

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KQR

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is KQR. My date of birth is 1973. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Irvine Central Hospital but raised by my grandmother in Kilmarnock. Also living in the house at that time was my Aunt, who was mentally and physically handicapped. My Aunt could not help it but had regular psychotic episodes, which put pressure on my gran. As far as I know I was moved in with gran when I was about two weeks old. Although I knew she was my grandmother, I always treated her as my mother.
3. My mother, and my father, had separated and went on to have many more children to different partners. The only other sibling I had growing up from my natural mother and father was my younger brother.
4. My first primary school was Hillhead Primary. My father was always a street fighter and sometimes would work as a doorman. Some of the parents he had fights with had children at my school and they would be told to exact revenge on me and they bullied me. I was getting into fights in the school as I tried to stand up for myself.
5. One time a teacher told me to go to the headmaster's office for causing problems in the classroom. I refused to stand outside his office and walked out of the school.

6. The social workers were getting involved and they would come to visit me at our house, or I sometimes may have gone to their office, in Kilmarnock. I was also being sent to many children's panels for the fighting and some other petty crime. I was being warned by the children's panel that if my behaviour did not change they would have to take different action. Unfortunately, my behaviour didn't change, and I was told by a panel that I was being sent to Kirkland Park Assessment Centre.

### **Early care experiences**

7. I was still in Primary seven, about eleven years old, when I was taken from the panel to Kirkland Park. I ended up staying there for a three-week assessment period. I don't remember much about my time in Kirkland, but I can say there were no issues of abuse by any of the staff or other residents.
8. At the end of the three-week assessment I was sent home to see if my behaviour improved. My behaviour was just the same. I was only home for a few months before I was told that I was going to be kept in care and was being sent to Warner Street Children's Home in Stevenston.
9. I was still in Primary seven when I was there. Similarly to Kirkland Park, I don't remember much about my time at Warner Street. When I was at Warner Street I transferred to Ardeer Primary School, Stevenston. When we were at Warner Street I was able to go to Pontins for a holiday, with my family. I think we were away for a week.
10. During the time I was at Warner Street there was no abuse by anyone. After a few months there, the panel decided that I was okay to be released from social work care and move back in with my gran.
11. It was not long before I started misbehaving again. Gran, by this time, was tired of me constantly being suspended from the school. She was nearly sixty years of age and my Aunt [REDACTED] mental health was getting worse as she was having lots of

episodes in the house, many during the night. Sometimes Aunt [REDACTED] would hit my gran and myself. To try to calm things down my gran would take us out of the house and walk the streets at night.

12. Because we were all losing sleep, I was tired and falling asleep in the class when I did make it to school.
13. When I was allowed back to staying with my gran, the social work tried two or three different High Schools for me to go to. Eventually they managed to get me in at Grange Academy, Kilmarnock.
14. The problem I had was that I was not going to the school regularly. I would either be bunking off school or I was being suspended. Even at that age, About twelve years old, I managed to get a job at The Barrows Markets in Kilmarnock. I would help set up the various stalls in the morning and be working during the day on some of them. Other times I was covering for some of the stallholders when they went for their lunch. I was earning about £20 a day.
15. While I was still in first year at high school, I was back in front of panels because of my worsening behaviour. I was sent back to Warner Street in Stevenston. I spent a few months inside the home again and once more I cannot remember too much of the daily routine. I can say that the staff were good and there were no issues of abuse.
16. My behaviour was going downhill again, and I was getting into trouble with the police for fighting in the street. This all led to Warner Street sending me to Redheugh Adolescent Unit, Kilbirnie.

### **Redheugh Adolescent Unit, Kilbirnie**

17. I was about twelve or maybe thirteen when I went there. I am not sure of the exact length of time I was there.
18. The home was run by the Salvation Army and SNR [REDACTED] was named HDD [REDACTED]. I think he was a sergeant in the Salvation Army. There was [REDACTED] member of staff called George and he looked after the animals. He had his family cottage situated outside the home. He stayed there with his wife, and they were both really nice to me. She didn't work at the home when I was there.
19. The other staff I can remember are Stewart Burgess, who was my key worker and the deputy head of the home. I can also remember [REDACTED] and her nephew RSM [REDACTED], Frida Webster, KOO [REDACTED] who also one of my key workers. Frida, [REDACTED] and RSM [REDACTED] were really good staff who were nice to me.
20. There were three separate units in Redheugh, which were called McGregor Unit, Knox unit and Wallace Unit for the girls.

### **Routine at Redheugh Adolescent Unit, Kilbirnie**

#### *First day*

21. When I arrived I can remember we went up a long driveway, through a forest area, which opened up, and I saw Redheugh. It was like a castle with turrets. It was a grey and brown bricked building.
22. There was a big double wooden entrance door. As you went in, there was the black slate tiled hall leading to a winding, wooden staircase. On the ground floor was the dining room, kitchen, chapel, and staff offices. There was also a snooker room and a smoking room which led to the back door. From the hallway there was a door to the

right side, which had another concrete staircase leading to a room at the top of one of the turrets.

23. On the first floor there were two units. The first one to the left was McGregor unit which I was in. It had a room with five or six beds, another room with two single beds and another single room. In the rooms, we would have a bedside chest of drawers, and a wardrobe. When I first went in, I stayed in the big room. Later I was moved into the double room with my pal [REDACTED], who was from my area. Nearer the end of my time, I was allowed to stay in the single room. I did not last long there, maybe a couple of weeks before I was in bother again with the staff and moved back to the double room. You were usually moved when someone had moved out of the smaller rooms, but that move all depended on whether you had behaved yourself.
24. Also in the unit was a living area. In this we had the kitchen and TV lounge. There was also a toilet block, which had a couple of showers in it. At the end of the corridor there was a set of fire exit stairs leading down to the back of the building.
25. There was also an independent unit in a separate building for young people between seventeen and nineteen, getting ready to go back into society. This building was next to George's house, who looked after the animals.

#### *Mornings and bedtime*

26. We were woken in the morning by whatever staff were on duty. It might have been between 6:30 am and 7:00 am they woke us, and we would be able to get a shower and our teeth brushed. It was then into the living area where we would eat our breakfast.
27. After breakfast, we all got ready for whatever school we were going to. If you were not going to school you were expected to attend at the Chaplain for 10:00 am. You might be given a roll and a cup of tea afterwards, about 11:00 am. You then helped carry out some small jobs around the home or helped in the garden. If you did not join in with the hymns you were not given the filled roll.

28. After finishing school, we had a bit of free time until tea which was about 5:00 pm. After tea, supper time would be before going to bed. We might be given a sandwich or toast and some tea.
29. There were staff on duty during the night, but I am not sure how many they were covering. I am not sure if the shift pattern was an eight or twelve hour shift. The night shift staff would patrol the rooms and use their torches to check that everyone was still in the home, and no one had run away.

#### *Mealtimes/Food*

30. For the breakfast we would have cereal, maybe some toast and tea. You just helped yourself to whatever was available.
31. When it came to lunch, if not going to school, you would eat it in the dining room and you might go out for a walk afterwards for about half an hour.
32. Although I can't remember the dinner ladies' names, they were really nice. I can remember the food they served was alright and no one tried to force feed anyone if they did not like what was being served.

#### *Washing/bathing*

33. There were showers available in the toilet area. We would get washed in the morning and I preferred a shower at night. The showers were all in cubicles with doors to provide some privacy.

#### *Clothing/uniform*

34. We all wore our own clothes at the home, there was no uniform to wear. We were all given about £10 per month as a clothing allowance. Frida or one of the other staff would take us to the shops. The main shop we used was Dunn and Co. as the home

had an account there. We were able to choose what brand of clothes we preferred, so long as it was within the budget. My gran always supplied me with new clothes, so I chose to use the allowance to buy nice trainers.

#### *Leisure time*

35. In the grounds the staff kept different animals. There were donkeys, goats, chickens, and peacocks. If we were free in the afternoon, during the summer, we might go for a jump in the river, which was fun. They also allowed us to go fishing and sometimes to use the canoes.
36. In those days almost everyone smoked, and we were allowed six cigarettes per day. We were able to keep them ourselves but later when I was in Kerelaw the staff allocated them.
37. After doing our chores we would be free to play, and that might involve football outside, badminton or rounders.

#### *Schooling*

38. While I was at Redheugh I still needed to go to school. They tried different schools, but no one would take me in, or I would not like a place and would be refusing to go. After a few months at Redheugh, the only option they found for me, was to be a day pupil at Kerelaw residential school.

#### *Healthcare*

39. I don't recall any need to have visited with a doctor or dentist during my time at Redheugh.

### *Religious instruction*

40. I had been baptised as a young boy in the Mormon church when I was about six. The home never took this into consideration. You had to sing the hymns that the Salvation Army sang. If I did not do it correctly, Mr Burgess would take me aside to give me a row and other times he would lock me in the turret.

### *Trips and holidays*

41. I can remember we were taken out for trips. One of those trips was walking the West Highland Way, which took around five days. Other times we would be able to go camping. I had been used to that when I stayed with my gran. The ones that had problems with the camping were some of the Glaswegian boys. They were not used to camping outdoors. If I needed to, I could make a tent out of an old sheet over washing rope and pegs.
42. During my time at Redheugh there was an opportunity for a holiday abroad. Some of the others were able to go on that trip, but I was not allowed. They took this out on me as some sort of punishment.

### *Work*

43. We were asked to carry out some chores within the home. That might have involved some mopping or brushing of the floors, cleaning the brass. We could also be asked to help in the garden with cutting the grass or do some weeding.

### *Birthdays and Christmas*

44. When it came to Christmas, I think I was back on home leave and stayed with my gran. I don't recall any birthdays being celebrated.

*Review of care / detention*

45. I did get visits from social workers, but I am not sure how often they came to visit. Sometimes they phoned the home to check on how I was getting on. If they came to the home to visit me, more often than not, either Burgess or KOO would be in the room.
46. On some other occasions, if I was on weekend leave and staying with my gran the social workers might call round to the house to speak to me.

*External Inspections*

47. I can't remember there ever being anyone from the outside coming in to inspect the home or to call in to check on the welfare of the young people there.

*Family contact*

48. So long as I had not been in trouble then I would be allowed to have weekend leave to stay with my gran. I had to be in the home for a month before I gained the trust to allow me some home leave. For the family visits within Redheugh, it was arranged for two units on the same day but organised at separate times.
49. My gran visited me a couple of times at the home, and she sometimes brought Aunt [REDACTED]. When they visited, the social work would bring them to the home and take them back afterwards. We would have the visit in a room in the home or sometimes we might have a cup of tea in the garden. I would also show them all the animals we kept there.
50. I can remember that my uncle, who had been in the home when he was a boy, came up to visit me. He liked to point out the different areas of the home that he remembered from his time there.

### *Discipline*

51. One of the punishments for misbehaving may have been a loss of privileges, such as no access to my cigarettes. There were some times that I was being punished and locked inside the room at the turret. I think I had been refusing to do something and I was left there overnight. There was nothing in that room, no window and it was freezing in there. I did not have any warm clothes on. This was Stewart Burgess again.

### **Abuse at Redheugh Adolescent Unit, Kilbirnie**

52. When I stayed in the larger room at Redheugh, sometimes, during the night, some other unknown members of staff would come in and take one of the boys out of the room. If they were brought back, they were always crying in pain. Some were taken out and the next morning they were nowhere to be seen. The staff would just say they had been shipped out. I was never taken out of that room.

KOO

53. Another member of the staff who abused me was KOO, but that was mainly physical. He was an Englishman and heavy set. He was a complete bully to me and many others in the home. He would hit you in any way he could, which would usually be punches to my head and body. On other occasions, he would be holding me in choke holds, and other times it would be kneeling me to the thigh, giving me a dead leg. I can remember times when he was so angry he would physically throw me against my bedroom wall or throw me over the couch in the living area.
54. There were times when he would kneel on my back as he held me down on the floor. I was screaming that I could not breathe. Sometimes the other boys would come to my defence and try to pull him off of me. He never had any fear about hitting me in front of other boys. I am not sure if there were other staff present when he was hitting me.

55. He would do anything he could to upset me. I can remember I was due to have home leave, and at short notice he decided I had upset him and would not be getting out that weekend. He also made comments to me that I was not good enough to be going home.
56. The abuse from KOO was frequent, but I cannot give exact time and dates. I do know I was being beaten so regularly, it would have been countless days throughout my time there, even during the same periods Burgess was sexually abusing me.

*Stewart Burgess*

57. As well as being Deputy Head, Stewart Burgess, was also one of my key workers. He was a tall, slim built man. I can remember he either had a beard or was rough shaven. I think he was in his forties and stayed in Cumnock. I think he is in his seventies now and currently serving a sentence in prison for abuse.
58. I was just a wee boy in the home when I was sexually abused on many occasions by Burgess. It started a few weeks into my stay there. I was trying to fight him off, but he would hold me down on the ground and cover my mouth, so I could not scream for help. He would also pull my shorts or pyjama bottoms down. He would make me read pornographic magazines and make me masturbate him and perform oral sex on him. He would also masturbate me and place his fingers inside my anus.
59. He also put his penis inside me and when he was doing this, he would again cover my mouth, to stop me screaming out with the pain. This usually took place on top of my bed, in my room. He ejaculated on my backside and on other occasions on various parts of my body and in my mouth. I cannot remember the number of times he raped me. A lot of the abuse was when he was on night shift and would either get me out of bed or abuse me while I was in my bed.
60. When he was finished abusing me, I would go to the shower rooms and scrub my body red raw. I can remember after he had raped me, I would be bleeding from my

anus. Sometimes when [REDACTED] was away on home leave and I was left at the home, Burgess would come into my room and again sexually abuse me.

61. There were times when it wasn't just me that was abused in the room, as there were times when [REDACTED] told me when he was on his own in the room, Burgess would be doing the same to him. It also happened to me when I was later in the single room. It was usually late at night, either during the back shift or the night shift, when no other staff were around. He never abused me or [REDACTED] in front of each other.
62. There were other times he would take me out of the room, down the fire exit, into the woods where the canoes were kept in a shed. He would again sexually abuse me there. There were many times while he was having sex with me he was calling me a filthy little Mormon. Other times he would tell me I was a special little boy. He would also tell me that as I was his special boy, I would get more home leave and more spending money if I kept my mouth shut and did not tell anyone.
63. When I was back in my room I would feel ashamed and cry myself to sleep. I cannot count how many times he made me have sex with him, but I do know each time I was crying and asking him to stop. I can remember many times when we were so scared Burgess was coming into the room, that [REDACTED] and I got out of the room, out of the fire exit and climbed a pole onto the flat roof, to hide from him. I have even climbed onto the main roof with just my blanket and hid up there to avoid Burgess getting hold of me.
64. After abusing me, he would give me extra home leave, and extra money for clothing shopping. This was all with him telling me that I was never to tell anyone what was happening.
65. Some of the times when I was trying to refuse him, he would lock me in a room that was used as a cell and a smoking room. Other times he would put me in the room at the top of one of the turrets and I would be locked in the wooden room. It was freezing in that room, and I would be left wearing just a t-shirt and shorts.

66. One of the happy places I had was playing with the animals. That would take my mind off everything that was happening. He even caught me when I was out the back and would make me touch the private parts of the goats. He would then tell the other boys that I was having sex with the goats and the boys would then start calling me all sorts of names and bullying because of him. This is one part of the abuse that I have never been able to tell the police or anyone else about. I was too embarrassed and ashamed.
67. One-time things got so bad that I stole a knife from one of the shops. I kept that knife under my pillow. One night during the week, Burgess came into the room I shared with [REDACTED], who was in his bed. I always slept lightly, as I was always scared he would be coming into the room. This time when he came in the room, I pulled the knife out from the pillow and threatened him. He ran out of the room, and I was chasing him while I was in my pyjamas. He never came back to the room to abuse me.

#### **Reporting of abuse at Redheugh Adolescent Unit, Kilbirnie**

68. I could not report the abuse to anyone as Burgess had threatened to beat me up if I did. He also told me that no one would believe a bad little boy in care, over a senior member of staff.
69. I am not sure if any of the other staff were aware of the abuse that was carried out on me.

#### **Leaving Redheugh, Adolescent Unit, Kilbirnie**

70. Not long after I had threatened Burgess with the knife, maybe a week, I was just told by one of the staff, without any notice, that I was being sent home to live with my gran. This was not signed off at the time by any children's panel. I knew Burgess just wanted me out of the place and he could have made that decision as he was the

deputy in charge. It was some weeks after I was back with gran that I was back at the panel for them to agree my release.

### **Home**

71. When I was back with gran I was back at normal school and attending Grange Academy, Kilmarnock. I was probably still in first year, but I am not certain. It only lasted a few months before I was in trouble again.
72. After that I was back at Kerelaw as a day pupil. The social work arranged for a taxi to pick me up in the morning and bring me back at the end of the day.
73. There were times when I would see the social work when I was home at gran's. I can remember that sometimes I would be taken out to different other homes to see if they had any spaces for them to accommodate me. Most of the times when we went to those places they were usually full and could not fit me in.
74. I got involved in some incidents when I was using an air rifle. After having used it, I had run from gran's house, as I knew that the police were looking for me. I made my way to Kerelaw. When I arrived there, I told **KAM** that the police were wanting to speak to me. I was asking her to take me into the school on a full-time basis. She contacted the police and after that I was taken to the station at Kilmarnock and interviewed. I was later at a children's panel, and they agreed that I would be placed into care at Kerelaw Residential School.

### **Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenston**

75. It was 1986 when I was sent to stay full time as a resident at Kerelaw Residential School and I stayed there until **██████████** 1989. I think there were between 150 and 200 residents in Kerelaw, split between four units. Each of the units had many double rooms and some single rooms. In my unit I think there were probably around

20 to 25 boys, most of which would have been high school age, the youngest about eleven or twelve.

76. There was a separate unit where the older boys, between seventeen and eighteen, were housed. When they were in that unit they were given some education about things they needed to learn, to live outside the care system.
77. During my time there, it became a mixed home, as girls were introduced. There was a change in the dynamic at the school, as before it was just boys being in groups with boys they knew. When girls were introduced, everything changed where the boys' groups were less, and they were all more interested in being friends of the girls.

### **Routine at Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenston**

#### *First day*

78. When I arrived at Kerelaw SNR [REDACTED] there was Mr KOR [REDACTED] Bob Forrest [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] Jim Hunter [REDACTED] Bob. I think I have the last two in the right order, but I am not certain.
79. Another of the other staff I can remember was "Wee Betty". She was an older woman and was really nice to me. She would sometimes take me out to buy some new clothes. I found she was really kind and compassionate. Another nice teacher was KBJ [REDACTED] whose wife, [REDACTED], had worked at Redheugh when I was there and was a lovely woman. Other good teachers were Anne Gifford Tait and Helen Fox.
80. The other staff that I can remember were Matthew George, KAI [REDACTED] KAT [REDACTED] KBY [REDACTED] HSY [REDACTED] KAM [REDACTED] KPK [REDACTED] FRB [REDACTED] LYW [REDACTED] LYW [REDACTED] and KPL [REDACTED]

81. I was placed into Millerston Unit and <sup>KAM</sup> [REDACTED] was in charge. In my unit, it was two to a room. I can remember the name of one of the boys I shared with, [REDACTED], who was originally from Hong Kong. A couple of the other boys I shared with were [REDACTED] from the Gorbals, [REDACTED] from Glasgow and [REDACTED] from Irvine. Sometimes as you got friendly with someone you could ask the staff if you could move into one of the rooms together.

*Mornings and bedtime*

82. The routine in Kerelaw was much the same as Redheugh. We were woken in the morning, got washed and dressed and in for breakfast.

*Mealtimes/Food*

83. When it came to mealtimes, there was a dining area which fed the people in two of the units. The remaining two units had a similar set up on their side. The two units being fed were separated from each other, by a door and a dividing wall. I think we all sat in tables for four. There was no strict seating and you usually sat with whoever you were friendly with.

84. The food was decent and there was plenty to choose from so there was never any issue about not liking something. You could even go up and get extra portions if you were still hungry. There was never any force feeding by the staff. After your meal you were allowed a cigarette. If you did not smoke you got an extra pound in your wages for doing some jobs.

*Washing/bathing*

85. There were washing areas with sinks where we would get a wash in the mornings. Downstairs there were showers available and they were just opposite the staff office. The showers there were all separate cubicles with curtains, and you had privacy.

### *Clothing/uniform*

86. Like Redheugh I was given a budget to buy some new clothes. One time I had a nice pair of dungarees and one of the older boys, ██████████, stole them. I had left them in the wardrobe after they had been washed, intending to wear them when I was getting my home leave. He was always asking to swap some of his clothes for the dungarees, but I kept refusing him. Him stealing the dungarees really got to me. I was kicking off because of it. <sup>KAI</sup> ██████████ decided that I was being punished and he cancelled my home leave for that weekend. Despite having taken my dungarees, nothing happened to ██████████
87. When it came to laundering, all our clothes had iron on names to ensure we all got our own clothes back. We would place our dirty clothes into something like a pillowcase and send it to the laundry. When we got our clothes back it was usually ironed and piled up for us. Even when I got my clothes back from the laundry, I ironed it because I did it much better. I had been taught how to iron my clothes properly by my gran. When I lived with her, I had to make sure all my clothes were ironed before going to school.

### *Leisure time*

88. One of the things we were allowed to do in the free time was to go to the local swimming pool. We would be taken there in the minibus and allowed to go in by ourselves. I really liked the swimming as I went on to teach myself to dive off the boards. I eventually progressed to being able to dive off the top board at the Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh.

### *Schooling*

89. I think I got more attention and help at Kerelaw than I got at my old school. I think some of that is down to the size of the classes. In my old school there would probably have been around thirty pupils, where in Kerelaw there was much less, maybe ten to fifteen, and more of a one-to-one help.

90. Although art was my favourite subject, when it came to my exams, I don't think I passed any of them but came closest with my art exam.

#### *Healthcare*

91. Any minor medical issues were dealt with by the staff. I did have to be treated for a nosebleed after some of the beatings I received. I was taken to Glencairn Medical Centre by "Wee Betty" to have the nosebleed cauterised.
92. I can remember there was one time I saw an ambulance, but I can't remember what that was for. It might have been for something happening in a different unit.

#### *Trips and holidays*

93. There were some trips away and one of the places was skiing in Austria. I wanted to go but again the staff found some reason to refuse me, telling me I had not behaved. I think it was <sup>KAI</sup> [REDACTED] who would have told me I was not going, as he was my key worker. I do remember that my cousin did get to go when he was in Kerelaw.

#### *Work*

94. There were chores we carried out in Kerelaw. We all would have to clean and Hoover our own rooms. For the home in general there might have been a rota system put up on the wall. That would tell us what area we were allocated on a week and what work we were to carry out. There were obviously good jobs, but also bad jobs like cleaning the toilets. The staff shared them out, so you did not get the same jobs each week.

#### *Bed Wetting*

95. There was one boy in the unit that I remember had a problem with bed wetting. His name was [REDACTED] and he was from the Gorbals area. The staff treated the

kids, who suffered from bed wetting, really bad. They would be calling the particular boy "Pishy," and they would encourage the other boys to follow this example.

96. There was someone who was much more kind in the treatment of the boys, that was "Wee Betty". She tried her best not to make the boy feel bad and would help with getting fresh clothing and bedding for him.

*Review of care / detention*

97. I think there were reviews when I was in Kerelaw. They were mixed, where they might be held monthly and then sometimes it would be quarterly. Those reviews were held in the unit. I think the people that would be there would include KAM [REDACTED] KAM [REDACTED], being the person in charge of the unit. Maybe a key worker, a teacher, a social worker, if they could make it, and my gran. I can remember some of the monthly meetings, Matt George was there. He would tell everyone I was doing really well in his class and that my general attitude was much better.

98. During other reviews they did sometimes ask me questions. They would centre around what my intentions were in relation to behaving in the home or studying in lessons. They might also be asking if I wanted to explain why I had been marked down for misbehaving or playing up.

99. I think the only times I had to go to a children's panel would be if the police had more charges against me or if I had been arrested while I had been on home leave. The usual punishment for being arrested would be that I would lose home leave for a period.

*External Inspections*

100. I seem to remember inspections being carried out when I was in Kerelaw. We would be told by the teachers when the visits were to take place. For the visit we were told by the staff how we were to behave. When any of the visitors came to a class we were told to keep our heads down to show we were studying. If any of the inspectors

spoke with any of us, it was always in the presence of a member of staff from Kerelaw.

101. If anyone disobeyed their instructions the staff would wait until the inspectors had left and they would be punished, usually with a slap about the head.

#### *Family contact*

102. My gran did visit me sometimes when I was in Kerelaw, and she might have brought my Aunt [REDACTED] with her. There were not many visits, but I was getting home leave as well. When they came to the home, I would be allowed freedom to walk around the grounds with gran, without the staff supervising us.

#### *Discipline*

103. Other than being abused by some of the staff there were other forms of discipline in the home. Whenever any of the staff decided we had done something wrong we might have our cigarettes reduced, or our visits to the local swimming pool would be cancelled. Most of those things involved anything short of physical punishment.

#### *Running away*

104. I ran away quite often when I was at Kerelaw. I knew that whenever I got back, I would end up getting a beating from one of the staff. I was also aware that some of the staff might go out in the minibus to look for us.
105. Another punishment when we got back would be that we would only be allowed to be dressed in shorts, t-shirt, and a pair of slippers. This was an effort to discourage us from running away. That happened to me but the next time I ran away I would be at the nearest housing area and get some clothes off a washing line.
106. If we were caught by the police, we would be transported to the station. We were then sat in the cell until one of the staff from Kerelaw, or standby social workers,

came and picked us up, which could be many hours. When they got us back to Kerelaw we would be given a beating and then locked into a room. That would have been by whoever was on duty.

107. Other times we would be put into a separate room which had a locked window. When we were in that room, we would be escorted out to the dining room to have meals and then escorted back to the room.
108. Any beatings depended on what staff were on duty. If it was "Wee Betty" or Helen Fox then they were much more kind and never lifted their hands to hit us. Sometimes if they saw us being beaten they might step in and tell the other staff member to get off us and that they were being too rough. The problem was if they did that, the other staff would shun and blacklist them for helping us.

#### **Abuse at Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenston**

109. The abuse I suffered at Kerelaw started from the first day that I was there. I don't have exact dates but it happened most days until such time as I was able to leave.
110. There was a time when I was nearing the end of my time at Kerelaw, when I was in 4<sup>th</sup> year and still as a day pupil when Matt George, a member of staff, came up behind me. I was putting up the poster I had drawn of Bob Marley in the storeroom, in his classroom. He put his arms around my body and then cupped me by the balls and was rubbing himself up against my back, still from behind. I pulled away from him and punched him right in the face. It must have been near the end of the school day as I can remember I ran out of the school and into the waiting taxi. I could hear him shouting after me in a pleading voice that he was sorry and for me to go back to the class.
111. There were times I was playing on the snooker table when Matt George would get upset with me. If we lost the frame he would slap me or he came from behind me and kicked me so hard up the backside, with his heavy black brogue shoes, that it

followed through to my testicles. Sometimes I was lifted right off the ground with the force. I quickly learned not to play snooker when he was there. I remember those shoes because when I was older I bought a pair for myself.

112. There were many times when Matt George hit me. I have been headbutted by him, punched by him, kneed to the thigh and given a dead leg, other kicks up the backside. Another of his favourites was to give what we called a Chinese burn to my arm. I have also been punched in the sternum and to the head when he used his knuckles. Many times, he would also bend my fingers right back.
113. He was another person that used choke holds on me and other kids, until we passed out. He was into his martial arts and would use that knowledge to cause us pain by pushing on different pressure points on my body. They would be the pressure points under the chin, under the nose, behind the ears, under your armpits, on your forearms and thighs. He would grip you by the top and bottom lip and shake you about. It was quite common for him to practise his martial art moves on us.
114. I can recall there were times when we had been out for a cross country run and when we were back, we were to have a shower. When we were coming out of the showers, he had rolled his towel up into what we called rats tails. He then used that towel to whip us on the bare skin.
115. There were other issues relating to the showers. There were times when we were having a shower and we would be joined by Matt George, who for some reason was also naked. He would verbally abuse the boys about having no pubic hair and comment on the size of their penises. He would also go up to someone and pee down their leg or over their backs. This happened in both the showers within the home itself and the sets of showers at the sports changing rooms.
116. I can remember there was a time Matt George even took me to his own house to meet his wife and family. It was only later, the police told me, that they believed that this was the initial stages of him grooming me. I can remember the layout and the colour of the bathroom and the bath itself. I can also recall on one of the times I was

there, I accidentally broke his bidet. I had never seen one of them before. I was even allowed to do some of my artwork in the studio room at his house. The windows of that room overlooked the River Clyde over towards Arran. Maybe I was just a silly boy looking for an adult friend.

117. On one of the times when I was around fourteen, I was out of the home with Matt George and he took me to his brother Ricky's house in Saltcoats. Ricky sold cannabis and I was given a couple of draws from a joint. I had never smoked cannabis before. I took a reaction to smoking the joint and went outside where I was sick. I was lying on the path facing down, being sick and I lost consciousness. When I woke up, I was in my single bed at the home, lying there naked. I don't know how I ended up like this.

118. There were many of the staff who were involved in physically and emotionally abusing me when I was there. They not only abused me, but I saw and was aware they abused the other boys as well.

KBK

119. KBK was one of my math teachers. He would punch and kick me, choke me out, bend my wrists into locks until they really hurt.

KBY

120. KBY was my science teacher, and he would kick and punch me, pull me by the hair, throw me about his classroom on several occasions. He would kneel on my chest, hit me on the head, and kneel on my neck while he was restraining me.

FRB

121. FRB was my woodwork teacher, whose nickname was FRB from his build. If he was upset with me there were times he would throw a heavy wooden mallet at me. He also did this to some of the other pupils. He had a wooden stick,

which he nicknamed, "Mr Thank You". He would use that stick to hit us over our hands, backs, and heads. Sometimes he would hit us so hard the stick would break, but the next day he would have made another one.

122. Other times when he was annoyed with us, he would come up to you and kick your desk, forcing it back to hit us in the ribs. Sometimes he pushed it back so hard I fell back onto the ground, hitting my head on the floor. He would stand over laughing at me calling me a wee lassie. He would encourage the other boys to laugh at me as I was crying.

KPL

123. KPL was my metal work teacher. He would hit us with some of the metal bars. He used those metal bars and metal rulers to hit us over the head. He would also use his knuckles to hit us in the elbows. I can remember he would use a ball pin hammer to hit us with. On a few occasions he would make the excuse we were being hit because we were either being noisy or unruly.

KAM

124. KAM was the head of the Millerston unit staff. There were times when she would knee me in the testicles or head butt me, and then afterwards she would give me a cuddle, like that was going to make me feel better. It was probably four or five times she would use the tactic of cuddling you and hitting you.

125. I remember I tried to tell her about some of the things that was happening to me, but she just shouted and swore at me, telling me to get out of her office. I ended up losing my temper with her and smashed the glass in her door with a pool ball.

KPK

126. KPK stayed at Kerelaw . He had the nickname, KPK  
KPK He was one of the arithmetic teachers, but also employed as the school

handyman. I can remember seeing him using his martial art skills on some of the other kids, but I don't remember him using it on me. I might have been given a cuff around the ear, but nothing compared to what the other staff did.

127. Later in life, one of my friends tried to make an allegation to the police that **KPK** had flashed his penis in a classroom. When the police interviewed me, I told them that was not the truth, and he never did that. I knew that man had a family and grandchildren, and he definitely did not do that. I phoned my pal to ask why he had said that, and he admitted it was to try and get extra money in compensation. I told him I would not lie for him.

**KAI**

128. **KAI** a staff member in Millerston, had been involved in some of the beatings I suffered and one time I can remember he even cancelled my home leave as the bruises were still visible. **KAI** had the nickname **KAI** as he was ex-forces. He was also another of my key workers. We never got on well during my time there. He was constantly writing bad comments in my reports. He punched and kicked me on more than a couple of occasions. He was always wearing highly polished shoes. In the red tiled smoking area, he would use choke holds on me, until I fell unconscious, sometimes in front of the other boys.

129. There were times when other staff were present, and they would shout at him saying he was taking things too far. The boys would sometimes try to stop him. He would put my arms up my back and put me in head locks. He would hold me down on the ground and would be pressing on my neck. I was struggling to get away from him as it was difficult to breathe.

130. There was one time he cancelled my weekend leave as he told me that I was going behind his back and reporting things to **KAM**.

KAT

131. KAT was another member of staff who abused me. He too, punched, kicked, and choked me. He almost broke my wrist as he twisted my arms up my back. On one of the occasions, he was even egged on by one or two of his colleagues.

KBW

132. KBW was a former drummer in a well-known band. He was a really big guy, especially compared to us small boys. He would twist my arms up my back. There was another time when he lost his temper with me and threw me across the furniture in the TV room. That was not the only time he was throwing me about.

133. There was another time he threw me across the pool table and then over the table tennis table. Because of the force he had thrown me, the table broke and as I landed on the floor my fingers got trapped in the joints.

HSY

134. HSY was a history teacher. He too was a big guy and he had been trained in karate. There were a few times he fell out with me and would ragdoll me about the classroom, which was next door to KBY science class. Sometimes I was so stunned with what he did to me, I felt I was knocked out. Other times he would have me outside the room, in the corridor, where he would put me in a choke hold until he put me to sleep. Some of the boys came out and were jumping on his back.

135. He did the choke hold on me a couple of times. There were a couple of other times that he was so angry when he fell out with me, he would knock me out when he punched me.

LYW

136. LYW was called LYW. He hit me and threw me about one of his classrooms, which was situated in the old huts at Kerelaw. One time he threw me over a couch and then over a table and then back over the couch, all in the same classroom. He sometimes used another room in the main corridor where he taught social vocational skills and history. He punched and kicked me, used neck holds and would kick me up the backside and in the stomach.
137. After one of his assaults, he was making some homemade pakora and gave me some, to say he was sorry and asking me not to make a complaint. I wouldn't have done it anyway as the senior staff couldn't care.

KBC

138. KBC was known as KBC. He worked in Fleming Unit. He had blonde hair and a really red face, I think from drinking. He was always there when Matt George was beating us. He was also involved in some of the beatings we got at Kerelaw. He would bend my arms up my back, knee me on the head. He was also another teacher who would urinate on us in the showers. I think he still works with South Ayrshire Social Work.

KBX

139. KBX had an old orange VW Beetle. He was Matt George's right hand man and best pal. He was really rough with me, as he would kick, punch and head butt me. As he was hitting me, he would be laughing at me and calling me names.
140. Matt George, KBC, KBX, Mike Dean, LYW and KBY were a very tight group. They also used to go to quiz nights at weekends together.

FSR

141. FSR was the PT teacher. He would often punch and kick us and hit us with the spikes of the running shoes. I can remember they were green and yellow with Adidas orange-coloured stripes.
142. Between ten and twenty separate occasions, he would push us against the back wall in the gym hall. When he had us against the wall, he and some of the other staff would use a golf club to drive the ball at full force to hit us. They would say they were just practising their golf swing.
143. He would also organise some of the boys to fight each other. Those fights would be in either the changing rooms or the showers. He would stand and watch and tell us we are not hitting each other hard enough. One of the fights was that he wanted me and my pal to fight each other. I did not want to fight. Mr FSR told us to fight or be hit with the golf ball. I had to get in the boxing ring and fight and during that fight I burst his nose. FSR was standing laughing along with Matt George, KBX, KBC, and other members of staff.
144. FSR was one of the staff who took some of us boys out in the minibus to the swimming pool at Magnum Leisure Centre in Irvine and other local pools. On the way back he would stop in some dark woods and make us play a pirate game of black spot. Each person had to pick out a piece of paper out of a bag and whoever got the black spot was beaten up by everyone else. The beating from the boys was to last for a whole minute. Each boy was terrified of picking out a piece of paper with the black spot. The problem was each piece of paper had a black spot on it, so we all were either beaten or carried out the beating on the other boys. There were thirteen of us in the minibus, so you know how that would end up. He would sit and laugh at us as we beat each other, and he timed it all on a stopwatch.

### **Reporting of abuse at Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenston**

145. There were many good members of staff at Kerelaw, but they were too afraid to take any action as SNR [REDACTED] KOR [REDACTED] had threatened that if anyone did so they would be reprimanded, suspended, or even lose their job.
146. I can remember that Mr KOR [REDACTED] would do his rounds of all the classes at Kerelaw. While he was checking the classes we had to make sure it looked like we were doing our studies, being quiet, and behaving. The staff warned us that if we said anything then that would result in being punished or given a beating.
147. We knew that if we reported the abuse to anyone, we were suffering there, then that would result in a beating, either from Mr KOR [REDACTED] or he'd arrange for others to beat us. The same attitude [REDACTED] by Bob Forrest and Jim Hunter. They were all complicit in hiding the abuse. I think I was between twelve and fourteen when the abuse was happening. Sometimes people did try and report it to Mr KOR [REDACTED] and he would just give us a lecture about telling lies.
148. There were some staff who would try and take the side of the child when issues were arising, but they were soon shunned by those abusing us.

### **Leaving Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenston**

149. The staff at Kerelaw wanted me to be kept in their care until I reached the age of eighteen. My gran was against that and tried her hardest to get me out earlier. I found out that I was able to get out of the home if I had a job. I managed to get on a Youth Training Scheme (YTS) course where I was making slabs for Community Industry Training. As I was now employed, their hand was forced and I was allowed to leave the home and returned to live with my gran.

## Home

150. When I was back home living with gran, I had been working for the YTS for about six weeks. As soon as the children's panel had released me from their care, I packed the job in. I am not sure if I had any social work supervision when I was back with gran. I was only home for a couple of months before I was back in trouble.
151. When I was sixteen my gran needed an operation and she moved in with my uncle. I was left homeless and living on the streets. He used the money he got for cring for to pay his mortgage.
152. Between the ages of 17 and 21 I spent many times in and out of various prison placements and young offender places. Some of the placements were on more than one occasion and I don't have the exact order or dates. The places included Longriggend on remand, Polmont on remand and sentences, Glenochil sentences, Castle Huntly sentences and overnight stays for transport at Edinburgh and Barlinnie. There were no issues at the overnight stays as we were only there while waiting to be transported elsewhere to be held for remand or on sentence. The abuse I suffered was at Longriggend, Polmont and Glenochil. In between getting into trouble and released from jail, I was staying with gran.
153. The first time I was in trouble was when I was out with my cousin, and we were supposed to be going to some girl's house for a party. We only had a name and a door number, without a street name. We were walking around different streets in the estate looking for the house. The police stopped us and accused my cousin of using a screwdriver on the lock of a house and that I was standing by keeping watch. They also said we had run off and gone through the nearby river. This wasn't true as my clothes were bone dry.
154. For no reason, the officers began restraining us by putting our arms up our backs and turning my head to the side. Our legs were folded up our backs and the officers began hitting us with their batons. I don't know the names of any of the officers involved.

155. We were taken to the police station and then to court. As a result of our appearance at court we were sent to Longriggend for a few weeks before I was sent to Polmont to serve a five-month sentence. This was to be first of possibly three times of being on remand at Longriggend.

### **Longriggend**

156. I spent a few times at Longriggend, for spells of three, five and seven weeks. This was usually on remand whilst they compiled reports. At the end of my time there I would have been transferred to another prison to serve a sentence or released from custody.
157. During one time I was in Longriggend, the staff said I was not behaving, and I was being placed into solitary confinement. We called the solitary confinement, 'The dog leg'. Each of the prisons I was sent to had this type of confinement and they were mostly known by the same name, "the digger", except Barlinnie, where they called it the "Wendy House".
158. Whenever the staff had decided we were to be taken to solitary confinement, they would use what they called restraint and control. This would involve them bending my arms up my back and then fold my legs. They then carried me in that position to wherever I was being taken to. This happened many times here, Polmont and Glenochil. It was not just me as other inmates were treated the same.
159. I think during my time at Longriggend I was in solitary confinement for one, maybe two, nights. The maximum the prison regime could keep you in solitary confinement at one time was twenty-eight days. If a longer term was required it had to come from a member of the Visitor Committee to authorise it.

### *Social Work*

160. Although there were reports being compiled by social workers for the court, I don't recall any of them visiting or speaking to me.

### **Abuse at Longriggend**

161. During the time I was in 'The digger' at Longriggend you were subjected to beatings by the staff. They would come in, empty any bedding in the morning and replace it at nighttime. When they brought any meals to you, that was the opportunity for them to beat you. If you did not provide your prison number to them or acknowledge them by using the term sir, then that was another excuse for a beating. This was also a requirement at Polmont and Glenochil.
162. One time I can remember another prisoner had fallen out with me and we ended up fighting. I felt someone pulling me off the guy. I did not know who it was and lashed out at him. It turned out it was a prison officer. I was then pounced on by him and some of his colleagues. They then used some towels to wrap round my neck, arms up my back, and my knees trussed up my back, all to restrain me. I was then carried to the 'dog box' at the reception. This was a cell only big enough for one or two people. As they carried me there, I was being punched and kicked by the staff.

### **Reporting of abuse at Longriggend**

163. You never had anyone to report any beatings to as it was staff that were doing it. If you tried to report it to the senior management they would just back their staff. As a response to any reports, it could result in other staff taking it out on you for reporting against their colleagues and you would be beaten once more.

## **Leaving Longriggend**

164. After my remand period I was back at court and given the sentence and I was then sent to Polmont YOI to serve it there.

## **Polmont YOI**

165. Whenever you arrived at Polmont YOI, you stayed in the allocation unit, we called 'Ally Cally'. After a couple of weeks in there you were then allocated to a particular wing.
166. Each day at Polmont, we were allowed out for a short time for a wash and then into the dining hall for meals. Sometimes if they were short staffed, you were in your cell all day.
167. There was one member of staff that was good to me when I was at Polmont and who later transferred to Glenochil. His name was Mr White, we called him Jocky, and he was the PT instructor. He would often try to protect me from some of the other inmates who were bullying me. I don't remember him ever being present when I was beaten by staff.

## *Leisure time*

168. I can recall in Polmont there was a period when we had some free time in the hall. During that time there was access to pool or snooker tables and maybe the TV room for a while. You had to be careful as there was always someone falling out and fights, slashings and stabbing, taking place.

## *Healthcare*

169. One of the times I was in Polmont when I was around eighteen, nearly nineteen, I was suffering from depression as a result of all the abuse in the home and in the

prison system. I could not take it anymore and tried to commit suicide. I was found by staff and transferred to the hospital wing, where I stayed for about a week. The doctors there diagnosed me as being Bi-polar. They did ask if I was going to do this again, but I knew I could not get out of the ward unless I assured them I would behave. Other than this diagnosis and being given medication, there was no other support provided by the prison system. I was not even put on any suicide watch when I was back on my own wing.

170. I was probably in that wing for about a week. When I was back in my cell, I was given one of the non-tearable paper suits and the table chair was replaced with a cardboard version. There were no extra checks carried out during the night, to ensure I did not try this again.

#### *Discipline*

171. One form of discipline used was to put you on a charge and the usual punishment would be a loss of privileges. That might be being locked in your cell during free time or loss of wages which we used to buy things.

#### **Abuse at Polmont YOI**

172. There were a couple of officers' names that I can remember who were involved in some of the beatings I received. They were Mr **KOS** and Mr **KOT**. I can remember there was sometimes some collusion between them and the inmates. One of the things they did was they would bribe other inmates with extra tobacco then encourage the boys to beat us.
173. Other times **KOS** or **KOT** and sometimes other staff would wind up some of the inmates. They would tell them that I had said something bad about their family. In the evening, the staff would unlock my cell door and allow the inmates to come in and give me a kicking. When they were finished, the inmates left, and the staff just locked the door after them. That happened to me a couple of times.

174. Shortly after being in the 'dog box' there were around six members of staff who came in and beat me up because I had hit their colleague. I was kicked and beaten so bad I ended up being unconscious. I did not get any medical help. When I came to, I was still lying on the floor. The staff just threw my clothes in that I needed for going to court, later that day.
175. The problem I had was that both the guy I was fighting with and myself were due in court later the same day. I had to appear with all the obvious bruising and could be seen by all my friends and family who were at the court. I told my family about the beatings but there was nothing they could do.
176. During my time in Polmont I was also kept in solitary confinement for fighting. When I was in there you would sleep on the concrete floor. The mattress would be removed each morning and returned at night. In Polmont I was sometimes left with no clothes for most of the time I was in there. Occasionally they would leave me with my underwear.
177. I began working out while I was in Polmont and eventually I had gone from a skinny wee boy to someone who had a bit of bulk about him. I was then able to protect myself from some of the beatings from other inmates. It was never enough to stop the staff beatings, there were always too many of them.
178. I can remember in the North Wing, there was what we called the dungeon which was in the basement. I was sent there as I might have given an officer some cheek. I think I was sent down there for a couple of days. Access to the dungeon area was via a trap door in a corridor, with stairs leading down. There was no daylight coming into the cell and you would be given your food and have to eat it in the dark. The only way you could work out what time it was, would be when you were being fed, or your mattress was taken away and when it was being returned. I think I was in there for a week, but I did have a friend who spent months down there.

### **Reporting of abuse at Polmont YOI**

179. I did try to put a complaint in about some of the staff beatings. I had to fill in paperwork for the Senior Officer and he would take it to the Principal Officer or sometimes the Governor. The Principal Officer would pull me into his office and ask what had happened. After telling him he gave me the choice of ripping the form up or be subject of another beating. I soon realised there was no point in going down the reporting route. It was obvious that other officers would find out you had complained about a colleague, and they would hand out a beating for putting a complaint in. They would also go to the inmates and tell them that I was a grass, which would lead to even more trouble.

### **Leaving Polmont YOI**

180. I left Polmont when I was at the end of my sentence. I then moved back to stay with my gran.

### **Glenochil YOI**

181. When I was eighteen or nineteen, I was given a nine month sentence and sent to Glenochil YOI.

### **Routine at Glenochil YOI**

182. Life in Glenochil was very similar to Polmont in that it was brutal. At Glenochil the staff would ensure that you marched between one area and another.

*Mornings and bedtime*

183. At nighttime if the staff needed access to a cell they would have to be in pairs, I presume to stop any malicious complaints.

*Free time*

184. When we had free time when I was in Glenochil there was a lot of fighting. Other than fighting with people there was also a regular problem with some inmates making home-made knives to stab the other inmates.

*Healthcare*

185. At Glenochil there were adult courses to help with anger management, but they were really difficult to get on as there were so many in need of this. There was another course APEX, which was given when you were an adult and near the end of a sentence. All that would be with a view to give some sort of rehabilitation, but that was not as much as what was really needed for when you were out of the jail.

*Work*

186. We had to ensure that our cells were kept clean and tidy. If it was not to the satisfaction of the staff, you were back in trouble again. In most of the places I was in there were jobs that we were told to complete each day, which were basically slave labour. I can remember painting and decorating, and another job stripping palettes.

**Abuse at Glenochil YOI**

187. One of the staff I can recall at Glenochil that was part of the abuse there was a Mr [REDACTED], who we called [REDACTED]. Whenever you interacted with any of the staff you had to call them "Sir". If not Mr [REDACTED] or some of the other staff would give me a slap.

188. Sometimes at night we would shout out the windows to friends in a different wing. Mr KOU got annoyed at me and he and some of his colleagues came into my cell. They were all kitted out like a SWAT team, with body protection in what we called their 'Mufti Mob' suits. When they came in, I was given another beating.

### **Reporting of abuse at Glenochil YOI**

189. There was no one who I could approach or report any of the abuse to.

### **Leaving Glenochil YOI**

190. I left Glenochil when I had completed my sentence and once more back on the streets.

### **Castle Huntly**

191. Most of the staff at Castle Huntly were fine with me and I have no real complaints about any of them. The atmosphere here was so much better as it was an open prison. When I was there, I had a key to my own room.
192. The first time I was in Castle Huntly was after I had served part of my sentence at Polmont. I had been assessed and found to be suitable for this placement. I think I was there on three different occasions, including the last sentence I served.
193. One of the staff I can remember was Mr McLaughlin. He would walk about the blocks in his socks to see if he could smell cannabis. If he smelled any cannabis he would go and put his boots on and carry out a cell search. Although I did not use cannabis, I had a friend who did use it. One of the times my friend had been in my cell, I was

visited by Mr McLaughlin soon after my friend left. He gave me a warning to stop hanging around with this inmate as he was bad news.

#### *Work/Education*

194. At Castle Huntly we did a variety of jobs, most to show us different skills we might be able to use outside the prison system. I can remember there was spray painting and car body repairs. I was able to get some qualifications when I was there and passed my City and Guilds, SQA and SVQ exams.
195. On one of the early stays there, I did a training course on cutting hair. When I was in many prisons after that, I used that skill to cut other prisoners' hair, usually for extra tobacco etc.
196. Another job I had when I was in there was to work in the cook house. That was a really good job because you saw what you were making. You might be able to give some extra portions to your pals.

#### **Abuse at Castle Huntly**

197. There was no abuse at Castle Huntly.

#### **Leaving Castle Huntly**

198. I left when my sentence was complete and was back on the streets.

### **Life after being in care**

199. Throughout my adult life I continued to get into trouble and have spent most of those years in and out of the prison system. My last time being sentenced to prison was in 2006 and before that there was a ten-year gap.
200. My time in the prison system really started as a young offender, but I was in for so long that I was a fully grown adult when I left. There was no definitive break or border between the two age groups. I think this would be like going straight from primary school, high school, and college without any breaks.
201. In 2006, when I was in prison at HMP Kilmarnock, Matt George sent a private investigator to interview me. He wanted me to provide a character reference for his defence. When I started to tell the investigator what he did to me, he closed his files and said he could not take the statement as he was only there to help in his defence, not to get him in more trouble.
202. When I came out of the prison system I opened my own hair salon. That was only for a short time. I have also done gardening, roofing, fitting kitchens, all mainly general labour jobs. The longest job I had was for six months, but that was mainly because of the great pay. The casual jobs only lasted a few days at a time. I could not put up with other people telling me what to do. That all stems back to my time in the homes and the prison system. My lack of trust in people affected me holding down jobs.

### **Impact**

203. My friend [REDACTED] who had been abused at Redheugh, could not handle the memories of the abuse he suffered. He began taking drugs to hide the memories but eventually they took control and he died of an overdose. He was only about 22 when he died.
204. As a result of my time in care I was not in a good place with all the abuse I suffered. There were many boys I knew from Redheugh and Kerelaw that were also caught up

in the prison cycle. Many of them are now serving long sentences, others are addicted to drugs and some, like [REDACTED], have died from overdoses.

205. I suffered from alcohol and drug addiction and for a number of years was sniffing glue. I used those things to try and hide the abuse I suffered in care but have been sober since around 2006. As time goes on, some of the memories are starting to come back, but with the damage from the drugs it is difficult to piece them all together.
206. As a result of my time in care, I blamed everyone for this and hated everyone. I was rebelling against society and the authorities, including the police and the courts.
207. I find it difficult relating to people and some friends. When I am talking to them, I will often tell them all is okay, but it is a façade. Inside I am broken and putting a smile on for everyone.
208. I have abandonment issues and that has affected how I reacted with my different partners. As soon as they get near to trusting me, I would push them away. I was seventeen when I had my first child. Now I have four children with my oldest being 32 and the youngest seven. I am making great efforts to get my mental health and all my other issues under some control so that I can concentrate on seeing my youngest grow up.
209. In 2023 as a result of my trauma, I was having real difficulties in coping with them. This was around Christmas time and on two occasions I tried to hang myself. Thankfully, my friend and neighbour came to my flat and found me.

### **Treatment/support**

210. I have seen different doctors during my adult life with regard to my mental health. During those many years I have been prescribed different medications, some of which I still take to this day.

211. I suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and that was diagnosed about nine years ago by my Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN). Unfortunately, we had a fall out and the sessions came to an end. I am now having sessions with 'Break the Silence' who give support to survivors of childhood abuse and I also have a new CPN at the same place. I have been opening up more with her and keeping her up to date on how I am feeling and coping with things. I have been on disability allowance for over ten years, not just for my mental health but also as a result of an injury.
212. I have had night terrors most of my life about the abuse. I still have thoughts of bad things going to happen to me. The CPN is using cognitive behaviour therapy to try and help me cope with this. I am also having some intensive therapy with the East Ayrshire Mental Health Team. Over the years I have missed countless appointments, but I am trying to make sure I don't miss any of this set.
213. I have carried all the bad things with me throughout my life and I hope with the help I am getting, that I can put it all behind me and move on with my life.

### **Reporting of Abuse**

214. I never reported all of the sexual abuse I received at the hands of Stewart Burgess because of shame and embarrassment of what he did to me.
215. The first time the police contacted me was about the abuse by Matt George and John Muldoon. They came to see me about two years ago and I think they were working on Operation Chalk. I knew the female officer who attended as she was related to someone I knew. Over two separate days, four hours at a time, I told her about some of the abuse but could not bring myself to tell her about some of the sexual abuse, as I was so scared she might let it slip and my friends would find out. I think it was in January 2023 that Matt George was eventually sentenced to eighteen years in jail and John Muldoon received ten years. I am aware he had been sentenced in the past for similar offences. Despite me providing statements to the

police, my complaints were not included in either case. I never got my time in court and the Procurator Fiscal's response was that they had enough to convict him.

216. DC John Shaw was one of the officers who took my statement, but I told him I could not face Burgess in court. I understand he was previously sentenced to ten years for abuse and is currently serving another three years for further offences. I was never able to tell any of my family members.

217.



### **Records**

218. In 2021 I contacted a solicitor, Cameron Fyfe, to help me get my records from my time in care. I found out that Glasgow City Council had denied I was a resident there. Cameron Fyfe was supposed to be representing me but did not seem to be getting anywhere. I carried out more research and found out he had been disbarred.

219. The records I got in 2021 are from Kilmarnock Social Work office and I have read them all. I have seen some of the entries and in one part they have made an entry stating that I was sexually active and talking in a sexual manner. I am not totally surprised because this was during the time Burgess was sexually abusing me. I am now able to put together all the bad things being reported about me in those records to the times I was being abused.

220. I can see other comments where they quote that I was an adult in a child's body. When they are starting with those kinds of thoughts, I never had any chance in that system. They need to treat children as children and not think they are grown up before their time. Everything the staff do has an impact on how a child grows up.

**Lessons to be learned**

- 221. Loss of liberty was the punishment by the courts for what I had done wrong, but the beatings were not part of the deal. The staff were there to protect young people, not to abuse them. The children were from broken families and the staff should have been there to help them through whatever issues they were having.
- 222. If the staff spent as much time on helping and educating the children that they spent abusing them, then the children would all have gone on to have had better lives, despite the problems they were having.
- 223. I think there needs to be more vetting of the staff, at the start and an ongoing process to check for changes. When allegations are made, the kids need to be believed right away, not after they have had time to cover it up. The authorities need to believe the kids over the abusers.

**Other information**

- 224. For the care system, they need to show more care for children. They need to show them more compassion and understanding.
- 225. It has taken too long for the abusers to be brought to trial. How has it taken over forty years for those things that happened to me, to be progressed?
- 226. 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.

KQR  
Signed  .....

Dated 21 / 08 / 2024 .....