

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IEX

Support person present: No

1. My name is IEX. My date of birth is 1970. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Blantyre. I lost my mum, when I was aged six and she died from a brain tumour. My mum had worked as a nurse in a local hospital. My dad was called and he worked at Ravenscraig steelworks. I have two older sisters. is two years older than me and my sister is four years older. After my mum died I lived with my dad and my sisters. My mum's sister lived in Blantyre and she had five sons so I had plenty of cousins in the area.
3. When I was seven my dad introduced us to the family he had from his first marriage. I didn't know he'd been married before and had four other children. Suddenly one of his daughters, called, came through and started taking over the mum role. She was about twenty years old. My oldest sister left us and went to stay with my auntie.
4. The next thing I knew we were put in a removal van and moved through to Edinburgh. That's where my dad's other family were from. didn't want to be travelling back and forward so my dad moved us through to Niddrie in Edinburgh, where she lived. Things went wrong from there. My dad's other kids from his first marriage lived in Muirhouse with his ex-wife. I didn't have any contact with them.

5. I went to Craigmillar primary school. I had a Glaswegian accent and I wasn't welcomed in school. You were either from the area or you weren't. At home, we hardly ever saw my dad. It was just this [REDACTED]. She was a half-sister, but the abuse we got from her was frightening, to me and my sister [REDACTED]. She would put you to bed and try to stop you from breathing, putting her fingers inside your mouth and gouging your cheeks. It was horrific. I was in the bath and she would come through and grab my testicles and squeeze them as hard as she could. She absolutely detested the fact that me and my sister were there.
6. My older sister [REDACTED] left and I was by myself. Things just got worse. [REDACTED] had witnessed it all and she got the same treatment. She must have been fifteen and I was thirteen when she left the house in Edinburgh. We were paralysed with fear. We couldn't do anything back to her, or my dad. You were getting pinned down on the bed by someone trying to smother you. [REDACTED] was in my life from when I was just seven and just powered over us all the time and you start to think everything is your fault.
7. I was going to school and being disruptive. To me it must have been like a cry for help, but I was seen as having something wrong with me. It just got worse, the gouging and there were a couple of times when I didn't think I wasn't going to get off the bed afterwards. She was on top of me with her hands and I couldn't breathe. It was horrible.
8. I remember once I tripped up playing football at school in primary seven. The knee in my trousers got ripped. The sewing teacher in the school sewed it up for me and I went home and [REDACTED] saw it. Instead of asking what happened, the next day she put me out in my sister's skirt. Again my dad took no action. He was so old-fashioned, he was ex-army and he wasn't the kind to go to for a hug or ask to come and play football. There was none of that. Anything she said it was the gospel truth. It was horrible. It wasn't a life. I didn't have any pals. I wasn't allowed to have anyone come up to the door for me.
9. I remember one night I took a hiding for nothing. I had to go to the shops. She'd given me a note for the shops and made me ask the shopkeeper to write the prices down of

everything that was on the list and the total. Then she'd bounce the tin of peas, or whatever it was, off my head because they were dearer than she expected.

10. There was one time I took a hiding and the inside of my mouth was so bad I couldn't eat my dinner. I had a wee crane as a toy and there was a wee hole at the end of it. I went into the bathroom and [REDACTED]. I was thirteen. I just didn't want to be there.
11. To be thirteen-and-a-half and sitting in a bath and I wasn't allowed to get washed myself because of [REDACTED] and the constant grabbing of my testicles and squeezing them as hard as she could. It didn't matter how many times I told my dad, I was made out to be a liar.
12. I had an auntie who tried to take me away so there must have been feelings in the family that something wasn't right. She spoke to my dad and said it was evident that me and [REDACTED] didn't get on. But [REDACTED] got rid of my mum's family and pulled my dad back to her family. The auntie, [REDACTED], was my dad's brother's wife. My uncle [REDACTED] was a councillor and I had two cousins, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and I always got on well with them. My auntie knew there was something wrong. She wanted me to go and stay with her family for a few weeks to see if I was the idiot I was being portrayed as and a troublemaker who couldn't even go to the shops.
13. One morning [REDACTED] kicked off before I went to school and she'd gouged the inside of my mouth. At this time I was coming up to fourteen so [REDACTED] would be aged about twenty-seven. I'd kicked the phone table that was in the hall and my dad wanted to know what was going on. It didn't matter what I said, he only believed her. I got a hammering before I went to school. When I got to school, I'd missed registration, and walked into maths. I blew up. The desk went over and the chair went over. The form teacher, Tony McGlynn, came and got me and got my sister [REDACTED] and asked what was going on. He wanted to get the police involved because of the marks on the insides of my cheeks.

14. I ended up going to the social work and they sat with me to take a statement. Another man came through, I don't know who he was, saying he was going to sort things out for me and I wasn't going back that night. Then they put me in a car and took me to my dad's. As soon as I chapped the door to get in I stood back because I could see my dad coming towards the door. The social workers were coming up behind me. My dad made a go for me, hell for leather, in the stairwell. That was basically the end of it.
15. I was told to go into my bedroom and grab as much as I could. The social workers were telling my dad they were going to get the police if he didn't calm down. My dad was telling them he was going to kill me if he ever saw me again. They hadn't even explained why they were there. That was the beginning of my life in care. To see my dad acting like that, anything could have happened. It was just the aggression coming.
16. The social workers took me to Calder Grove children's home. When I went in I had an emergency social worker called Anne Yentsen. She was my initial social worker and she told me that would last for five to six weeks. As far as she was concerned she wanted the issues to go further with the police, but I never heard anything. Nothing was said and nothing was ever done. According to my family in Edinburgh, it was all my fault and at that time I believed that.

Calder Grove children's home, Edinburgh

17. I think I was there for nine or ten weeks. They said initially I would be there for a shorter time, but because the relationship with my dad was broken I had nowhere else to go.

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later



Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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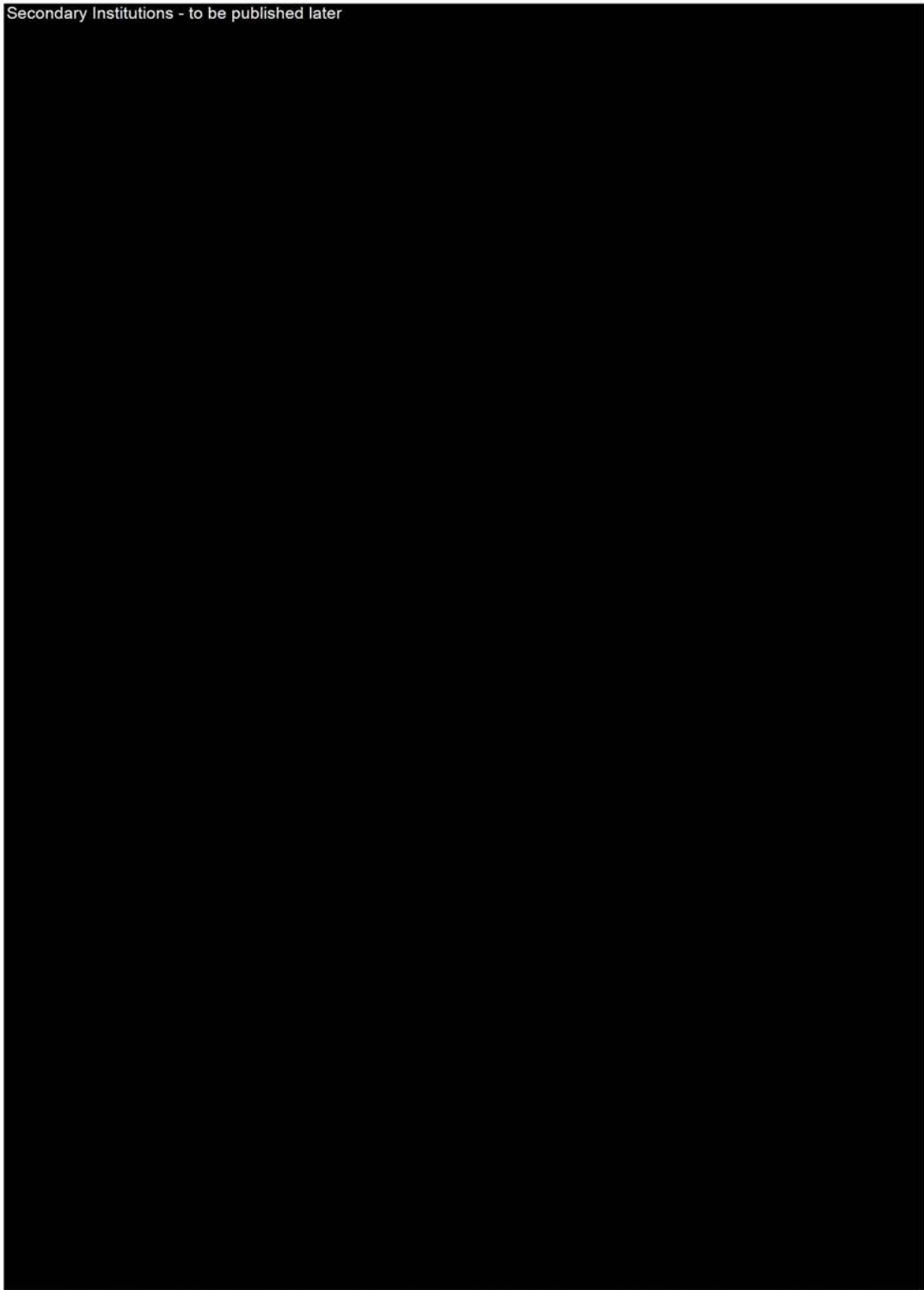
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Howdenhall Assessment Unit, Edinburgh

78. The first time I went into Howdenhall there was a locked unit and you couldn't go in and out without being escorted by staff. Inside that there was a small unit that the courts would remand someone to and that was called Braid. Anyone going to Braid would have come in handcuffs with three police officers and they'd have been taken up the stairs.
79. We were different on our unit and the staff would maybe escort us down to the local petrol station if you were going down there to get a bottle of juice or cigarettes out of your own money. We could go out with staff, but Braid weren't allowed out anyway. They had different staff and they didn't interchange with our staff at all.
80. I think the guy in charge was called Doran. I didn't have much to do with him. There were four or five senior officers and there were just normal officers. Mr **IEV** was a senior officer and Mr McGarry was one of the senior officers. Mr **zGFG** was the teacher

and there was Mr Mackenzie who did the physical training for the locked unit, but he would come down to do weight training and boxing with us.

81. There was one member of staff who taught us how to roll a joint, upstairs in the back room. He brought it into the home. It only happened if he was on at weekends when there weren't many staff around. He was called **HYY**. At the time he seemed like the coolest guy on the planet. He'd sit and chat about stuff that nobody else would chat about. Then he would let us out to the side of St Katharines children's home next door and smoke the joints there. A couple of the staff had to have known what we were doing and they didn't have anything to do with it, but **HYY** was the one who showed us how to do it. At the time he was maybe in his early forties with black hair. He was a wee guy who always wore jumpers and shirts. He was a heavy smoker.
82. There was another staff member called Alan Haines who was a British wrestling champion. Mr Haines was such a nice guy. He didn't see me as the boy who'd done wrong. That guy stopped me from hanging myself. He must have seen that they were trying to break me. He introduced me to cds and took me away from Howdenhall on a one-to-one many times and spent the whole day with me. He would tell me I wasn't going off my head and he knew what they were like.
83. Mr Haines looked like the guy who was on tv who had Nookie the Bear and he had curly hair and a thick moustache. He saw what the other staff were like with me, and other staff saw it too, but he would stand back and he didn't interfere. He'd tell me to stay away from them and go to see the teacher, Mr **zGFG**, in his room instead and stay out of the way. How could I stay out of the way when I was the one in 'the cage' and **GQB** was the zookeeper. Anywhere I was, he got me.
84. There were some kids in Howdenhall as young as ten and some up to sixteen and seventeen. In the locked unit upstairs there were a couple of sixteen year olds when I was in. There were some younger laddies too.
85. I don't know how they got them in, but some of them had travel sickness pills and I don't know if it was somebody who was going out for the weekend and came back in

on the Sunday night with these pills. There were umpteen times there was travel sickness pills going about and there were people hallucinating with them.

Routine at Howdenhall

First day

86. I didn't have much time to think about moving from Calder Grove to Howdenhall. As soon as I landed in Howdenhall I was dumped there and I knew nothing about the place. I'd never heard anything about it. I didn't know it was a locked unit at the time. The door buzzed locked at the back of me and I couldn't open it. Everywhere there was glass with the metal running through it.
87. The staff were all walking about with keys on big chains. They had to be called 'sir' and 'Mr'. I'd never been in a regime and that was what it was, a regime. It was the opposite of what I'd just come from. No-one sat down with me to explain how things were going to be in there and what the rules and regulations there were. No-body explained what the unit was, what it was for and no-one told me they were my key worker and I was to go to them with any problems. Nobody told me how long I was going to be there or if I was going back to Calder Grove. There was nothing.
88. I got put in a bedroom and as I walked in I could hear someone, an older guy, walking along behind me saying 'here's another fucking asshole, what's he in for?'. Someone else, further down the corridor shouted 'he's the one from Calder Grove'. 'We'll fucking sort him then'.
89. The next minute the second staff member came in and shut the door, pinned me to the bed, sat down and took my hand and squeezed it as hard as he could and introduced himself as GQB [REDACTED]. I don't know what his first name was. The other, older, member of staff was called Mr IEV [REDACTED]. From that moment there were two men who set out to humiliate and belittle anything I did. I watched them do it to other people.

90. GQB was a vindictive man. GQB was taller than me and was maybe 5'10" or 5'11" with sandy brown hair and always had growth and a bit freckly. He was probably aged thirty. I don't know where he was from. IEV was like a senior officer. He was in his fifties and was definitely ex-army from the way he conducted himself. He was a horrible wee man. I don't know his first name, we always had to call him Mr IEV.
91. They automatically assumed we were baddies because of why we were in care. I was seen as a hothead for the same reason. To me now, as an adult, the staff were there to stamp out that behaviour.
92. There was a Mr Mackenzie in the locked unit upstairs called Braid for people on remand for criminal offences. He used to take them for physical exercise. He came up to me and told me to stay away from GQB.

Mornings and bedtime

93. There were set times for getting up and set times for going to bed. Every day was the same. You were up at quarter to seven and down the stairs for half past seven. Dinner would have been twelve o'clock and your tea at five o'clock. At night you would have got something from the night staff. Maybe a cup of tea and especially at the weekends. Some of the night staff at weekends would bring in something to give you. One of the weekend staff lived right across from Howdenhall. She was lovely and she had laddies of her own. She'd tell me the same, 'stay away from them'.
94. I had my own room. There were two corridors with the bedrooms off them. Then another corridor for the girls. There were probably forty rooms in the laddies' section and half that for the girls. We saw the girls at breaktime. We weren't allowed anywhere near the lasses side after six o'clock. They couldn't come over to ours.
95. Once a month Oxfangs Community Centre would send their weans over and we'd have something similar to a disco. They'd stand on one side of the room and we'd stand on the other. Then two hours later they'd be away on the minibus. Then the next month they'd take maybe eight over to the community centre for the same thing.

Bed wetting

96. [Redacted: Secondary Institutions - to be published later]. I went for long periods with no problems. I was maturing and getting a bit more control. If it happened in Howdenhall everybody got to know about it and everybody else could use it against you. There was no privacy in there at all.

Mealtimes / Food

97. On the first morning when I went down and there was just table after table after table of people, all sitting and nobody moving until Mr [Redacted: IEV] said 'begin'. Then everybody started eating their breakfast. The staff were all standing behind [Redacted: IEV]. There were two or three different cereals to eat and ten minutes later it was finished. No regard was given to someone like me who was five minutes behind everyone else. By the time I'd sat down [Redacted: IEV] was telling people that was it and breakfast was over. I never got anything. Then the tables were getting cleared. It was so regimented. [Redacted: Sec

[Redacted: Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

Clothing / uniform

98. We were all dressed the same. We were given vests with Howdenhall assessment unit written on the back. We all wore jeans and t-shirts and looked the same.

School

99. They had a school that was [Redacted] someone called Mr [Redacted: zGFG]. He was a big, tall man with sideburns and he was a teacher, so when you were in his class he was talking to you as a teacher and he was trying to educate you. He was on about maths and I didn't have a clue what he was talking about because I hadn't been to school for so long. He assumed I'd done maths at school and I had some knowledge. He removed me from the class because the people who were in the class were ahead of me.

100. Then they tried to put me in the class with youngsters. They were called 'Wombles' in there. They were ten and eleven years old and I wasn't going to sit in a class with them. When I said I didn't want to go in there, he just said 'Aye, ok'. Then I was made to go and clean.

Religion

101. We didn't go to church. The staff didn't ask anyone if they went to church.

Work/chores

102. If you weren't in school you had to go and do cleaning. You had to do something as they didn't allow you to just sit about and do nothing. They also used doing chores as punishment.

Trips / Holidays

103. There was man on staff called Bill Scott. He was really nice to us. He wanted to take us out to see the ice hockey and we went to see Rocky 3 or Rocky 4 at the pictures. He lived just off [REDACTED] and was a Hibs supporter. He took us in the minibus that belonged to the home.
104. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] took us on a trip with a woman whose name I can't remember, but she used to be a police officer. The three of them took a crowd of us, maybe nine or ten, to either the Pentlands or the Moorfoot Hills. [REDACTED] was telling everyone to run up this big hill. We set off and ran up it and came back down. Then him and [REDACTED] made me and two of the others jump from one bank to another over a river. When you looked at it, it looked only six feet across, but when you jumped it, it was more like six metres.
105. We were telling him there was no way to jump over the river, but he was shouting 'get fucking over it, get over it'. I was the first one to go and I ended up in the water and

went right under. The other laddies were not going to do it then. I was ridiculed and left in the back of the van, soaking wet and freezing cold. It was another humiliation attempt. They must have known and they must have done it before. That was the only other time that I got out. The woman who was there with us stayed by the van

Leisure time

106. We got physical education and to me that would have been leisure. We got to use weights and punch bags and things like that. There was a big room that everybody could go into to sit and there was a wee room that was a tv room. The wee tv room had a record player in it.
107. I smoked in those days. In Howdenhall you were only allowed five cigarettes a day at set times. You could go into the smoke room with staff and they kept your cigarettes with your name on.

Personal possessions

108. I didn't have personal possessions.

Birthdays and Christmas

109. I had my fourteenth birthday in Howdenhall. There was nothing to acknowledge my birthday. I never saw anybody have a birthday celebration. It might have been different for the ones who left to go home at weekends. I wasn't there at Christmas.

Visits / Inspections

110. I saw loads of people in Howdenhall getting visitors and when folk went home at the weekend I was one of the few staying in the home. There was no structure to what we did at the weekend.

111. I must have been in Howdenhall for five or six weeks before I got a phone call from my social worker Rona. In the phone call she asked how I was doing and said she was disappointed to hear the reasons for me being placed in Howdenhall. I asked her why I'd been put in there and she said I'd been wrecking the home. There was no point in arguing. The adults were talking to other adults and straight away they were agreeing.
112. Then it must have been another five or six weeks before she came to see me. She came again later to chat about me moving. They were trying to get me to go to Northfield, but my dad had an ice cream van and that would run in Northfield and Mountcastle. I told them I didn't want to go to Northfield for that reason, I was seen as being trouble. It took her a while longer to come up with Red House children's home in Musselburgh for me to move to.
113. She said she'd have to go and speak to my dad because I wasn't in Calder Grove and she had to keep him updated. Then she told me she'd spoken to my dad and he wasn't interested and I felt even worse. When I asked her how long I was going to be in there for she couldn't answer it. I don't know who made those decisions and I still don't know who made those decisions.
114. On the first occasion I was in Howdenhall, no-one on the staff spoke to me about how long I was going to be in for or what the plan was for me.

Healthcare

115. I can't remember any healthcare at Howdenhall. I never visited a dentist the whole time I was there in any of the homes. When I lived at my dad's I was at the dentist every six months.

Running away

116. It was impossible to run away from the assessment unit in Howdenhall. We were in a locked unit.

Discipline

117. My arm would be put up my back and my thumb was held in a certain way. That was the standard in there. They'd pinball you against the walls as you were going down the corridor. The favourite thing for GQB was to have your arm up your back and pull your thumb back as hard as he could and then trip you up and then land on top of you. You were winded straight away and you weren't throwing any punches or kicks at him. That was their 'go-to' method.
118. The other staff, Alan Haines and Peter Mukar and one of the other senior officers Mr McGarry, were completely different because they spoke to you and brought the situation straight down. But GQB and IEV didn't have that in their armoury, they just thought they could only control people physically.
119. There was a cell up the stairs. It was one of the bedrooms and next to the night staff's. It was just a grey cell and that was GQB's punching box. That's where he would throw you in and slap you about if you'd humiliated him in anyway or spoke back to him. He'd frogmarch you up the stairs to it and tell everybody you were going to your bed. He'd throw you in and slap you about and then leave you alone in there for five minutes sobbing. Then tell you to stand up, get a hold of yourself and go back down the stairs.

Abuse at Howdenhall Assessment Unit

120. At breakfast there was humiliation. There was a lassie who was deaf and dumb sitting in front of me in the common room. Nobody was trying to talk to her. The door was behind her and there were big plastic chairs. I got a piece of paper and a pencil and wrote 'what's your name?'. I'm sure her name was or . I told her my name. She was trying to teach me in sign language what my name was. Then I heard somebody shouting my name. I looked down the hall and couldn't see anyone and I continued talking with the lassie. She was showing me on her hands how to do an 'R'.

121. The next minute I got pulled by my collar and the door opened and I got thrown out against the wall. He said 'when I shout your fuckin' name, you answer'. I turned round and it was GQB saying this to me. The older guy IEV was there too. My heart was in my mouth and I said 'I'm sorry'. He told me 'you're goin' to be sorry'. He sent me into the canteen area. He tried to tell me I was being cheeky to that lassie. I explained she was showing me how to sign letters. He was trying to make out I was doing something wrong. I said something back to him.
122. There was a guy with a beard, I think his name was Doran and he ran the unit. He walked past with a man called McGarry. To be fair to McGarry he tried to be like a wedge between us. Anytime GQB was on the unit McGarry always tried to pull me and a couple of other boys away to keep us out of the way.
123. One time I answered GQB back, at breakfast. It was always the two of them, IEV and GQB, and he just looked at IEV and some people sniggered because I answered back. One of the boys sitting across from me answered back. IEV was like a regimental sergeant major and he said 'we'll sort these arseholes, don't you worry about that, Mr GQB' and walked away.
124. Next day we'd forgot all about it and then suddenly we get to go for a shower. I was standing with this other boy and the showers were on and the water was freezing cold and we were standing there naked. IEV was standing there and saying 'get in the fuckin' showers'. We told him we weren't because they were freezing. The next minute the door opened and GQB was standing there. He handed me a tube of toothpaste and he instructed me to put it on my penis. Of course, it nipped. He made the other boy do the same thing.
125. This was to teach us a lesson for being mouthy the day before. Then they were telling us to get in the showers and the showers were freezing. They made us go in them. GQB had disappeared and IEV was standing there saying 'the pair of you think you're fuckin' hard men, I'll show you what a hard man is'. He kept going on like that and constantly driving it in.

126. There was a staff member called Peter Mukar, a big, tall guy, very quiet in his demeanour. He used to tell us to call him Peter, but not in front of other staff. He played for a team called [REDACTED] in Edinburgh. He knew I loved football. He asked me if I wanted a chance to get out. He said he'd take me out to play football with his team as they were short of players. I was elated. He told me to go and get a pair of football boots. At Howdenhall assessment centre at the time I was only ever allowed to play in the courtyard that was all walled. You couldn't get out to play and you just kicked the ball against the wall. There was a football pitch outside but we weren't allowed out there. The only boots they had at the assessment centre were a size nine, and I was size eleven, and they were pink.
127. I walked into the changing rooms at this place, I think was in Liberton, and my heart sank when I saw [REDACTED] was sitting there in a tangerine and black top. He turned round to Mr Mukar and said 'what the fuck is he here for?'. Immediately everyone else looked at me with suspicion. Mr Mukar just told me to put the strip on and I went out on the pitch. We were getting hammered, the other team was full of men, and I got two punches in the mouth from the man opposite me. I was fourteen-and-a-half.
128. I took a shot at goal and didn't have the power I needed. [REDACTED] came running right over and banged me with his elbow and cleaned me, saying 'you should have passed it'. I was lying on the deck with my mouth burst and even some of the other players in the game were saying 'he's only a boy, he wants to play a man's game'. I didn't want to go back there. If I'd had normal clothes on I would have just run away and kept running. I went from the high of being taken out to play football to sitting on the ground and it was horrific.

Leaving Howdenhall Assessment Unit

129. I was in Howdenhall I think for seven or eight months. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

130. There was talk about me going to Northfield and then I was going to Red House in Musselburgh. I didn't even get to go for a visit. I was just told to get my stuff and get in the back of the car. It must have been summer when I was in Red House.

Red House children's home, Musselburgh

First day

131. We pulled up outside it in the car and I thought it was lovely. It was on the banks of the River Esk. The staff were all women, apart from Mr EWC and Mrs EWD who . Mr EWC would have been in his fifties. When I went in there was six to eight other boys and two lasses. When I first went in I thought this was a great move.
132. There were lasses there who were staff members. There were also two boys and they were going from there to the RAF. One was going as a military policeman and the other one had joined the RAF. They were two brothers. They got to have their meals beside the staff. They had their own bedrooms. I had to share mine. We were always held up against them and what they'd achieved.

Mornings and bedtime

133. I shared a bedroom at Red House. There wasn't much of a routine for me as I wasn't attached to a school and neither were any of the other boys. Breakfast was between eight and nine in the morning. There wasn't a set routine of having to be there for 8am.
134. At night there was no real curfew. As long as you were in for half-eleven nobody would say anything.

Mealtimes / Food

135. At lunchtime, sandwiches were left on the kitchen table and the staff had their dinner through there. The kids ate at the table together. The staff got better food like chops and mince and we'd get things like stuffed marrow with bacon that nobody really liked and vegetable soup. We never seemed to get what the staff got. If we didn't eat the food there was no comeback from that, we'd just go hungry.

Washing / bathing

136. The boys showers weren't in cubicles, they were open. The night we came back drunk they stripped us and there was a just a bank of showers that were freezing cold and we were pushed under them to sober up. You could go in at your leisure but it was like a long corridor with loads of shower heads coming out. There was no privacy. The water temperature wasn't the best and was always cool. There was no bath. There was always someone standing outside the shower room but I think that was to make sure you turned them off. You had to buy your own toiletries.

Clothing / uniform

137. If you needed any new clothes you had to go through the staff for them to get in contact with your social worker to get a clothing grant. They didn't give it to you at the home. It was the same with pocket money, you could only have what your social worker could get you.

School

138. I didn't go to school when I was at Red House. There was no form of teaching within the home. During the day I spent my time running away from the police. There was nothing to do. There was a bar up the road with a space invader game on the outside of the door and you could put fifty pence in it and stand there for two hours. The social work would have known I wasn't getting any schooling.

Leisure time

139. They had a big games room and there was a pool table and a juke box-type thing in the corner. We were never allowed to put the juke box on as it was too loud.

Birthdays and Christmas

140. I would have been at Red House for my birthday. I got fifteen pounds and a card from my social worker, Rona. I'd told her I needed trainers so she felt sorry for me. Then I got a forty pound clothing grant.

Visits / Inspections

141. The social worker didn't come to see me to ask how I was getting on other than me telling her what was going on outside the home. I didn't get any visitors and there were no inspections of the home that I was aware of.

Healthcare

142. I just got the basic check-up that you got before you went into a placement. It was the same place as before in Sighthill.

Running away

143. I ran away and went through to Blantyre. I went on the bus and found my auntie's house by chapping doors and got a holiday from the home. Up until I was seven my best pal was [REDACTED] and we grew up together. My mum and his mum were best pals. I met up with him and his family and they told me to go back to Red House. They made contact with the social work department and told them they had no problem with me coming through there at weekends to give me something to do.

144. They let me go there on the bus and I spent Friday night and Saturday night there. I got the Sunday bus back. Then the next weekend I got the bus there and I was standing there waiting for the bus from Blantyre back to Red House and it went right passed me. It was at the underpass that separates high Blantyre from low Blantyre. [REDACTED]'s dad phoned Motherwell bus station to say the bus had just driven passed a young boy who was in care. They sent an inspector out in his car. He then took me through to Musselburgh.
145. It meant I got back late. The staff got on the phone to the police to say I was missing. When I arrived at Red House in the inspector's car he pulled up outside and gave me a pound. I got out and he drove back to Motherwell. I walked in the door and there was the policeman known as [REDACTED] wanting to know where I'd been and what I'd been doing. I've given further details about him later on in this statement. That was my welcoming committee. It wasn't until the next day that what had happened was all sorted out.

Discipline

146. There wasn't much by way of discipline. I would say the cook was the sternest. You weren't allowed in her kitchen at all and she'd chase you away. There were no real rules, no shouting and no bawling. But as soon as you got on the wrong side that was it, there was no coming back.

Abuse at Red House children's home

147. There was a laddie in there called [REDACTED]. We went down to Musselburgh racecourse. I'd never been there before. We went for a wander. [REDACTED] had a few of cans of beer. I'd never tasted beer before and I drank maybe four cans of beer. I was drunk and pie-eyed. I went back to the children's home and as I walked in the door Mr [REDACTED] was there and wanted to know if I'd been drinking. Somebody had phoned him to say a couple of his laddies were at the racecourse and drinking.

148. They, Mr EWC, his wife and one of the lassies, stripped me naked, there and then and put me in a freezing cold shower with [REDACTED]. This was to sober us up. The next day my stomach hurt like it had been cut with a razor blade because I'd never drunk alcohol in my life. For dinner they were having stuffed marrow with bacon. I told them that if I put that into my sore stomach it was going to come straight back again. The staff weren't sympathetic. They said 'since you've been here, you've bucked the rules and pushed back'. There was no big issue made of it so I went away to my bed.
149. The next day walking down the high street a police car came up beside me with one policeman inside it. He asked me if my name was IEX. I told him it was and he then asked if I was from Red House. He then told me to get in the back of the car. I got in and he reversed back to the police station, got me out of the car, walked me through the front door, opened up a cell took me in and kicked the shit out of me. Other policemen came in and opened the door, wanting to know what the hell was going on and telling him to get off me. He was the boyfriend of one of the staff. I was seen as the troublemaker. The staff weren't going to take me home so she just told her boyfriend who happened to be a local bobby. How else would he know me and my name? We hadn't caused any damage. He didn't even tell me who he was.
150. Afterwards [REDACTED] told me the policeman's name was 'IEW [REDACTED]'. Either his first name was IEW or his surname was IEW. When I went in the home and spoke to the staff I got worked up. There was an argument and one of the young women just stood and laughed at me because I'd crossed a line and that was what was going to happen. The relationship there was rubbish.
151. Again I was walking about thinking I was the bad guy and this was being held against the two guys in the home who went away to the RAF. Then there was [REDACTED] from a broken home and covered in tattoos. The locals didn't speak to us because we were 'scum' from the children's home and now the staff were getting their boyfriends to knock your face in in the local police station. Anytime I went out he chased me for no reason. Even if I was just going out for a walk along the beach.

152. There were two lassies, in their early twenties, who worked in the home and one of them was [IEW] [REDACTED]'s girlfriend, I don't know which one and I don't know their names. His police car would be parked outside the home when he was seeing his girlfriend. If they wanted to discipline me for anything the female staff would phone up their boyfriend, [IEW] [REDACTED].
153. I could still point out the cell in the police station in Musselburgh where he took me and I'd never been in that station before or after. The police officer was in his twenties with black hair and very aggressive. When he took me into the cell he mentioned the lassies in the home and I knew there was a connection between them and it meant he had power over me.

Leaving Red House children's home

154. I asked Rona to get me moved. I told her about the policeman. I told her he was called [IEW] [REDACTED]. Northfield was the only option as a home, but she wanted me to go to foster carers in Bilston. She didn't disagree with anything I said to her, but she wasn't shocked either. She said the staff at Red House saw me as a bit of a thorn in their side. I was in Red House maybe three months in total.

Foster care with [IET-SPO] [REDACTED], Bilston, Midlothian

155. [IET-SPO] [REDACTED] had a house that was semi near [REDACTED] [REDACTED] just before you get into Penicuik. I can't remember their address. The foster carers were in their late thirties at the time.
156. When I got offered a placement with foster carers I just said yes. I was going into somebody's home where they already had three kids and I didn't realise it was going to be a shock for me. It was a shock for them to take a teenage boy in their home in the circumstances.

157. I told them about the policeman [IEW] in Musselburgh and they didn't disbelieve me. When I told [REDACTED] she told me I should have spoken to his sergeant. I told her he pulled me in during the day and there was nobody to tell him off for it.
158. It worked to start off with and then they put me up to Beeslacks school and I was sitting in a math's class. I hadn't seen a math's book in nearly two years. The teacher kept going on and on and I was sitting in the class having a panic attack and knew I needed to get out of the class. I told the headmaster he should put me back a year but he wouldn't listen.
159. When I went back to the house and explained to the carer I was just seen as pushing back again. I didn't want to go to school. The school issue became massive. I would have been better off being put in basic arithmetic. The foster carer called [IET] came home from his work because I said I couldn't go back to the school unless they put me back a year.
160. Then the social worker was sitting in the living room and me and [IET] started arguing and he hit me in front of the social worker. Me and him started rolling about. When [IET] smacked me I was arguing with him and the frustration got to him. Nobody would sit and think maybe I was right and if they put me back a year in school I might get a fighting chance. I got up and walked out with one shoe on and one shoe off and started walking home.

Leaving foster care

161. I was with the [IET-SPO] maybe three months. I was walking towards Red House and I was left to it. About two and a half hours later a police car pulled up beside me and they knew my name and told me to get in the car and they'd give me a lift. They took me to Red House in Musselburgh. I went back there for a couple of weeks. Red House was closing and they'd kept my bed open because they didn't think that the foster care thing was right for me because I was a young buck who was just going to push back all the time.

162. After Red House closed I was bounced back to Howdenhall in Edinburgh

Howdenhall open unit, Edinburgh

163. They still had the locked unit up the stairs. They still had Braid, but the home had lost its assessment centre so the doors were open. There was different staffing as well, there was some younger ones who wanted to be social workers and were getting some experience. Some of them were alright.

164. I knew what the place was and I was glad to have got away from the places where I'd been that had been a complete failure. I had hopes and aspirations for Red House when I first saw it and the location. I had a lot of disappointment and went back to something that I knew and although they'd dragged me in kicking and screaming because I didn't want to meet [IEV] and [GQB]. Instead the door was opened and that was hard to believe.

165. That man Doran was standing there and he said to me 'Well [IEX] you're back and you'll see a couple of changes. We're no longer a locked unit. We're an open unit. If you want to run, you run. That's your choice'. I suppose they tried to treat us as human beings.

166. I don't know where [IEV] was, I never saw him. If I saw [GQB] he'd just sneer as he walked past. They'd put him upstairs in the locked unit so he had nothing to do with us and the atmosphere was completely different.

School/education

167. In the school bit I didn't see the teacher, Mr [zGFG], when I was back. Some of the weans were going round to Gracemount high school instead.

168. When I was in Howdenhall I applied to study at Telford College as they were offering CITB registered courses. I didn't have the basic maths and English just to get on the course. It was my social worker who told me I couldn't get on the course and why. I had hardly any contact with my social worker. She would only phone to tell me about moves.

Leisure

169. The regime was different. They let you go outside jogging. I was outside running. One of the staff wanted to take me to the Kirkcudbright half-marathon. That's where he lived. The regime was so much more relaxed. It was far better the second time.

Key worker

170. My key worker in Howdenhall was Peter Mukar. A nice fellow. The remit of the key worker was to say to you 'what d'you want to do today'? There was no school and no college. There was nothing to do, so it was like what do you want to do?. I'd just go into the music room. If I needed anything they were the point of contact, but they weren't phoning round schools trying to get me in there or trying to find me an apprenticeship. They were called a key worker, but he was basically the person I went to to ask to him to call my social worker.

Visits

171. People got visits. The second time I was in there it was an open unit and I saw them going out with their families. There was maybe thirty people going out with their family and six of us left in the home and I was always one of those six.
172. For the first six or eight weekends I went through to Blantyre to see my friend [REDACTED] so I wasn't in Howdenhall at weekend. But then his parents were having problems and I wasn't able to stay with them at weekends any more so I'd be in Howdenhall.
173. There were no inspectors coming in that I was aware of.

Christmas

174. One Christmas I was the only one left in there apart from four members of staff.

Running away

175. When I was fifteen a crowd of us ran away from there. Again out of boredom. We got up to Aberdeen and one guy got across to France. He was called [REDACTED]. The payback for that was he got put in a List D place up in Aberdeen called Oakbank. I did a runner and got caught and Mr Doran put me in a white t-shirt the back of it had HAU stamped on it which meant Howdenhall Assessment Unit and a pair of shorts and a pair of sandals. He said if you want to run, you'll run in them.
176. The staff member who came up to collect us collected us from a children's home and put us in the back of the car. That staff member had something to do with deep sea diving. I can't remember what he was called. He was a heavy set guy with curly hair who was in his forties at the time. He butted me in the back of the car and slapped one of the other laddies. There were two lassies as well.
177. When we got to the train station, I refused to go on the train with them, I didn't trust them. So he slapped my face and there were two police officers there and one of them came over and asked what he was doing. He turned round and said 'this little fucker's run away from the assessment centre in Edinburgh and I had to come up here to collect them'. The policeman was quite happy and walked away.

Abuse at Howdenhall

178. There was one man on staff and I can't remember his name. There was an argument in the smoking room and he'd told me that one of the guys was in Howdenhall for a sexual offence. He told me to 'do the right thing'. He meant set about him. I started an argument with him and the laddie was very gifted at arguing. It ended up getting

physical between me and him. The two of us ended up going to the hospital. I had a broken foot and he had a broken nose. I told him the truth and this was what happened when you're a beast. It turned out he wasn't in Howdenhall for any sexual offence.

179. The staff member, I don't know his name, he used to be a deep sea diver, who instigated the fight just didn't like the boy. He used an excuse to get me to go and attack him. I went away and did the stupid thing. I broke a couple of bones in my foot and my big toe. He had a broken nose, all because this member of staff didn't like him and told me.
180. There was a female member of staff, I can't remember her name, who was seeing one of the laddies from the home. There was a rumour. She was from South Gyle and he had ginger hair. He was a year older than me and must have been sixteen. She was in her thirties. We met them at the west end and the two of them were hand in hand walking along. I think he'd left care by then.

Leaving Howdenhall

181. I got a phone call from my social worker Rona Lees saying there was a place available at Northfield. I wasn't willing to go for the same reasons as before. Then a couple of weeks later she phoned back and said there was a chance to go up to either Moredun or Southhouse in Edinburgh.
182. I didn't want to go to Moredun because I knew a couple of boys who were there, so I went to Southhouse for a visit. Then I went there for a weekend and then I went there permanently. They wanted me to move into an adolescent unit because of my age.
183. I was at Howdenhall the second time about three or four months. Most of the people I knew from before weren't there. There was only a couple left. It was more of a children's home then and it wasn't like the assessment centre had been.

Southhouse, Edinburgh

184.	Secondary Institutions - to be published later
185.	
186.	
187.	
188.	

Leaving Southhouse

189. I had my sixteenth birthday in Southhouse and my social worker, Rona, came up on my birthday and told me that legally I could leave care, so I did. I went out and I lasted for two weeks. I came back and Jean let me come back for a couple of weeks to let me sort myself out with accommodation. Then I left permanently. I never heard from my social worker or anyone else again.

Life after being in care

190. In those days there was no support packages, you were just out of the door. From Southhouse I ended up in a bedsit in Edinburgh and stayed there maybe six to eight weeks. Then moved to Leith and another bedsit. I was signing on and not working. Another six to eight months passed and I was still signing on and staying in bedsits. It wasn't working. There was a culture of bedsit-land and spending time in custody. I decided to break away from the individuals I'd been in care with and I was spending time with.
191. I moved up to Dundee and my sister was staying there too. I got a job in a [REDACTED] factory and two years later I was running half of the production. I was enjoying it. I moved to another company in Dalgety Bay and a factory to run myself. I enjoyed it and unfortunately the travel up and down to Dundee was too much and I couldn't find anywhere to live near the factory. I left and had to find another job in Dundee and was responsible for a plant where I was working every day and all day.
192. I took on a lot of students from Dundee University for weekend shifts. My now-wife was one of the students. She was over from Northern Ireland studying at Dundee University. Then her granny took a stroke in Northern Ireland and I gave up my career and my wife finished her studies so she could go home to look after her granny.
193. We now have two children aged six and eight. I was working as a production manager in Northern Ireland and then took a DVT in my leg. It got treated and then I took another

two DVTs and then several blood clots in my lungs. I had to give up work through ill health. The doctors say it was probably down to smoking. It's made life hard financially, but at the same time I get to spend time looking after the children.

Impact

194. I was at times a very confused and at times angry young laddie. The care system gave me a bed but it also meant I got slapped a few times and my hand was put up my back and I was humiliated. But it stopped someone from gouging the inside of my mouth. It gave me a good education in how not to treat somebody. I'm not saying I was an angel and all these other people were baddies.
195. The physical treatment in Howdenhall has never left me. I've told my wife a couple of things recently and she was shocked. I don't see being in care as a badge of shame. It was a process I went through. There needs to be more honesty about these things. The physical side of things should never have happened. You should never have to lift your hand or grab to get your point across or get someone to conform to what you want.
196. I was unfortunate in the humiliation Secondary Institutions - to be publi Howdenhall left me angry for a few years. It cost me my liberty at one point and I always took it back to my experiences. I'm older and wiser now and I know a lot of my issues were immaturity. It definitely had a negative impact on how my life spun out. There were always going to be negatives in my life because of what my dad's daughter did.

197. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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198. There were a lot of things that were right about the care system, the reason that I got put into care was because they recognised there was something wrong. There were people in there who wanted to care, but in that day and age they used bully boy tactics, as soon as you didn't appear to be acting the right way, the treatment they gave you was just wrong.
199. I never heard of anyone getting sexually abused and I never heard of anyone in a closed environment taking a real hiding. I saw myself getting that and I saw it happen to others in an open environment so it wasn't as if they did it secretly. The only time it was in secret was with that **IEW**, but he pulled me through to the police station. So people didn't care and we weren't seen as potential witnesses, we were seen as just a pain.
200. I am not a trusting person. In my last job I had 600 men working for me and I wouldn't go to any of their weddings and I wouldn't go to any of their christenings, I didn't speak to any of them outside of work. That's me in a very lonely life because I don't trust anybody.
201. My wife would say I'm very numb and very alone. I'm the type who would go into a bar and I would be happy to stand at the end of the bar on my own instead of being with the crowd. That's because of being in care when I didn't trust people. I was always waiting on something happening.
202. I didn't ask to lose my mum and I didn't ask for my dad's daughter to come into our lives and be involved in my life and destroy my two sisters. They have horrors that they remember. They feel for me because I went through care. They both got out and then stayed together. The whole purpose of me putting my hand up to give a statement was that I went through a couple of experiences I wouldn't want somebody else to go through.
203. The main point of contact in places like Howdenhall was the smoking room and we'd sit in there and chat. We were allowed five cigarettes a day at the first place and somebody would smoke a fag and you'd have half of it and then you'd light up your

own to share. There were no extraction systems or anything like that. They just let us smoke and everybody smoked and it was the culture back then. I've had to retire from work through ill health and my doctors tell me my health issues have been caused by smoking.

204. I have flashbacks to being in care especially knowing that I was going to meet with the Inquiry and I didn't sleep before meeting with the team.
205. Since I was twenty-two I've constantly been on anti-depressants and still am to this day. I've not asked to go and see anybody for counselling. I don't feel I would get any benefit as I'm not the sort of person to talk to someone and then talk to me and then me going away. Speaking to the Inquiry to give this statement I've felt like a weight has been taken off my back. Having the chance to get names from thirty years ago out of head and say them has definitely helped me.
206. My wife says I'm too liberal with our children. I let them make choices about what we watch on tv and what we eat and I didn't have anything like that as a kid. They tell me what they're having. I won't let them have the life that I had. She says I don't back her up when she chastises them. That's definitely a product of what I've been through.

Reporting of Abuse

207. I've not made any reports of abuse in care since I left the care system, other than speaking to the inquiry.

Records

208. I got my social work record four or five years ago as copies on line. I had to go through a lot of hoops to get them. It was just copies of papers. They were heavily redacted. There were comments written in there by social workers about me and my family and

letters and forms written by my dad. It was difficult to read this information on-line even though it was redacted and no-one had warned me about how difficult it would be.

209. I was thinking about my life and wondering why it felt like a car crash for so many years. To me, that period should have been the springboard to something. They'd got me away from my dad and I wasn't going back and they should have been trying to help me to do what I wanted in life. They should have been trying to help me become a productive human being. Instead I went spiralling downhill and it was twenty-five years ago I pulled myself out of a potentially catastrophic nosedive. I had to get on with the rest of my life.

Lessons to be Learned

210. What can be done now, just be honest with people and if you think someone's behaviour is wrong, sit with them and chat to them on their level. Don't take the high ground and don't take the moral authority. When I was in care it was always 'you're this and you're that'. **IEV** and **GQB** from Howdenhall made you feel like you were the worst. That was how they operated to break your spirit and they succeeded.
211. The care system has to be fit for purpose. It's there to take somebody away from something that's extremely negative and potentially harmful and to improve things. I lost my education and I came out of care with really bad memories and nothing else.

Hopes for the Inquiry

212. Make sure education is paramount regardless of the reasons for going into care or how long they're going to be in care. It would be great to be here in sixty years' time and see a care environment that's fit for purpose and people are spoken to with respect and on the same wavelength as opposed to adults getting frustrated.

213. You have to find out why the staff want to be in those roles. I wouldn't have put GQB in that role because he was a control freak. I wouldn't have put IEV in it because he'd left the army and thought everybody was a soldier. If somebody wants to work in a care environment with children or elderly people there has to be a reason why they want to do that. It has to be vocational. Some of the people I met in care, there's no way they would get a job now. If they'd done now what they did to me back then they'd be jailed for it. To me it's the staff that's the building block for looking after children and why do they want to be in that position. It's a hard job dealing with some of the children and what they've been through.

Other information

214. 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..... IEX

Dated..... 27 March 2023