

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of ^{HDT} [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My name is ^{HDT} [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1969. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born and grew up in [REDACTED] with my dad [REDACTED] my mum [REDACTED], my older brother [REDACTED], and my older sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My brother is about five years older than me. [REDACTED] is two years older than me, and [REDACTED] is about ten years older than me. My parents both worked. My dad worked in a quarry and my mum had a couple of cleaning jobs.
3. I didn't have much to do with my family. Growing up, there wasn't much emotion shown to me. I wasn't shown love but I wasn't unloved. A man was expected to be a man and not show emotion. You just had to get on with life.
4. Nobody had much money on those days. We had a couple of family holidays in a caravan. In the school holidays, I would have breakfast, then go out and play all day. I wouldn't come home again until I was hungry.
5. When I went to high school, I couldn't cope with it. It was the move from [REDACTED] Primary School a small village school to Kilsyth Academy, a huge school in Kilsyth. I

started not going to school, dogging school we called it. I was close to my sister [REDACTED] and we used to play truant from school together. She would lift my brother's bank card, get money, and we would go into Glasgow together.

6. Other times we would hang about in the woods with older boys who were dogging school. They would be smoking and drinking Buckfast wine but I wasn't interested in those things, I was an athlete at that age.
7. Although I was dogging school I got on well with my peers, I was in the football team. I used to help run the football team but I have always felt like a lone wolf. I think I frustrated the teachers because although I wasn't daft, my head was elsewhere and not focused on education.
8. I ended up in front of the truant officer. He sent letters to my parents but I would just burn them so he came to the house one evening. My dad went mad. Then I went to a local hearing about why I wasn't going to school. It wasn't the Children's panel, it was something to do with the local authority. I had to see a social worker too. The first social worker I saw was a guy called John who I couldn't be bothered talking to. After that, I saw a female social worker and she laid the cards on the table and told me that if I didn't go to school then I would go into care.
9. There was a building for Morses catalogues. Me and my mate sussed out how to break in to it and we started stealing to order. I had some of the stolen stuff in my house and my dad found it. My dad called the police about the stolen property. I never really forgave my dad for that although I can understand why he did it.
10. I had to see a psychological counsellor at the school. I met with him and he offered me a piece of plastic fruit. Trying to be funny I said, "I'll maybe have it later." That was a big mistake because he wrote that down. I got into a few scrapes, nothing major. I went to the Children's panel. I knew what was coming because the social worker told me I was going away for a wee holiday. It culminated in me being sent to Cardross Assessment Centre for a three week assessment. The social worker drove me to

Cardross, she was revelling in it because she had told me what would happen if I didn't go to school.

Cardross assessment centre, [REDACTED] 1984

11. I was sent to Cardross from the Children's panel when I was about fourteen. There was a mix of boys and girls but in different areas, with male and female members of staff. I don't think there were more than ten children there, but I mainly just had contact with the boys. The oldest kid would be fifteen, the youngest under ten years old. I can't remember names, I didn't keep in touch with anyone from my time in care.

Routine at Cardross assessment centre

First day

12. When you drove up the drive to Cardross, the building on the right was more modern than the building on the left which was an old house. On the ground floor there was quite a big open place where we went to eat sometimes. To the left was more of a lounge area. The social worker took me to an office then showed me to my bed. I was introduced to people but I can't remember more than names like [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I was only in Cardross for three weeks.

Mornings and bedtime

13. We got up about 8.00 am, had a wash, and wandered through for breakfast. At night we went to wash our faces when we got told it was time for bed. I would read for a bit and then put my light out when they came round to tell you lights out.

Mealtimes/Food

14. We had cereals for breakfast during the week, we just helped ourselves. I think at weekends we went down to the hall for breakfast because we got a cooked breakfast that the staff brought over to us. The food was alright, you seemed to get more at weekends.

Washing/bathing

15. I can't remember if the toilets were separate from the showers. I remember locking myself in the toilet when I heard that the staff member who abused me was looking for me again. I remember having showers but I don't remember having a bath. There wasn't any problems at shower time. It was a clean place and they encouraged you to keep clean.

Clothing/uniform

16. I took my own clothes in with me to Cardross. They would check with me when I needed clothes washing and checked if I had enough underwear. My mother brought me fresh clothing when she came to visit.

School

17. The classrooms were in an old sandstone house. You went up the stairs and they had a table with cartons of milk. You got various assessment things done. I think they were trying to work out if kids could read and write and whether they knew right from wrong but there was some education as well as these assessments. There was a mixture of rooms with different children in each one. It seemed to be separated based on age, with maybe some of the kids having learning difficulties. They had a big long shed, like an outhouse where you would do arty stuff.

Leisure time

18. We got to kick a ball about, depending on the weather. We were supervised when we were outside so you couldn't just walk out. Some boys seemed to get more heavily supervised or watched than others but I don't know why. They sometimes did arty stuff in the hall in the evenings, we would watch TV, or sit about reading comics. The three weeks I was there passed quickly.
19. Some of the time in there I actually enjoyed. We had a wee disco one weekend. I got to play football, and there were pool tables. It wasn't all bad.

Chores

20. You didn't have a chore list but you were encouraged to keep your own room tidy. There was a cleaner who came in during the day. You would notice that things like your comics had been tidied up.

Religious instruction

21. I don't remember anything about religion at Cardross.

Trips/Holidays

22. I remember going on a day trip to Helensburgh. About four of us went with two staff members. We had a walk about and had fish and chips. We sat looking out at the old sugar cane boat. I go to Helensburgh now with my children and sit at the same bit.

Birthdays and Christmas

23. I wasn't at Cardross for my birthday or Christmas.

Visits/Inspections/Review of Detention

24. My parents did come to visit me. I was able to spend a couple of hours with them in the hall. I wasn't allowed out with them but I was allowed to take them a walk round the grounds and show them around.
25. I can remember the female social worker coming down. I don't remember her spending a lot of time with me. She spoke to the staff about what were they all going to be doing about me.

Healthcare

26. There was no health assessment at Cardross. I can't remember anything about health care.

Running away

27. I didn't try to run away from Cardross, I was only there for three weeks. Those three weeks passed quickly.

Bed Wetting

28. I didn't suffer from bed wetting and I wasn't aware of anyone else having a problem with it at Cardross.

Discipline

29. There was an older staff member, a big heavy guy, who was old school. If there was a problem he would tell us to calm the scenario down or he would end it with a boot up the arse. But none of them physically hit me for not doing something I was told. I remember hearing raised voices between staff and children but I never saw anyone being hit. It was more about being sent to your room as a form of keeping discipline.

Abuse at Cardross assessment centre

30. I think it was the second or third night I was at Cardross, not long after dinner, I was watching TV. I went to my room and a guy came in. I can't remember his name. He was staff but I hadn't really spoken to him by that point. He was about five feet eight inches tall, medium build. He had the kind of Ayrshire accent they had in that area. He said that he had to search the room because of people bringing contraband in. Then he said he had to search me. He came close to me and I felt uncomfortable. He said I had to be strip searched but I said no. he said that he would have to get someone in if I had to be forced to be stripped. I think he was banking on me not wanting to have to get stripped in front of someone else. I stripped and leant over my bed while he spread my buttocks. He raped me. I felt a searing pain as I got pushed down onto the bed.
31. The next minute he told me to get dressed and clean myself up. He told me that he would let the other staff know I had been searched properly. He said that everybody got a proper search like that and that if I tried to make trouble or complain about it, I might have to get searched again. As an adult looking back that was the start of the psychological warfare, making you keep your mouth shut or you would get more abuse.
32. That night I was in pain, I was still in pain the next morning. I couldn't go down for breakfast. One of the staff came in and asked what was wrong. He was a heavy set guy, I think his name was Steve or Stevie. I just said to him that I had stomach pains. He gave me painkillers. I want to know if there are records of them giving me pain killers that day and what they said the painkillers were for.
33. They thought I might have Appendicitis so I got taken to Vale of Leven hospital, in Alexandria. An old doctor starting examining me, pressing me. I told him the pain was inside. He said he would have to examine me fully but I think he could see I was anxious. He asked if I wanted to get a nurse brought in but I said no. He got me to bend over and he must have seen that my anus was red. He asked if I had banged

into anything, he asked if I had any diarrhoea. I said no. He then told me to wait outside and asked the staff-member who brought me to hospital to go in and speak to him. I couldn't hear everything but I heard raised voices. I heard the staff-member saying, "It wasn't me." The doctor sounded angry, saying that I was just a small child.

34. After a while at hospital we went back to Cardross. The staff-member who took me to hospital left me to watch television and said he would have to fill out some paperwork about the hospital visit. The guy who abused me never came near me again after that. I don't know if I got a lucky escape. I don't know if he got a fright. I didn't tell anyone about that incident at the time.
35. Then I started noticing that other kids at Cardross would ask if I wanted to go into their room, saying that they had comics like Roy of the Rovers and Shoot. One of them got called [REDACTED] and at least two other kids asked me to do that. I can't remember any other names. The guy who abused me would come into their dormitory asking us if everything was alright.
36. Looking back, I think those other boys may have wanted me to visit their dormitory to look at comics so that there were two of us in the room in case my abuser came in and tried anything with them. He wouldn't be able to do anything with two of us there.
37. There was one wee kid called [REDACTED]. I didn't understand why he was in Cardross, I think it was because his mother was an alcoholic. One night someone said to [REDACTED] that the guy who had abused me was looking for him. [REDACTED] took off down the stairs and ran out into the grounds. I don't know why [REDACTED] did that but I can guess.
38. Once I overcame the notion of being a wee guy from a wee village, in that environment I toughened up. You were either the injured wildebeest or a hyena. You learned to look after yourself.

Leaving Cardross assessment centre

39. After three weeks they had done their assessment on me and I went home. I didn't get to see the assessment report. The member of staff who had taken me to hospital said to me that if the Children's panel were prepared to let me back home, that I should go to school or I might end up somewhere more serious than Cardross with some really bad folk. I think he was trying to scare me in a positive way.
40. I did go back to my school, there was an arrangement where I could do a couple of classes a day to get back into it. However nothing had changed, I didn't want to go to school, and the school didn't want the potential disruption of having me there like that.
41. About two months after leaving Cardross for my assessment they had another Children's panel and it was decided to send me to Redheugh. I wasn't expecting that. My social worker had written a report saying that it wasn't working for me to be trusted going to school myself and saying that I was falling in with a bad crowd.

Redheugh Adolescent Unit, Kilbirnie 1984 to 1985

42. I ended up in Redheugh a couple of months after leaving Cardross. I was still fourteen years old. I was there for about eleven months, just under a year. My social worker took me down there and took me to an office. There was a big heavy set woman who was the manager of the place, I can't remember her name. I was told to wait outside the office. I think there was some formal paperwork done. My social worker came out and said she would be back to see me, and said that I was to obey the staff. I got shown my room and introduced to the staff and the other boys. There were about twenty kids in total from twelve to sixteen years of age.
43. Redheugh was a big old Victorian type house. It was run by the Salvation Army on behalf of the local authority. There was a gatehouse where a man called 'wee Joe' stayed. He was one of my care-workers. You went up a driveway with rhododendrons

on either side. On the right Willie, a careworker in another unit, kept his gardening stuff. Up the back was a big long shed. I used to go in there to do screen-printing of T-shirts.

44. Through the main door of the main building was the snooker room. The office, the dining room, the laundry room, and the smoking room. Upstairs it split into corridors with bedrooms. There were two boys sections and a girls section. We also had our own lounge, toilets, baths and showers.
45. My careworker was ^{KOO} [REDACTED], he made terrible [REDACTED], and Wee Joe, who stayed at the gatehouse. Joe Harvey who was an ex-boxer was based in the other boys' section along with Stuart Burgess. There were a couple of female staff members but they didn't have much to do with us. Old Willie worked the night-shift, he would tuck us in.

Routine at Redheugh Adolescent Unit

Mornings and bedtime

46. My room was the first room on my corridor. There were about four beds in each room. In my room there was [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and a wee twelve year old boy called [REDACTED]. We made sure nobody bullied him. I'm sure there were no more than eight boys on my corridor.
47. In the girls' corridor there was [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], she was a nice girl from a nice family. She had a posh accent, she was a fish out of water in Redheugh, like me.

Mealtimes/Food

48. When I arrived at Redheugh it was the [REDACTED] holidays. You just got yourself up and went through and got cereal. If you wanted a cooked breakfast, you had to be in the dining room by a certain time.

Washing/bathing

49. You got washed in the morning when you got up. I'm pretty sure they made sure you had a bath a couple of times a week but you could just suit yourself when you had a bath. You weren't supervised or given a time limit for how long you could be in the bath. Nothing adverse happened to me in the bath because Stuart Burgess was in a different block.

Clothing/uniform

50. I had my own clothes, from home. There was also an amount they would spend on clothes every month. They would take you down to the local Co-op and you could pick what you wanted, unless you needed specific things like shirts for school.

School

51. Some went to the high school in Kilbirnie, some went to Glengarroch, and some went to Kilwinning or Auchenhavie. I went to Ardrossan Academy, I was the last stop on the bus route.
52. I finished my education in [REDACTED] before the end of the school term because I didn't do the exams. I think I got some kind of qualification in English and Maths, but I don't think it was O Grades, I don't remember. I don't have any paperwork.

Chores

53. After that, I was just in Redheugh doing basic chores. Not long after that there was another Children's panel because the whole point of me being in Redheugh was to do with my education.

Leisure time

54. I would spend my time in the snooker room or outside kicking a football. Later I started spending time up in the workshop in the long shed. Wee Joe was very trusting when he was on duty at night. He would ask us what we were up to and look in on the snooker room to make sure no-one was smoking in there. You had to go to the smoking room to smoke but I didn't hang about there, I didn't like the smell. Because I was at school during the day and home at weekends I didn't get a lot of time for activities so Joe would give me the keys for the shed and that's when I started screen-printing T-shirts.
55. Some of the staff at Redheugh were brilliant towards me. ^{KOO} had shotguns and he took me and another boy out shooting. We went up to the woods and he showed us what to do. The other boy was quite small so ^{KOO} stood behind him because of the kick from the shotgun.
56. He asked me if I wanted a shot and I said yes, but I would stand against a tree to deal with the kick. I didn't want him standing behind me given what had happened when Stuart Burgess did that. He was fine with that but I don't know if he suspected anything given the way I didn't want him standing behind me.

Religious instruction

57. They had a service every Sunday in the big room on the ground floor. It was all about, "Jesus loves you." They would all be dressed up in their Salvation Army uniforms. I got introduced to Stuart Burgess' wife at one of those meetings. I have often wondered

if she knew what he was like. I was abused by a man who stood every Sunday in a Salvation Army uniform, a man of God. That's why religion is dead to me.

Trips/Holidays

58. After a few weeks it was decided that I could get home leave at weekends. We would get dropped off to get the train and then we got the train back on Sunday nights where they would pick us up again in the minibus. You had to watch out for some of the local kids, they would hang about looking to fight you. I didn't mind fighting at that age but one time there was about six of them waiting one night after I missed the minibus and I was almost falling to bits when I got to Redheugh. I learned after that, if I missed the minibus I should avoid the locals by walking through the industrial estate to get back to Redheugh.
59. KOO and Wee Joe took us out on various trips. On my last weekend at Redheugh we went on a camping trip and climbed Ben Lomond. There were a lot of good times. I think it is important that people realise it wasn't all bad.

Birthdays and Christmas

60. I was in Redheugh for my fifteenth birthday but I can't really tell you much about any of my birthdays growing up.

Visits/Inspections/Review of Detention

61. There were a couple of visits from my social worker at Redheugh. There were general check-up visits and towards the end a sort of assessment for preparing for the children's panel. There were other people who came round to visit Redheugh, we called them Suits, I don't know where they were from. They sounded very posh, like they had marbles in their mouths. One of them asked me about what I was doing, when I was in the screen-printing shed. I don't remember any big-wigs from the Salvation Army visiting Redheugh.

62. The punishment for absconding was that you didn't get a home leave the next weekend. I remember my parents came to see me at Redheugh on the Sunday when I wasn't allowed home. My dad was angry because he had lost out on a double-pay shift in order to come and see me.

Healthcare

63. I don't remember any specifics about health care at Redheugh. I didn't get taken to the dentist. I maybe had some sniffles when I was there but nothing that sticks out. If anyone did need the doctor, they probably got taken in the minibus to see the local doctor.

Running away

64. There was one time I didn't go back to Redheugh from home leave, I didn't make it to the train in time. They classed that as absconding. There were two times when I didn't make the train that I slept at a mate's house and once I slept rough in the woods. I took from my house a little shelter that my dad had made for fishing and I stayed in that.
65. There were other times I didn't go back to Redheugh at the end of a home visit. One time my aunt saw me and she phoned the police who took me back. Another time my parents saw me back after I had gone for the train and they contacted the social worker who took me back. They just asked the basic question of why I didn't want to go back and I would just say I didn't want to go back. The only punishment was that I didn't get home leave the next weekend. Nowadays staff would be trained to look at this behaviour and ask more questions about why I was running away. I had become very isolated, even when other people were in the room.

Bed Wetting

66. I didn't suffer from bed wetting but the guy across from me did. Someone teased him about it and [REDACTED], one of the other kids in my room, cracked him in the mouth.

67. Some of the stuff would make a fuss if someone wet the bed, they would make the kid strip the bed and carry the sheets down to the laundry but it wasn't a walk of shame that I have heard happened in other places.

Discipline

68. They would stop you getting home leave if you mis-behaved. There were a couple of weekends I didn't get home leave. Once was when we had a day trip to Glasgow. A couple of the boys got caught shoplifting.

Abuse at Redheugh Adolescent Unit

69. My abuser, Stuart Burgess wasn't involved directly in looking after the boys in my section of Redheugh, he was based in the other boys' section. He would be involved with me in driving me in the minibus and things like that. It was about [REDACTED] that Stuart Burgess started sniffing about me. He would seek me out when we were out in the grounds. It started off at football. If I scored a goal, he would give me a wee cuddle.
70. A couple of boys told me to never go up and help Stuart Burgess clean the attic. They said that about another couple of members of staff. That's all they said to me. As a young naive boy I didn't know what that meant. I thought they meant it was hard work and you would get dirty. I understand that abuse did happen up there with Burgess but it didn't happen to me in the attic.
71. I was playing snooker at Redheugh. Stuart Burgess came into the room and some of the boys moved to the other end of the room. There were a couple of the kids at Redheugh who, when they were in the snooker room, would gravitate away from Stuart Burgess when he came in to the room. At the time I was being abused I was too immersed in myself to notice whether Burgess was abusing other boys.

72. He came over to me as I was playing snooker and said, "Try this shot." He was pressing into my back. He did it more than once and one time I realised that he had an erection. I pulled away from him. I didn't know how to react to him but I knew there was something not right. That happened another couple of times. I loved snooker but Stuart Burgess ruined it for me.
73. On another occasion I was in the laundry room. He came in and sat and talked to me. He was very good at getting your confidence. He bought me sweets and acted like he was interested in talking to me. He took my hand over to him and I pulled away. I said something like, "No, I like girls." There was another time he touched me and I got an erection. I have been told by counsellors since that that is a perfectly normal thing but that haunted me for a long time, it left me feeling very conflicted.
74. I couldn't say the abuse happened every single week because which days he was able to get to me depended on his shifts. It might happen two day in a row, then nothing for a week. He initially targeted me in the snooker room, then the laundry, then in the shed, and then he would ask me to meet him in the shed. He was abusing me regularly from [REDACTED] 1984 until [REDACTED] 1985 when the nights got longer. From [REDACTED] we were outdoors more of the time in a group so there was less chance for him to get me on my own.
75. It progressed to him exposing himself to me, then getting me to masturbate him. He would then finish himself to the point of ejaculation. Next he was abusing me in the workshop. He got me on my knees and made me perform oral sex on him. To begin with he would finish himself off but then one time he kept his penis in my mouth and ejaculated. I was adamant after that that he wouldn't do that again.
76. A couple of days later he was asking if I was going back up to the workshop again. He would say that he liked me, that I was special to him, that I must like it because I got an erection. He also said that no-one would believe me if I reported the abuse and that I would go to a place called Kerelaw or Geilesland. I had heard of them and I knew they were scary places. Psychologically, it was very confusing.

77. One time he was making me perform oral sex on him at the workshop and I pulled away. He slapped me and I nearly fell over. I went behind the bench and picked up scalpel which was for cutting the screen-print designs. I said something to the effect that if he came near me I would cut his throat. He went away.
78. I went to go and brush my teeth. The first thing I always did after I had to perform oral sex on him was to go and brush my teeth, to get a strong taste of toothpaste. Wee Joe passed as I was coming out of the toilet going back to the house from the shed. He saw the mark on my face where Stuart Burgess slapped me and said, "Have you been fighting again?" I blurted out, "Mr Burgess slapped me." Joe grabbed my hand, took me to the office, and sent one of the other boys to get Stuart Burgess.
79. Stuart Burgess came in to the office and Wee Joe had a moment. He said, "Did you fucking slap him? Don't you ever put your fucking hands on any of my boys." Burgess looked me in the eye and must have realised I hadn't told Wee Joe about the abuse. He came up with a cock and bull story that he had caught me in the laundry with one of his boy's clothing in the basket. I think he said I had taken someone else's socks. He said that he challenged me, that I had squared up to him, and that he pushed me away because he thought I was going to hit him. Wee Joe challenged him on that, saying that Burgess was six feet tall and I was just a skinny lad. I remember Joe was gritting his teeth and said again to Burgess not to put his hands on any of Joe's boys. I don't know if Joe just meant for Burgess not to hit us or if Joe knew something about what Stewart Burgess was like.
80. For a period after that incident I tried to insulate myself from Stuart Burgess. I would make sure there was always someone else with me in the snooker room. But Burgess was still on the periphery. I had finished school so I was just doing chores at Redheugh. One day I was outside sweeping up leaves. Stewart Burgess came along in his car, he slowed down and tried to makes small talk. I ignored him. That was the last time he spoke to me at Redheugh. He didn't bother me again. I think he had moved on to someone new, given what I now know of Burgess.

81. There was a boy called [REDACTED]. He had ginger hair and he was not right. He went to school in a secure unit. He tried to push me about once but I cracked him and he left me alone. I had learned to box when I was younger so I made sure everyone knew they weren't going to bully me. I was starting to fill out and I had a lot of energy to burn, I was never sitting still.

Reporting of abuse at Redheugh Adolescent Unit

82. I told Wee Joe about Stuart Burgess slapping me in the incident at the laundry, but I didn't report the sexual abuse. I'm pretty sure Wee Joe would have told [REDACTED] [REDACTED] about that because [REDACTED] was the senior member of staff for my unit. However, nobody came and spoke to me about that incident. Burgess came up with his story about why he had slapped me and that seems to have been believed. I didn't want to talk about the details of the abuse.

Leaving Redheugh Adolescent Unit

83. It got to the point when I was school leaving age and as the reason for me being in Redheugh was not going to school it was decided that I should go home. I was supposed to get dropped off at home by the staff from Redheugh but the minibus broke down on the way so they gave me money for bus fare and I got the bus home.
84. Redheugh has now been turned into flats. I have driven past it but I have not been into the building.

Life after being in care

85. I was back home but I had difficulty in settling in. I had a major issue with authority after Redheugh. I felt the guys I went to school with had turned their backs on me. Maybe their parents had told them to stay away from me because I had been in care,

I don't know. I got bitter and resentful. I got involved with some older guys who were a bit rough-and-ready. In 1986 I got remanded a couple of times in Young Offenders institutions and then I got a six month sentence.

86. I had a little motorbike that I got with money from selling my snooker table. I got stopped on my motorbike by the police. It turned out the bike was stolen and I had to pay the insurance company that had paid out in order to legally own it. One day I was working on my motorbike and Stuart Burgess walked up with a guy called [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had been in Redheugh at the same time as me. He stayed in Kirkintilloch, not far from me and he had come to my house before when we were both out on home leave from Redheugh. I don't know why Burgess was with [REDACTED] that day. He might have been taking him to a Children's panel or home leave.
87. Burgess asked how I was doing and what my plans were. I said I was waiting to see about a training course or an apprenticeship as a mechanic. He said that was good, that I should put my past behind me, get on, and think about my future. I don't know if it was a friendly visit, in some sort of sick way. I took it as psychological warfare. It totally threw me and I went into a meltdown. Burgess knew where I stayed and I thought the abuse was going to happen to me again. Two days after that I tried to take my own life.
88. When I was out of care I went on a few training courses and I got myself into a couple of scrapes. In [REDACTED] 1985 I had a week remand in Barlinnie prison. That was a wakeup call. When I came out, I still ran about with the same crowd. I wasn't into drink and drugs, I was just wild. In [REDACTED] 1986 I got a three week remand in Longriggend prison. In [REDACTED] 1986 I got sentenced to six months imprisonment in a Young Offenders Institution. I came out in [REDACTED] 1986 and from there I screwed the nut. I had a couple of landscaping jobs and then I worked in a factory. I got a flat with my girlfriend in 1992 and we got married in 1995.
89. I plodded on with life and then moved back to my home town of [REDACTED]. My dad had bought his council house but was moving into care so I bought the house from him. I started getting into security work and I now work as a security trainer. My

wife and I had two daughters. I have just been trying to get on with life and leave my demons behind. I have good days and bad days but you have got to get on with life.

Impact

90. In 2008, I came home from work one night and it was on the news that a care worker had been jailed for ten years for child abuse. It was Stuart Burgess. That hit me like a hammer, I didn't know that he was being prosecuted, no-one had come to speak to me, to investigate matters. Apparently there were complaints and internal investigations. He was suspended, then retired. Then the police got involved.
91. In 2018, I realised he would be out of jail. I know you don't do the whole of your sentence but I was helping my daughter to complete a form and had to write the date. I realised he would be out walking about thinking he had done his time, but he hasn't done time for what he did to me.
92. I have a photograph of myself which I call the photograph of innocence. It is the last picture of me taken before I went into care. I am sitting up a tree at Lake of Montieth, wearing a yellow Scotland goalkeeper's top and playing with a rubber snake. It is the last picture of HDT the innocent boy.
93. My time in care didn't really affect my relationship with my siblings because there wasn't much of a relationship to begin with. My brother wasn't interested in football so we didn't have much in common. When I came home for weekend leave and when I came home for good, my oldest sister would be out with her pals or some boyfriend. My younger sister [REDACTED] said to me recently that she always thought something had happened to me at Redheugh.
94. I was managing to deal with the abuse I suffered by burying it but maybe things happen for a reason. I know there will always be trigger points that make me think about the abuse. I think if I had got a reply from the Salvation Army at the start when I contacted them, I might not have gone to the police.

95. I have been diagnosed as suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I have often felt jealous of my wife and the close relationship she has with our daughters. I have never been able to get that close to my children, or anyone. The last time I hugged my daughters was in 2014 when my dad died.
96. The abuse I suffered has messed up my mind in all aspects of life. I have been offered a counsellor to speak to. I have spoken to people on the phone but I don't want to sit down and spill my guts because I would be worried about losing control. I don't have a problem dealing with physical pain but to talk about my emotional problems would be difficult. I realise it might help me in the long run, I might do it. My wife and my kids are my support.

Reporting of Abuse

97. I have reported the abuse I suffered at Redheugh to the police. I made a second report about the abuse at Cardross. I had intended to keep that buried but it was eating away at me like a cancer.
98. The police interviewed Stuart Burgess about my allegations but he just said, "No comment." I was angry about that.
99. The police told me that they didn't have enough evidence to charge Stuart Burgess, they had no corroboration. They told me they had spoken to [REDACTED] but he didn't make any allegations, even though the police suspected he had been abused. I phoned up the Procurator Fiscal's office to complain about them not taking action and they said they didn't know what I was talking about, that no decision had been reached.
100. I phoned the police back to say that I had been told this and the police officer paused and said he would phone me back. I realised I had been lied to by the police. The officer did phone me back and said there must have been crossed wires. He said a

report had been put to his senior officer who decided there wasn't enough evidence to put a report through to the Procurator Fiscal.

101. I got back in touch with the Procurator Fiscal's office and explained what had happened with the police. I told them the whole story of what happened to me in care. I argued that the matters Stuart Burgess has been convicted of were from the same time and location as the similar abuse I suffered. I have tried to argue that the earlier conviction should be used as corroboration for my allegations.
102. In terms of a letter from Crown Office dated 18 December 2019, a report was submitted to Senior Counsel to decide if they are going to take action. I have now been told that Burgess has been served with court papers as another witness has come forward to corroborate my complaint. I should know soon if they will be going ahead with a case against Stuart Burgess. I first reported this to the police in 2018 and it is still dragging on.

Records

103. After I made a report of abuse to the police an officer told me that they believed the records from Cardross should be in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. I need to get access to these records to confirm who was there at the time I was, and the names of the staff. I said to the police that Vale of Leven hospital must have archives of my visit for treatment but he said at the moment they have got nothing to prove I was at Cardross, let alone being admitted to hospital.
104. They are also still struggling to find details of my admission to Redheugh because the Salvation Army either burnt their records or they were destroyed in a flood. I have been able to show the police a copy of my supervision order saying that I was going into care so they know I am not making this up. I think the police are still trying to track down the staff who were my carers.

105. The police told me they would recover my records. In my work in security, I know a little bit about Freedom of Information Requests from people requesting CCTV footage. I could have made an application but the police got me to sign forms for them to chase up medical and social work records but they have now said that some of the Salvation Army records were destroyed, some unintentionally.
106. I suggested to the police that they speak to Wee Joe or KOO because they both still stay in the area. The police did speak to them but I don't know if they were forthcoming with any information. The thing that leaves me dumbfounded is the records from Vale of Leven hospital. I am being told there is no record of my visit there, even though I was physically checked over by a doctor. I was there on a Saturday or a Sunday in or , so the maximum they would have to check would be eight dates of records.
107. You would think Vale of Leven hospital's paper records would be stored away somewhere. The last time I spoke to the police officer helping me, he said that it was likely their records were stored in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow.
108. With Redheugh, at least I know I am just waiting on the Procurator Fiscal service deciding if they can prosecute based on the available evidence. I did look at Future Pathway's website but I have already signed the paperwork for the police to look for my records. I could ask my doctor for access to my medical records, to see if there is any record of my trip to Vale of Leven hospital mentioned. Surely at Redheugh they would have to record that they gave me painkillers and what they were for. I know I could do more to try and chase up my records, such as contacting Vale of Leven hospital myself, but it brings everything back to the forefront of my mind.

Lessons to be learned

109. When I was in care, people just had to apply to join the Salvation Army. I think care places attracted a lot of paedophiles because it would put them in authority over

children. There need to be checks about people who want to work with children to find out why they really want to do that work.

110. We know that if you want to work with vulnerable people you have to be vetted but I hope there is specific advice or training given out to care homes for staff to spot signs of problems and to spot signs of grooming. Stuart Burgess groomed me in order to abuse me. He would sometimes give me money, in addition to the pocket money I got. No-one ever asked where I had got this extra money from or what I had done to get it.
111. One of the things that makes me angry is how did he get away with it for nearly a year without anyone noticing? What checks did the Local Authority carry out? There were major failings. I think history will tell us that the training wasn't there.

Other information

112. 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..... 25/05/2021