

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IEP

Support person present: No

1. I was born IEP. I was known as IEP from the age of eleven but returned to IEP legally in 2016. My date of birth is 1959. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Elgin at Maryhill Hospital. I lived with my mother, and my granny and grandad at Elgin. My four aunts and two uncles also lived there. My mother got married to when I was three and a half. We then moved in with his parents, Mr and Mrs at Elgin. I did not know who my biological father was and I knew as my dad. When I mention my dad throughout my statement I am referring to.
3. My dad was born 1927 and died 2005. My mother was born 1937 and died 2000.
4. I found my biological father as an adult and he told me he never knew I existed. He was in the Navy at Lossiemouth when he met my mother. They had sex and then he disappeared. He is now dead and I do not wish to name him as he has nothing to do with this. He was totally unaware of everything. I still keep in touch with his wife who lives in South Africa and I have been over to visit.

5. My mum and dad had twins when I was aged five years old, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Just before the twins were born we moved into a slum on [REDACTED], Elgin which has now been knocked down. I went to Westend Primary School and Eastend Primary school in Elgin. I was back and forward between the two as I stayed at my mum's parents when she was in hospital having my other siblings. My mum had two other children with my dad, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is eight years younger than me and [REDACTED] is fifteen years younger than me.

6. The twins started school when I was about eleven years old and people were asking why we had different surnames. My mum then changed my name by deed pole to [REDACTED]. I could not bear the name [REDACTED] anymore so I started using [REDACTED] again in 2010 and changed it legally in 2016.

Abuse at family home

7. I don't remember my parents ever hitting [REDACTED] and my sisters. They were all well behaved. [REDACTED] would maybe get a skelp. My mum and dad were never violent towards each other.

8. I remember the first time my mum abused me. I was about three years old and she threw me down the stairs at my granny's house. There were about ten stairs, a square landing and then about two or three steps. I just remember lying at the bottom of the stairs looking up at her in absolute terror. She came running down and grabbed me and said sorry.

9. Another time she told me she was ironing clothes for work and I was annoying her. I was under four years old and she burnt me with the iron. I have no memory of this and I have no scars, it is just her word for it. My granny and grandad would have been around. She said she was sorry when she told me.

10. The first time my dad hit me I was about four and a half years old and I was in the close of our flat in [REDACTED]. I ran away and he chased me. When he caught me

he belted me across the backside and the back of the legs. I feared him from then onwards. It was totally unjust. The man was a nutter. After that he hit me on a regular basis.

11. He tried to sexually abuse me but he did not get away with that. He would come home late at night when he finished work at ten o'clock. I am now aware that he had been drinking. He'd come and check on us and leave chocolate smarties. The lights would be off and one time I was aware of him standing there with his penis out. It was erect. He tried to touch me under the covers and I made a big noise. He said I'm sorry, don't tell your mum. My mum shouted what's going on but I didn't tell her, I don't know why. He tried something like that twice.
12. My dad also gave me hard-core German porn one time to give to my uncle, who was a neighbour. He told me to take it to his house and not to look in the bag but he knew I would. He watched me from the window, I saw him. I stopped to look in the bag by a bush before taking it to my uncle's house. I was around eleven years old. That wasn't right. I also came across pornographic pictures of him and another male friend before he was married. He told me not to tell my mum and said he would destroy them. He must have done as I did not see them again.
13. Another time at dinner I would not eat my cabbage and I got up to leave the table. My dad told me I had not finished my cabbage but I said I did not want it. He got up pinned me against the wall and started punching me. I was eleven and a rake of a boy. He completely lost it. My mum tried to stop him but he wouldn't get off me. She jumped on his back, gouged his eyes and pulled his hair. I got away and ran. I didn't know what was going on.
14. My dad was the manager of the local [REDACTED] and sometimes worked at the [REDACTED]. My mum worked in the [REDACTED] before she was married. One time he asked me to mug him after work and steal the cash from the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I did not do it as I told him the insurance company would work it out and see that he was spending more money than usual. He was dumbfounded that I had come out with this.

15. I went to Elgin Academy and used to skip school a lot on my own in the fourth year. It got so bad I was too embarrassed to go back. I was depressed and suicidal. I was running away from home too. I was living my life in fear every day. I felt I was a bad person and I was never loved. I did not know who to turn to. I remember running to my granny's one time after a beating. By the time I got there my parents must have called ahead because she answered the door and told me that I had made my bed and that I was to go and lie in it. She also called me a bad bugger. She wouldn't listen to me and slammed the door. I was in tears. I don't know what lies they had told her. It was all my fault, everything was my fault. I was the bad one and the disruptive one. I would never behave myself.
16. I was made to visit my dad's mother's sometimes and I hated it there as it smelled. My granny also used to watch me when I was in the toilet. One time I locked myself in the toilet and I could not reach the bolt again to get out. She had to call my mum and dad and my mum climbed in the bathroom window.
17. Around this time I got a social worker called Denis Grant. I have asthma and I had an attack one time in my bed. My dad came in and was trying to help me with my inhaler. I couldn't take a puff as I had no breath. He was getting annoyed with me and knocked me out. He knocked me unconscious and the next thing I remember I was waking up in the back of a car outside my house. There was a police car there and a doctor came over and said I was to go back inside and my mum and dad had been warned not to touch me. I went straight to bed and I was woken up by Denis Grant the next morning.
18. When I was fifteen years old I was charged with attempted murder. A guy had been beaten up at the academy. There was a crowd of us and five of us got charged with attempted murder. I don't think I hit this guy at all. He had been bullying another guy. I was at a children's panel and they allocated Denis Grant. I got put on a year supervision.
19. The day my granny [REDACTED] died was [REDACTED] 1974. I remember I got a beating from my dad that day. I don't know what it was about. I was fifteen and skinny and he was a big fat heavy guy about nineteen stone. He was lying on top of me and I couldn't

breathe. I don't know how I did it but I managed to get him off and he got a shock. I got up and slammed the front door open and it made a hole in the wall. I ran out to the garden and I ripped the gate off its hinges and threw it at the kitchen window. It landed on his flower beds.

20. I went down the [REDACTED]. It is there for no purpose at all, just landscape. I attempted suicide there. I went up the High Street and smashed a shop window. I was so angry. I went up a close and saw [REDACTED]. He told me my granny had a died. He took me into the [REDACTED] hall and I saw my dad and shouted him, but he ignored me. Next thing the police were outside and came in arrested me. I still had a [REDACTED] and spent the night in a police cell. They found the [REDACTED] the next morning.
21. I ended up in Bilbohall Hospital in Elgin for two weeks after that. I spoke with a psychiatrist and was allowed home after the two weeks. I went to a children's panel after that and was sent to Inverness prison for three days.
22. I remember my mother speaking at the panel and I think I was asked what I thought, I can't really remember. I was expecting my mother to say she wanted to take me home, but I was disappointed when she agreed and said I had to go somewhere else.

HMP Inverness

23. The police took me to Inverness prison. I was not told why I was going there but I know now it was because there was no secure unit for me to go to. I was initially put in a dog box when I arrived and left there for a few hours. I was handed some disgusting food from a man. I said to him how long do I have to stay here and he said I was there for the rest of my life.
24. I was eventually put into a ground floor observation cell with a wooden door screwed to the floor and a mattress on it for a bed. Food was brought to me as I was not allowed out the cell. I was waiting at the cell door for my food on the first day and there was a

man in a white chef's suit handing out soup. There was an old man next to him who was shaking and spilt his soup. The man in the white chef's suit started banging him over the head with a ladle. There were men shouting and bawling and it was noisy and terrifying. They were shouting abuse at me. I attempted suicide in that cell. I thought I am not staying here for the rest of my life. No one even noticed.

25. I was given soap and a towel to wash and a plastic plate and bowl, with a plastic knife and fork to eat. The staff weren't very friendly. It was so scary. There was a lot of shouting.
26. I remember ringing the bell once and asking for a book or something to read. No one answered so I rang the bell again and was threatened by a member of staff who told me it was not a call bell, it was an emergency bell. It seemed like ages after and then I was taken for a book and I picked one called The Ewings. I didn't know what it was about. It was about a colonial family in America. They built a house for a newly married couple and there was a walk in wardrobe that this man had designed. He raped a woman in the wardrobe and it was sexually graphic. I stopped reading it. I was shocked.
27. I don't know who agreed to send me there or why the prison agreed to have me but I don't feel like they had any right. Maybe they thought I was a flight risk.
28. Mary MacLeod, a psychiatrist, came to speak with me at the prison and said that I should not be in there and not to worry that she would get me out. She was really nice and showed concern about me. I was crying and she said she would come back the next day to take me away. She did come back the next day but I never left as she said there was a problem and apologised. I left the following day with her and was so glad to get out of there. I spent three nights there. I was taken to Craig Dunain Hospital in Inverness.

Craig Dunain Hospital, Inverness

29. I was taken by car to Craig Dunain by Mary McLeod. It was a big Victorian building with a female side and a male side. It was long with a big long corridor up the middle. There were locked wards upstairs. We went to the male admissions ward which was up to the right at the far end of the corridor. I was allocated a bed with the rest of the patients. It was the second or third bed on the right.
30. I was the youngest there. I think most of the other men were in their twenties. There were about twenty of us in the ward. There were old men who would get the electric shock treatment. I think there were about the same amount of women on the female side but I did not go into that ward. The hospital was about mile long and the female ward was down the other side. There was a dance room and a gym room where you could play badminton and football.
31. Mary had a talk with me and said I had to go to school in Inverness. I said there was no way I was going and that I didn't know anybody. I said I was too scared. She said ok and I was made to work with an electrician in the hospital called Jimmy Nairn. I was given pocket money for that. Mary would also meet with me once a week and ask how I was getting on. I don't know what we talked about but we would have long talks. I doubt if I ever told her about any of the abuse at home. I would never have grassed my dad up.

Routine at Craig Dunain

32. In the mornings I was given porridge and toast. I then went off to work with Jimmy Nairn. At break times I was given this lovely coffee in a dining room bit and a big bakers tray would be brought in with rolls and butter. I'd go back to work with Jimmy Nairn and then lunch would be at a certain time. It was all steamed food, it was alright. I just had to go to work and have my tea and then my time was my own.
33. If I needed anything I could just go to Mary MacLeod or the staff nurse. I was never given any treatment or medication. I was not a patient. I saw myself as an inmate.

Abuse at Craig Dunain

34. My first day at the hospital I was sitting on the bed and this male nurse came in and told me to get off the bed and that I was not allowed to sit on there. I said why and he punched me on the face and knocked me off the bed to the floor. I was unconscious. They moved the bed out to the lounge and put screens around it. I felt safe then and I never saw that nurse again.
35. There was an axe murderer that had been in Carstairs. He used to use the valve at the back of the television to light his cigarette from the spark and he scared me. I heard he was a jealous guy that had killed someone with an axe. I don't remember the full story.
36. I used to see men in the middle of the night being taken away for the electric shock and they would come back like zombies. I would also see dead bodies being taken away.
37. There was another guy in his twenties called ██████████ I think, but I may be getting mixed up with the ██████████ player. He claimed his father was ██████████ of Inverness Prison. I think ██████████ of the prison was a ██████████. He used to sneak out with me at night and we would go to the pubs. We would jam the fire exit open so we could get back in. We would go around all the pubs drinking and pretending we were Russian sailors. He was nuts but I thought it was fun at the time. Mary MacLeod knew I was drinking with ██████████, as she would ask where I had been all night. ██████████ ended up going to a locked ward in the hospital and I never saw him again. I heard he jumped out a window and broke both his legs.
38. This old man used to hit me with a stick in the lounge. There was a radio and I used to sit and listen to chart music. He would tell me to turn it down and come over and whack me with his walking stick. He hated the fan being on so I used to put it on to annoy him and he would chase me around the lounge and hit me with his stick all over my body. I had bruises and bumps and people would see it. They would tell me to stop annoying him. I saw him hitting other people too.

39. One time Jimmy Nairn took me up the stairs to the locked wards and I was helping him up a ladder. Jimmy was holding the bottom of the ladder but became distracted and a female patient came up and smiled at me. She started to shake the ladder and Jimmy had to pull her off and get me down. He had warned me that the ward was full of nymphomaniacs. I didn't know what that was and he explained it to me. That was the only time I was in that ward.
40. In my spare time I met this female patient. We used to sit on a window sill and chat. She was of similar age to me. One day this older lady came along. She was twenty seven years old and tall. Twelve years older than me. She was the daughter of some minister in Fort William. She asked who I was and said that I was to go with her. She took me along to a toilet and had sex with me. This then happened as often as we could arrange it. We'd have sex in cupboards, toilets and empty rooms.
41. Years later when I was seventeen I found out from a letter she had written to me that she had a son called [REDACTED]. My mother destroyed the letter but told me. I tried to trace her through the police in the nineties but they could not find her. I can't remember her name. I think it could have been [REDACTED] as I am sure I called her [REDACTED] one time and she got upset. I have tried searching for her but hit a brick wall.

Visitors

42. My parents came to visit. We would sit in the dining area. Denis Grant also visited and used to take me out in his car and do silly stunts at Lochness. He was a rally driver in his spare time.

Leaving Craig Dunain

43. Looking back I felt like I had a great time in there. I wasn't being abused by my dad, I was having sex with this older woman and drinking when I wanted to. I had an interest in the work Jimmy Nairn was doing as I liked finding out how things worked. I played

games of badminton and table tennis. There was music in this room and I used to go and watch people dance. I was free to roam about in my spare time exploring.

44. Now I look back and I feel sad. I feel like I was abusing myself with going out drinking and having underage sex. I used to drink five, six pints of lager and five nips and I was still standing. Mary MacLeod couldn't believe it. I was a problem drinker at fifteen. I look back at it as allowing myself to be abused but can see that the hospital allowed it too as I was still a minor.
45. I believe I was at Craig Dunain for three months. I remember a psychiatrist telling me later that I had only been there for three weeks and getting angry at me. I was definitely there longer than three weeks but I have not been able to confirm that with records.
46. I went home at [REDACTED] for two weeks from Craig Dunain and refused to go back. My parents agreed to keep me. I stayed at home for a few months but the beatings from my dad continued and this is when I started hitting him back. My parents then said that I was getting too much and Denis came and got me and took me down to Redheugh in Kilbirnie.

Redheugh Adolescents Unit, Kilbirnie

47. Dennis collected me from my house and took me down the A9 in his car and we stopped off at the safari park. I wasn't happy, I was scared. I had trepidations about what it would be like.
48. Redheugh was an old Victorian building and there were twenty six bedrooms in it. There was a housing scheme around it. You went in the main door and there was a long corridor with the office on the right. We weren't allowed to use the main entrance or the main staircase, we had to go in and out the back door and up and down the back staircase. The corridor went down to the kitchen and a dining room and then there was an extension with toilets and sinks. It was called the ablutions. On the left

hand side there was a television room with plastic chairs and a couch and television. There was also a snooker room with a full size snooker table and a church.

49. Upstairs there were four bedrooms with five or six kids in each room on bunkbeds. There was a big open landing you could go along and there were two other rooms called room one and room two for the bigger boys. They had four beds in each room with locks on the doors for privacy. There was also an annex with four bedrooms and three or four beds in each room. I was sent there on my first night. I was in room seven and remember being in there with a boy called [REDACTED] from Stranraer.
50. Redheugh had converted the attic into a modern flat with a beautiful kitchen and toilet. I think it was used to prepare boys for leaving. There was a guy called [REDACTED] who lived there at weekends, he was seventeen. It was used for conferences too. It had beautiful views. It was empty a lot of the time.
51. Around the back garden was a stable and a big wooden shed. In the shed it was like a game's room and there was a dance floor. There was also an obstacle course where you could shoot down a big wire thing.

First day

52. On my first day I was taken to meet [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] for the home [REDACTED] [REDACTED] managed the daily running. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] of discipline and could dish out punishments but he never abused me and I never heard any stories about him. He stayed [REDACTED] in a house with his wife and daughter. His son had left home.
53. Mrs [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wife was a house mother. Miss [REDACTED] was my house mother. She was a big woman and scary. There was an old watchman that came in at night and a cook. The cleaners were the boys. It was all boys in Redheugh and there were around forty of us. We were aged nine, ten to around seventeen.

Mealtimes/Food

54. I can't really remember the food I think it was alright. I do remember that was the first time I tried a chip butty. I didn't like them. I couldn't understand why anyone would eat chips on a roll.

Healthcare

55. There wasn't a nurse or anything like that. I still had asthma but had no attacks there. I don't remember being unwell really. I do remember going to the dentist and they made a mess of it. I had to get a cap put on a tooth and I have now lost that tooth.

Washing/bathing

56. There were showers and a bath and we had cubicles for toilets. You could wash whenever you wanted but I think you had to have a shower every week. If you had stubble you had to shave. There wasn't much privacy. If the bigger ones were in the shower the younger ones would leave them in peace and then they would go in groups. Sometimes the older ones would go in to check on the younger ones to make sure they weren't fighting or anything.
57. One time I was having a shower and ^{HDD} [REDACTED]'s wife and daughter walked in on me. I was standing at the sink naked and the door opened. There was another way they could have walked to go home, so I don't know why they were going that way. I was at school with the daughter so it was embarrassing. They just stood there and looked at me for a bit then disappeared. I don't know if they knew I was in there, I think it was purely accidental.

Schooling

58. I went to Garnoch High in the village. You could walk. Every class I went to my name was never on the register so I eventually just stopped going.

59. School uniform was grey trousers, a shirt and a blazer. We wore our own clothes when we weren't at school. We had a pigeon hole in a room where our clothes were kept. There was a box where you could get money to buy stuff from the canteen.
60. On a school day we'd be up, have our breakfast and off to school. Some days we'd have chores to do after school. We would mop the floors, dust and polish. One of my chores was to polish this big banister. We also had to wash the dishes at mealtimes. After that your time was your own and you could go out to play.

Employment at Redheugh

61. When I left school I had to get a job in a furniture factory called [REDACTED]. I hated it. I had to give them my wages and I got pocket money. It was supposed to be an apprenticeship but they stuck me on this machine with a big burly guy and I was bored stiff. I was just standing around labouring. They all looked down on me and never spoke to me because I was from the home. I had a couple of snide remarks. I felt so lonely and down and told the staff at Redheugh I wasn't going back. Someone from the home spoke to the people at the furniture shop and said I wanted to learn. I went back and was able to do more, but after a few weeks I felt I had learnt all I could and refused go back.
62. They got me another job at a farm. One time I fell in dung and I stunk for weeks. They wouldn't let me in the dining hall and I had to have three showers a day. I refused to go back to the farm after that.
63. I then got a job at [REDACTED], Lochwinnoch. We used to go into Glasgow and deliver lemonade to pubs and off licences. I enjoyed that. I met gangsters and also a guy who had been in the home. It was interesting. There was a murder every week in this pub in Maryhill. This one shop that was like a grocer's shop, had a big hatch behind the counter. You went through there and down some stairs and there was a big bread table with stacks of money on it. There was sawdust all over the floor. I was going up and down with the crates of lemonade and asked the driver if he had seen all the money. He said the shop was just a cover for crime and they were all gangsters.

Trips and leisure time

64. Some boys were allowed to go home at weekends. I had to accumulate and go home every couple of months because it was so far away. They would give me money to buy a train ticket but it was a lot cheaper than they thought and I skimmed some money off it. If you didn't go home they would organise activities for you to do. There was a big pitch at the back for football or you could do some gardening. There was a dance hall and there was a guy that came in and showed you how to restore old furniture. I used to enjoy that.
65. We went to a youth hostel in a mini bus to Biggar one weekend and did pony trekking. I remember a staff member, IEQ had a big horse that bit him so they gave it to me. We all liked that. We would go to Largs beach and Peebles. There were trips to the cinema to see Elvis films. I was sick one time and could not go. We went on a big boat on Loch Lomond and would go swimming. We were taken to Kelvingrove museum too. We used to be taken to Quarriers for days out. I am aware now there was abuse at Quarriers, but I did not see anything.

Christmas and birthdays

66. I do not remember celebrating any birthdays. My mother and father never celebrated any birthdays either. I would get some gifts, but never a party or a celebrations. We didn't even get hugs or kisses.

Religion

67. We had to go to church on a Sunday. We would go to different churches and we would go to religious shows. Grace was said every mealtime. They were like born again Christians. You were better off believing in God than not. That is what they wanted.
68. They gave us Salvation Army jackets and trousers and made us go chapping doors with envelopes for money. Me and this guy used to steal the money. I remember

looking in a room once after we had been out and [IEQ] and another staff member were stealing the money too.

Visits

69. Denis Grant used to come down in his campervan with his wife for a holiday. They would take me to Largs and buy me fish and chips. One time my dad came down to visit and took me to the pub. I remember another time my mum and dad both came down and that was for a conference when I was due to leave. I don't remember the staff ever talking to me and asking how I was getting on.

Running away

70. I can remember running away from Redheugh with two other boys. I don't know why. I must have been told off for something and I think I was hit. I mentioned to the two other boys that I was going to run away and they decided to come with me.
71. We ended up in either Port Glasgow or Greenock. We were caught by the police and taken to a big old police station. We were all put in the same cell. We stood on each other's shoulders to see if we could get out the window, as the window had no bars. It was three storeys up, so we didn't get out. One of the boys was so small he managed to get out of the feeding hatch.
72. We were eventually all handcuffed and put in the back of a van to go back to Redheugh. One of the other boys complained his handcuffs were too tight and his hands were swelling up. The police did nothing and I tried to say something as he was in pain. The police then punched us all to the face and twisted the cuffs off him. We were threatened and slapped about by the police after that. I don't know if they were police from Greenock or Kilbirnie. When we got back to the home the staff asked why we ran away, but we didn't get into trouble.

Abuse at Redheugh

73. On my first night I immediately learnt from a guy called [REDACTED] that [IEQ], who lived [REDACTED] room with his family, was an abuser. He said he had to suck his penis. [IEQ] was the house master. If we made too much noise he would come in the back fire escape and up the stairs. He was a big burly guy with a big black beard. I don't remember his surname. I saw him beat boys. I did not see any sexual abuse from [IEQ] against other boys.
74. Either [IEQ] or another guy with ginger hair, [REDACTED] called [RLX] did try to touch me sexually. I am not sure who it was and I did not let it happen. I made a noise and they went away. I think it was at a swimming pool or in the showers.
75. I heard [REDACTED] who I shared a room with was murdered. He was hit a lot in the home. Him and another guy called [REDACTED] were out of control. I would say it was [IEQ] and [RLX] with the ginger hair that did all the hitting. [IU] not so much. Miss [IER] would hit me but not Mrs [RFF]. I also seen Miss [IER] hitting a younger kid on the back of the legs with an implement once.
76. There was also another house mother who had a beautiful singing voice. I cannot remember her name. She was always very nice, but I did see her turn vicious one time and hit this wee one.
77. I was moved to room one when I was a bit older and you could lock the door. I was coming out the shower late one night and was heading back to my room when I looked in this other room and saw [IU], [IEQ] and [RLX] with the ginger hair hitting this kid. The shocking thing was this kid was laughing and they were kicking him. I was thinking why is he laughing when they are belting him? His name was [REDACTED] and he was aged eleven or twelve. They looked up and saw me and told me to bugger off.
78. This kid [REDACTED] defaced a good picture of Elvis I had drawn and I attacked him in front of everyone. I was assaulted by [IU], [IEQ] and [RLX] with the ginger hair for that. They all hit me I think, there was definitely more than one. I think maybe

UU was standing back. It was punches and slaps. I ran away with two other boys after that. We stole a car but didn't get very far.

79. I remember fighting with a boy who was a friend. I think we had fallen out. I don't think anyone knew we had been fighting. Another boy was a bit of a bully. He attacked me once because I said that the band Queen were a bunch of 'poofs' when we were watching Top of the Pops in the lounge. He came from Port Glasgow.
80. There was another bully called who didn't like me. I got on better with his younger brother, . tattoo'd his arm himself and made a mess of it. His arm swelled up with poison and the doctor had to slit it open. I tattoo'd myself in there too. I have hated them my whole life but I could never afford to get rid of them. I remember a lassie outside the home asking me to tattoo her and she would give me sex. She was about fifteen and I knew she would regret it so I said no.
81. I never smoked at Redheugh but you were allowed to smoke. I remember one time trying cannabis and everyone was laughing but it had no effect on me. It was still just tobacco to me and I did not like it.
82. On one occasion my dad visited me in Redheugh and took me to a pub in Kilbirnie. He bought me an alcoholic drink. I was still only fifteen. He put money on the snooker table so we could play a game. Some locals came over and threw us off the table threatening us with violence. The landlord did nothing. He put me in a dangerous situation. I don't understand why I was allowed to go with him when he had been abusive to me in the past. I just felt it should have been supervised.
83. There was a play put on at Redheugh and we had to sing the song Barbados by the group Totally Tropical. I was made to cover my face and body in black boot polish so I looked like I had black skin. I was so embarrassed. It was really hard to get the boot polish off. I was placed in a bath and scrubbed with a nail brush by a female member of staff. It took weeks to get it off and it was so painful. They asked me to do it again but I said no.

84. At one point they decided I was to go for a psychiatric assessment and I was sent to a doctor Wardrobe at a private clinic in Glasgow. I had to go once a month or so. He was a little man with specs. He was creepy. I did not take to him. I had only been a few times and he asked me if I masturbated and how many times. I couldn't believe it. I told the home I wasn't going back after that.
85. On one occasion either the night watchmen or the guy that taught crafts held a pistol to my head and I wet myself. I think it was more the night watchmen. I remember it was dark and he was telling a story about some gangsters or something and showing off. Everyone was laughing at me. I remember [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were there.

Leaving Redheugh

86. I was in Redheugh for eighteen months. When I was sixteen they told me they had no right to keep me there and they would help me get a flat and a job. I chose to go home but in retrospect that was a mistake. I left some months after turning sixteen.

Life after care

87. I went home and my mum ended up spending time in a mental hospital after a breakdown. My brothers and sisters went to my granny's and I had to stay with my dad. I hated that.
88. I got a job as a window cleaner but that didn't last long as I was being bullied. I was abusing drink and stealing alcohol from a friend's dad's drink cupboard. My dad battered me and chucked me out of the house. He told me to not come back until I found a job. I found one at a car garage and they said it was ok for me to start the following Wednesday so I could sort out my benefits first. When I went home and told my dad he battered me as he told me that no one started a new job on a Wednesday.

He called them and they said I was telling the truth. I then worked there for three and a half years. I enjoyed that. They sent me to college and I did vehicle craft studies.

89. I was still abusing drink and going out every weekend. I got a girlfriend at eighteen and a disaster happened. I lost it one night. We were both really drunk and I hit her. I think I was nineteen when I got the jail for that. I got eighteen months in Glenochil but did twelve months.

90. When I came out I had a couple of girlfriends and there was still violence. I met a girl called [REDACTED] and we were on and off for thirty five years. I was never violent with her. In between when I was not with [REDACTED] I had other partners and there was violence with some of them. I don't know why. I never had any desire to overpower anyone.

91. I was with a nurse who I got engaged to for two years. I got her a beautiful Sapphire ring. I found out she was stealing money from my wage packets and going to the pub with it. I was also paying for her car as she couldn't afford it. I was told by friends she was sleeping with other men behind my back. Things started to go sour and we split up. I attempted suicide after that. I was a mess.

92. I believe I have five children from four different women. [REDACTED] was the first from that relationship at Craig Dunain with the older woman. I have never met him. I have a son with [REDACTED] called, [REDACTED]. I initially had contact with him, but since I have fallen out with [REDACTED] he won't talk to me. The other children were girls from relationships that were short lived. I never knew anything about them until they were older. One was from Peterhead and the other was from Elgin. Another woman I had a relationship with lost the baby when he was a few months old. That was sad.

93. I got my apprenticeship in painting and decorating. I got a City and Guilds certificate. I worked the rest of my life doing that really. In 1982 I was fed up and did a catering course but I didn't finished that, so went back to painting and decorating. I was working for myself for a few years. I liked that. I went back to college and got a diploma in computer data processing. I also did a diploma in small businesses financial

management and recently started up my own business as a artist. I don't make any money from it and I receive incapacity benefit for depression and other ailments.

Reporting of abuse

94. I never told anyone I was abused until now. I maybe said I had hidings from my dad but that was it. I remember talking to my mother about the hidings years ago and she said she couldn't have left my dad as she had responsibilities to the other children.
95. I did speak to the police in the late nineties as I was searching for that woman in the home that had a baby with me. I did not tell them about the other abuse. Just about her.
96. When I was in Glenochil a police man came to see me. He was really nice and said he wanted to speak to me about childhood abuse. He said my name had come up. I told him I had never been sexually abused and that was that. Later I thought I should have told him what happened.

Impact

97. The biggest impact for me is when I went to prison and a psychiatrist assess me. He wrote a damning report on me for the court and said I had a severe personality disorder. I struggled to understand that and no one explained it to me. I have thought at times I may be autistic but I have never been formally diagnosed.
98. I also struggled to come to terms with what I did to my first girlfriend, when I was sent to prison. I was so sorry. To put her through what I did was awful. I had real difficulties

maintaining relationships after that. I was drinking a lot when I was making money and had real anger difficulties. I think I have had about fifty relationships. I was just looking for love.

99. Years later my dad apologised to me for what he had put me through. I told him I forgave him a long time ago. He was more passive towards me after that. I didn't hate him I just wanted the beatings to stop. For so long I felt rejected and unloved. No one wanted to listen to me and my opinion didn't matter. I didn't see my parents for a six year period one time. It was just too much. The emotions they gave me were too strong. I was nothing to them. It was so upsetting. It still is.
100. I just had to grow up and get a grip of myself. That took me until I was about forty years old. I still don't really know who I am. With this pandemic I have gone back into a depression again.
101. I think a lot of damage was done before I went into care. The biggest damage was from my parents but the care system didn't help. I was programmed to violent from a young age and I have had to do a lot of work to change that.

Records

102. I have not tried to get any records but I want to and have accessed support to do this through Future Pathways. In the nineties I went to see a social worker and asked to see my files. He let me see them but told me I could not have a copy, which I now know was lies. I found a page with my curriculum vitae on it that I did not want in there as it was inaccurate. I ripped it up and he wasn't happy. I told him I had not given permission for it to be there. Years later I tried to get a copy of my records again and I was sent a small bunch of papers. I asked were the rest of it was and I was told they had been destroyed. I didn't think they could do that.

Treatment and Support

103. I worked with a psychologist called Dr Peter something around 1989/1990. He gave me a book called Mind Games. I found that helpful. I also got another book about anger management and that helped me get rid of a lot of hatred towards my dad. It taught me about triggers and how to manage them.
104. Future Pathways have recently helped me get access to a counsellor, Donna Davis. They have also helped me with physiotherapy and a gym membership.

Lessons to be Learned

105. There were a lot of things that could have been done differently. Better screening of the staff in the homes for a start. There should be better training of staff and less of the physical corporal punishment. There needs to be more understanding of child psychology and teaching them about their feelings and how to manage them. Giving them love.
106. Any reports of sexual abuse should be listened to. There should be avenues for children to be heard whether it is true or not. Adults should work in pairs to protect themselves and the child. I think there is more of an awareness now.
107. I should never have been put in a prison or Craig Dunain. I have trouble getting in touch with my emotions and it is all to do with that. I never knew why I was there. Someone should have helped me to understand and explained it all to me.
108. I am not happy that I was not on the register at the school when I went to Redheugh. They never found out I wasn't going because of that. There should have been greater care taken to make sure I was getting an education. They never asked you about homework or anything like that. They should make an effort to make sure that the children are learning and going to school. I love to learn now.
109. Another thing that I think is a great mistake is to think that kids can't understand what you are saying to them and what's going on. Kids were so dismissed back then.

Parents need education and help too. They say respect your elders, what about respecting you kids?

Other information

- 110. I heard about the Inquiry through social media. I was looking for an old friend from Redheugh and I saw the Inquiry were looking for information so I emailed in.
- 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.. 

Dated... 24 March 2022