's caused me all sorts of grief in my personal life.
90. I have a mixture of emotions. Things you should look back on in your life as a happy time was anything but. It was filled with pain and suffering. It's ingrained deeply. What happened to me in Gryffe is something I can never shake off.
91. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED] I was in Gryffe for a long period of time. That one place dominated my childhood and has been the problem for me. Gryffe had such a detrimental effect that there's not a day has gone past, all my adult life, that something's not popped into my head about that place.

92. Gryffe was brutal. I'd be surprised if many people who were there have done well in their lives. I'm surprised I've made it this far in life. When I was at Gryffe, I didn't think I'd make it to twenty. When I was twenty I didn't think I'd make thirty. I didn't think I'd make forty because of the trouble, the grief and the situations I've found myself in because of drugs and alcohol.
93. It used to be a worry in your head, what's going to happen to me when I leave Gryffe? Where am I going to go? You didn't know anything about anything. It's ingrained in me, that I'm scared something bad is going to happen.
94. MWD terrified the life out of me. I can still see his face. You kept a wide berth of that man. I never told anybody what Mr MWD did to me. I believed what he said, that he'd kill me if I did. He was a nasty piece of work. He was a violent man who got his kicks from hurting kids. It's because of my inner strength that I didn't go back and kill him when I left Gryffe. I really wanted to go back there. When I was on leave from the army, my friend stopped me from going back to Gryffe. That's a terrible thing to have in your head, that you want to go and harm another human being because of the way they treated you.
95. My schooling was finished the day we ended up in care. Instead of putting me back a year, to catch up on what I missed, they didn't. I learned to read and write whilst I was with my parents. I still remember what we were learning before I went into care. We started getting French at Shawlands Primary School. I couldn't wait to get home to tell my mum the words I learned. After that my education ended. I blame that on the different places I was sent to, where I didn't get to go to school.
96. You missed so much, by the time you got to a long-term place and back to school, the teacher was talking about stuff that you hadn't learned. The teachers didn't know your history. As far as they were concerned, you were no use. You'd be sent to a room with four or five others who were in the same boat as you. The others were slow learners or not wanting to learn. I didn't leave school with one qualification. I wish I'd had an education.

97. Everywhere, there is a memory. I drove through Newton Stewart just the other night and I thought, my god. My memories of Garliston are quite good. I quite enjoyed it there. I was in an antiques shop the other day. I saw a hammer and a punch to stamp your initials on the side of your shoes. We used to do that at Gryffe. I looked at the hammer and punch and, straightaway, it takes you right back to it. Things you forget pop into your head. To this day, I can't eat steak unless it's fillet because the stew at Gryffe had big, rubbery fat bits. I can still taste it.
98. My teeth were ruined because you were never shown how to brush your teeth and never saw a dentist.
99. Over the years I've managed my life. When I was younger, I was disruptive, to my own detriment. I was full of anger, frustration, hurt and pain. Part of the difficulty is that I don't know who I would have been or what I would have become, had this not happened to me. Who am I? I don't know who I am. I don't have anywhere to call home. I've been in Folkestone for twenty years. I don't feel like Folkestone is home. Nothing is stable with me. You can say I'm unstable because my life's been unstable.
100. I can do everything well, then I go and blow myself out of the water, with everything. For example, with football, I could have signed for Manchester United. I loved the Boy's Brigade and was thrown out for fighting. With the Army, when I was discharged for fighting. Last October, with an £85,000 a year job, where I blew an innocuous situation out of all proportion and I had to go.
101. I started drinking when I was fifteen years old. When I was on the rigs, I drank myself stupid for the two weeks I was off the rig. I got into a lot of drama. I once woke up in hospital on a drip. I had drunk so much I'd poisoned myself. In my mate's house, I punched a glass and my fingers were hanging off. I'm uncontrollable if I'm drunk, although not so much now. I get frustrated and angry.
102. Over the years, I've had a lot of dealings with the police. I was fighting and drinking and driving. I took drugs like cocaine and marijuana. All sorts of stuff. I've been homeless. I was living in bed-sits, selling furniture and stealing from gas meters for

drink. I was drinking so much, I thought I had to get away from Scotland. That's when I moved to Folkestone.

103. My mum's brother, [REDACTED], was a great help to me. He gave up a successful business to live in the country and walk in the mountains. He spoke to me about emotions and how to control them, about there being good people in life and how to distinguish good people from the bad.
104. When I was forty, I was working on the railways. The drug and alcohol policy is zero tolerance. You can be randomly tested. I really enjoyed the work. I also had something in my head that I wasn't going to let them beat me. I still drink but I don't drink every day of the week. I don't drink to oblivion. If I'm going to have a drink now, I'll take a week off work, so I'm not going to lose my job. The drinking is not for the enjoyment. Sometimes it gets too much in my head. I just want to numb it.
105. Every one of my relationships have been affected. I have three children to three different women. I can't trust anybody. One of my partners said that talking to me was like extracting back teeth. My partners asked me questions and I'm evasive. They think I've got something to hide. I think there is something to hide. I don't want people to feel sorry for me. My emotional intelligence was stunted very early. You can ask, which is more important, your emotional intelligence or your academic intelligence? If a child has good emotional intelligence, they'll grow up well-adjusted. I wasn't well-adjusted.
106. My relationship with my children has been affected. I had to go to court to get access to my son. The relationship between my son's mother and I was unmanageable. The mother of my daughter, [REDACTED], got up and left because of my drinking. My children have all come from a broken home because of my behaviour. I'm sure that would have been different if I hadn't been the way I am. I didn't do anything about it. I don't feel good about that.
107. I didn't have control over what was going on. I'm not very good at relationships. It wasn't that I was violent or abusive towards my partners. It's just that I'm hard work to live with. I have paid maintenance. It wasn't that I walked away and abandoned my

children. I'm meeting my son tomorrow. My daughter, [REDACTED], lives a mile away from me and I have a daughter in Scotland.

108. With authority, it's a flight or fight response. I've had such a bad experience with authority that I find authority very difficult. I try to think of myself as a hard-working, decent man. Most people I come into contact with, they like me. I have this thing, that I'm not good enough. I was shunned at a young age. I wasn't a part of normal society, you were a Gryffie and you were marked out.
109. I was seeing someone, [REDACTED] for a while. We were in Portugal last year. [REDACTED] had never seen me drinking. The second or third day we started drinking wine. I can't stop drinking once I start. I drank too much. When I drank, it released things that I kept hidden. I don't have much recollection about what happened but [REDACTED] got upset and said she was going to call the police.
110. The next morning, [REDACTED] said I was just like her mother, who has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder because of her upbringing in Irish institutions. I was talking to people who weren't there when I was drunk. I have sensitive hearing because I'm always on high alert. [REDACTED] said I should see someone and she said she would support me.
111. [REDACTED] didn't want to know the details because it brought back too much of what she saw happen to her mother. [REDACTED] and I don't see each other anymore. She hasn't given me a reason but I think it became too much for her. I understand. I wouldn't have opened this can of worms up if [REDACTED] hadn't suggested to. I thought the world of [REDACTED]. I really thought she would have supported me.
112. I didn't want to talk about my childhood in the past. I don't know why. The only reason I'm talking about it now is because of the situation with [REDACTED]. I thought, no matter where I go and what way I turn, I'm ruining my life. I've got to do something about it. This is what has led me to where I am now.
113. When I was an adult, I met a girl in Folkestone who'd been in Quarrier's. She drank herself to death. The girl said to me that she didn't know how I could go through my

life not self-medicating. We never discussed what had gone on in these places. She knew, and I knew, without even talking about it. It really upset me. She was a beautiful young girl. I tried to help her but she couldn't beat it.

114. I keep myself to myself. I sit on my own rather than with people. People will say to you, "Where do you come from, where did you live?" You can't answer it without lying and I don't like to lie. I trust very few people. I wish I did trust people. I'm always on high alert. When I go into a pub, I'm scanning everything first. I've been walking on eggshells all my life.
115. I still barricade my door before I go to sleep. I put a big bar across it. I can't sleep. I have this thing I can't rid of. I know it's unrealistic. I know that if someone tries to get in, they'll make a noise and I'll be awake. The doctor gave me sleeping pills. I can't take them because I have to be able to waken up. There is nothing worse than fear, being scared all the time. For an old soldier to go to bed with his door barricaded, at fifty eight years of age, says it all.

#### *Counselling*

116. I trusted [REDACTED], so I went to see my doctor when I returned from Portugal last year. My doctor put me down as a high suicide risk because of my dealing with guns in the army. I totally disagree with that. I'm far from suicidal. I'm angry and frustrated about my past.
117. I went to ten counselling sessions. I don't think the counselling has been helpful. It's very difficult talking to people you don't know. I still think the same about the situation. I don't think that will change. It doesn't matter who I talk to. I don't think it will ever leave me. I've had it with me, it's part of me now. It's about how I control and manage it now. I stopped going to counselling as it was me talking about my experience rather than giving me a course of action to come to terms with it.
118. I saw a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist has diagnosed me as suffering from Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, caused by my experiences of abuse in care. The

psychiatrist I've seen thinks that my chucking football is me taking things away from me before anyone else does. The psychiatrist thinks I need a different kind of counselling, something like Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. I haven't discounted more counselling.

#### *Redress / Compensation*

119. ██████ said to me, they've got to pay for what they've done to you. I have a lawyer in Edinburgh who's dealing with it, Cameron Fyfe. The claim about my treatment in Gryffe was first intimated to Glasgow City Council. They said, in March 2018, they weren't responsible for Gryffe, Renfrewshire Council were responsible. In March 2018, the claim was made to Renfrewshire Council. Renfrewshire Council didn't reply until February 2019, saying they weren't responsible, Glasgow was. The claim has now been intimated to Glasgow City Council, for the second time.
120. I think it's wrong. The Council are denying it, if they're not dealing with it. I want the Council to put up their hands and admit they are accountable. For a publicly funded body not to be addressing this, is reprehensible.
121. I've applied for Criminal Injuries Compensation. The Board have accepted that the abuse happened but I have not yet received an award.

#### **Reporting of Abuse**

122. I spoke to the police last year. I went to Folkestone Police Station. They got in touch with the Scottish police. Paisley Police are investigating it. The police have tried to track down Mr MWD ██████ and cannot find what's happened to him. Mr MKS ██████ is dead.

123. I found speaking to the police really hard work. The whole set-up, with someone sitting behind me, was difficult. It was very emotional for me. However, I'm the kind of person, if I start something, I'll see it through, whether it's good for me or not.

#### **Lessons to be Learned**

124. Staff that deal with vulnerable children need to let the children know what has happened, why it's happened and what the future holds.
125. Staff should be highly trained, vetted and considered appropriate to take charge of vulnerable children.
126. The places the children live in should be made the way you'd expect in a family life. The places should be as normal as you can make it, without the children's parents.
127. The education of children in care should be closely watched.
128. Reviews should be with the people involved. The person who is being reviewed should be informed of what is happening and be able to talk about any problems, angst or grief. There should be someone a child could talk to. A lot of kids won't talk about bullying or abuse for fear or the possibility of repercussions. Children need to be protected. The protection must be fail-safe.

#### **Other information**

129. I wouldn't want anybody's kids to go through Gryffe. I feel so sad and sorry for the ones that have. I don't know what's happened to most of them. I'm sure it's not been a good outcome. How can people do that to kids? How can the Scottish Government

and the powers that be let that go on? The Council let these people work in Gryffe, to do what they wanted, when they wanted. Were they trained? I don't think so.

- 130. I found out that the Daily Record flagged up the brutal regime at Gryffe in 1969. It was front page news. The brutality was known about and there was nothing done about it. That makes it worse for me, to know that.
- 131. I don't think people see the damage happening until it's too late. In the sixties, there was a culture that no-one cared about us, so why should the authorities care?
- 132. The Scottish Government have to admit that this has happened. The Government have to let the people who were in care know that it matters to the Government and that they will sort it.
- 133. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed.....  .....

Dated..... 16-4-2019 .....